

DESERT LANDS HAD APPEAL IRRIGATION BEGINNERS U. S. Reclamation Service Pools Small Projects In One Effort.

The United States Reclamation act became a law on June 17, 1902. The revenues for building irrigation projects were to be procured from the sale of public lands. Each state was to receive 60 per cent of all such sales within its borders. As Oregon was then a great public land state and the demand for homesteads and all land entries was very active, it was not long until \$6,000,000 had accumulated to the credit of this state.

As soon as this became apparent the demand for projects arose. C. W. Fulton and John H. Mitchell were then U. S. Senators, and Blinger Her-

An appeal was made to them from Umatilla county.

A meeting of persons interested was called in County Judge G. A. Hartman's office in Pendleton. The attendance consisted of Judge Hartman, Judge Stephen A. Lowell, Mayor Thomas G. Hailey, later Supreme Judge, D. C. Brownell and E. P. Dodd. Hartman was chosen chairman and Dodd secretary. These men are all deceased except the secretary. Soon after a similar meeting was called by Mr. Hailey for a state association and Sam White of Baker was elected the president of this association and E. P. Dodd secretary. These organizations soon enlisted the aid of newspapers and prominent citizens during the years of 1903 and 1904. A survey was commenced of the Umatilla project which covered the east division and west division in 1905, and the project was authorized and an allotment of \$1,000,000 was made December 4th, 1905. Contracts were let for the feed canal and Cold Springs reservoir on June 26 and 28, 1906.

These interesting statements were made in the 1906 U. S. Reclamation

report over the signature of the Secretary of the Interior and director of the then Reclamation Service.

Area of Cold Springs reservoir site, 1700 acres; length of Cold Springs dam, 3400 feet and height 89 feet. Average rainfall, 9 inches; total acreage of project, 22,000 acres; amount of water necessary to produce crops, 2.8 acre feet per acre; capacity of reservoir, 50,000 acre feet.

The report continues as follows: "There are nearly seven months between frosts, or 200 growing days." "High degree of sunshine." "Climate eminently suited to orchard and vine crops." "When once established, ten acres or 20 acres will adequately support a family." "After a while intensive farming will be practiced exclusively."

"The Columbia river soon to be opened to navigation to Portland is but four miles from the center of the irrigated project."

"Lands rolling and considered very fertile. No alkali on surface or in wells."

These statements and others made on other occasions were largely the reason for the first stampede of settlers and home seekers to this project to grow orchards of apples, peaches, cherries, pears and all varieties of grapes including the most tender varieties of California and European selections.

The truth of these statements, as well as that of 2.8 acre feet of water being sufficient and the unqualified recommendation of all the soils were soon to be dispelled and the reclamation found itself facing a reconstruction period of great dimensions.

It became necessary to line all canals with concrete and build pipelines of heavy concrete to preserve the water, and to provide a greater supply per acre, which was largely done by reducing the acreage. A soil survey was made and followed with the Hunter Jayne report which recommended against the irrigation of the North Hill and similar lands. The lands were classified into grades of one to six and water charges on the class six lands were refunded to the settlers and the water rights cancelled. The project was reduced to its present proportions, the irrigation system greatly revised, and the project placed on a sounder basis, with better security in quality of soil and supply of water.

Since that time in the early twenties, the development on the project has been very rapid. Many pages of history might be written on the mistakes and misunderstandings of engineers and officials of the old U. S. Reclamation Service. The all too painful facts may be found on record in the various archives, but the foregoing is sufficient for those who seek to go deeper into the subject.

SHORTS.

Wm. Shepherd of Umatilla since 1912; is a son of one of the men who owned an Ox train and later a mule freight train.

Harry Rodenhough came to Umatilla in 1914. He first worked with Henry Griffin drilling on the Columbia channel. Is now in business; pool hall and confectionery. Councilman ten years.

Wm. Kik, farmer near Umatilla 1911. Son of David Kik, pioneer of 1870 in west. Has 400 acres, wife and son.

Mrs. Jennie Blakesly located in Umatilla in 1912. Mrs. Elmer McKenzie is her daughter and Glen and Les, her sons.

The first Hermiston slogan was: Hermiston, Home of Happy Hustlers. The Hermiston Produce Supply company offered a prize of a Stetson hat to men and \$5 to ladies for suggestions and Rev. Mr. Pease won the hat.

Five thousand in five years and ten thousand in ten years was a widely published slogan of Hermiston boosters.

D. C. Brownell in 1902 bought the LaDow & Adams ditch, three miles long and 20 years water filing, which was rebuilt and extended to supply water for the Brownell project just east of Umatilla.

Cage Reeder was the first white child born on Butter Creek. He now lives in Pendleton. This event took place on the present Jarman ranch. Reeder's father soon after sold the place to the Atwoods who were the parents of the late Mrs. O. F. Thompson and the first wife of R. N. Stanfield.

Allen Von Behren, who developed 40 acres on the Butter Creek road, is in the manufacturing business with his father in Evansville, Indiana. His wife, former Adrian Crockett and teacher here, is prominent in social circles here.

J. M. Kyle, who was mayor of Stanfield several years and prominent in district matters and political affairs 25 years there, is living, retired, in Portland.

J. K. Shotwell now lives at Port Townsend, Wash. He came here in 1907 and lived here 20 years. He was prominent in highway and land leveling work. The present hospital was built by him for a home. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Shotwell and eight children.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. McNaught live in Portland where he is in business. Their son Joe is employed in the First National Bank of Portland. Allan is at home and daughter Nancy lives in Colorado.

Mrs. H. M. Straw, widow of the late H. M. Straw, and daughters Dorothy and Elizabeth live in Portland.

The Kelloggs live now in Portland. C. W. Kellogg was disbursing agent here many years in the government office and later in the automobile business.

Mr. and Mrs. George Root, here in early days, live in Portland where Mrs. Root is very prominent in republican politics. She is ably assisted by Mrs. Wade Strohm, also formerly of Hermiston.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Newport live in Portland. Ross Newport is a son of the late H. G. Newport and Lucy Newport a daughter of the late H. G. Hurlburt. A son, Marshall, and wife also live in Portland.

At the Portland-Hermiston picnic recently were Mrs. Cressy, Reet Agnew and wife, E. T. Eriksen, Mrs. Grace Furnas and daughter Ester, Mrs. Whiting and daughter Bertha, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Crossland, Ernest Waterman, Mr. Whipple, two

Calbeck girls, Mrs. Hobbs, Mrs. C. B. Percy and others who formerly lived in Hermiston.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sullivan and Harold Sullivan are in business in Roseburg. Dorothy and Dick Hitt live in Portland.

Umatilla Masonic Lodge.

The Umatilla Masonic lodge, Tuscany No. 136, was founded in 1908. The charter members were S. R. Oldaker, C. L. Morgan, E. E. Little, of Hermiston, and J. B. Switzler, H. C. Means, A. B. Stephens Sr., A. B. Stephens Jr., Parker, C. D. Brownell, and Dick Yerxa. The first master was S. R. Oldaker and others of early date were W. H. Switzler, C. G. Brownell and Geo. Butterwood.

Gold at the Butte.

Bill Switzler says, that his father says, and other old timers vouch for its truth, that \$8000 in gold dust lies buried somewhere in the sands near the foot of Hermiston Butte. A freighter returning from Boise Basin had this amount in pouches and became afraid of an Indian or highwaymen attack. He stopped his teams and hid the treasure some distance from the Old Oregon train. It was during a wind storm which continued for several days, and when he returned several weeks later, he was unable to locate the spot where the gold was hidden. The gold is still there and at new values is worth around \$15,000. Someone may locate the old road yet and one guess is as good as another, where to dig.

DE MOSS TURKEY FLOCK OF 3500 BIRDS.



This view was taken of a flock of toms on the DeMoss farm in Columbia district. These birds were hatched in February and are nearly ready for the Alaskan market.

HOME OF DR. THEO. BELETSKI.



This beautiful home and flower garden is located in the sandy area. On the grounds is a lily pond and many shrubs and flowers. The little daughter, Mona, of Dr. and Mrs. Beletski, can be seen in the doorway. Dr. Beletski operates a custom hatchery and has several brooder houses for his chicken and turkey business.



Wm. P. Graham Republican Nominee for Sheriff of Umatilla County Election Nov. 3, 1935.

Two years Deputy Sheriff of Flagstaff, Arizona.
Two years Deputy Sheriff at Walla Walla, Wash.
Eight years an officer at Walla Walla State Penitentiary.

Four years officer in Federal Penitentiary, McNeill Island and United States Department of Justice.

SLOGAN: "Impartial law enforcement; efficient service; Townsend plan for recovery." (Paid Adv.)

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