

Irrigation Water First Used Here in 1852

10 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Sunday, May 10, 1959

History of Local School Compiled For Centennial

A history of 53-year-old Lincoln school in Medford has been compiled by Principal Jack Holmes and Mrs. Ethel Chastain, third grade teacher, as an addition to the 1959 Oregon Centennial observance.

Lincoln was the oldest school in the district until the recent consolidation of Jacksonville into the Medford system.

A motion to build a new eight-room school house on block 7 of the original town plat just north of Medford was made by Medford school board, district 49, May 16, 1906.

The site was 1 1/2 acres which in 1850 was part of 320.45 acres given by the United States government as a donation claim to Resin B. and Eutha Ann Packard.

Land Bought By Phipps
On Nov. 6, 1869, the land was bought by Iredell J. Phipps, father of the late Dr. Ira Phipps. It was after several other transactions that the 1 1/2 acres was sold to district 49 for the site of North school, the original name of the present Lincoln school.

The eight-room school, with two unfinished rooms, cost \$16,640, plus a \$325 metal roof.
Prof. J. W. Shirley was the first principal, serving in 1907-8. He was followed by Prof. Stine, who was transferred to Washington school in 1908, during the same year that a new Medford High school was built on North Bartlett st.

Miss Lutie Ulrick was the third principal, serving from Dec. 1908 to 1911.

The district elected R. V. Dunham principal in 1911. He was followed by A. J. Hanby, 1914-1920; Ora Cox, 1920-1947; Vincent Bevis, 1947-1955; Roy Gilbertson, 1955-58; and Holmes, 1958.

Cement Wing
During the late Mr. Bevis' years at the school, a two-story cement wing and covered breezeway were constructed. The playground was blacktopped and fenced, and playground equipment arranged for safety. Bevis was transferred to the new Hedrick junior high in 1955.

Other smaller improvements have been carried out constantly, including enlargement of the cafeteria and other rooms, addition of drinking fountains and increase of visual aids.

Latest improvements in the structure were set out by the state and city fire marshals. The main stairway well has been encased and fireproofed, long corridors have been partitioned and fireproofed, and plans are made for a new outside fire escape.

Local Girl Among Contest Winners

Portland - Ruby Rowan, Medford High school senior, is one of six finalists in the 1959 Oregon AFL-CIO college scholarship contest examinations, James T. Marr, executive secretary of the state labor group has announced.

She and five other seniors from Portland, Coquille and Winston, will compete for three \$600 awards and three \$150 cash prizes.

The top scorers came from a group of 284 seniors in 87 high schools who took the written examination April 8. Final selections will be made by a committee of educators and citizens not connected with the Oregon AFL-CIO, Marr said.

The three winners will receive their awards at the 1959 convention of the state labor group at Seaside the week of Aug. 3.

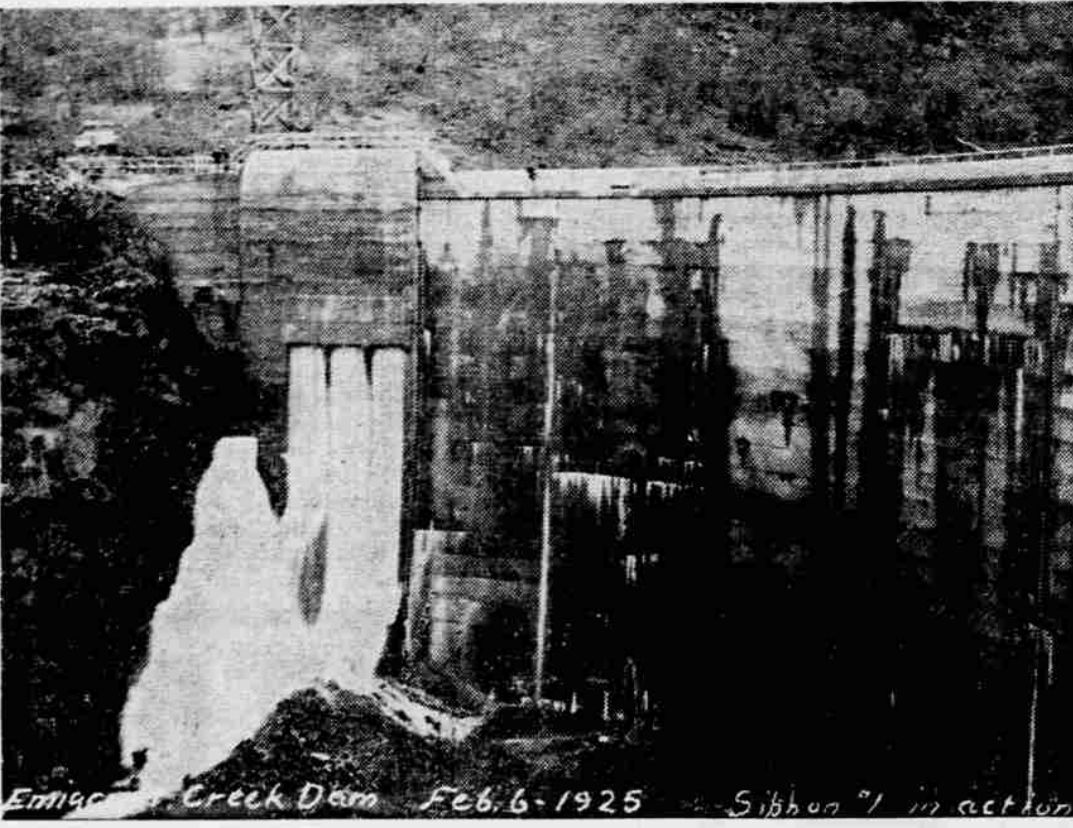
Other winners are Sam Allen, James Anderson, and Ann Weick, all of Portland; Vivian Miller, Coquille; and Grant Ledgerwood, Winston.

FIFTY-THREE OR BUST

Haelingborg, Sweden - UPI - Students at Haelingborg's Technical High School claimed a new world's record yesterday. They packed 52 boys and one girl into a Volkswagen. They said they beat a Canadian record of 33 persons by using their technical knowledge and removing the seats.

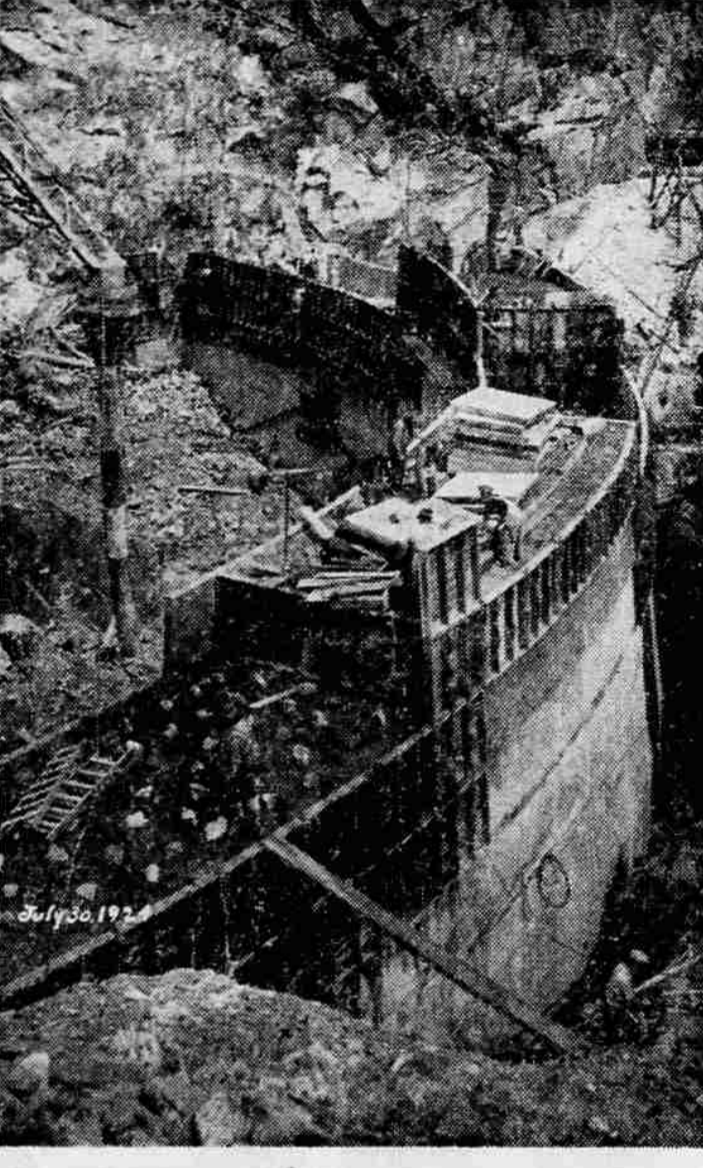
SIGN CULTURAL PACT

Beirut, Lebanon - UPI - One hundred Iraqi students will study in Communist Czechoslovakia under terms of an Iraqi-Czech cultural exchange agreement signed Friday in Baghdad.



POURS OUT WATER - Siphon No. 1 in the Emigrant dam pours out water soon after its construction. The picture was taken on Feb. 6, 1925. Emigrant creek and Hill creek siphons were started in August, 1924, and the steel siphon at Billings hill was laid in 1927. It was replaced with a larger pipe in 1944. Construction of the dam and

siphons were major steps in development and enlargement of the Talent Irrigation district facilities since the first irrigation system in Oregon was constructed by Jacob Wagner in 1852. A marker at Wagner Creek and Rapp rds. intersection marks the site of the early system.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION - Emigrant dam, just south of Ashland, is shown under construction in this picture taken on July 30, 1924. When completed the dam had a capacity of 8,500 acre feet and drained approximately 58 square miles. Work is now being done to raise the dam and increase the reservoir area.

ROGUE RIVER Garden Club Meets

By MRS. MYRTLE WHIPPLE
Rogue River - The Laurel Garden club met Wednesday, May 6, at the home of Mrs. Iza Forsyth. Mrs. Anna Clascik was co-hostess. Nine members were present and three guests, Mesdames Joe Golding, John Breeding and Dan Perkey.

A desert luncheon was served, after which the meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Henry Bonney.

The chaplain, Mrs. Victor Friden, offered a prayer, and a salute to the flag was given with Mrs. Jerusha Moore leading.

The roll call was answered by garden tips.

Officers were elected. They are Mrs. Henry Bonney, president; Mrs. William Paterson, vice president; Mrs. Victor Friden, treasurer; were re-elected; and Mrs. William White was elected secretary.

At the next meeting June 3 to be held at Mrs. Esther Shocks the officers will be installed.

Mrs. Esther Shocks was elected as a delegate to go to Portland to the state convention of Garden clubs. The club welcomed back Mrs. William Paterson, who has been in the Oakland hospital following a major operation.

Mrs. Earl Helms, the former Mrs. Maude Helfrich, 77, of Amboy, Wash., died in a Vancouver hospital of a heart attack recently.

Mrs. Helms is survived by her husband and two children, Mrs. Ercel Higgins of Gorst, Wash., and Lester Carroll of Auburn, Calif., also two sisters, a brother, four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Mrs. (Helfrich) Helms lived in Rogue River many years.

An error was made in one of the items last week. The item should read: A family dinner was held in honor of Mrs. Don Haynes of Medford

given by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rhoten in honor of her birthday. Other guests were Don Haynes and son of Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Miller of Rogue River, Mr. and Mrs. Conley Rhoten and two daughters and Mrs. Betty Rhoten and son, Carl, of Wimer.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Smith returned home Friday from an extended visit with their son-in-law and daughter, the William Bakers of Fortuna, Calif.

High School Principal W. B. Hunter was called to California April 29 by the illness of his sister.

Mrs. James Whipple entertained with a dinner May 5 in honor of the birthdays of Lloyd Smith, Mrs. John Breeding and her husband, James Whipple. Smith's birthday was May 5, Mrs. Breeding's May 6 and Whipple's will be May 21.

Mr. and Mrs. William White and Mrs. Jerusha Moore took their trailer house and went fishing recently at Willow Creek where they caught their limit. Mrs. Moore's prize one was 15 inches.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morgan were week end visitors from Yakima, Wash., April 25 at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Morgan. They also visited Morgan's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sander.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Seaman were callers Wednesday at the home of Seaman's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Magerie.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Smith went to Mt. Vernon Friday returning Saturday to take Martin Burkhardt to his home near there after he has spent the winter in Rogue River.

Senior Citizens to Observe Their Week

The third national Senior Citizens Month, sponsored by Senior Citizens of America and other organizations, is being observed during May.

The Rogue Valley Council on Aging has set the week of May 17 through 24 for special observance in Jackson county, according to Mrs. Rita Holmes, coordinator for the council, Camp White.

Mrs. Holmes said forms have been forwarded to valley churches and church women to aid the council in compiling information to publish a list of events which might be scheduled for senior citizens.

Mrs. Holmes made several suggestions for activities in which older residents may participate. They include receptions, teas, open houses, special services, music, entertainment, travel and other pictures, spelling bees, games, book reviews and trips.

She also suggested that people take elderly neighbors to church "for a couple hours of pleasure and companionship."

CLERGYMAN DIES

Yonkers, N.Y. - UPI - The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Ashworth, 87, former editorial secretary of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, died Friday.

Sheath Sensation

9334 SIZES 9-17



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by Marian Martin

Jacob Wagner Was Initial User; Spot Marked by Plaque

By JOE CROWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Jacob Wagner, an early settler in the Rogue River valley, one hot June day gloomily looked out over grassland which was being turned brown through lack of moisture.

He resolved to do something about it. What he did resulted in the beginnings of the present Talent Irrigation district.

In the summer of 1852, Wagner applied the first irrigation water used in Oregon. A bronze plaque mounted on a stone monument at Wagner Creek and Rapp rds., now marks the first irrigation system in the state. Lands now comprising the Talent Irrigation district lie in the upper portion of the Bear creek valley, a tributary of the Rogue river.

Need for Irrigation
Need for irrigation in the area is graphically shown by records on rainfall kept at the former agronomy station at Talent since 1913. Precipitation averages 17.53 inches during a year. Only 15 per cent of this comes during the growing season. None results at all in the hot months of July and August when crops really need the water.

During July and August daytime temperatures of 100 degrees plus often occur. Low humidity during the warm months increases the rate of water evaporation from plant life and from the soil. This makes the need for water even more critical.

Further pointing up the need for supplementary water supplies is the fact that summer flow of Bear creek and tributaries is low. Many of the smaller streams fail by mid-July.

All available stream flow was taken by the early settlers coming here in 1851 and settling under the Donation Claim laws. Those coming later were restricted to raising grain and one-crop hay which matures early and needs no irrigation.

System of Dams
A system of dams and reservoirs to store winter runoff had to be constructed. In May, 1916, a group of citizens organized the Talent Irrigation district. In March, 1920, the first unit, the McDonald unit, was completed at a total cost of \$250,000. It consisted then of 1,600 acres with water supplied from McDonald creek, a tributary of the Little Applegate river, and from Wagner creek, a tributary of Bear creek.

Shortly after that, a part of the Talent lateral, with water supply from Bear creek, was constructed.

In 1926 the present Talent Irrigation district facilities were completed. These included two storage reservoirs—Hiatt and Emigrant—and a canal system to irrigate approximately 10,400 acres.

Contract for Construction
Contracts for construction of the Hiatt Prairie reservoir with a capacity of 16,000 acre feet of storage and draining approximately 12 square miles, and construction of the east lateral, were awarded on March 14, 1922.

Emigrant dam bids were awarded on April 3, 1924. Emigrant reservoir has a capacity of 8,500 acre feet, drains approximately 58 square miles and floods a maximum of 230 acres. It is located just south of Ashland.

Emigrant creek and Hill creek siphons were started in August, 1924. The steel siphon at Billings hill, 6,730 feet long, was laid in 1927. It was replaced with a larger pipe in 1944. This latter siphon conveys water to the west lateral, a part of the first unit, and gives its users a water quota equal to the second and third unit.

In 1929, TID, like many businesses in the depression, faced bankruptcy. Farmers could not pay taxes and the district was faced with a water shortage because of a cycle of several years of below normal rainfall. So, the district was unable to meet its bond and interest payments.

Reorganization Proceedings
Reorganization proceedings were started in June, 1933, through the Reconstruction Finance corporation. By April 1939, the district issued repayment bonds of \$420,000 to cover the money advanced by RFC.

The district now has 10,430 acres of land under irrigation with 75.8 miles of main canals to serve them.

The water supply seemed adequate during the first few years, except for the drought years of 1931 and 1934 when the annual rainfall was less than 12 inches. Then the reservoirs failed to fill and the district was out of water in early July.

The number and size of district irrigated tracts remained fairly constant up to the start of World War II. Following World War II much of the population shifted from the east and middle west to the west coast. Many of the persons who settled here were veterans who bought small tracts.

Acres Subdivided
The population trend meant that many of the large acre-

ages were subdivided and sold piecemeal. By 1940, the Talent irrigation district included 410 tracts of 10 acres or less. Now the district has 1,144 tracts in this category.

This breaking up of land into many small acreages put a further burden on the existing water supply.

Irrigation authorities say that smaller tracts take much more water in proportion to the larger ones. A 40-acre field, for example, broken into eight five-acre places, each with his own idea of water use, will take up to 50 per cent more water than the whole acreage did under one owner.

However, now within reach of the present canal system are 8,000 acres of good land. The owners of this property elected to stay out of the district when it was organized. Present owners of practically all of this dry land now want irrigation which they cannot get under the present system facilities.

The Talent project now under construction is aimed at expansion of present facilities. It will be completed in 1962.

The project includes construction of a new reservoir at Howard Prairie with a normal surface area of 2,000 acres. It is four miles long and a half to one mile wide. It drains approximately 81 square miles of forest area and has a storage capacity of 60,500 acre feet.

Another part of the project is the Keene creek reservoir, covering 16 acres, draining 14 square miles, and holding 260 acre feet.

Water Pollution Results from Three Sources, Writer Notes

(Editor's note: This is another in the series of articles on conservation, being published in connection with Conservation Week. Today's article was written by Col. Paul H. Weiland, chairman of the pollution committee of the Jackson county chapter of the Izaak Walton League.)

By COL. PAUL WEILAND
Water is the most important single resource. Polluting it depreciates property values, ruins recreational areas, destroys fish and wildlife, raises cost of water treatment, contaminates irrigation and stock waters, gives off offensive odors, makes water unsuited for industrial use and endangers health.

Pollution comes from three major sources: communities, industries and soil erosion. Somehow, somewhere each of us pays a price for pollution of waterways. This is extravagant waste. Pollution can be controlled. The basic

question is, how and how much. The big problem is where to draw the line. Municipal sewage treatment plants can remove 95 per cent of the pollution substances. Industry can treat waste and reduce pollution to a satisfactory degree.

Belong to Public
The waters of a stream belong to the public. No one should knowingly dispose of waste matter in or near a stream any more than on a public highway.

Pollution problems can best be solved within the watershed. Groups working together at the local level can produce effective planning toward providing clean water for the immediate future and generations to come. In cleaning streams like Bear creek, eyes should be kept open for all pollutants. The tendency is to work on one offender, get him mopped up, and consider the job done.

Other Pollutants
Bear creek drains 330 square miles, about the same area as is drained at Prospect. It is not as small a stream as we think. It is an important tributary of the Rogue.

Many Uses
Its uses are domestic, municipal, irrigation, fish, wildlife, recreation and industry. Municipal sewage of Ashland and Talent, after treatment, flows into Bear creek. In case of the former, the plant is overloaded and Ashland is raising funds to correct the deficiency. Jacksonville uses septic tanks to dispose of sewage. Medford, Phoenix and Central Point use the former's sewage disposal plant. Treated effluent flows into the Rogue.

Industrial waste flowing into Bear creek comes primarily from several small slaughterhouses. Blood collection is not made, consequently the waste cannot be turned into the sewer. This is probably the most serious source of pollution.

Under ordinary market conditions, the recovery of blood will pay for the cost of collection facilities. In a favorable market, a plant processing 20 animals daily could pay for installing \$11,000 worth of recovery equipment through the sale of waste collected.

Blood is one of the worst pollutants since it cuts off oxygen, creates slime growth and kills fish as well as creating an odor nuisance.

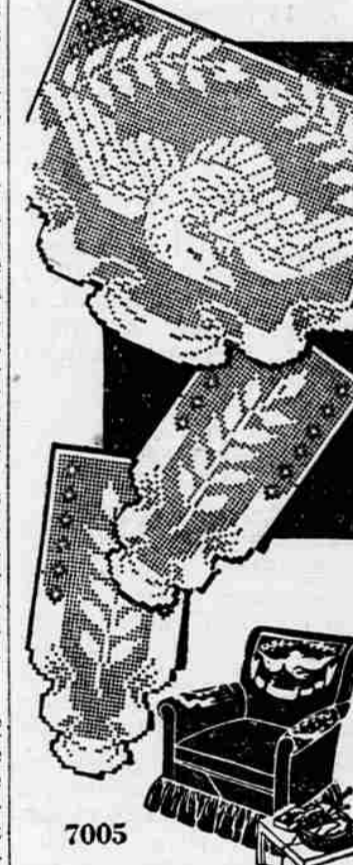
The objective is to prevent and abate pollution of Bear creek by:

1. Corrective measures; 2. aggressive action by the state sanitary authority; 3. coordination of local, state and federal efforts; 4. industry-wide cooperation; 5. everybody's active participation.

The Izaak Walton League is dedicated to preservation and restoration of clean waters. They hope all citizens will help.

BACKFIELD
Pusan, Korea - UPI - An attempted bank robbery failed yesterday when a stick of dynamite exploded in his hand, killing him and wounding three clerks.

Early Americana



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by Alice Brooks

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Our 1959 ALICE BROOKS Needlecraft Catalogue has many lovely designs to order: crocheting, knitting, embroidery, quilts, dolls, weaving. A special gift, in the catalog to keep a child happily occupied—a cutout doll and clothes to color. Send 25 cents for your copy of the book.

A Tribute To Mothers!

Abraham Lincoln said, "all that I am, or ever can be, I owe to my mother." And that, we think, sums up what all of us think about our mothers. It isn't only on Mother's Day that we should revere the name and memory of Mother. Every minute of every day we should unstintingly show our love and endeavor to make her life easier and happier. If your Mother has passed on, show that her memory still lives in your heart. Visit the cemetery frequently and lay lovely living flowers on the sacred spot where she sleeps forever. This will be a token payment of all she did for you.

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