

DONATION LAND CLAIMS STILL HELD BY ENTRYMEN

(By Welborn Beeson.)

By request of the chairman of the irrigation committee, I have prepared this data bearing on the early irrigation and its effects on the early and permanent settlement of this valley. My source of information is Engineer J. S. Howard's library, a storehouse of exact historical data.

The valley lands were nearly all taken from the government under the donation land claim law, a law fathered by Senator Thomas H. Benton of Missouri. The object of this law was to secure American settlement of the Oregon territory and hold it to the United States against England. Under that law each man or woman coming into the Oregon territory prior to the year 1850 was given 320 acres of land for settling on it. A man and wife got 640 acres, the wife getting the improved portion of the claim. In 1850 the size of the claims were reduced one-half, a man and wife getting 320 acres.

Eight 640 Acre Claims

The records in Mr. Howard's office show there were eight 640-acre claims and 250 of reduced acreage claims taken in this valley.

Of the 258 donation land claims, about fifty had some water for irrigation. Of the eight 640-acre claims two had some water.

From the best information I can get I believe there are portions of about thirty of these 258 donation land claims still held by the entrymen or their heirs. R. V. Beall of Central Point is, I believe, the only one of them now owning and living on his claim. W. F. Songer and John S. Herrin of Ashland being the only other living claimants. Several wives of claimants are yet living.

Of the thirty claims, portions of which are still held in the families of the original owners, twenty-three have irrigation and seven are not irrigated.

Irrigated Tracts Kept

Of the eight 640-acre claims, the two having irrigation, the Colver claims at Phoenix are the only ones any portion of which is held by the families taking them.

In every claim held in the family it is the irrigation or bottom or sub-irrigated portion that is retained.

In every instance of the thirty families holding their donation land claims they were livestock men.

The prime value and use of water was and is the production of forage for livestock.

Nearly every bank in the valley has a number of some one of these families on its board of directors or among its stockholders. I submit these facts without comment.

I believe the Klamath river basin is the logical source of supply of water for the fall irrigation of this valley.

Names of Claim Owners

The names of the thirty claimants still holding their claims are:

Eli K. Anderson (equity only), Robert V. Beall, Thomas F. Beall, Hugh F. Barron, John Beeson, Henry Chapman, Samuel Culver (Phoenix), N. C. Dean, Patrick J. Dunn, Emerson E. Gore, Robert B. Hargadine, Abel D. Helman (City of Ashland), James Hamlin, T. Linkswiler, John Murphy, W. Cortez Myer, John O'Brien, J. J. Fryor (Eagle Point), John Robison, William F. Songer, David E. Stearns, Wilfred Spencer, Samuel G. Van Dyke, Minus Walker, Giles Wells, Nicholas Young, Theodor Cameron, Fred Barneburg, Jacob Ish, John S. Herren (their claims were taken by their brothers and are not in the record in their names.)

Gwin S. Butler (by his father). Mr. Butler was perhaps the first child born on a farm in this valley. The first born were in Jacksonville.

Nearly All Stock Men

Cameron, Hessen and Butler traded their dry claims for watered lands that they yet own.

The above names have never been off the tax rolls of Jackson county. There are a few others also.

Add about the same number of names of first purchasers and you will have nearly all the old names of the valley and nearly all the irrigated and sub-irrigated lands, and a list also of the stockmen of the valley:

Bybee, Hanley, Pelton, Chornor, Cantrell, Clinehammer, Phipps, McAndrew, Helms, Gordon, Pankev, Jackson, Farnham, Lynch, Kincaid, Cinkaid, Nichols, Rapo, Alford.

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Thomas Jefferson in "Rip Van Winkle" is the attraction at the Page theater on November 27 and 28. This photo play is founded upon Joseph Jefferson's classic of the same name. The son of Joseph Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, the star, made the adaptation. The story of "Rip Van Winkle" is as standard as that of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," so great interest attaches to this pietization of the Jefferson classic. The cast which supported Thomas Jefferson in "Rip Van Winkle" is a strong one. Many of the players in the photo play appeared with the father of Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, when this great production was staged. The scene of the story is laid in the beautiful Catskills, the place which tourists associate with the mythical character of Rip Van Winkle.

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Half Boxes					
35s	40s	45s	50s	55s	
Blue Triangle	\$1.49	\$1.47	\$1.48	\$1.47	\$1.43
General average all grades and sizes, net to grower	\$2.21				

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Standard Boxes	4	4 1/2	5	5 1/2	6 Tier
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Red Triangle	1.45	1.37	1.49	1.46	1.40
General Average all grades and sizes, net to grower	\$1.68				

**RETURN PRICES ON COMICE PEAR POOL
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Standard Boxes	4	4 1/2	5	5 1/2	6 Tier
Blue Triangle	\$1.29	\$1.10	\$1.40		
Red Triangle	1.60	1.05	.98	.94	.90
Half Boxes					
35s	40s	45s	50s	55s	60s
Blue Triangle	\$1.27	\$1.27	\$2.27	\$2.27	
Red Triangle	1.53	1.28	1.72	1.71	1.15
General average, all grades and sizes, net to grower	\$1.93				

Total, 10,000 boxes.

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INSURANCE FIRMS TO PAY WAR TAX

SALEM, Or., Nov. 27.—According to a bulletin issued by Insurance Commissioner Ferguson, the insurance companies and not the insured must pay the war tax provided for on fire insurance premiums by an act of congress. The law provides for the levying of a tax of one-half cent on each dollar or fraction thereof of fire insurance premiums, and it becomes effective December 1. The commissioner's bulletin on the subject follows:

"There is a specific provision in the Oregon law which requires that the policy issued by fire insurance companies in this state shall contain a true and correct statement of the consideration for which such policy is issued, and that the assured shall pay and the agent collect the full amount of such consideration. In my opinion this tax is no part of such consideration and its payment may not be enforced upon the assured.

Since our agents are forbidden to grant any valuable consideration to the assured other than is specified in the insurance contract, they may not be required to pay such tax. It is incumbent upon agents to advise and cancel the stamps required by this law and I would recommend that the amount of such stamps as affixed to accepted policies be charged to the companies in which such policies are issued and credit be taken for this amount in same manner as other proper credits."

GERMANY TO ASSIST MOTHERS IN CHILDBIRTH

LONDON, Nov. 27, 2:45 p. m.—The Bundesrath of Germany has decided, says a Reuter's dispatch from Amsterdam, to furnish financial and medical assistance to women at the time of child birth. This step was taken to alleviate the anxiety of husbands at the front and to protect the coming generation.

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