

New Homesteaders Dig Into Job Of Preparing Their Land

Irrigation Water Swirls Through Ditches As Farms Readied For First Crops

By LOIS STEWART

Huge clouds of Tulake dust, rolling up like puff balls tossed by playful giants, followed a score or more of tractors that ponderously rolled over the rich homestead area as the new land owners settled down to the serious business of preparing their land for the first planting.

Early Tuesday morning, with the sun already high in the sky, The Herald and News photographer opened it was a good day for pictures and away we went. That section of the Tulake area, recently opened to World War 2 veterans and a beehive of activity, was the destination and it proved a gold mine not only for pictures but information as well.

Accompanied by E. Paul Braunig, settlement specialist with the United States bureau of reclamation, we left the old Jap camp and started out for the homestead area. Dotted the flat, rich land, were black tarpaper houses of the homesteaders, part of their allotment granted by Uncle Sam when he turned loose 86 units as a pre-Christmas gift to the vets and their families.

Homesteaders and their wives, and even relatives, are knocking down to get the land prepared for spring planting of row crops—onions, potatoes, vegetables, etc.—alfalfa, clover and grains. Some of the single men are living in tents, others are working the land and going back "to town" nights, but those with families have settled down in the tarpaper houses or have built tight little houses with the inevitable Chic Sale in the back yard.

At practically every stop we made, Braunig stuck his head out the car window and called—"got the trees ready for your place?" He was referring to the Chinese elm and Siberian pea trees made available to the homesteaders through Modoc County Agent Jack Hayes. If you could take a good, long look at this land, you'd realize instantly just how valuable every little tree put in the ground is going to be, how it will enhance the landscape and create shade for the homesteaders and their kids in the years to come.

Pre-irrigating through the check system, it must have really looked like a gigantic checkerboard from one of the high bluffs overlooking the peninsula, was on in full swing. Deep, greenish brown water was swirling through the dikes and swinging off into smaller ditches that marched in straight lines throughout the area. The wide, flat planes of water reflected the strong sunlight where flooding was enriching the land prior to the planting.

One stop brought us to the Edward A. King place which is nicely located, from the homestead area, adjacent to a canal and close by a power line. King's wife, Edith, had certainly done right well with one of the tarpaper houses. Inside the one big room, the walls had been painted. There was a lovely old swing rocker, delight to an antique dealer's eye, in one corner and against the far wall was the kitchen. A spanking new electric stove was built into a cake in one oven. Edith likes being a homesteader. She doesn't even mind the annoying dust and despite the fact that her husband and a neighbor were throwing up a pile just a couple of feet from her window, the house was apple-pie neat.

Outside the front door, where a chair is temporarily serving as a hen house, Edith King has the start of her poultry flock. One tub holds fluffy yellow chicks which will soon be strutting Rhode Island Reds, and Wyandottes. There's a pig in a pen nearby and the King's cow will soon be here from Eagleview, Calif., her former home. Outside of the fact that Edith has electricity, in her corner, her comfort is not far removed from those her great-grandmother might have had in the early days. The Kings "pack" their drinking water, but an 18-foot well has brought in water for household use such as dish washing and scrubbing.

King, No. 11 on the homestead drawing, used to farm at Grants Pass. He has 3.2 acres of which 50 will go into potatoes and the rest in alfalfa.

Down a road apiece is Frank Sullivan's place. Frank is one of the Klamath vets that won out. He was No. 31 in the drawing and he likes

his land. Frank was a B-17 tail gunner in the European theater of operations and he doesn't mind admitting that his big dream was to get back home and own a hunk of Klamath dirt. Now he has 75 acres of his own and a tent right smack-dab in the middle of it. He hasn't had time to move one of his houses from the Jap camp but he'll get around to it when he is satisfied that the irrigating is done just right and the barley is in. Frank doesn't have to be fussy like some of the boys because he hasn't a little woman around to heckle him into a place to put up the curtains. He'll get around to that family business later. Frank said he and Freddy Lehman, one of his bachelor homestead neighbors, had been "looking around."

Community spirit in the homestead area right now is keen. The fellows have several major community projects under way, not the least being the water piping plan and improvement of roads. On Monday five of the homesteaders, Paul Rogers, Max Fleming, Jesse Walker, Ralph Saylor and Theo Godlewski, paid a visit to the Modoc county commissioners at Alturas and submitted a petition for roads into the new area. Rogers was the spokesman for the group.

The commissioners talked community problems over with the veterans and Clint Pulcher, supervisor for that area, is to meet with them in the near future to further discuss ways and means for providing roads.

The homesteaders had plenty of good arguments to advance in their behalf. They stressed the need of roads in order to make medical services available to families and also to facilitate fire protection and to enable children of homesteaders to travel to and from schools. Even though most of the "roads" were dry on our trip, some sections were covered with water, riding over the ruts almost satisfied a childhood ambition to ride in a rocking howdah, the cab on top of an elephant. You rock, away, your pistons fall over your eyes and you clutch your copy paper tightly and hope a main spring won't bust.

Other roads take off across fields without more of a marking than a piece of white shirt fluttering at the end of a stick.

But if you want to see lots of land, the kind that swirls through the sky as well as lays in neat furrows on the bottom of Mother Earth, it will do your heart good to travel through the homestead area one of these Sundays.

Phoners Adopt "No Help" Policy

SEATTLE, April 24 (AP)—Arne Graven, field representative of the National Federation of Telephone Workers, said Wednesday the union had adopted a policy of "no help, please" regarding its picket line.

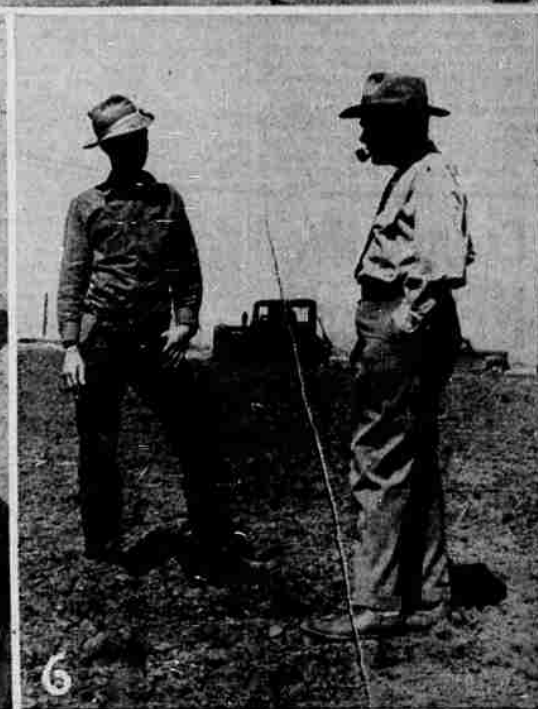
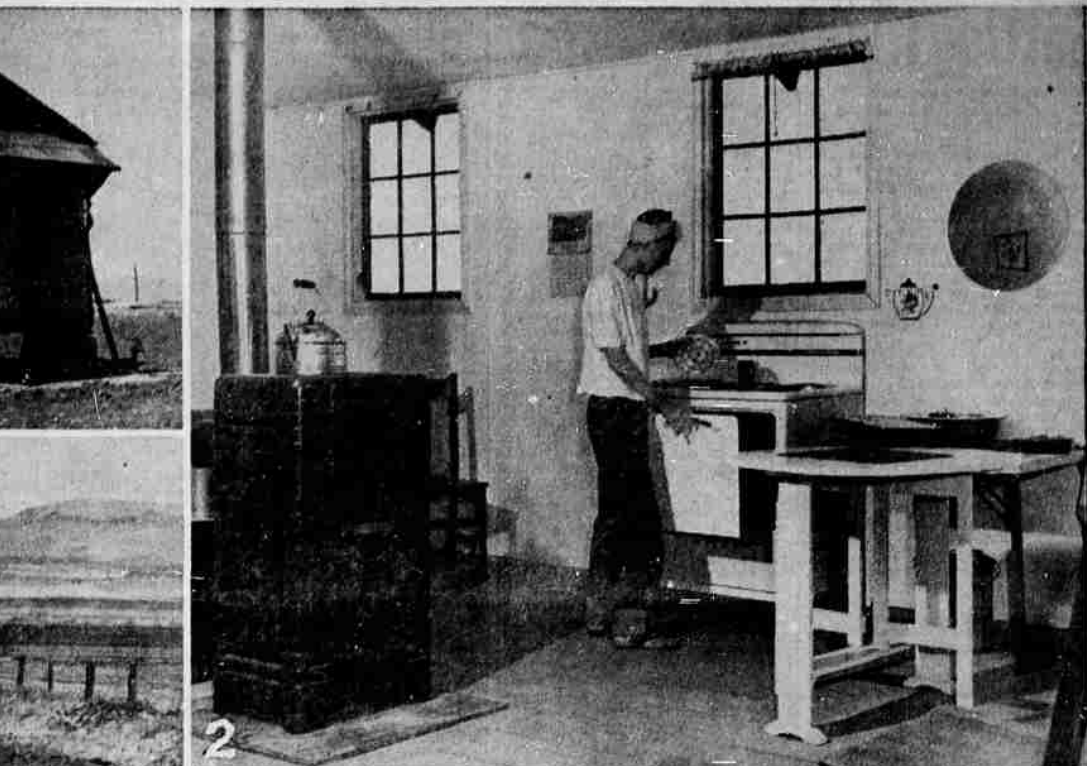
The decision to bar non-members from the picket lines, he said, was to safeguard against any communist hand in the strike.

"We've discovered that a lot of rosy promises we've gotten have come from groups with a decided pinkish tinge. We don't want any part of it. We just want to be left alone to run our own strike."

Millikin Assails Snyder's Theory

WASHINGTON, April 24 (AP)—Senator Millikin (R-Colo.) told Secretary of the Treasury Snyder today that "the government does not have a moral right to seize any of a taxpayer's money on the theory it knows how to spend it better than he does."

Millikin, chairman of the senate finance committee, made the comment in discussing Snyder's declaration that a premature tax cut could contribute to further price rises and economic instability.



In The Pictures

Tulake homesteaders and their families were busy setting up housekeeping and getting the land ready for spring planting when members of The Herald and News staff paid a visit to the area this week. (1) One of the tarpaper houses on the Edward A. King place. This one is the King residence, another will be used for additions to the brand and a third is in the barn. (2) Edith King takes a pan from her brand new electric stove inside her home which is centrally heated with an oil stove. Everything is spanking clean inside with fresh paint brightening walls and furniture. (3) Looking into the homestead area and showing condition of existing roads. This road is "good," however, compared to many. Homesteaders have now petitioned the Modoc county commission to add them in a better road program. (4) Paul Christy, veteran from Redmond, Ore., and No. 5 in the December drawing, burned tumbleweeds along the canal banks on this homestead. (5) Edith King admires her first flock of chicks, Rhode Island Reds and Silver Laced Wyandottes, which will soon be running around the pen and fattening up for the platter. (6) Edward A. King, (left), No. 11 homesteader, talks over his future plans with E. Paul Braunig, settlement specialist with the U. S. bureau of reclamation.

—Pictures by Wesley Guderian, The Herald and News.

Soil Experts Off For China

Dr. and Mrs. Hsi Ku Chang, who have studied extension methods in several land grant colleges in this country, have just sailed for China where they will help introduce similar help to Chinese rural people. They will set up a northwestern

regional office of agriculture and home economics at Wukung, Shensi province.

Mrs. Chang earned her doctorate at Oregon State college last June, the first to be granted in home economics there. He obtained his in agriculture at Wisconsin. Both taught at Montana State college this winter pending arrangements for their return to China.

PORTLAND, Ore., April 24 (AP)—The Portland Elks' convention committee reported today it might have to quarter national convention dele-

gates next July in towns as far away as McMinnville — nearly 40 miles. Some 25,000 Elks and members of their families are expected.



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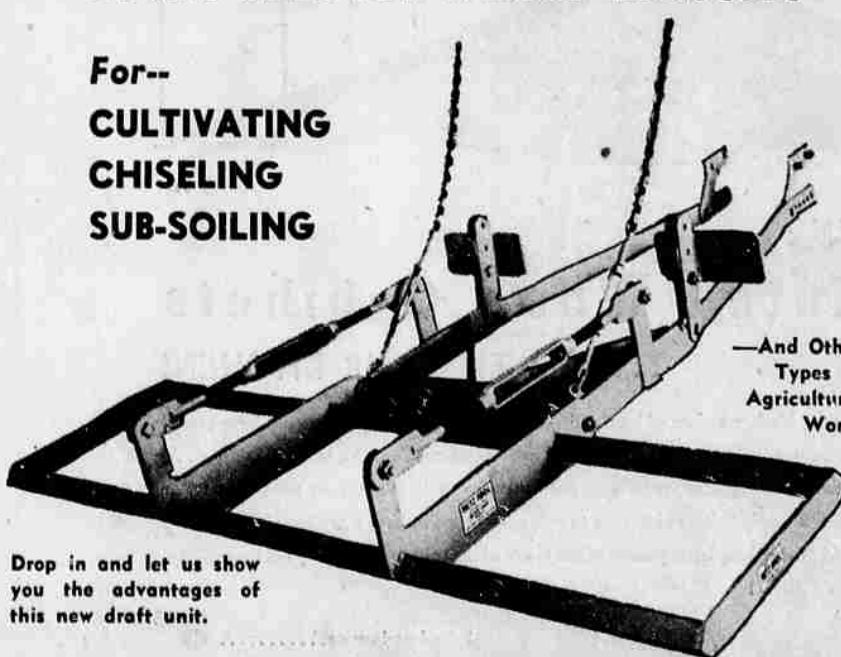
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