

Irrigation In Ore. Started As Result Of Gold Mining Activities

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Much early irrigation in Oregon started as a side line of gold mining and even as late as 1912 farmers in central Oregon questioned both the need and desirability of irrigating.

Today, interest in irrigation has grown until 1,500,000 acres are irrigated in the state. This acreage is expected to nearly double by the year 2000.

But most of the easy irrigation development has already been completed, Marvin Shearer, Oregon State College extension irrigation specialist, reports. Future development will require more money, community action, and advance planning, he emphasized.

The first record of irrigation in the Oregon country was by a Methodist mission in The Dalles 20 years before Oregon became a

state.

The first known water right in Oregon was established in 1852 by the Wagner - Thornton Ditch in Jackson County which diverted water for the irrigation of 69.4 acres. This ditch was a gold mining by-product. Placer miners washed gold from water brought around the hill in ditches. When the gold was gone the ditches were still there, so they were put to work carrying water to farm lands.

Eastern Oregon's first irrigation development was a result of gold mining, too. In the 1860's, the first irrigation in Baker County was from a ditch near Sparta, first built for placer mining.

Oregon's first multi-purpose water development probably was the Burnt River ditch near Malheur

City. This ditch was developed for mining, transporting logs and irrigating.

The state's first irrigation well was drilled near Eugene in 1890 by Frank B. Chase. His land continues to be owned and irrigated by the Chase family.

In western Oregon, there still is some opportunity for individual farmers to develop irrigation wells. Shearer pointed out, however, that for the past three years reports have come in of some wells interfering with others.

Eastern Oregon has enough water for foreseeable needs, but it must be stored and placed where needed. The ultimate goal in the Willamette Valley is a system of dams and canals to provide maximum use of winter precipitation for crop production use during the dry summer.

Sprinklers are used on about 10 per cent of the irrigated land in the state. The rest is flooded. However, the sprinkler method is used on 90 per cent of the land irrigated west of the Cascades.

Although irrigation is an ancient farm practice, sprinkler irrigation didn't begin until after 1900, and

has been popular only since about 1945. Oregon State College pioneered in portable sprinkler irrigation. Light weight, easy-to-handle aluminum tubing was first adapted for irrigation in the state. Steel used before that was too heavy to be moved about with ease.

Two other factors have helped increase interest in sprinkler irrigation. They are such schemes as wheels and tractors to reduce labor in moving the pipe and development during the past three or four years of a solid

system of pipe that never needs moving.

Future irrigation development will be more difficult and expensive because of competition for water and more complicated conveyance systems, Shearer believes. In spite of present surpluses, future irrigation will be more important than ever, he says, to meet the demands of a growing American population.

Not Too Good Is How Italians Write English

ROME (UPI)—"Carriage doors with automatic opening device are to be opened by the locomotive."

Gibberish? Double-talk? Not at all. Just one of the many English language signs posted in Italian railroad cars for the guidance of English speaking tourists.

Most of the English notices and advertising in Italy are written by Italians who think they know the language and are easily believed by bosses who do not know it at all.

Some painfully dated grammar books and dictionaries for which time stopped in the Victorian era may be partly to blame.

"Do not use the W. C. (water closet) whilst the train is standing at a station. . . ." reads one railroad car notice.

"Make sure," says another "that the external side doors fitted with lock are closed. The handle in the interior should occupy the position indicated in the diagram. . . ."

From the publicity of a leading Rome restaurant:

"Come too here members of the royal houses of Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Greece and Russia have been to savour the delights of its cooking, and have left their signatures in its visitors' book."

From the instructions on the use of a syringe:

"Being every piston exactly fitted to its own cylinder avoid pistons being changed one another."

A recent edition of a leading Italian-English dictionary carefully records such English words as "lansquenet" and "portucullis" but fails to give any clue to the English terms for radar, isotope, air-conditioned, neon lights or skyscraper.

That modern flying thing is called "aeroplane" or "aero," and only a later edition tentatively mentions "plane" as an alternative. There is no trace of "jet plane," and a bomber is a "tri-motored bombing machine."

But in fairness, Italians could point out that the written Italian of some Americans is just as bad. The Allied Military Government during the war issued identity cards for civilians with an Italian notice, which, translated back into English, would be roughly:

"This card must be shown to

everybody public official authorized duly."

Rug Buying Tips Given

Wool still rates high among rug and carpeting materials although many synthetics are underfoot today, reports a new bulletin available from Oregon State College.

Wool is a good choice for dining and entertaining areas. It is resistant to grease stains and stands up under heavy traffic, the college specialists point out.

Home economists from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington prepared the bulletin, "Buying Rugs and Carpets," as a joint project. The bulletin lists commonly used rug fibers with advantages and drawbacks of each.

When shopping for rugs, families often listen to their neighbors' preferences, and end up buying a rug that fits the neighbors but not themselves, they say.

Consider the number of years your carpet must last, amount of traffic it will get, how it reacts to stains, its effect on the whole feeling of the room, and facilities available for commercial cleaning. Then decide what you can spend, the home economists advise.

A formula for figuring yardage and cost of wall to wall carpeting and room fit rugs is included in the bulletin. Home economists recommend spending a little extra money and buying a rug cushion to increase rug service. Cushions absorb part of the weight of heavy furniture, reduce noise and add to rug resilience.

Oregon residents can obtain a free copy of the bulletin from their local county extension office or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Anti-Freeze Drain Best

NEW YORK (UPI)—Keeping the anti-freeze in your automobile through the summer is damaging and wasteful, according to automotive experts, but half of all car owners apparently do it anyhow.

A recent survey of 600 automotive editors by the Auto Maintenance Information Bureau indicated that 54 per cent of their readers ignored their advice to drain out the old anti-freeze in the spring and fill the car radiator with clean water.

The experts say anti-freeze left in the cooling system during the summer causes rust that can damage the engine and overheating that wastes gasoline.

RADIATION HANDBOOK

CINCINNATI (UPI)—Faculty members of the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine are writing the nation's first handbook for doctors on the treatment of nuclear radiation victims.

Ford Trucks Last Longer on the FARM

See your Farm Truck Dealers
BALSIGER

MOTOR CO.
Main at Esp. Ph. TU 4-3121



CUSTOM CUTTING of Your

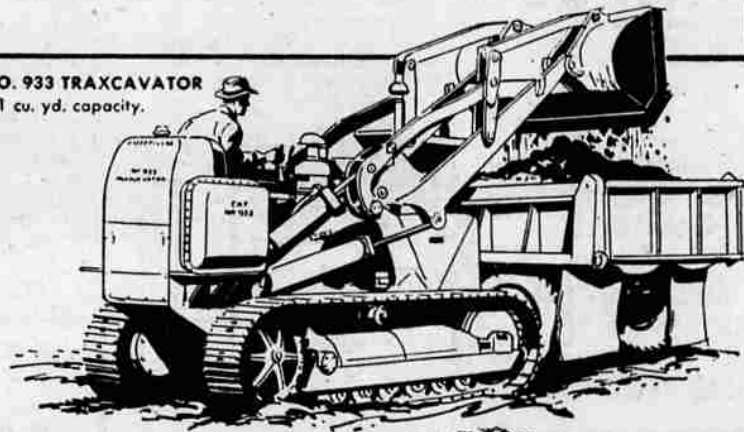
BEEF OR PORK

Our Low Meat Prices Will Make It Worth Your While To Investigate NOW!

BIG Y MARKET
Ph. TU 4-4620 4710 So. 6th

TRAXCAVATORS... Engineered to Excel on every materials handling job

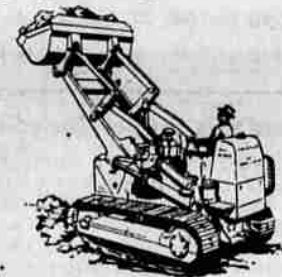
CAT NO. 933 TRAXCAVATOR
... 1 cu. yd. capacity.



High production every day on the greatest variety of jobs—that's what comes from owning a Traxcavator, built entirely by Caterpillar Tractor Co.

Caterpillar design and manufacture provide the best combination of power, speed and lifting capacity. This means extra production and savings for the contractor, logger, quarryman, mine operator, sand and gravel producer, or governmental body.

And Traxcavators are better performers than ever, with 40 degree tip-back of the bucket at ground level, giving more leverage in digging and better retention of the load. The operator sits up high where he can see his work—is within easy reach of all the controls. Bucket control is a one-hand operation. See us for complete information on Traxcavators, the most productive machines of their kind and size.



CAT NO. 955 TRAXCAVATOR
... 1 1/2 cu. yd. capacity.

CATERPILLAR

Caterpillar and Cat are Registered Trademarks of Caterpillar Tractor Co., U.S.A.

CRATER LAKE MACHINERY CO.

1410 So. 6th

Ph. TU 2-2544