

Brown's Poultry Co.

BONDED HOUSE
YAKIMA, WASH.

Have been buying in this territory
for the past three years.

Heavy Colored Hens . . . 17c
F. O. B. HERMISTON - IN LOTS OF 25 OR OVER.

Heavy Leghorn Hens Subject to Grade 9c

Colored Fryers . . . 15c

Leghorn Fryers Subject to Grade . 13c

Case Count on Eggs . . . 22c

Town Name Selected by Mrs. J. F. McNaught.

(Continued from Page 1)

A well was drilled in town and water pumped into the mains. Because of this the joints were all loosened and heavy leakage followed. Every joint was recovered with concrete collars but this failed to conserve the expensively pumped water and the loss became two thirds of the water pumped from the well. During the last several years the city government has rebuilt the entire system with steel mains and this has been done without bond issue or other indebtedness through a minimum charge of \$3.00 per month to customers. The city now has a very light indebtedness due only to the old water bonds, which have been refunded at low interest and are being paid off rapidly, and Hermiston municipal affairs are now in excellent financial condition.

The city has also a very complete concrete pipeline system for irrigation water, and good oiled, graveled and graded streets and concrete sidewalks throughout its large area.

Much credit must be given Mayor McKenzie for this first class condition, as he has been either recorder, councilman or mayor during almost 30 years except for a two year period.

Following is a list of officials since the first election in 1907, after the city was incorporated.

The first mayor was George H. Carr who resigned and was followed by J. M. Griffin and Fred A. Yates. From 1909 to 1912, H. R. Newport was mayor. 1913-14, W. H. Skinner; 1915 to 1922, F. C. McKenzie; 1923, W. W. Hilsley and 1924, R. C. Todd; 1925-28, F. V. Prime; 1929-30, C. S. McNaught; 1931-32, A. W. Prann, and 1933 to date, F. C. Mc-

Kenzie.

The first recorder was Glen Williams and first marshal, S. D. Phay. Other recorders have been H. M. Straw, F. C. McKenzie, E. P. Dodd, A. M. Jensen, J. D. Watson, C. W. Kellogg, J. M. Biggs and Chas. Taylor. Other marshalls have been J. B. Beebe, Clarence Salser, Harry Kelley, H. A. Pankow and Bert Nation.

The first councilmen were L. W. Davis, H. T. Irwin, H. E. Hanby, J. M. Griffin, F. B. Swayze and E. E. McMillan. Others who have followed in order of years are J. D. Rice, Russell Brownell, R. H. Allen, M. C. Brooke, C. H. Crandall, H. M. Straw, R. C. Todd, H. A. Waterman, E. P. Dodd, E. O. Comeys, George Briggs, H. J. Longley, H. T. Fraser, C. E. Baker, J. W. Campbell, J. D. Watson, W. Kennedy, C. S. McNaught, A. L. Larson, J. B. Beebe, F. R. Reeves, F. C. Woughter, F. V. Prime, R. A. Bronson, J. E. Putman, O. G. Sapper, H. E. Hitt, C. H. Skinner, A. W. Prann, A. Larson, A. H. Norton, B. S. Kingsley, H. A. Pankow, Bert Haneline, Cecil Warner, Floyd Knerr, F. C. McKenzie, J. G. Pierson, Geo. Wagner, N. D. Mueller, M. S. Watson and W. W. Felt-house.

George L. Dunning.

George L. Dunning is one of the pioneer investors of the Stanfield project. He farms 40 acres and has town property. Mrs. Dunning died a few years ago. They have four children, Mrs. Eva Bard, Echo; Ivan, at Pendleton; Marilla Dunning, teaching in Sacramento; and Mrs. Orpha Bucoltz, Portland.

Mr. Dunning came to Stanfield and improved over 100 acres. He had a herd of 60 cows for a time. For four years he served as county commissioner, representing the west end of Umatilla county.

LAND VALUES

SOON SOAR

RED APPLE PERIOD

Hope of Quick Fortunes
Blasted by Wrong Ideas of
Project Possibilities.

History is no respecter of persons. Events which transpire leave their imprint on the march of time. Things that men do are recorded not only on the pages of the past but leave lasting results for the future. It is said that only the good is permanent and that in the final analysis the truth is what we gain from the mistakes and experiences of men. Mankind has often drank the dregs from the cups of mingled motives that have inspired the impulses and ambition of its predecessors, and this may be portrayed in the one sad chapter of the history of irrigation development on the water shed of the Umatilla river.

And were it not that it affected the lives of so many good people, and cost so much money and effort, this page might be left unwritten. And further that it may have its effects on the future and be a guidance in the developments yet to come the following brief outlines are given.

When the U. S. Reclamation act was passed in 1902, experience in reclaiming western desert wastes was very limited. Early pioneer efforts had been confined to valleys and timbered areas where rainfall was sufficient to grow crops, or to semi-arid regions where wheat and similar crops could be produced without irrigation. Young engineers were sent out to build ditches and storage reservoirs where they were told to go; and, economic phases, as to soils, climate, production, and crops and marketing, were more or less a guess and often based on insufficient data. Facts were difficult to obtain and the program for reclaiming forty eight different desert regions at a cost of many millions of dollars, necessarily involved many problems that had to be solved in the experimental laboratory of this new movement in American history.

After the irrigation works were completed, their justification and uses required the settlement of the lands, and this placing of water users required advertising and offers of inducements to settlers. The country was circularized and statements were made that appealed to not only honest homeseekers but to the more venturesome spirit of the old "Westward Ho!" movement.

In a government circular issued in 1908 the values of the Umatilla project lands were stated at \$100 to \$250 per acre and capital required, "mainly dependent on the individual"; Duty of water, "2.8 acre feet"; Columbia river furnishes transportation by steamboat, and homesteads of ten to 40 acres were offered. Also, "The United States government is interested in settling its irrigated lands, and has been studying the soils of the west and scouring the world to find crops suited for these regions". The soil was described as "formed from a rather coarse volcanic material, laid down in the bottom of a lake, with considerable fine materials blown in or washed in from surrounding higher levels". Fruit growing was especially emphasized. Apples, pears, peaches, berries and grapes were recommended, including the tender varieties of grapes like Flaming Tokay, Muscat, Black Hamburg, Reliance and California wine grapes. Hood River apples were exemplified as producing \$500 per acre and in some cases \$2,500. Pears were quoted as producing \$1,350 per acre in Wenatchee, and a man in the nearby Yakima valley claimed he produced a pear crop of \$3,500 from a half acre, on land he had paid only \$200 per acre six years before. Dewberries were quoted as producing \$1 per vine on McNurline's ranch near Hermiston, and stated that an acre would carry 3,480 vines and produce \$2,784. "These results were obtained from experienced growers", though the average new settler was warned that "he could not expect such results for some years."

In August 1909, the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued a circular, "Hints to Settlers on the Umatilla Projects." This circular contained in addition to fruits, recommendations as to asparagus, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, melons and alfalfa and dairying. This circular was written by Byron Hunter, who recommended uses of green fertilizers and the growing of alfalfa to create nitrogen and humus in the soils. Hunter later, in conjunction with Jaynes, made a very adverse report on the lands on the North Hill (sandy) and adjoining lands, which resulted in the final abandon-

TWO YEARS AFTER HERMISTON WAS FOUNDED.



Hermiston in days of wide open spaces before trees were planted or project settled. Now center of business activity and home of many cooperative organizations.

donment of that area by the government.

Such statements as the above led to a strong land movement and many eastern people were induced to believe that a new bonanza had been discovered in the west in nuggets of big red apples. Raw lands were sold from \$250 to as high as \$400 per acre. The annual construction charge and maintenance was \$7.50 per acre, and the cost of leveling the lands was represented as \$42.83 per acre. Small fruits and gardens were described as possible for making a living while the young apples grew to bearing, and five years were represented as being the period of labor to easy life and retirement on the great profits of a five to ten acre tract of fruit trees. The boom came on rapidly, and many city people of what is now called the "white collared class", came on the tracts of land. They used their savings in building comfortable homes and planting orchards, and for a short period the gala heyday was on.

Even nature and general conditions conspired to put over this Roman holiday. Peaches and grapes were soon bearing fruit and the production was of the finest. Elbertas grew to a pound in weight and European grapes bore large and luscious bunches, and all of the richest flavors. These were on the best lands of the project, and it was assumed that all the land was alike.

But the more sandy areas then began to grow vexatious, and pro-

duced problems. First was the heavy duty of water required to produce crops. The old experiment station work began to show results. Settlers began to discover failure in sight. The fruit boom in the northwest began to subside, irregularities in frost and cold were demonstrated, and a depression was setting in. The Hunter-Jaynes report on climate, soils and crops then was made and the Reclamation Service began to retard further construction and extensions.

The final result was that the soil surveys that would have been so valuable years before were made and the soils classified. The money paid the government on water charges was returned to the land owners and the water rights cancelled, except in a few instances where rentals are granted. This was not done, however, until 128 settlers who had built houses, drilled wells, improved their lands, and had established homes. They were left to shift out as best as possible, and the 5000 or more acres of land remaining in sagebrush and returned to native conditions, and to where the irrigation systems were extended are useless except for sheep range. More complete records of what occurred may be found in the vaults of the Irrigation district and the archives of the present Reclamation Bureau in Denver and Washington, D. C., and any future investigators may study the facts more deeply.

It was after this period of the project that dairying and alfalfa, and later poultry and other products, were discovered as best adapted to the project. It is now believed by many that if fruit growing and high priced land and boom days had been obviated the sad tragedies in many human lives would have been prevented, and the stage of development of the project would be much further advanced and without the present "statu quo" of so much land.

With controlled low priced lands; fertilization instead of leaching soils with excess water; meal ticket crops; better methods of distributing water; creating cooperative markets; and the application of animal husbandry instead of fruit talk and "banana belt" effusiveness, these experiences would not have occurred, and this story would not have been written. While it is water under the bridge of our experiences, and we have traveled far since then, and we are doing well now, its historic significance may be worth all it cost.

Old Bullet Holes.

The old bullet holes in the old school house in Umatilla were not made during warfare. An Indian was arrested many years ago and put in jail in the house. Some person, perhaps drunk, shot through the building, killing the Indian. Maybe there was another version.

RollerSkating

RINK

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Auditorium Building

HERMISTON

MON., SEPTEMBER 14

Music Electrically Transcribed

Open Afternoons and
Evenings During Fair

Evenings Thereafter

Jack House, Manager

Like A New Car!
Like A Vacation!
Like Modern Equipment!

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MONEY IN THE END
TO TRADE WITH
THE

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Hermiston

R. G. PENNEY, Manager