

# Construction Was Tough Job In 1906 Period

Today's old-time photograph directs the spotlight on early construction of reclamation works that made the Klamath basin one of the richest agricultural areas of the West.

It shows the outlet portal of the main canal tunnel during the construction period in 1906. The location of the scene is now at 10th and Prospect streets, and the latter street—which is part of US highway 97, now crosses the end of the tunnel. The entire surrounding area is now extensively developed with houses and business structures. The mesa in the background has now been partially cut away to make sites for business buildings fronting Oregon avenue.

This old picture, from the Maude Baldwin collection, indicates the early-day methods of construction, which made the job of digging the tunnel slow and tedious. Muck was brought through the tunnel to the portal on little cars, and hoisted out of the way. Three shafts were driven at various points across the hill, and muck was hoisted vertically through these shafts. Some of the material from one of the shafts can be seen at upper left on the skyline.

Horses were extensively used on the job, as they were on the construction of the main canals of the Klamath project. The reclamation office here has a picture of oxen at work on one of the construction jobs.

The main canal tunnel in the north part of town, pictured herewith, is 3300 feet long. Its upper portal is near the Conger school, where the water enters after coming through an open ditch from Link river near its source.

The first tunnel construction in that area was done by the Klamath Canal company, a private concern which entered the irrigation picture here just after the turn of the century (incorporated in 1904). The Klamath Canal company tunnel began at about the same place as the present tunnel, but meandered eastward around the hill shown in the picture, more or less on the line of present-day Oregon avenue. When the government bought out the Klamath Canal company for \$150,000 in 1905, it began a new tunnel shooting straight through the hill. The old tunnel was abandoned.

A donkey engine was located at the top of the shafts on the hill to hoist the waste materials from the tunnel below. E. Laton Stephens, now operation and maintenance chief for the Klamath district of the reclamation bureau, long-time project engineer and superintendent, recalls that donkey engine very clearly for a specific reason.

Mr. Stephens, then a youngster of 12, living in Klamath Falls, got a job carrying water to the engine. He worked a week, lugging the water up the hill from the tunnel portal, using a shoulder yoke, Chinese cooley style, with two big buckets balancing across his youthful shoulders. After a week at \$1 a day, he found something else to do.

Mason and Davis were the contractors on the tunnel job, and their camp was located at what is now 10th and Prospect. The tunnel and the main canal were finished in 1907, and irrigation furnished to 7000 acres. The irrigated area has since grown to more than 200,000 acres.

## Photographic History



### VA Education Ruling Made

World War II veterans training under the GI bill or vocational rehabilitation act are not eligible for training at the same time in certain other courses financed by federal funds, Zeno H. Dent, veterans administration training officer here, pointed out today.

A recent VA ruling holds that education provided by the two veterans' training laws was not intended to duplicate training of ex-GIs already enrolled in courses and receiving benefits from other U. S. appropriations, Dent explained.

Accordingly, veterans must select the federal training program they prefer. Aside from the GI bill and public law 16 program for veterans, several other courses are available to veterans and other persons. These include:

1. U. S. public health training for persons receiving fellowships or salaries from state or other grant-in-aid funds derived wholly or partially from federal appropriations.
2. U. S. maritime commission training programs.
3. Resident training in hospitals, clinics, medical or dental laboratories owned or operated by the U. S. government.
4. Residency training for physicians and dentists in the department of medicine and surgery of the VA.

### Homestead Appeals In

Appeals on rejected homestead applications are starting to come in to the U. S. bureau of reclamation homestead office and around 20 had been received by Saturday morning.

Following the closing date of January 20, for receiving homestead applications for the 44 homesteads at Coppeck bay, the examining board has been busy processing the completed forms and notifying the applicants. This work is continuing as rapidly as possible and applicants who do not qualify are given 10 days in which to appeal their cases from the date that they receive notification to this effect.

March 15 is the tentative date set for the homestead drawing and it is expected that the homestead office staff may have to work nights to complete the processing and be ready for that date, A. D. Harvey, in charge of the homestead office, said today.

### Mayors Plead For Faster Rail Runs

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 31 (AP)—The mayors of Portland, Tacoma and Seattle yesterday joined in a plea for faster railroad service among their cities.

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