

Homesteading Vets Add To Tullake Growth

By RUTH KING

TULELAKE — Progress in the Tullake country which lies just south of the Oregon-California state line in northern Siskiyou County in California started before the beginning of the 20th century with the arrival of a Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Coppock from the San Joaquin Valley.

While Tullake is separated by a state boundary from Klamath County, it is geographically a part of the Klamath Basin.

It is richly endowed with deep and productive soils, ample water for crops, and a "better than some other places" climate. In the years since the arrival of the Coppocks, its progressive citizens, urban and rural, have marked Tullake as one of the bright spots on the agricultural and economic map of the United States.

It is a friendly community built upon United States Bureau of Reclamation lands, settled largely by homesteading veterans of World Wars I and II.

The Coppocks, vacationing in a spring wagon in 1896, first saw the south shore of Tullake, then called Rhett Lake. Drawn to the valley by reports of skies blackened with migrating waterfowl, they homesteaded 160 acres of land and set about making a living by the sale of ducks and geese on the San Francisco markets. That probably was the first homestead taken up in the Basin. Coppock shot and shipped thousands of birds, mallards at \$1.50 per dozen, teal at \$1.25 and geese at \$1 to \$1.50 for 12.

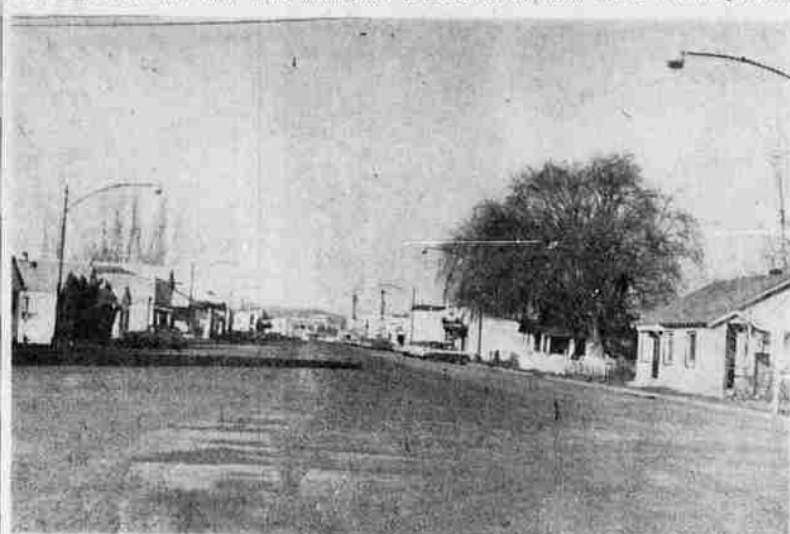
The family grew and sold the first garden produce to settlers around the lake, pumping water from lake to land.

In later years, the lake bed, thousands of acres once covered with water, has been drained and has yielded millions of dollars in agricultural products. The land has yielded some of the finest brewing barley in the U.S. and annually produces hundreds of carloads of potatoes and other crops. Livestock production and feeding programs are increasing. Hay and seed crops bring satisfactory revenues and increasing study of soils, new crop possibilities, weather and water by the University of California Tullake Experiment Station promises a bright future.

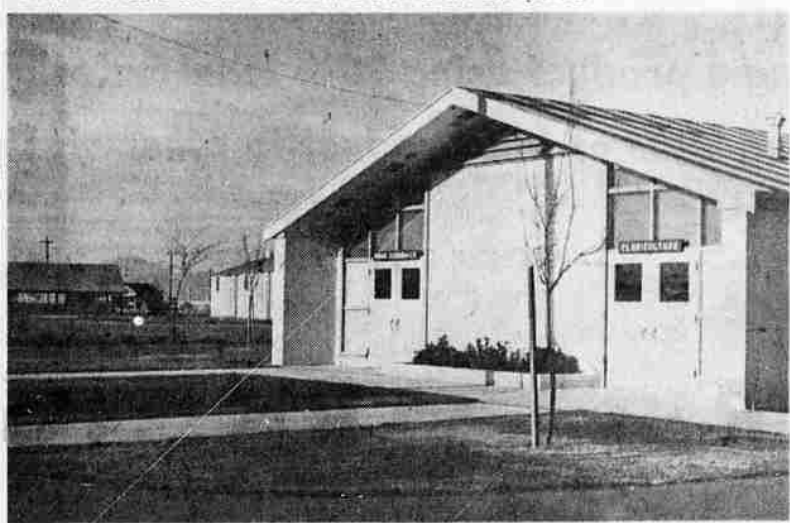
Soil experts advise that the deep, black loam which covers much of the Tullake country is found only here and in the delta of the Nile River.

Tul Lake was originally a circular body of water covering about 96,000 acres, lying for the most part in Siskiyou and Modoc

County, Calif., but overlapping the Klamath Basin, then largely verted, dams were built and the present state line into Oregon. lush pasture lands. Field men U.S. Bureau of Reclamation made Population was moving west in liked what they saw and by 1903 it possible to use the drained land. 1903, there were more mouths to progress took another step. The first homesteads were feed and the U.S. Department of Congressional action paved the opened in 1917 but many of the the Interior, seeking new crop way for changing the lake level, original 174 land units were not land, made a reconnaissance of the natural flow of rivers was di-taken. There were no railroads.



TULELAKE has a fine wide, paved Main Street that once was a boggy graveled trail. The town was built on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation land reclaimed from what once was Rhett Lake, 26 miles long, 22 miles wide and of varying depths. The land was still under water in 1908 but by 1917 lake waters had been diverted and the deep black loam was opened to homesteading. Few persons were interested. Cameraman Don Kettler was looking east from near the recently built Masonic Temple on the left. Some streets in residential district are also paved.



AN OUTLAY of \$485,000 for the Tullake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds at Tullake will be increased by \$36,000 during the fiscal year 1962-1963 with the addition of a new floriculture building. Construction on the fairgrounds was begun in 1954 after a fair district was established in 1952. In the years since, a sales arena, five livestock barns, commercial exhibit building, main agricultural building, home economics building, above, office and maintenance building, restrooms, concession rooms, grandstand, race track and rodeo grounds have been built. William Whitaker is fair secretary-manager. Russell Smith is board chairman.

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markets were far distant, the climate was unpredictable and cattlemen and sheep who had long ruled the fringe lands were hostile. But fame of the land spread and later drawings in 1946, 1947, 1948, brought overwhelming response. Those who plucked a lucky capsule from a pickle jar in the drawings found much of their land had been improved and farmed under USBR leases. These ranches came into diversified production in the heyday of high prices for farm products and wealth rolled into the country.

The booming town of Tullake centered the community and businessmen rolled up fat bank accounts.

There are some who remember that the town came into being on April 15, 1931, when lots of the townsite were sold from a flat-bed truck in an oat field. Incorporation came in 1937.

Men with vision invested in farm land and business ventures.

Today, the city has deep wells of soft water, paved streets, many fine homes, three schools, eight churches, two parks, three food markets, five hotels, two large trailer courts, an apartment building, weekly newspaper, service stations, industrial plants, a bank and one of the best equipped volunteer fire departments in northern California. The city owns an ambulance.

Hundreds of carloads of farm produce, largely potatoes, are stored here, hundreds of tons of loose grain goes into elevators each harvest season; a starch plant converts cull potatoes into a useful commodity, and a plant for processing horseradish grown on a commercial basis has been opened. Hay and grain is being converted into pellet form for livestock feed and special packaging of potatoes for the retail market is a growing business.

The city fathers are Mayor Tommy Slaughter, councilmen Lyle Sherer, who is also fire chief, Douglas L. Thomas, John W. Quinn and Paul L. Rodger. Mrs. Victoria Thaler is judge of the judicial district, Ruth Novotny is city treasurer, Jerry Ternus is chief of police, with two men on the police force.

The Tullake Growers Association, University of California Experiment Station and the Tullake farm adviser have contributed materially to the agricultural success of the Basin.

Plans now under consideration are expected to reduce the bug-a-boo of unseasonable frosts, to introduce new crops, improve cultural practices and to develop new techniques in farming, lifeblood of the Tullake country.



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TULELAKE

First incorporated in 1937, with Lou Boothe as mayor, Tullake has grown and progressed with the Basin. Shopping center for the area, and packing and shipping hub for the wealth of agricultural products raised in the great Klamath-Tullake Basin, the city now has a population of 1,028, as of the 1960 census.

Business is good in Tullake . . . based on the 1960 mill tax levy, business volume figures show \$12,982,520. Building permits for new construction were \$370,012 from 1955 to 1960 as shown by City Hall figures, and this total does not include new school construction.

Agricultural income in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties totaled \$10,369,212 in 1959, according to the University of California Farm Adviser's office, with 76,130 acres under cultivation. More acreage has been added since.

Tullake is a good place to live . . . recreational facilities, excellent schools and churches, modern businesses, club and community activities, and a lot of loyal community spirit make it so!

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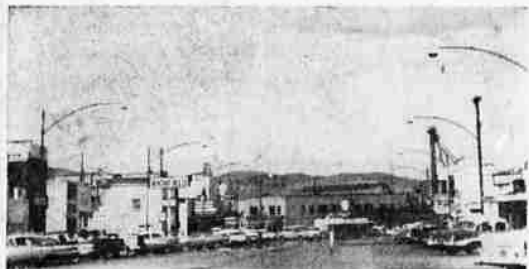
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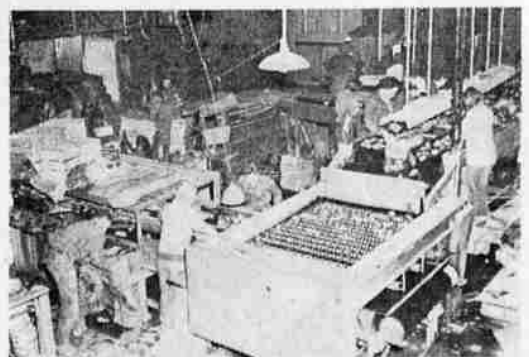
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The wide main street of Tullake, envy of most towns. This is the business center of the community.



Interior of a big potato packing plant in Tullake, just one of the many busy agricultural-industrial operations in the area. Thousands of tons of potatoes start their journey to market here.



Happy hunters show off their limits of ducks and geese! Located on the Pacific Flyway, Tullake is hunting headquarters for the bird shooters!

Center Of a great
Agricultural Empire...
Sportsman's Paradise...
An Area rich in History!

In addition to being the heart of the great Basin agricultural area, Tullake is located on the Pacific Flyway for migratory waterfowl. Thousands of sportsmen make Tullake their headquarters during the duck and goose season; pheasant also abound in the area, and there are excellent hotels, motels and restaurant facilities to accommodate the sportsmen.

Tullake is the entrance to the Modoc Lava Beds National Monument; nearby is the historic site of Captain Jack's last stand in the Modoc Indian wars; ancient petroglyphs and the Tullake Wildlife refuge offer sightseeing and picture opportunities.

There's room to
expand in Tullake!

Industrial sites, commercial sites and storage facilities are available. There are spur tracks to sites, direct thru rail service, and excellent highways north and south.