

Herald and News FARM NEWS



Klamath Irrigation Units Merge To Form Confusing Maze Of Canals, Ditches

The Klamath project irrigation system distributing water to thirsty acres in the Klamath basin is a complicated network of arterial canals and smaller drains and laterals.

Water supplied from Upper Klamath lake is metered out to farmers according to contract with the U. S. bureau of reclamation. Farmers turn in their requirements, so many feet of water per day per farm, to district ditchriders.

Ditchriders read their main gauges at 5:45 a. m. daily and in turn report gauge readings and accumulated needs of farmers in their district to the chief ditchrider.

Chiefs add all the figures from ditchriders in their district and phone in the total volume of water requested for the day to the water-master at the head gate at the lake. Potato field irrigations are measured in second feet and grain and pasture in acre feet.

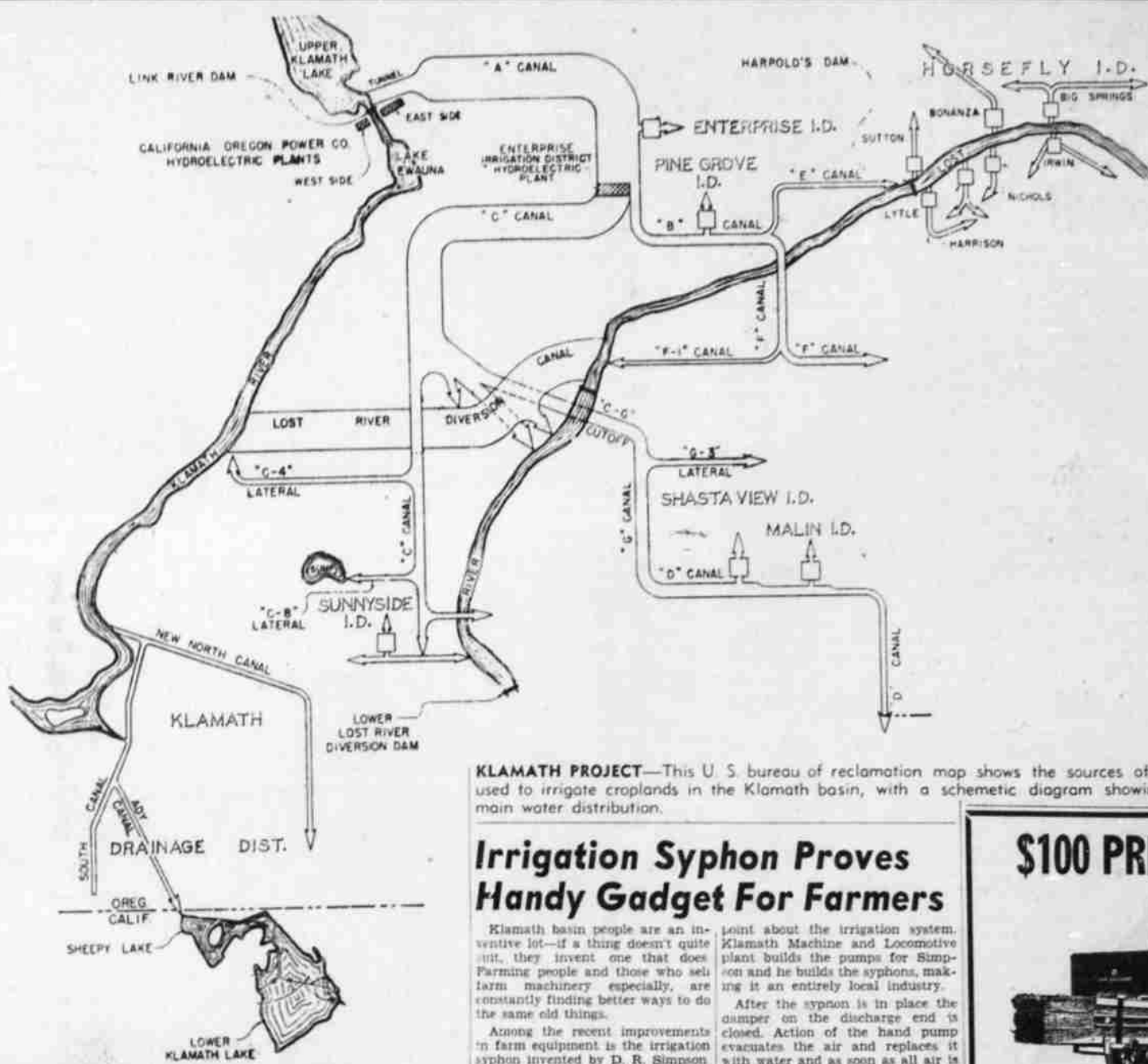
Requests are in to the water-master at 6:15 a. m. he issues the required supply of water into the main or "C" canal. Chief ditchriders regulate check boards at main canal intersections, and take the

share for their districts. Farmers do likewise at points where their laterals intersect the ditches through their crop land.

Volume of water needed for irrigation increases each year as sagebrush is pushed back, salts are washed out of soils and more acreage goes under cultivation.

Besides routing the daily crop water supply through proper tunnels, ditches and flumes to destinations scores of miles away, watching gauges and checks carefully from mid-April to mid-October, ditchriders must be on the alert for breaks in canal banks, caused by rodents and livestock and blockages caused by weeds and moss.

A continuous weed elimination program is carried on, using two cats, one on either side of the canal with a drag chain between to pull out the debris. This setup is moved from point to point, a couple of days at each, throughout the irrigation season. From October to April, as long as weather permits, maintenance crews with bulldozers and draglines clear out ditches and canals and mend banks damaged by squirrel holes and cave-ins.



KLAMATH PROJECT—This U. S. bureau of reclamation map shows the sources of water used to irrigate croplands in the Klamath basin, with a schematic diagram showing the main water distribution.

Four-H News

The Happy Flower Gardeners met at the home of David Thomas. The club chose "Happy Flower Gardeners" as the name for the club. The members made plans for a picnic and swim at Malone dam, July 11. Mary Leavitt resigned as news reporter and Ruth Thomas was appointed. The members present were Catherine Dearborn, Mary Leavitt, Ruth and David Thomas, president, and leader, Bessie Frazer. Guests were Jim and Ted Smith, Virginia and Margaret Thomas. Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

—RUTH THOMAS, News Reporter.

to finish these plans. The meeting was originally scheduled earlier but some members have gone to summer school so the meeting was set for June 26 at Helen and Leland Webber's.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Rex High.

Olene Buckaroos wish to thank the Henley Beef club for a swell time on June 12.

—JOY ROSS, News Reporter.

The organization of the Bonanza Can Can club was held at the home of Hazel and Ruth Bradshaw June 9. All the members are ready to start another active year.

The outgoing president, Hazel Bradshaw conducted the meeting to elect new officers. They are Wilma Hubble, president; Lois Hubble, vice president; Ruth Bradshaw, secretary; Hazel Bradshaw, news reporter; Janet Dixon, sergeant-at-arms; Arleen Reimann, song leader, and Louise Hubble, yell leader.

The leader, Mrs. Esther Brown, told us about the requirements of each division.

There are two members in division I, Lois and Louise Hubble. There are two members in division II, Ruth Bradshaw and Arleen Reimann, and three in division III, Wilma Hubble, Janet Dixon and Hazel Bradshaw. After the meeting refreshments of cake and kool-aid were served by Mrs. Bradshaw. Mothers present were Mrs. Alta Dixon, Mrs. Paul Reimann, and Mrs. John Bradshaw.

—HAZEL BRADSHAW, News Reporter.



HOW MUCH WATER?—It's the ditch rider's job to find out how much water farmers in his district need each day and turn that amount of water into the right channels. Earl Smith, a ditch rider on the Klamath project irrigation system checks gauges carefully.

Crop Prospects Held Favorable

Mid-year general agricultural outlook for 1949, shows national crop prospects weighty and economic demand weakening somewhat according to the Oregon State college circular.

Crops prospects this year are more favorable than usual. Increases also in animal products such as hogs, turkeys, chickens, etc., are being reflected in price trends. Some crops are already down to support levels.

Organization of the Bonanza Cozy Roomers was held at the home of Esther Brown, June 16. All the members resigned and are now ready to start another active year.

The outgoing president, Hazel Bradshaw conducted the meeting for election of officers. They are Janet Dixon, president; Arleen Reimann, vice president; Nancy Given, secretary; Hazel Bradshaw, news reporter; Wilma Hubble, sergeant-at-arms; Patsy Tofell, treasurer; Ruth Bradshaw, program chairman; Lois and Louise Hubble, song and yell leaders.

Members talked about their project for this year and planned a picnic.

—HAZEL BRADSHAW, News Reporter.

Olene Buckaroos met at the home of leader Rex High in June. All members were present and each member was given a sheet of paper telling about club work. Secretary Peter Reiling read an invitation from the Henley Beef club asking the club to attend a joint meeting of several clubs at Dale William's home. All members planned to attend.

Plans for a float in the July 4 parade were discussed though nothing definite was decided. Plans also were discussed for barn decorations at the fair this fall. It was decided to have a special meeting

Irrigation Syphon Proves Handy Gadget For Farmers

Klamath basin people are an inventive lot—if a thing doesn't quite suit, they invent one that does. Farming people and those who sell farm machinery especially, are constantly finding better ways to do the same old things.

Among the recent improvements in farm equipment is the irrigation syphon invented by D. R. Simpson, Tulake sheet metal shop operator.

The syphon, light and durable, being made of metal, is easily removable after use, can be stored between irrigating, taken up for ditch cleaning operations and is the largest syphon that can be handled by an evacuator pump. Simpson, who has already applied for patents and is manufacturing and selling the rigs produces them in two sizes, the largest 1 1/2 by 7-inch syphon "tube" and 9 by 3 inches on the smallest.

The syphon has a seven- and one-half foot spread for the underside measurement. One end is placed in the main ditch at the head of a lateral in the field to be irrigated. The pump used with the syphon is also designed by Simpson for this particular use and is connected to the syphon with a standard hose coupling.

The large syphon weighs 60 pounds, the small one 32 and the pump about five pounds, making them easy to transfer from point to point about the irrigation system. Klamath Machine and Locomotive plant builds the pumps for Simpson and he builds the syphons, making it an entirely local industry.

After the syphon is in place the damper on the discharge end is closed. Action of the hand pump evacuates the air and replaces it with water and as soon as all air is expelled, the damper is opened to let the water into the field lateral.

As long as there is water in the main ditch covering the end of the syphon, it can be left in place and the damper need only be turned to start the flow of water again, without need of priming with the pump.

Purpose of the invention is to save cost and labor of the wood boxes now in use which must be set in permanently at the head of each lateral and dug out when the ditch has to be dragged for cleaning. One pump and three or four syphons will take the place of 40 boxes, Simpson explains.

TIMETABLE FLOWERS

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Raspberry Plants To Be Studied

Oregon State college extension service is trying its best this year to give farmers the raspberry.

That is, a good raspberry—for breeding stock, is in demand, and the college is undertaking an extension research program on the subject. The search is directed by C. O. Rawlings, extension horticulturist and E. K. Vaughn, plant pathologist and conducted in cooperation with extension agents and berry growers.

Any berry growers who have developed strong varieties of red, black, or black meeting specified standards should get in touch with either of these men at the college, or the county agent's office.

Freedom of high disease and high yield are the two factors desired in berries.

Hay Production Hitting Peak

All over the Klamath basin meadows are "sweet with hay" and the height of the haying season progresses.

Various rigs for cutting and baling hay are seen in the fields early and late and this year for the first time here considerable attention is being given to silage processes. The old standard methods for curing are still in operation by a high margin, however. From Klamath Falls throughout the basin area to way below Tulake, fields are in various stages of haying progress with some already in bales, some drying loose cut and more being cut.

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