

Picturesque Paper Served Early White Lake City Residents

White Lake City—boom town of the Klamath Basin in 1905 and '06—was served by one of the most picturesque weeklies of early newspapers history in Southern Oregon, the White Lake Times.

Although the newspaper was started before the town itself, and was published as job work in the old Republican plant in Klamath Falls, the Times was moved into its new location in White Lake City early in 1905, as soon as a few buildings were completed and settlers began to arrive.

White Lake City in its hey-day boasted 200 inhabitants, all of whom expected their village to become an important metropolis. The town consisted of a bank, a restaurant, furniture and hardware store, general merchandise store and a millinery shop, as well as several other business houses and a number of homes.

Fish Ponds Yield Catch To Anglers

Want to go trout fishing every day of the week?

Well, perhaps that's carrying a good thing a little too far. But a lot of farmers and outdoorsmen in Oregon are going trout fishing just about as often as they want in farm and other private ponds around the state.

They're catching good fish, too. For instance, Orville Cutsforth has a trout pond on his ranch in Morrow County. In May of 1954 he planted about 200 five-inch trout in his two-thirds acre pond. That fall, he was pulling out rainbow trout 11½ to 12½ inches long.

The next spring, when the pond was seined to see how trout had done over the winter, rainbows were 14 inches long and weighed up to 17 ounces. These fish were fat, thick, and deep-bodied. Their small heads indicate rapid growth.

And Andy Landforce, Oregon State College wildlife management specialist, says good ponds anywhere in Oregon can grow fish like this if the pond is properly managed.

Only trouble with Cutsforth's pond was that he didn't plant enough fish. While he was catching large trout, the nibbles on his hook were few and far between and he wasn't having as much fishing fun as he wanted. Checking on the problem, Landforce found there was so much natural food available that the trout usually weren't interested in striking at an artificial lure. So it was suggested that Cutsforth plant twice as many rainbow trout the next time he stocks his pond.

Each pond has the room and food to support just so much fish, Landforce pointed out. And planting enough fish to fill the pond keeps the fish hungry enough to bite at a lure.

Of course, trout in a fully-stocked pond won't grow as fast as the ones in Cutsforth's pond. But there should be a lot more fun for the man on the other end of the line, and the fishing will last much longer.

For details on a trout pond of your own, stop in and visit your local county agent or Oregon state game commission representative. They can help you design and maintain a successful trout pond you'll be proud of, Landforce says.

Metler Mill Began In '23

The Metler Brothers moulding plant on South Sixth Street is the outgrowth of a plant started in 1923 by Claude Caldwell, Albert Schultz and Albin Lundell as the Klamath Moulding Co.

The Metler firm obtains most of its lumber for remanufacturing from other mills in Klamath and Lake counties. The original plant was purchased by the Metlers in 1937 and they added a larger and more modern moulding plant at that time. The company uses about 10 million feet of lumber per year.

The firm specializes in all kinds of sash and door cuttings, frame stock, and other miscellaneous items.

E. B. "Bert" Hall at that time, was in the real estate business, and sold lots in White Lake City. Believing in it himself, he built a \$5,000 building, and, incidentally, was the owner and publisher of the White Lake Times.

Vance Hutchins, colorful figure in Klamath newspaper history, was the managing editor, chief editorial writer, type setter, pressman and general factotum of The Times.

Though the weekly had only a short life, about a year to be exact, it was a vital factor in the growth of the mushroom town of White Lake City, and had a circulation of more than 900. Subscribers were scattered over the entire Klamath Basin, for at that time, the White Lake Times was the only newspaper published outside of Klamath Falls. It was entered as second-class matter every week in the Merrill postoffice, and was eagerly awaited by all its readers.

In January 1905, Hall sent "Hutch" to Portland to purchase equipment to be installed in The Times plant in White Lake City. The editor returned with an old Army press and a varied assortment of type.

All the work was done by hand from writing editorials and news to the setting of type and running the press.

While "Hutch" held down the office and wrote his editorials, which, by the way, were quoted in farm papers all over the United States, Bert was out and about selling real estate, "scooping" news, and so-

llecting advertising all over the country.

One of "Hutch's" stories which brought much publicity to the Klamath Basin was about a prize mule bred by N. S. Merrill, founder of the town by the same name.

This mule was a huge animal, and the editor of The Times ran a news item telling the advantages of this country for stock raising, and giving Merrill's mule as an example, declaring it to be the largest animal of its age and breed in the United States.

Not long afterward a letter arrived from a Florida editor saying, "You fellows are all d—liars, we raise larger mules in Florida than an Oregonian could imagine."

Hutch published the letter, and reiterated that Merrill's mule was champ. A long controversy followed, and eventually the argument found its way into "Home and Fireside," nationally read rural magazine.

The result was that the Klamath Basin mule was submitted to thorough weighing and measuring processes, and sure enough, he took all prizes, confirming the judgment of Editor Hutchins. According to recollections of the old-timers, White Lake City was started by three Oklahoma townsite promoters, who had hoped to build their Oregon town on the Klamath Indian reservation, which seemed likely to open for settlement about that time. The reservation plan fell through, however, so 200 acres of land were purchased from the Charlie Armstrong

ranch on Lower Klamath Lake, and White Lake City was platted.

All lots were sold for the same price, about \$15, and salesmen peddled the property all over the east and middle west. Two lots out of each block were reserved for the land promotion company, and later a drawing was held, and the lots apportioned to their owners.

At that time it seemed probable that the McCloud railroad would be routed through White Lake City, but with the purchase of the Weed logging road by E. H. Harriman, and the resulting change in right-of-way, the White Lake City bubble

burst, the new town failed, and the settlers eventually left.

The good old White Lake Times folded up too, and according to Hall was sold to N. S. Merrill of mule notoriety. The plant was moved to Merrill and the name changed to the Merrill Record, under which name it is published today.

White Lake City remained a ghost town for many years, but finally all the buildings were torn down and the lumber hauled away, so that now not even a stone marks the site of the boom town of early days.

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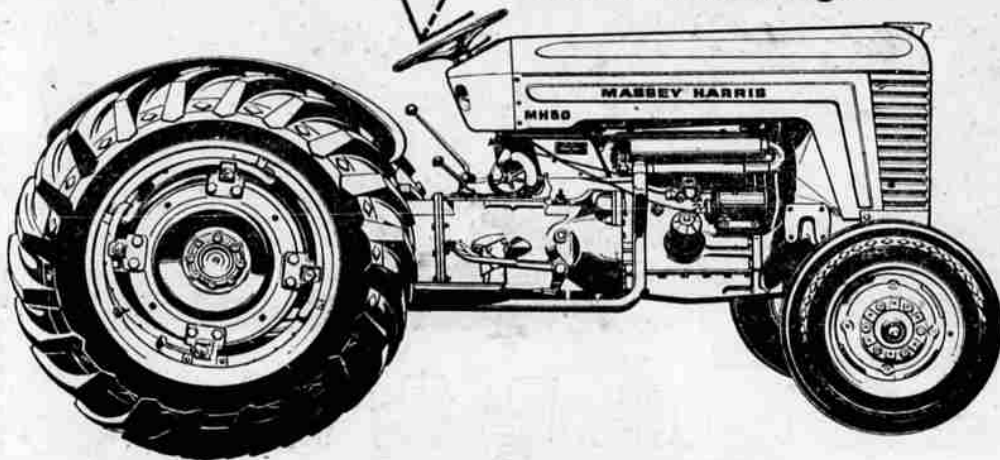


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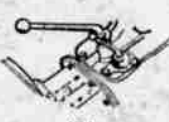
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