

# Irrigation Water Costs High; Crop Potential Great

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF January 1, 1970

|   |                                       |            |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Bank Balance Jan. 1, 1969                           | \$1,880.69                            |            |
| Jan. 8, Times saving acct.                          | 1,000.00                              |            |
| Checking account as of 1-8-70                       | \$ 880.69                             |            |
| Received from Cooperators                           | \$ 355.75                             |            |
| Cooperators Credit                                  | .30                                   |            |
| Gross income from Cooperators                       | \$ 356.05                             |            |
| Donations for annual ad                             | 129.00                                |            |
| Sale of grass drill                                 | 132.00                                |            |
| Gross income  | \$ 617.05                             |            |
| Minus Cooperator credit                             | .30                                   |            |
| Bank deposits and on hand for 1969                  | \$ 616.75                             | 616.75     |
|   |                                       | \$1,497.44 |
| Disbursements during 1969                           |                                       |            |
| Dues and membership (State & National)              | \$ 147.50                             |            |
| Stewardship Material                                | 24.00                                 |            |
| Stamps  | 18.00                                 |            |
| Advertisements and notices                          | 181.95                                |            |
| Hall rental   | 15.00                                 |            |
| Refreshments for annual and water meeting           | 28.65                                 |            |
| Four members attended State Conv. Meet.             | 150.00                                |            |
| Trophy awards                                       | 33.50                                 |            |
| 5th grade tour                                      | 25.00                                 |            |
| 5th grade tour bus driver                           | 8.75                                  |            |
| Treasurer Bond                                      | 10.00                                 |            |
| Liability Bond                                      | 46.00                                 |            |
| Sect. of State; State audit                         | 5.00                                  |            |
| Graflex Camera, attachments and supplies            | 419.16                                |            |
| Total Expenses                                      | \$1,112.51                            |            |
| Paid out by checks                                  | \$1,112.51                            |            |
| Bank balance and on hand Jan. 1, 1970               | \$ 384.93                             |            |
| On time savings account                             | \$1,000.00                            |            |
| Value of equipment                                  | \$ 957.24                             |            |
| Total cash and equipment Jan. 1, 1970               | \$2,342.17                            |            |
| Accounts receivable                                 | \$ 115.50                             |            |
| Less account credits                                | 1.00                                  |            |
|   | \$ 114.50                             |            |
| Will have earned on Time Savings                    | 50.69                                 |            |
| Equipment Rentals and Sales                         |                                       |            |
| Gopher Digger                                       | .35 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental   | \$ 5.00    |
| Grass Drill   | .50 per acre, Minimum \$5.00 rental   | \$ 57.50   |
| Land leveling stakes                                | 1.00 per acre, Minimum \$2.00 sale    | \$176.10   |
| Survey stakes                                       | 5.00 per bundle Minimum \$2.00 rental | \$129.70   |
| Total Received                                      |                                       | \$368.30   |
| Noble blade, Packer, Terracer not used during year. |                                       |            |

Respectfully,  
EDMOND GONTY, Treasurer

## Port of Morrow Nuclear Plant Siting Makes Progress

By RUPERT KENNEDY  
Port of Morrow Coordinator

The Port of Morrow nuclear power plant siting and coolant water irrigation to 80,000 Morrow County acres is moving in the right direction. On January 15, 1970 a tour of the project was conducted with Mr. Russ Richmond, administrator of Bonneville Power Administration, and Mr. Larry Wilkinson, administrator of the Oregon Nuclear Development Council. They were impressed with the project, the quality and terrain of the lands to be irrigated and the plant site on the river. Mr. Wilkinson will direct his task force to determine if the

site meets the criteria of the State. It is the intention of the Port commission to have the state designate the Morrow multiple site as one of Oregon's prime nuclear sites. If this is accomplished, the Port commission may employ a competent engineering firm to lay out a water coolant irrigation grid and install the system several years ahead of the power plant installation with revenue bond financing. It is hoped that the future will call for a two cell plant doubling the irrigated acreage. Port of Morrow Commission  
Rupert Kennedy, Coordinator

## Forestry Tour at Bull Prairie.



THIS PICTURE shows Bob Jepsen, rancher, talking to one of the classes about outdoor manners. (Photo by SCS).

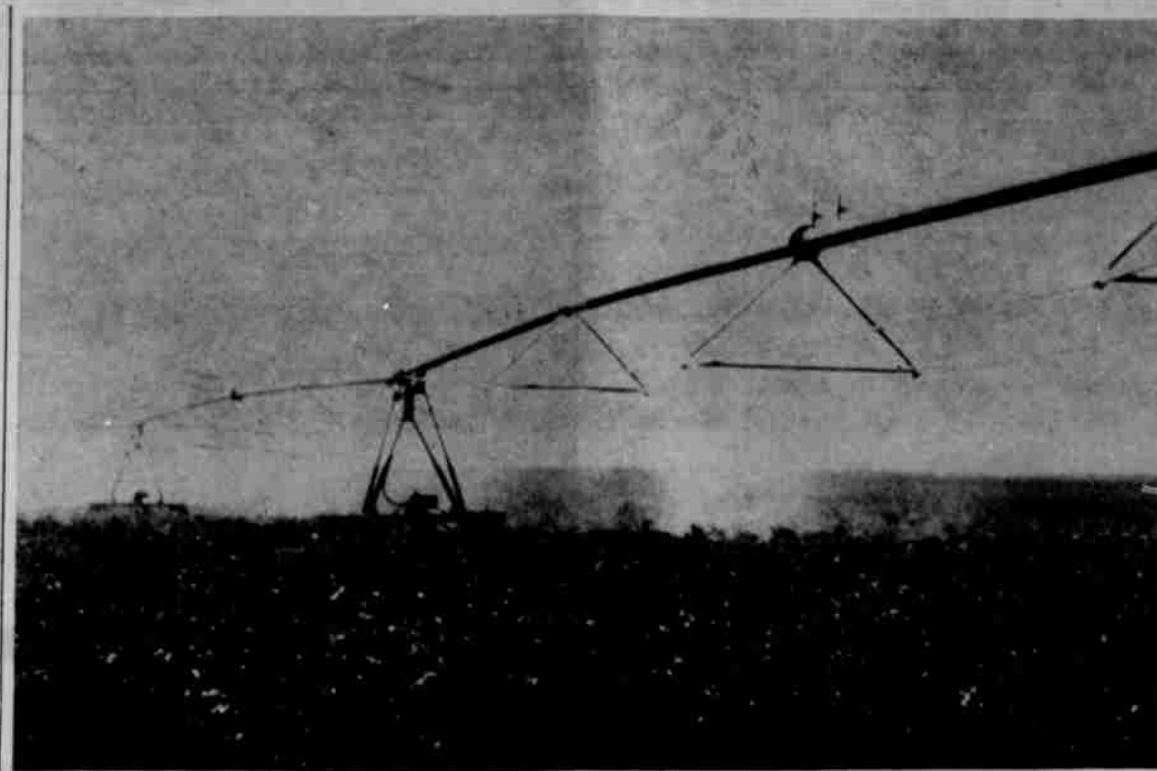
## Lake Penland To Be Constructed This Year

By HARRY O'DONNELL, Jr.

Lake Penland was originally conceived by O. W. Cutsforth who bought a tract of land there in the Blue Mountains. A group incorporated in March, 1969. Officers of the corporation are Harry O'Donnell, Jr., president and board of directors: Cornett

Green, Howard Bryant, Joe Green, Edwin Dick. The Lake Penland Corporation is a non-profit corporation. Much work has gone into the formation of the corporation. Lots have been sold to a group who will pay for construction of the dam that will form a lake of about 60 acres. Height of dam

will be about 30 feet. Bids are to be let for construction of the dam and other improvements this spring. Much cooperation has been seen with help coming from the U. S. Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Districts, the Morrow County Court and the State Water Resources Authority.



AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER going on potato patch at Nelson-Tucker farm. Columbia river water could make possible more crop scenes in Morrow county such as this.

## Irrigation Potential Great For Morrow County Area

By HAROLD E. KERR

A wide variety of crops can be grown in Morrow County with irrigation. A partial list would include wheat, potatoes, dry beans, sugar beets, grass seed, seed peas, mint, pasture, alfalfa, legume seeds, grapes and others. Each of these crops has distinct advantages and disadvantages. The largest single determinant of what kinds of crops we will grow under irrigation is what crops we can market.

Marketing channels can be developed; often one or two years is needed to test the market, to determine quality levels and achieve production levels high enough to attract processor, packers or other users of an agricultural product.

A brief description of various commodities and expected production levels from this area follows: These yields are based on yields received in Eastern Washington and results from demonstration plots on Shutter Flat in Gilliam County conducted by Tom Zinn, Gilliam County Extension agent.

**Alfalfa** is well adapted to this area. Yield potentials are as high as 10 ton per acre. Average yields in Washington are around 5 ton. Alfalfa is a soil building crop, it works well in a rotation with row crops.

Another advantage of alfalfa is the high demand for alfalfa in this area. Livestock numbers will increase, as well as more livestock feeding which will increase the demand for forage crops such as alfalfa.

**Potatoes** are an excellent crop for new irrigated areas. They

are especially well adapted to lands receiving irrigation for the time. They are a high return crop with rather high risks involved in producing a marketable crop. Yield potentials are as high as 35 ton per acre. Sixteen to 20 ton of No. 1 potatoes is an excellent crop. Potatoes require a large amount of water over a relatively long period of time. They are especially attractive because of the high return per acre which will help to cover the high investment costs needed to set up irrigation systems. The average yield of marketable potatoes of the Basin area in Washington over a four-year period—1965 to 1968 was 19.66 tons, with an average return per acre of \$466.48.

**Dry Beans** are a crop well adapted to this area. They fit well into a rotation and require a relatively small investment in new equipment for the average dryland wheat grower. Yields of 2,000 to 2,500 lb. should be obtained in this area providing an estimated gross income of \$140.00 to \$175.00 per acre. Soil born diseases plague this crop and keep it from becoming a permanent crop in established irrigated areas.

**Seed Peas** appear to be well adapted to this area. Yields apparently are comparable with other areas. If marketing channels are available, this crop has real possibilities here, also.

**Grass Seed** as well as other seed crop, are another good possibility. The limiting factor for these crops are marketing channels open to new producers. Future possibilities for these types of crops are excellent.

**Wheat** certainly has a place in irrigated agriculture. It is an excellent crop in rotation with other irrigated crops. Yields of

Sugar Beets have a place if a market channel is available. Yields of nearly 30 tons per acre were recorded at Shutter Flat, using 31 inches of water.

**Peppermint** has a place in the future of this area. The present peppermint producing area apparently has exceeded production requirements for this crop. Yields of 60 to 80 lb. of mint oil per acre would seem possible in this area. Peppermint is another crop which, after a certain number of years, traditionally looks to new areas for "clean" ground, free from soil disease organisms.

over 100 bushels are commonly obtained. However, at today's depressed prices, irrigated wheat does not appear to be an attractive alternative, except on a rotational basis.

**Pasture** also may provide many possibilities as an alternative irrigated crop. Studies in other areas indicate pasture will return as high a dollar income per acre as many other irrigated crops. If livestock is a part of the farming operation, irrigated pasture offers some real possibilities.



HEPPNER SWCD is 2nd place winner in 1968 Goodyear contest for all Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Shown here is Heppner supervisor Dick McElligott receiving award from Art Weaver of Goodyear. (Photo by SCS).

## Grass Seeding Is Essential

By DICK McELLIOTT

We have had another year in which we have been reminded several times that there are many many acres of Morrow County cropland that cannot take moisture as it is sometimes provided. We have had both summertime cloudbursts and winter rains running down our gullies and streams. There doesn't appear to be any way that we can prevent these storms from occurring or any way that we can know when they will come. Our best course of action is to prepare our land so that we can minimize the damage done by these storms. There is probably no area in the Northwest in which as much

work has been done to combat water erosion as has been done in the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District, but it only takes a winter like this to show that we have only made a beginning on the work that needs to be done. Most of the shallow and steeper soils in the southern part of the county are now at or near saturation and light to moderate rains cause runoff erosion. We can't very well add more soil to hold the water. In fact, we know that we have much less water holding capacity than we once had due to loss of topsoil. What we can do is cover the areas most susceptible to erosion with grass. We can use our diverted acres to lay out ground with severe

erosion problems, to install grass waterways, to build diversion and filter strips without fear of losing our wheat base on these acres. We can also cut our annual operating costs under the cost of farming all our ground and destroying a growing crop. The time to make the plans is now. The Soil Conservation Service is prepared to do any engineering needed. The County Agent can recommend the best grass or grass combination and can advise you on what ACP cost sharing payments you can claim. This should be a good spring to plant grass with our good soil moisture conditions. Remember to apply for the ACP cost sharing before the work begins.

## How Do We Obtain Columbia River Water

By KEN TURNER

It has been 6 years since California threatened to divert the Columbia. This had the positive effect of arousing our interest in irrigation.

Irrigation high lift and long distant pumping is a monumental challenge. The three leading possibilities for supplementing irrigation pumping and delivery costs are:

1) Coolant Water—There is a real prospect of getting a nuclear generator siting in Morrow County. In this event the Port of Morrow can design an irrigation grid to use coolant water.

2) Bureau of Reclamation—Reclamation projects are desirable in many ways and the prime reason is long term federal financing. There are two drawbacks however, one being the slowness getting government sanctioning and the 160 acre limitation make them impractical.

3) State Revenue Bonds—State supplemental irrigation funding can give necessary long term, lower cost financing. Rep. Irvin Mann spearheaded a bill at Oregon legislature that nearly passed last session.

Private—Privately financed projects are limited to the prime low-lift, near-river areas. They become unfeasible when area wide development is considered.

Only recently has an irrigation development committee finally been formed. Such a group is essential for various agencies to deal with if an area wide project is going to happen. The Bureau of Reclamation contacted this committee as soon as they heard of its existence. The Bureau has been doing land classification and topographical work for the past two years here. This began due to the joint effort of our County Court and Congressman Al Ullman.

The Soil Conservation Service has nearly completed detailed soil mapping on 150,000 acres in North Morrow county. The irrigation development group is getting feasibility cost figures to see how we compare with other projects.

Now that the Blue Mt. RC&D has been designated and funded the area should get top priorities for resource development.

USDA, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Nixon administration has an official commitment to help rural areas grow and reverse the trend of increasing city congestion. This is the key that can assure our area getting nuclear generator along with an industry-agriculture combination.

But many more people will need to get involved than presently are.

## Soil Surveys And Resource Development

(Continued from page 4)

tute an important contribution to the RC&D concept. RC&D Project objectives include:

- (a) Development of 13 watershed areas for full use and management of water resources.
- (b) Coordination of activities with other U. S. Departments.
- (c) Further development and management of ground water.
- (d) Improved drainage in irrigated areas.
- (e) Recreation development.
- (f) Cropland conversion for about 100,000 acres.
- (g) Improved cropping systems on 900,000 acres of dryland farming.
- (h) Special attention to wheat lands involving crop history and soil depleting base protection.
- (i) Additional soil surveys.
- (j) Increased technical help to plan and install needed land treatment measures on cropland, woodland and range areas.
- (k) An overall long range program for maximum protection on grasslands and woodlands.

RC&D Project benefits expected are:

- (a) Increase in useable water supply.
- (b) Reduction of land use problems.
- (c) Improved drainage.
- (d) Improved, efficient use of available water supply.
- (e) Recreation developments for income on private lands, coordinated with recreation facilities on public land.
- (f) Progress toward solution of big game management in the area.
- (g) Improved economic conditions in the areas.

While RC&D projects involve primarily U. S. Department of Agriculture Agencies, other agencies and organizations who can contribute to the overall conservation and development effort will be invited to participate. For example, active support and a high priority established by the RC&D sponsors could possibly speed up the Corps of Engineer Construction of the authorized Willow Creek Project. The Bureau of Reclamation study of the proposed South Side Project will be a valuable contribution to overall project evaluation.

The potential of this Columbia-Blue Mountain RC&D Project is limited only by the imagination. The human and natural resources are certainly present. This RC&D Project is only the catalyst, which if properly used, can result in beneficial accomplishments which will be a credit to each and every person who has been involved. We trust this will be everyone in the area.