

**FIELD STATION
WIDELY USED
MUCH RESEARCH WORK
Hundreds of Plant Varieties
Tested for Use In
Northwest.**

Experiment farm work began on the Hermiston project as early as 1909. Its importance in a new county was immediately recognized by both the reclamation bureau and the first leaders in the settlement and development of the lands.

The Oregon legislature passed an act in January, 1909, in accordance with a federal act, providing for joint operation of state and federal government in the maintenance of demonstration farms, on a fifty-fifty basis.

The old 40 acre farm, two miles west of Hermiston was set out from government holdings and the reclamation service from its revolving fund, erected the buildings and cleared and fenced the land. R. W. Allen was chosen superintendent and \$6000 provided for work, directed by the Oregon State college, and Department of Agriculture. Allen served as superintendent until 1918 when H. K. Dean was appointed and has since filled the position.

Many important experiments were carried on in growing plants and irrigation methods. Some of the most important discoveries were the border method of irrigating sandy soils. The check system, then in vogue, and likewise the furrow system under constant flow of water, were found to require too great a supply of water. The border system with large head, quick irrigating under rotation because the approved method.

This system developed here has spread through all sandy areas in the west covering nearly 1,000,000 acres.

The old forty acre farm was found insufficient in size and quality of soil, and topography, and the new farm of 180 acres was chosen for future work.

Title to this land was secured from the government and through a special act of congress in 1931, the sum

Westland Home of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bean.



This scene is of the fine set of farm buildings on the Hawley J. Bean ranch on the Umatilla Meadows, under the Westland district canal. The ranch consists of 250 acres under irrigation, and 400 acres above the canal. Mr. and Mrs. Bean are both graduates of the University of Oregon and Mr. Bean is a son of H. J. Bean of the Supreme Court of Oregon.

of \$35,000 was provided for buildings. Because the importance of the station to other states, the government assumed the greater part of the cost of maintenance and last year provided \$8150 of the total sum of \$10,350 used. Oregon provided \$2250.

The Hermiston station is the only one in the west which is making a close study of agriculture on irrigated sandy lands and is supported not for local or Oregon benefits alone but for the benefit of Washington, Idaho, Utah and California.

It is now making a study of fruits, berries, alfalfa, corn, grain sorghums, broom corn, grasses for seed and forage. It also carries on demonstrations in dairying and turkey raising, and is giving special attention to the curly top or blight evil.

Seventy-five varieties of fruits are now being tested for hardiness, quality and marketing value, and 30 or more are being added each year. These are secured from all over the United States, mainly through other experiment stations. Mr. Dean now has 80 varieties of first class strawberries from which varieties will be selected as best adapted to conditions here and the territory served.

Alfalfa experiments cover application of water, fertilizers both commercial and manure, and selection of varieties. Fifteen varieties are growing in one-half acre tracts

and 83 are in 200 foot nursery rows.

For pasture experiments, the standard is sweet clover, in five different varieties. Sixteen half acre tracts are seeded to mixed grasses and clover. Three plots are being used for alfalfa tests in pasturing, and a study of bloat.

The effect of curly top on sugar beets, beans, tomatoes and other plants, is being given scientific attention. The farm has tested in excess of over 5000 varieties brought from all over the world in an effort to secure blight resistant varieties. Fourteen hundred varieties of tomatoes have been tested but with very little success, in arriving at a remedy for the virus. This public enemy is so small that it evades the microscope.

The one successful method was tried this year. Thin muslin was spread over several rows of tomato plants, which were sved from infestation of blight, 100 percent. Along side the same plants in open exposed to the sun, were lost 100 percent. The cloth reduced the effect of sun rays one third. Further study will follow along the line of this discovery.

In dairy tests, two herds are used. One is fed alfalfa hay only. The other, hay and a medium ration of grain. The test is in the third year.

The turkey feeding experiments were begun six years ago. Then only

15 per cent of protein was used in mashes, but this has been increased to 21 percent with very beneficial results, showing a test of 26 percent. The farm has had a demand for circulars on turkey tests of over 4000 copies. This is the only turkey experiment being conducted in Oregon or Washington.

Land has been prepared for a series of crop rotation tests, and 126 quarter acre tracts have been leveled and seeded to sweet clover as preliminary work. No such experiment is being tried anywhere else in the United States.

The vast importance of the work now being done on the Hermiston experiment farm is designed by the federal Department of Agriculture to apply to all irrigated sandy soils in the west, which in all of the 48 government projects, amount to around one million acres. Circulars of information are distributed to all county agencies and state departments of agriculture and on request from any source.

The new farm is getting well under way and great results are being seen in a wide variety of experiments, that are too numerous to mention here.

**DeMoss Family Develops
Turkey Industry Over
12 Year Period.**

Twelve years ago last May the J. H. DeMoss family began raising turkeys. This came about largely in an effort to accommodate a woman who was leaving the project and wished to sell all her poultry, an old chicken hen and five turkey poult. Harvey, the oldest son, was the proud owner of the original flock. Only two of the turks survived experimental feeding and the demand for a bird to grace the Thanksgiving feast; yet from that pair of turkeys was developed a flock that paid no small part of its owner's expenses at normal school.

In 1932, Donald DeMoss took over the management of the flock, and artificial brooding was practiced for the first time. The brooder was a small chicken house. About 400 turkeys were marketed that year. The following year a 24' by 56' furnace-heated brooder was built and incubators were bought. About 900 turkeys were marketed. The next year

Mrs. DeMoss, who had taught school for 13 years in this locality, decided to devote her time to the turkey business. Additional brooding capacity was provided by building a 16' by 60' five section, wire-floored brooder. This was made portable that it might serve as a range house as well as brooder. About 2200 turkeys were marketed last year and 300 breeding hens were kept.

From these hens over 4000 eggs were sold besides the eggs which were set to supply poults for the DeMoss flock. This year brooding capacity was enlarged by ordering March poults from California for one brooder which was used a second time with May poults from the home flock. Although snow covered the ground for a few days and the weather was colder than usual, the early poults were thrifty and slight loss was experienced. The DeMoss flock at present consists of over 3500 birds.

Early Telephone Service.

The only telephone service was at Echo in 1906. The eastern Oregon telephone company was a local concern of which A. B. Thomas was manager. This company had extended a line up Butter Creek, and was induced to open a central exchange here.

The two story building now on Main street was built to secure a franchise. In 1916, the local company sold to the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, which has operated the system since that time.

The first local manager was Mrs. Williams. She was followed by Lena Boynton, now Mrs. Roy Sullivan, who held the position a number of years. Next in the position were Miss Monta Crandall, now Mrs. J. M. Prindle, and Miss Gertrude Simmons, now Mrs. Sanders, and lastly Miss Laura Boynton, now Mrs. H. Kelley.

INFORMATION

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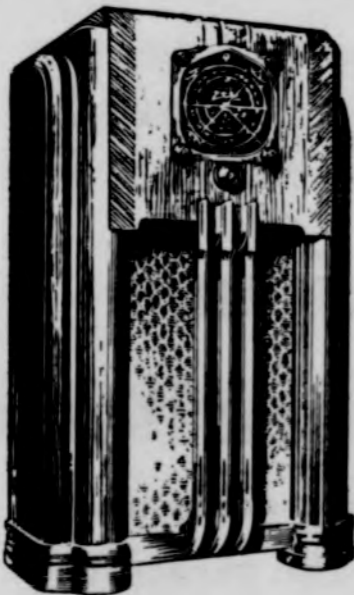
OFFICE: Hermiston Transfer Bldg. — Phone 31
HERMISTON, OREGON

B. I. WHITNEY - - - Local Representative

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