

Langell Valley Rancher Contender In Northwest Grassman Contest

A STRONG CONTENDER FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST GRASSMAN OF THE YEAR is Lloyd Giff of Langell Valley, who won the 1955 Oregon State Grassman of the Year contest last month. He is competing against the top grassmen from Washington and Idaho, with the judges scheduled to name the winner tomorrow. Giff said that it took lots of work and water to convert the scabrock land on the upper parts of his ranch into the lush grass pasture shown at top right. He has developed three reservoirs, one of which represents an improvement of a defunct irrigation district dam, and dug contour ditches to carry the water through the rocky land, which was seeded by airplane. The top left picture shows a crew laying out contour ditches, and at right center is a tractor working on the Willow Valley dam, one of the two Giff built from scratch. In the bottom left is Three Mile Flat reservoir, the other project Giff began from scratch. At bottom right, Giff (left) points out the features of his bottom land pasture, which he reclaimed from swampy conditions caused by poor drainage, to county contest judges Ray Peterson (secretary), Alvin Cheyne and Rex High. It has taken Giff about seven years to bring the pasture to its present state. The sod from the grass covers the rock, making it invisible to the casual passer-by. The 1,700 acres support about 1,000 head of his own and other ranchers' cattle. The 11,000 acre feet of water stored in the three reservoirs is a two year supply for the Giff ranch. Water from the dams is carefully preserved, with little runoff leaving the ranch.

Runoff from higher pastures is used on lower pastures, with the final use being on the bottom lands near the Langell Valley highway. Giff has been continuously active in soil conservation work, having aided in the organization in 1941 of the Langell Valley Soil District, and serving with various county and state soil groups.

—Portrait, center right and bottom right by Herald and News, others by U.S. Department of Agriculture.

