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Department of Water Resources

We would like to submit the following information
to substantiate our water rights

Letter from Frank Christensen

Copy of history of the valley

67-4501A

67-4503

Mary D Field
John Field

Mary D Field
John E Field
1025 Lower Crane Rd
Weiser ID 83672

Frank Chrestesen
2264 Weiser River Rd
Weiser, Ida. 83622
Oct. 25, 05

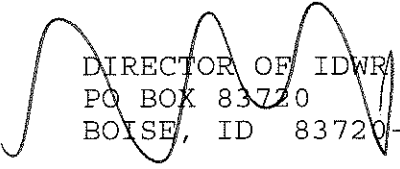
Dear Sir,

John Field asked me to verify that he
is using his water for Beneficial Use.

I live adjoining his property. I can remember
back until 1950 that the fields and the
previous owners before them, all used the water
for crops, pasture & livestock. The George
Harris family had one parcel that was sold
several times before the Fields bought it,
and they all irrigated it. and the parcel
that belonged to the Quincy and Lillian
Judd, they irrigated it. Was then sold
to Morgan Skow's in the early Fifties,
which was later sold to their son Kenny
Skow and they all irrigated it.

I would say that the water is definitely
used for Beneficial Use.

Frank Chrestesen



DIRECTOR OF IDWR
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098

The
HISTORY OF LOWER CRANE CREEK VALLEY
on the
WEISER RIVER

by
Irene Tallent

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Dedicated

to

All those who have lived in

and loved this valley--

both past and present

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

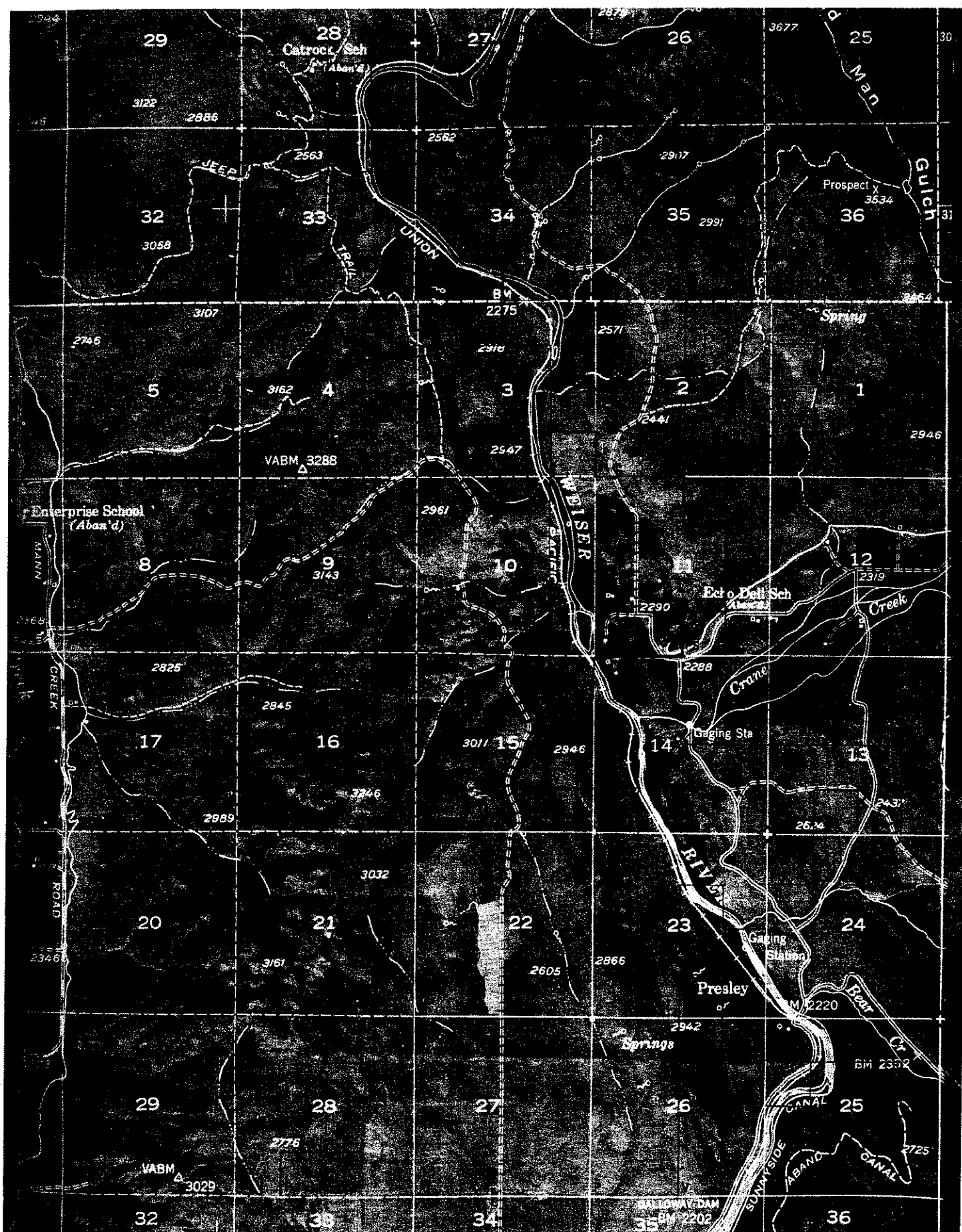
My thanks to all the neighbors in the valley who have allowed me to interview them. To Fran McDaniels of the Washington Title Company who helped me to identify those Old Timers who got the first land patents in the valley; To those in the Washington County Clerk's and Assessor's offices who helped me find old records; To Thomason Funeral Home for their help in locating old obituaries; To the Idaho Historical Genealogy Library for their help with old census records; To Lloyd Bradshaw of the local SCS office for information on geology of the area, and to any others I may have inadvertently not mentioned. Finally to my husband who has spent many hours helping and teaching me to make computer print-outs of the manuscripts.

This history will never be totally complete. Every time I talk with someone who has lived in this valley or has known others who have new items of interest are uncovered. I apologize for any important information that has been left out. Perhaps in the future an addendum can be added to include important facts that are revealed after this printing.

---Irene Tallent---

CONTENTS

THE VALLEY.....	2
GEOLOGY.....	2
CLIMATE, VEGETATION ANE WILDLIFE.....	3
FIRST INHABITANTS.....	4
IRRIGATION.....	5
THE FAMILIES TODAY	
The Chrestesen Family.....	7
The Woodland Family.....	9
The Skow Family.....	11
The Maddox Family.....	13
The Presley Place.....	15
The Tallent Family.....	18
The Graham Family.....	21
The Clapp Family.....	22
OLD TIMERS AND HOMESTEADERS.....	32
ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE.....	42
REQUIEM.....	44
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	45



THE VALLEY

The Lower Crane Valley is located approximately 13 miles upstream from the confluence of the Weiser and Snake Rivers. The valley is approximately 18 miles long, starting north from the Presley Bridge and continuing to Concrete in the north. On the west, the valley is bounded by the Weiser River, the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad (PIN Line), and the western hills. On the south it is bounded by Bear Creek and continues east to the mercury mine. From the mercury mine, the boundary continues north to the Crane Creek Canyon. At that point it turns northwest to Dead Man, and finally west to Morehead Creek which flows into the Weiser River, and intersects the railroad at Concrete. The valley is approximately 3 miles wide at its maximum width.

Several small streams flow from the east, cut across the valley and flow into the Weiser River. Starting from the south at the Presley Bridge the first stream is Bear Creek. Continuing north, the next stream is First Creek which flows into the river just west of the Y in the Lower Crane Road where that road starts a loop of the valley. The next major stream in the valley is Crane Creek. It flows into the river between the properties of Clarence Chrestesen and Rod Woodland. Continuing north, there are about three unnamed drainage systems that carry water during run-off periods. The next stream, drainage from Sandy Springs to the east, has some running water year round except during drought years. Continuing north, Jennie Williams Creek flows into the river just south of the Tallent's upper property which they identify as the Lower Kiser place. Inside the fence on their property is another un-named stream that carries water year round. At the end of the road is the last stream, Morehead Creek. It flows into the river from the east just across from the Concrete railroad siding. It is the east-west northern boundary of the Lower Crane Creek Valley.

Other landmarks that are of interest in the valley are the mercury mine with its pink cliffs which were caused by the dumped waste from the mine. It lies on the south and east, and is the highest point in that part of the valley. Molly's Butte is another landmark. It is the highest point within the valley, and is located in the middle of the valley between the loop of Lower Crane Road.

It is the only point that will not be covered by water if the proposed Galloway Dam is built. Local legend relates that it got its name from the wife of James Norman Harris, first homesteader in the valley. "Molly" retreated to that hill during spring run-off when Crane Creek would go out of its banks endangering the Harris home. From the road at the top of Molly's Butte, a person can see in the distance to the north beautiful Hitt Mountain. It is snow covered much of the year. To the east is the Crane Creek Canyon, the landmark for which this valley got its name, and a little to the north and west of the canyon is a small round butte capped with rim rock. It is noteworthy because of its unusual shape. Finally, to the west are the high hills, some edged with rim rock, the results of the river cutting its way through the valley in a much earlier era of time.

GEOLOGY

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". Lower Crane Creek Valley was one small portion of that which God created. In the very

early millenia of time, this area was covered by a great inland sea which covered the whole area of what is now known as the Columbia River Plateau. Large deposits of sedimentary materials that became limestone, shale, and sandstone were laid down during this period.

The next great change came about during the Permian Period which occurred about two hundred million years ago. A great upthrust of igneous (volcanic) intrusions began. They tilted the beds of sedimentary deposits formed by the great inland sea upward.

The Tertiary Period came next--about twenty or thirty million years ago. Violent volcanic eruptions piled billions of tons of lava over the landscape. Huge volcanic rocks were spewed out. These violent actions of nature left a layered appearance of sedimentary type soils interspersed and interbedded with basaltic flows. During this great upheaval the rivers changed their courses and cut down through the soils. This emptied the great inland sea. At that time the Snake River Basin and the Weiser River watershed which flows into the Snake were formed much as they are today. These great geological events left our present soils varied. We have the rich sedimentary soils formed by the great inland sea, and the basaltic rocks and volcanic soils formed by the great lava flows. The volcanic nature of the area was also responsible for several geothermal springs in the Lower Crane Creek Valley. The metal, mercury, was also deposited during this time period with one major deposit in the Crane Creek area. There is also a smattering of gold, but so far no major deposits have been found. Some petrified wood is found as well as agate and jasper.

CLIMATE, VEGETATION, AND WILDLIFE

The climate of the Lower Crane Creek area is arid. Precipitation ranges from between ten and twenty inches per year with the average about thirteen inches. This moisture falls both in the form of rain and snow. Most of the precipitation comes in the late fall, winter, and early spring. Snow can be expected from the first of December until the first of March with an average depth of one foot. The climate is reasonably temperate as far as daily and yearly temperatures are concerned. The temperature usually varies about thirty degrees from morning to afternoon. There are definitely four seasons. Winter is cold with about two weeks of below zero weather. Occasionally it drops to minus twenty-five degrees. The cold winter weather often results in the Weiser River freezing over. Then when the weather starts to warm up, usually about the first week in February, the ice breaks up. Quite often rain will come with the warmer weather. The results are floods and ice jams. Summers are warm with approximately two weeks of one hundred plus temperatures. Mornings are usually cool, but late afternoons are hot. The springs are usually cool and often wet. Fall has the most enjoyable temperature with warm sunny days and cool nights. There is usually a week or two of Indian Summer.

Since this is an arid climate the natural vegetation consists of sagebrush, bitterbrush, and native grasses. In the early spring wild flowers abound. Desert violets appear in early March followed by lupine, wild parsley, wild roses, syringa, and several other species. In the summer the hills are covered by sunflowers. Native bunch grass was found in great abundance when the first settlers arrived. Now much of the native grasses have been killed off due to over-grazing. They have been replaced by less desirable grasses such as

Medusahead Rye and Cheat grass.

The arid climate has made it necessary to irrigate most farm crops. The soil is very rich and produces good crops of alfalfa hay and small grains when it receives water during the late spring and summer months. Much of the higher elevations are too rocky and steep for irrigation so are only suitable for grazing. Therefore, the major industry in Lower Crane Valley is cattle production.

Even though this is a desert climate wild game abounds. It is an attractive area for hunters interested in game birds such as pheasant, chuckars, quail, and partridge. Hunters are also interested in mule deer. In the last few years elk herds have moved into the area.

The Weiser River is also a habitat for many water fowl. According to a survey, thirty species of water fowl live in this valley. Canada geese, ducks, and blue heron are the most common ones. Many species of raptors are also found in this valley. They include the bald eagle, golden eagle, several species of hawks, and owls. The long-billed curlew, which is a protected specie, nests on the grassy hillsides in early spring then migrates south. Over one hundred and thirty different species of song birds have been documented as living in this valley. Robins, orioles, gold finches, song sparrows, meadow larks and blackbirds are a few. The riparian area close to the river has made this valley a migratory path for many of our feathered friends.

Several species of fur bearing animals make their home in this valley. Beaver, muskrat, and raccoon are found on the streams and river. Coyote, bobcat, skunk, badger, marmots, jackrabbits and cottontail rabbits range throughout the valley and hills.

Several varieties of rodents also inhabit this valley. Many varieties of mice, gophers, and ground squirrels abound. One, the Idaho Ground Squirrel, is indigenous only to this area and a small portion of Adams and Payette Counties.

Snakes and lizards also make their homes in Lower Crane Creek Valley. The only poisonous specie is the Western Rattlesnake. It is found among the rocky areas usually away from homes and farm lands. Racers, gopher snakes, bull snakes, gardner snakes can be found near fields and streams.

FIRST INHABITANTS

The first inhabitants in the Valley were Indians....Shoshonean-speaking people. They inhabited the Great Basin as early as 4000 B.C. Small family groups occupied the river basins. Evidence of Indians in the Lower Crane Creek area is very apparent. Artifacts are found all along the Weiser River. The hot springs at the mouth of the canyon was a major camping site. Many artifacts such as arrow heads, mortar and pestle, other weapons and a pictograph are evidence of the early inhabitants. Many of the very early inhabitants lived in caves and had a very meager existence. The Weiser River itself became a highway from the north for Nez Perce Indians who came to this area to fight their traditional enemies, the Shoshone-Bannock tribes. They also came to trade and to fish. The mouth of the Weiser River and the Snake River was a traditional fishing place for many tribes during salmon runs. Other tribes such as the Paiutes and Umatillas also co-mingled in this area.

The first white men in the Weiser River area were explorers, trappers and

hunters. The Wilson Price Hunt expedition was the first group of white men to go through this area on their way to the mouth of the Columbia. These Astorians, as they were called, were responsible for the Weiser River being put on one of the first maps made of this area. They were also responsible for it being named after a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition---a Peter M. Weiser. However, his name was spelled "Wiser" on that early map. Some of the members of that expedition later joined the North West Company and hunted and trapped the tributaries of the Snake River. Hudsons Bay Company trappers also hunted and trapped the tributaries of the Snake. No doubt some of those trappers moved up and down the Weiser River looking for beaver. The mouth of Crane Creek would have been a likely place for those trappers.

The lure of gold brought the next group of white men into the area. Along with them came the first settlers with their desire for free land. Gold was discovered in Orofino in 1860. This brought large groups of people to the gold fields. Trouble between the Whites and the Indians resulted, and it wasn't until 1878 when the Indian wars were settled that many settlers came to stay. Two actions by the United States Congress helped to encourage people to immigrate west. The Donation Land Act was passed by Congress on September 27, 1850. Its purpose was to encourage immigration to Oregon Country. The second was the Homestead Act passed on May 20, 1862 which granted free land to families who wished to settle in the west and farm. This latter act was probably most responsible for bringing settlers into the Lower Crane Valley.

The area was first surveyed in 1870 by M. Thompson when Idaho was still a territory. By 1899 we see evidence of settlers on the Weiser River. Another early survey map dated 1899 shows the PI&N railroad as well as a few homestead claims in the Lower Crane Valley. By 1914 there were many homesteads. Irrigation projects had been established. The Crane Creek Reservoir, and the flume that carried its water to the homesteads, were in operation. The flume only lasted a few years into the 1920's. The high cost of maintenance and low prices for farm products caused it to be abandoned. After that many families sold out or lost their land. The remaining families bought up much of the land for taxes. In 1987 the land in this valley is owned by seven families.

IRRIGATION

It became apparent from the very beginning that land in the Lower Crane Creek Valley must be irrigated in order to grow crops. An early survey map and notes, with the date 1899, shows an irrigation ditch. That hillside ditch carried water from the north side of Crane Creek in the hot springs area (now owned by Greg Graham) west through Sections 12 and 11 until it reached what is now Tallent property. The ditch ended just above the property now owned by Rod Woodland on the hillside above his house. This ditch watered land on the north side of Crane Creek. Starting from the hot springs and going west, the first homesteaders with land patents were: J.J. Hansen, William Kiser, George Kiser, E. H. Wilburn, George Triplow, O. A. Purcell, and A. T. Jennings. Land owners in 1987 starting from the hot springs and going west are: Greg Graham, Dwight Maddox, Darrell Clapp, Kenneth R. Skow, Rod Woodland, and R. J. Tallent.

That ditch was engineered and built by the Purcell brothers, probably with the help of a Mr. Daugherty who did not get a patent to his land. He was

living there in 1899, and later sold his land to O. A. Purcell, Clark and Orval's father. The other homesteaders probably also helped to build the ditch. In later years the ditch was maintained mostly by the Purcells and the Woodlands. After 1970, it was maintained by the Tallents and the Woodlands. In 1982 all the water users on the ditch formed an association called the Lower Crane Creek Ditch Lateral Association, Incorporated. The object of that association was to improve and maintain the ditch. All users contribute to its maintenance and all benefit by having better control over the water. These users are very fortunate to have some of the best water rights in the State. They have ample water throughout the irrigating season.

Another very early ditch was called the James Adams ditch. It supplied water from Crane Creek to users on the south side of the creek. In the year 1903, it was in operation. The Theuer family (land first homesteaded by William Aldridge and sold to Theuer in 1904) profitted from this ditch. Also James K. Martin. His land later became part of the Theuer property. All that land is now owned by Kenny and RaNae Skow.

The very first homesteader in Lower Crane Creek Valley was James Norman Harris. His property was located on the south side of Crane Creek at its mouth. Harris had used Crane Creek water for many years before he filed his homestead claim. In the early 1900's many homesteaders came into the valley and started using Crane Creek water. Those above Harris took more than their share. In 1909 the water in Crane Creek was adjudicated. James Norman Harris was awarded the first water right on Crane Creek--27.85 miners inches. J. K. Martin and William Theuer the second right--19.87 and 13.56 miners inches respectively. The third right went to Wash Hinze--9.45 miners inches. The fourth right went to George Triplow, Applegate Brothers, and O. A. Purcell with 44.88, 18.47 and 42.25 miners inches respectively. The fifth right went to Ed Wilburn--4 miners inches. The sixth right went to George Kiser--29.36 miners inches. The seventh right to Ed Wilburn--22 miners inches and the eighth right to Crane Creek Irrigation Land and Power Company--11.76 miners inches. The final Decree was made April 10, 1913 and filed and entered April 22, 1913. About the time Crane Creek Reservoir was put in, ditch companies were formed so they could get reservoir water to water their lands. The first company to serve this valley was Crane Creek Irrigation. It was formed in 1909. The next company was Washington County Irrigation District which lasted from 1923 until 1938. Times were hard for the homesteaders during this time period. The old wooden flume, which carried water from the reservoir to the mouth of the Weiser River canyon, was abandoned. Farm prices were low because of a post World War I depression. Many of the homesteaders lost their land. Some of that land went to the Irrigation District which had a lien on property from those who did not pay their assessments. Washington County Irrigation District was dissolved in 1938. The Weiser Cove Irrigation District was formed in 1943, and a flood control district was formed in 1953. Later the water users in this valley pulled out from the Weiser Cove Irrigation District and formed the Crane Creek Independent Water Users Association which is still serving this area at this writing.

Many small ditches were put in by the early settlers, and remnants of those ditches are still apparent. The Purcell family extended their ditches to water all the bottom land near the river, and much of the Triplow--later called the old Boge Harris-- property was irrigated. Up the river on property homesteaded by Joseph Kiser and James Lewallen-- now owned by Phil Soulen--there are

remains of an old irrigation ditch. That ditch carried water to the old Zumwalt place which had good bottom land next to the river. That property is now owned by the Tallents.

Since 1970 the main channel of the Lower Crane Creek Ditch Lateral has been extended from the corner above Woodlands to the first ravine on Tallent property. The Tallents have extended it farther. It now waters all the land that they have leveled since the early 1970's. A sprinkler system that pumps water from the ravine waters the hills that cannot be watered by gravity. The Tallents have added close to two hundred acres of land that can be irrigated since they bought the property.

In the south end of the valley on the old Presley place, a pivot irrigation system has been installed by the present owner, Darrel Marvin. He also uses some gated pipe to irrigate land on the west side of the river. Clarence Chrestesen sprinkles some of his "dry land" with water that collects in a pond he constructed. Kenny Skow also sprinkles some of his "dry land", but he has a well. Irrigation has come a long way since the early 1900's.

THE FAMILIES TODAY

THE CHRESTESEN FAMILY

Clarence and Martha Chrestesen live on the south side of Crane Creek just below Molly's Butte on land first homesteaded by James Norman Harris, the first homesteader in the valley. Clarence has lived here longer than any other resident. He was born on the Bear Creek property in the southeast part of the valley on what he calls his "dry land" in the year of 1917. Clarence is the second son of Chris and Minnie Chrestesen. They came to the valley in the early 1900's. His older brother, Frank, was born in 1902.

Martha was born in Wheeler, Washington, near Moses Lake. She met Frank Chrestesen there. They were married in 1927 and came to Lower Crane Valley in 1929. They had two children, Frank or Bud as he is called, and Mary Lou. After Frank passed away Martha and Clarence were married. The year was 1949. Bud works with Clarence on the ranch and Mary Lou, who is married to Clark Purcell, lives on the Weiser Flat. [During the time when this history was being compiled, Martha's long struggle with cancer ended. She passed away October 15, 1987, at the age of 78. Her passing has left a loss to the Valley, and a feeling of sadness to those remaining]

Clarence's early schooling was in Weiser, but after his mother died he completed the last two years at Echo Dell School in Lower Crane Creek Valley. His home on Bear Creek was about a mile away from school so he rode his horse back and forth. His teacher at Echo Dell was Merle Baker. She still lives at the mouth of the Weiser River canyon. Her two sons manage the ranch and raise registered Black Angus cattle. Echo Dell school no longer exists. The only remaining landmark is an old pump which stands high in the air on land belonging to Kenny Skow--land that has been lowered several feet by leveling.

Clarence is a cow-calf man. He raises fine Hereford cattle. His calves always get top dollar when the time comes to sell. In his early years Clarence worked away from the ranch. In the early 1940's he worked at the mercury mine which is just above his Bear Creek ranch. The Idaho Alamedin Mercury Mine, as

it was called, was owned and operated by Herbert Hoover, Jr.-- son of our former president. Other partners were Alan Hoover, and L. K. Requa. Clarence worked as a mill operator. The going wages in 1940-41 were fifty cents an hour or four dollars a day. Clarence, who was a mill operator, got four and a half dollars a day. That was pretty good wages in those days. When the weather and roads were good Clarence was able to go back and forth every day from the ranch to the mine. After a couple of years he quit to help his father on the ranch on a full time basis. Clarence has lived on Bear Creek and Lower Crane Valley all of his life, and even when he worked at the mercury mine he helped out on the ranch. Since 1950, when his father died, Clarence has been in complete control of the ranch. He has always raised Hereford cattle and in the early days ran about 125 or more head of cows. He has cut down some since Martha hasn't been well. Now he runs about 100 head. Martha's son, Bud, has taken over much of the work since 1981 when Martha's health started to deteriorate. Before that time Bud worked on construction for many years.

Clarence's ranch is one of the bigger ranches in Lower Crane Creek Valley. He has a total of 1600 acres. Of those, 200 acres are dry land farm, and 30 acres are irrigated. The rest is in range land.

In the early days the Crane Creek Reservoir made a big impact on this area. A flume which went around the hills carried water to help irrigate much of the land. The Bear Creek ranch was irrigated by Clarence's dad. It didn't last long though--only from about 1910 to the early 1920's. The cost of maintaining it was too high. Rocks from the hillsides would roll into the flume causing problems, and high costs to remove them. In the early 1920's it was abandoned. Altogether there were about four and a half miles of continuous flume, and many other flume siphons and ditches to maintain. There was a diversion dam on the hillside at the mouth of the canyon. Remnants of the concrete siphons are still a reminder of an earlier time. The reservoir did make a difference to their valley home. In the early days during spring run-off the water at the mouth of Crane Creek was so high it would surround the area where Clarence's house stands today. The J. N. Harris family, who were the first homesteaders, had a cabin up on the hill that they moved into during flood time. The hill became known as Molly's Butte named after Mrs. Harris.

In 1930 the Chrestesens purchased the place at the mouth of Crane Creek from Boge Harris, a son of J.N. Harris. Clarence has spent much time and money leveling the land so it waters good. This place is note-worthy for having the first adjudicated water right issued on Crane Creek. Clarence raises hay and small grains on the two places and has irrigated pasture on the lower place which takes care of his 100 plus cows when the range is dry and no longer supports his animals. If the Galloway Dam, which is being proposed, is built much of Clarence's land would be flooded. All the 160 acres on Crane Creek would be flooded. The high dam would also cover much of the dry land on Bear Creek. A lower dam would leave some of the Bear Creek ranch uncovered.

Clarence's brand for his cattle is called a lazy V over a lazy S--~~76~~. The former brand was A S Bar--~~3~~. It was originally the brand of Arthur Saab who lived on Nutmeg Flat. Clarence took the bar out of the A and below the S so the Idaho Brand Inspection Department would let him register it.

Travel was very hard in the early days during the spring and winter. Roads were almost impassable when it rained. The mud in this area was almost impossible to get through except with a horse, and even that was hard. It wasn't until the end of the 1940's that the county started graveling the roads.

That makes quite a difference today. All our county roads are graveled and maintained---a luxury our early settlers did not have. A small section of the "old road" still exists just north of the Y of the Lower Crane Loop. It follows the fence line on the west side of the road to the top of Molly's Butte where it comes back into the county road---a reminder of days gone by.

It wasn't until 1946 that electric power came to the area. Those who lived on the south side of Crane Creek got power first. It wasn't until a year later that those on the north side got power. Good roads, electricity, and telephones are taken for granted today, but they were luxuries few "Old Timers" lived to see.

THE WOODLAND FAMILY

The Woodlands live just north of Crane Creek down next to the Weiser River. Their property joins Chrestesen's on the south and the Old Boge Harris place on the north (property now owned by the Tallents). Rod and Jessee live in a trailer house on the county road which is the eastern boundry. Hazel, Rod's mother, lives straight west next to the river. They also have dry land up on Bear and First Creeks.

The Woodlands are a fourth generation family in the Lower Crane Creek Valley. The first Woodland family---probably the oldest family line in the valley---homesteaded on the dry land in the early 1900's. Harold's father, Calvin E. Woodland, and Harold's grandmother, Phebe A. Woodland, both homesteaded on the dry land. In those days the land was irrigated by a flume that went around the hills of this valley. The water came from the Crane Creek Reservoir. Both the reservoir and the flume were in operation by 1914. After the flume was no longer operational (in the 1920's) many families left the area. The Woodland family bought up much of that land.

Harold Woodland was born and raised on the dry land place. He spent all his life in this valley. His parents were Calvin and Nellie Woodland. Harold had three sisters: Josephine, Dorothy, and Ruby, also a half brother. All went to school at Echo Dell for the first eight grades. After the eighth grade they went into Weiser to high school.

Harold married Hazel Smith in 1940. She was the daughter of Elmer and Grace Smith who lived down the river toward Weiser. The first big house off the Weiser River Road and next to the PI&N line was the Smith family home. The C. Ted Smith family lives there now. Hazel's grandfather helped build the P&IN line railroad which goes through the Lower Crane Creek Valley and in the early days went as far as New Meadows. He had to be an "Old Timer" in this area for that railroad had been built as far as Middle Valley (Midvale) by 1899.

Hazel went to school at Jeffreys School at the mouth of Mann Creek through the eighth grade. She graduated from Weiser High School then went on to Lewiston Normal where she got her teaching certificate. She taught at Council Orchard School for two years where she had all eight grades. When Hazel and Harold were first married they lived on the old homestead on the dry land. Rod was born there. In 1950 when Rod was three they bought the river property where they live now. The roads in this area were gravelled which made it easier to get in and out to schools and town. In the wet weather roads were almost impassable on the dry land place.

When Harold and Hazel bought their place on the river there was an old building made of sod blocks which was about to fall down. The date "1900" was

carved into some of the wood. They bought the property from a Mr. Wulf. However, old records show it was first homesteaded by A. T. Jennings. An old survey map dated 1899 shows a house owned by a "Mr. Kruse" on that property. It may be the old sod house that remained when Harold and Hazel bought the place. Kruse probably did not prove up on the property--at least it was not recorded in his name.

Harold and Hazel have ranched all their lives. They have always run Hereford cattle and raised hay and grain. For a few years they raised a few quarter horses. Harold's brand was called the triangle J---, and Rod's is the numeral seven---7. Ranching was not the only activity that Harold participated in. He became a well-known auctioneer, and "called" at many local and civic functions. He also worked at the sale barn and became a State Brand Inspector in his later years.

Hazel also had activities away from the ranch. For many years she was a teller at a local bank. They both participated in local rodeos. Harold took part in the calf roping event and Hazel was secretary.

Rod went to Jeffreys School through the eighth grade, then to Weiser High School. He spent two years at Treasure Valley Junior College in Ontario, Oregon. He is following his father's footsteps in many ways. He worked with his father ranching, and when Harold passed away took over the operation of the ranch. Rod is active in community affairs. He has been a board member of the local ASCS for several years, and has served as chairman of that Board. In 1987 he is president of the local cattlemen's association. Rod has a full time helper in his wife, Jessee. She loves ranch life and helps with all aspects of it. She loves horses and does a considerable amount of riding. Both Rod and Jessee participate in rodeos. The two of them take part in the team roping event. Jessee loves animals and raises a few sheep as her own pet project. In the summers and on holiday vacations Rod's son, Tyler, who is a teenager spends time on the ranch. Tyler wants to be a rancher like his dad. If that happens he will be the fifth generation in the Woodland family to be a rancher in this valley--- if this ranch still exists when he grows up. Rod and Jessee also have a new addition to their family, CharleeAnn Lynn Woodland, born July 23, 1987.

From the Woodland home, if a person looks southeast he will see a hill or butte which stands out from the others. It is called Molly's Butte. The road to the Woodland's dry land goes across that Butte. It is one of the few points that will not be covered by water if the proposed Galloway Project goes through. In the early days that land was covered with Buckbrush and bunch grass with lots of cheat grass which made for good cattle grazing. In the early 1940's a couple of range fires burned off much of the range land in this valley. Since then there has been no more buckbrush, and the main feed for cattle is medusahead rye, an undesirable grass.

Hazel recalled the ice jam that took out the Presley Bridge in 1978 or 1979. About 5:00 in the morning she heard a loud roar. That was the ice going out. When she left for work a little before 8:00 she noticed big chunks of ice across the road where Bear Creek Road and Lower Crane Road come together. Then she noticed there wasn't even a bridge. It had been carried down stream several miles by the ice and flood waters. Hazel had to take Bear Creek Road up to the mercury mine then down through the Cove to get to work in Weiser. The Presley Bridge was out almost a year before the county got around to replacing the section that went out with another section. That was a hard year on all residents of Lower Crane. It seemed to take so much longer to get to an

from work.

The river did one of its old tricks again in February of 1982. Waters from Crane Creek Reservoir plus heavy run-off took out two bridges on Crane Creek--one near Skow's ranch and the other on the north tributary at the mouth of the creek near Chrestesen's ranch. The National Guard was called out by then Governor Evans. The Guards planned to put in a portable bridge on that north tributary, but when they started across the remaining bridge with their tank, the bridge broke, and the tank went into the main channel of Crane Creek. The men had a difficult time getting out of the tank because of the swift current. Now the valley north of Crane Creek was isolated!

Ice and high water seem to be a frequent event in this valley. Again in February 1986 ice and high water closed the Presley Bridge for a short time. Fortunately, the water went around the bridge on the east side relieving the pressure and saving the bridge. Many fences next to the river were taken out and huge chunks of ice were left as a reminder of Nature's strength.

THE SKOW FAMILY

When a person enters the valley from the south, crosses the Presley Bridge, and continues north on Lower Crane Road he will come to a fork in that road where there is one lonesome cottonwood tree and a creek---First Creek. Take the right fork and follow First Creek up the hill and down. Cross Crane Creek, and after passing an old barn, turn left on a lane that takes off to the west. You have entered the Skow Ranch---home of Kenny and RaNae Skow. They raise fine registered Hereford bulls. Once a year in February they have a bull sale in their big, new, covered arena. Ranchers from miles around come to buy their bulls.

Kenny and RaNae have lived on this ranch since the early 1960's. Both are local people having grown up in the Weiser area. Kenny's parents, Morgan and Anna Skow, had a cattle/grain ranch in the Cove just south of Lower Crane Valley. Kenny grew up on that ranch. His brother, Pete, still lives on the old home place. RaNae's parents, Jack and Ina Mae Hand, had a ranch just north of Park Street east of Weiser. Both Kenny and RaNae went to Weiser schools. After graduating from Weiser High School Kenny continued his education at Boise Junior College.

Before he started ranching Kenny worked for a few years at mining. The old mercury mine which is located southeast of the valley was completely remodeled in the late 1950's. Kenny worked there as a miner. A couple of years later he worked in a mine in New Mexico. Kenny and RaNae were married during this time period. Their oldest daughter, Jackie, was born in Grant, New Mexico. A year or so later they started ranching on Crane Creek. Their youngest daughter, Anna Mae, was born in Weiser after they started ranching.

The "Old Judd Place" as their ranch is known, wasn't new to Kenny. In the early 1950's he came to the Judd ranch to 4-H meetings. He was well acquainted with Quincy and Lillian Judd from whom the ranch was bought. The Judds weren't the first owners of that property. The first homesteader was William R. Aldridge who homesteaded the dry land on June 29, 1903. He purchased 160 acres at a price of \$1.25 per acre. On October 2, 1908, a deed was filed showing Aldridge and his wife, Rose, had made full payment on that property. The abstract states that "By order of Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States and by F. N. McKean, Secretary. C. H. Brush, Recorder of the General

Land Office". Mr. Aldridge may have been a land speculator for on July 1, 1903, a warranty deed was filed selling that property to William Theurer, his wife Annie, and to Benjamin Gamm, unmarried, for \$1500. The property remained with the Theurer family for many years.

William and Annie Theurer had five daughters---Anna Theurer, Alma Theurer Solders, Esther Theurer Buyny, Gertrude Theurer Kelley, and Lillian Theurer Judd. They also had a son, Oscar William, but he died at the age of twelve. They all grew up on the Crane Creek homestead and went to school at Echo Dell which was just across Crane Creek from their home. William Theurer died September 3, 1934. According to local lore he had been very ill for a long time. One day he took his gun, went down Crane Creek west of the house and hanged himself. His gun was never found. After his death the property went to his wife, Annie. Besides the home place Annie filed on 160 acres in her own name. There were many property changes in the next few years. The old abstract shows several mortgages made. Some were paid off. After a time the property actually went to Washington County in lieu of taxes. The Theurer family regained it, and after Anna died April 7, 1951, the estate was divided among the girls.

Probation of the estate of Anna P. Theurer was filled May 22, 1951. The market value of the property at that time was \$6,350. A daughter, Esther P. Buyny, was appointed administratrix of the estate April 26, 1951. At that time there were four heirs. Evidently the oldest girl, Anna, was deceased. The remaining heirs were: Alma E. Solders of Culdesac, Idaho; Esther P. Buyny of Weiser, Idaho; Gertrude C. Kelley of Weiser and Lillian A. Judd of Weiser. (At this writing Lillian A. Judd and Esther P. Buyny Hetrick (Mrs. Gene Hetrick) are the only ones still living. "Gertie passed away July 30, 1986).

After the probation was settled the property was sold to Morgan Skow. A Quit Claim Deed filed March 21, 1955, gave the M. Skows ownership. Morgan Skow is deceased, and Kenny and RaNae are now the owners. Lillian and Quincy Judd lived where Kenny and RaNae live. However, the old house burned down and Kenny and RaNae built the one now standing. Another sister, Alma, was married to Karl Solders whose family lived where Darrel Clapp lives today. It was called the "Old Solders Place" after Homer Solders. Later Alma and Karl Solders moved to Culdesac, Idaho.

Although the original homestead that was filed upon was 160 acres, by the time all transactions were made over the years from 1903 to the present many property changes have taken place. The Skow family has acquired more land until they now own 630 acres. Recently they purchased the land that is known as the "Old George Harris Place". It is located on the south side of the county road extending from Rod Woodland's corner east and including land where the old Echo Dell school stood. It joins Clarence Chrestesen's property on the south. There is a large white two story house on it. The land has been leveled and improved considerably from the days when it was first homesteaded. It is now gravity irrigated with gated pipe. Kenny raises hay and grain on it. RaNae helps to irrigate the crops. This land has gone through several hands since the land was first patented by E. H. Wilburn in October, 1908. George Harris, son of James Norman Harris-- the first settler in the valley, owned it. Later Ralph Lyle, Mike Broomhall, and Lee Graham owned it. Finally, in the late 1970's Kenny Skow purchased it from Greg Graham. The land just east of the big white house is where Echo Dell School was located. Skows own the 40 acres

across the road from the big white house. It was originally part of the Old George Kiser Place, and was part of the Greg Graham purchase.

In the early days (1910 - 1920) the land on First Creek was irrigated from a flume which carried water from Crane Creek Reservoir. Some of that land was homesteaded by the Theuer family. The flume was wooden, made from tung and groove red fir. Kenny's grandfather, Pete March, helped build that flume. The high cost of maintenance made the flume a short-lived project. Rocks would roll into it from the hills. Also wood in a flume must be kept wet at all times. If it dries out it will leak. Both happened to that old flume. When it was abandoned in the 1920's all the neighbors in the area scavenged the boards from the flume. Many of the old barns and sheds were built from those old boards. Very few if any of those old buildings remain standing today.

Ranching was not the only agricultural activity in Lower Crane Valley. In the early 1900's orchards showed much promise in Washington County. This valley was no exception. An advertisement in the local newspaper, THE WEISER AMERICAN, dated August 13, 1913, is as follows: "Our Crane Creek Peaches, the kind with flavor" Gamm and Theuer Crane Creek Ranch, Idaho". One would wonder what kind of condition ripe peaches would be in after going over bumpy roads for 14 miles by horse and wagon to get to Weiser! Or were they put on the "Gallopig Goose" on the P&IN line at Presley Station and taken to town?

The Skow family has been active in many community affairs. Kenny was County Commissioner for two terms which ended in 1984. He was also active in the Washington County Fair, as a member of the Board. Both RaNae and Kenny have worked with their two girls in 4-H projects. They have helped them show their animals and have taken part in horsemanship activities and parades. At this writing both girls are away from home with careers of their own. Kenny and RaNae manage the ranch by themselves with only occasional help from the girls.

THE MADDOX FAMILY

If a person takes the east fork of Lower Crane Road at the Y, travels north up over the hill and down, crosses Crane Creek, and continues to the northern most point in that road he will notice a lane that takes off to the east toward the Crane Creek Canyon. That lane leads to the Maddox Ranch--the first house on the left, and the home of Dwight and Marjory Maddox.

Dwight and Marjory bought their first 40 acres in the valley in August, 1956. Their third child, David Logan, was on the way and Dwight didn't want to live in town any longer--especially when Marjory wouldn't be working. Dwight had looked at the property several years before. Now in 1956 it was for sale. Harvey and Cleo Johnson owned the property at that time, and their son-in-law and daughter lived there. The place was known as the old William Kiser place. William was the son of Alice and George Kiser who patented the adjoining land on the west. William had patented that 40 acre parcel in 1912. In 1956 the Maddox's neighbor on the west was Joe Kelsheimer. Jim Harris lived to the east on the Hot Springs property now owned by Greg Graham.

Since that time the Maddox family has added several other parcels of land in Lower Crane Creek valley to their holdings. They own 40 acres patented by James Knee which is just south of the William Kiser property. David Maddox's house is located on that place also an old barn. When the Maddox family came some of the Knee family still lived there. Two Knee family children are buried

above the Dwight Maddox house.

Another 40 acres south of the Knee property was homesteaded by S. W. Woodland in 1907 and is part of the Maddox property. Just south of that property John Pierce homesteaded 160 acres. The north half of that property is part of Maddox holdings. There are two grave on that property--those of two Piece children.

Before the Maddox family came to the valley their house was located above the irrigation ditch. Everett Purcell lived in it in the early days. In the early 1950's it was moved to its present location by Morgan Skow and his son Kenny and some of the neighbors. The house was pretty much torn up from that move when the Maddox's moved in. Although there was sheet rock there, it needed to be put up. One could see right through the walls into the kitchen. That winter the temperature was twenty degrees below zero! It must have been pretty uncomfortable--and that was the winter that David Logan was a tiny baby.

Dwight and Marjory have three children. Keith Alan was born June 1, 1945. Vicki Lyn was born July 5, 1950, and David Logan January 18, 1957. All three live in Texas at this writing. Keith and David are associated with selling Tony Lama cowboy boots. Vicki works for a radio station. Up until last year David ranched with his father. It remains to be seen whether in later years he will follow in his father's footsteps.

Dwight and Marjory are old timers in Washington County. They both grew up in the Mann Creek area. Marjory is the daughter of Seth Thomas Hust and Laura Maude Coats Hust. She went to school at the Deer Creek School out of Mann Creek. Dwight is the son of Ora Logan Maddox and Treasure Sevey Maddox. He attended Saling, Catrock and Sunnyside schools. Catrock, which is at the northern end and on the west side of Lower Crane Valley, was familiar to him as he was growing up.

The Maddox family runs a sizable string of commercial cows. Their cattle are easy to distinguish from those of other ranchers. That is important since they run in-common with other cattlemen on Hitt Mountain above Mann Creek during the summer grazing season. Their brand is the Bar EX (the bar is above the EX). Also a wattle hangs down on each cow's neck which makes them more easily identified. For many years Dwight has ridden for the Hitt Mountain Cattlemen's Association. His greatest love is to ride a horse and herd cattle on that mountain.

Ranching and cowboying are a way of life for both Marjory and Dwight. Both like nothing better than to ride a horse. In the early days Dwight made quite a name for himself in the rodeo circuit. The first time he ever entered into rodeo competition was in 1932 when he was 14 years old. He entered the bronc riding contest at Cambridge and came in second. It cost him one dollar to enter and he won twelve! In 1946 he earned "first all around cowboy title" at the Weiser Roundup. This article appeared in the SIGNAL AMERICAN August 22, 1946, "Dwight Maddox of Weiser walked off with top honors for the three night Round-up held in Weiser last week with a first place in the Brahma bull riding, a second in bulldogging and a third in bronc riding".

In 1949 Dwight and Marjory pulled a horse trailer to St. Paul, Minnesota, New York and Boston to compete. In 1954 they rode the streamliner to New York City where Dwight participated at Madison Square Gardens.

For many years Marjory worked for Mountain Bell Telephone Company. When she first started they lived in Midvale, and Marjory had to drive over Midvale Hill to get to work in Weiser--that can be quite a challenge in the winter.

Later the telephone office was moved to Payette. She was office manager while in Payette. In the early 1980's Marjory retired from Mountain Bell. Since then she has been active in helping Dwight on the ranch. She keeps the books, helps with outdoor chores when needed, helps move the cattle to and from summer range, and makes sure the "crew" is well fed. Marjory also participates in community affairs. She is past president of the Shamrock Club and has been a member of the Business and Professional Women's Organization in Payette for many years.

Memories of Rodeo Days are creatively displayed in the home of Dwight and Marjory. Their home is an expression of western living. Pictures of bronc riding, bull riding, roping and all the family members who took part, decorate their home. The front door bears their brand--bar EX--carved and glassed in. The wood burning stove is decorated with a cowboy riding a bull--that cowboy is Dwight!

THE PRESLEY PLACE

The "Old Presley Place", now owned by Darral A. Marvin, is the first property on the south end of Lower Crane Creek Valley. Land that makes up that property is located on both sides of the Weiser River.

The land on the west side of the river was first patented by John W. Lane. This land is located in Sections 23,24,25, and 26 of Township 11 North, Range 4 West Boise Meridian. He got a patent on 160 acres in 1904 and patent on another 160 acres in 1907. Theodore Roosevelt's name was on the patent.

John W. Lane and his wife, Victoria A. Lane, were in the valley several years before 1904 when they got patents on their land. On November 11, 1892, Mr. Lane filed on an irrigation ditch called "Lane Ditch which carried 1000 inches of water with a velocity of one foot per second. The headgate was located on the west side of the Weiser River four rods below the mouth of Crane Creek, thence along the base of the mountain in a southeast direction to the canyon and to the middle ford in the canyon and opposite the head gate of the Durbin ditch". This information was later incorporated in the water adjudication case of John T. Muir v.s. William Allison (June 20, 1921) when water of the Weiser River and all its tributaries was adjudicated.

The John W. Lane family was listed in both the 1900 and 1910 census. Mr. Lane was born August, 1855, in Iowa. In 1900 he was 45 years old. His wife, Victoria, was born in March, 1875, in Missouri. In 1900 she was 25. They had four children in 1900. A son, Louis, born in March, 1891, was 9 in 1900. A daughter, Hazel, born April, 1893, was 7. A son, John, born July, 1894, was 5. A daughter, Francis, born January, 1898, was 2 in 1900. In 1910 three other children were added to the family list. Three daughters, Carrie, age 9; Della, age 4; and Bessie, age 6 months. All the children were born in Idaho.

Thomas Lane and his wife, Annie, patented 160 acres of land on the east side of the river in 1908. That land lies on Bear Creek. He and his family were listed in the 1910 census. Thomas was 34 years old in 1910. His wife, Anna, was 32. They had four children: a son, Edgar, age 12; a daughter, Ruth, age 10; a son, Wiley, age 4; and a son, Vincent, age 10 months. It would appear from these statistics and information on the abstracts that Thomas was a close relative of John W. Lane. Also information on their land transactions are very similar.

In 1915 F. H. MacDonald and his wife, Carrie E. MacDonald, purchased both

Lane properties. They also patented another 120 acres in 1919. President Woodrow Wilson's name is on that patent. The MacDonalds were named in two important water rights cases. In the John T. Muir v.s. William Allison case which adjudicated water in the Weiser River and all its tributaries, C. E. MacDonald was adjudicated 56 inches of high water on the basis of five-eighths (5/8) of an inch to the acre, and 34 inches of low water on the basis of five-eighths inch per acre based on the date July 2, 1891. That case was dated June 20, 1921.

The second case, a decree dated June 10, 1922, was in regard to the Crane Creek Irrigation District which has been formed June 24, 1909. That decree adjudged that F. H. MacDonald had 8.5 irrigable acres for which he was assessed \$420.75 at a rate per acre of \$49.50. That decree is filed in the Book of Judgments in the Washington County Courthouse. A copy is also in the abstract. Times were hard for farmers/ranchers in the Crane Creek Valley during this period, and the high cost of water must have made it even harder for them.

The Federal Land Bank of Spokane held a mortgage on the John W. Lane property taken out by Frederick H. and Carrie E. MacDonald. On March 27, 1927, the bank forced sale on the MacDonalds. A sheriff's sale took place on November 15, 1927.

Shortly after the sheriff's sale the Presley family came into the picture. In April 1929, Frank Theron Presley, his wife Catherine Marie Downey Presley, and his son, William Patrick Presley, his wife, Fannie Judd Presley, bought the John W. Lane property. A warranty deed was issued to them by the Federal Land Bank in December 1945.

The Thomas Lane property on Bear Creek remained in the hands of Victoria Lane until 1941 when a Quit Claim deed was filed to Vernon and Ruth Wilburn. It then went to W. B. Wilburn and Hazel Wilburn. Catherine Presley purchased that property in 1948.

The Presley family was associated with Lower Crane Creek Valley for over thirty years. Their name has become synonymous with the railroad crossing and the bridge--both just east of the house.

At one time the bridge across the river was known as the Weiser River Bridge. After the Presley family came, it became known as the Presley Bridge, and the railroad crossing as the Presley Crossing. In the 1930's and 1940's there was a railroad station close by the bridge known as Presley Station. Farmers in the neighborhood would bring their cream and other farm products to the station. The train would pick up that produce and deliver it to businesses in Weiser who bought it for resale. Vivienne Dickerson, only child of William and Fanny Presley, described the station as a three sided shelter with a roof. The "Galloping Goose", the train that served on the old P&IN line (now Union Pacific), was described as a one-car unit made up of an engine passenger car and transport car all in one. Neighbors who wanted to go to town for business or shopping rode their horses to the station, tied them up or put them in Presley's barn, and caught the train. The Galloping Goose made one round trip per day. It went up to New Meadows in the morning and came back in the afternoon. Most of the people would catch it in the afternoon, do their shopping, stay overnight and catch the train back the next morning. Old Bill Roney was the engineer on the Galloping Goose for many years. He was well known in the area.

Frank Presley, William's father, worked for a construction company that installed water pipe--The National Tank and Pipe Company. This company put in

the old flume that carried water from the Crane Creek Reservoir to the mouth of the canyon. Frank Presley worked on that flume. He also followed that company to other areas to construct water projects. His wife, Catherine, was a practical nurse. She went to the homes of ailing patients and took care of them. They lived at the Crane Creek ranch between jobs.

William and Fanny Presley started farming in Lower Crane Creek about 1930. A plan put out by the Soil Conservation Service which analyzed the soil on this property and gave recommendations on raising crops and land management is dated 1930. William raised hay and grain. He ran white faced cattle, and had a few chickens and pigs. He also worked away from the ranch to make extra money. He worked on construction jobs with his father and learned that trade. This experience helped him understand irrigation systems. He traded his water rights in the Weiser River for storage rights in Crane Creek Reservoir, then installed an irrigation system to bring Crane Creek water to his land. He had 250 acre feet of storage water from his water exchange.

Fanny Presley made a home for her family in their house nestled against the western hills and not far from the river. Vivienne, their only child, was born in Weiser and grew up on the Crane Creek farm. She went to school at Echo Dell. Fanny, who was a creative seamstress, made a small saddle for Vivienne so that she could ride her horse to school. It was a three and one-half mile trip--one way--to school. Many social activities took place at Echo Dell School. There were country dances, school socials, and many other community activities associated with the school. Vivienne recalled some of the early teachers. Merle Baker was one of the early teachers. Both Muriel Mickey Dudgeon and Ina Potter taught there before 1941. Irene Sipes taught there. She and her husband, Roy, lived in a tent next to the school. Mrs. Eula (Lula?) Lippert, Nancy Purcell and Louella McGee also were teachers at Echo Dell--the latter two between 1945-1950.

In March, 1951, the Presleys sold their property to C. F. Burger and his wife, Daisy Burger, but got it back again in October 1952. In 1959 William and Fanny sold to George A. Shoemaker and Lucille Shoemaker. The Shoemakers lived on the property until March 1964 when Lewis and Vivienne Presley Dickerson bought it. In April, 1965, Darral A. Marvin and his wife, Barbara, bought the property. They are the present owners.

After selling in 1959, William and Fanny Presley retired. They bought a house in Weiser and lived there until Fanny passed away in 1980 and William in 1984.

The present owner is Darral A. Marvin and his wife, Barbara J. Marvin. They bought the place in 1965. They are absentee owners and live in Lewiston, Idaho. Off and on a relative will live on the place and operate it. During the year of 1984-85, Doyle Marvin, Darral's son, lived on the place and ran cattle. During that period they made several improvements to the property. A pivot irrigation system was installed on the high land on the east side of the river, and alfalfa was planted. They also built cross fences, and improved the irrigation system on the bottom land on the west side of the river.

The rampaging Weiser River has had an effect on the Presley Place. Often in February when the ice goes out of the river that area is flooded. An item in the February 2, 1961, edition of the WEISER SIGNAL states: "Before the break up of ice at the Presley bridge Tuesday evening about 7:30 or 8 p.m. the ice had backed water under the railroad bridge deep into the corrals at George A. Shoemaker ranch home. Ten small calves were removed from hip-deep water and

temporarily placed in the Shoemaker yard. About two inches of water seeped into the basement of the home". "County equipment opened up the eastern exit of the bridge so the six children of the three families who lived on that side, (east) the Maddox, Woodland and Purcell families could go to school".

In 1978 or 79 ice did take the Presley Bridge out. Water and ice carried the eastern section of that bridge several miles down-stream and deposited it in a field belonging to Ralph Lyle. It took several months to get that section of the bridge replaced. During that time the "locals" were inconvenienced by having to drive through the Cove to get to Weiser.

Again on February 3, 1986, the ice went out, jammed against the bridge, and forced the water to go around. It ruined the hay stack on the east side of the river, and flooded the yard and corrals on the west side. Fortunately, the bridge was not damaged, but it was closed for about two days. Again the neighbors had to drive through the Cove to get to town.

THE TALLENT FAMILY

When a person enters Lower Crane Creek Valley at the Presley Bridge and continues north on Lower Crane Road, crosses First Creek, then Crane Creek, and continues on the county road to its end, he will come to the T & D Ranch--home of Jack and Irene Tallent. They are late comers to the valley having bought their property in the fall of 1969. Their property joins the Woodland's on the south and Skow's on the east.

Much of the early history of the Valley centered around pioneers who homesteaded this ranch. One of the first settlers in the area was a Mr. Kelly. He was the great grandfather of Clark and Orval Purcell from whom the Tallents bought their property. He didn't prove up on the land, but an uncle, Oren H. Purcell did. A Mr. Daugherty was another settler who was here early. An 1899 survey map locates the Daugherty home. He didn't prove up either, and Orval A. Purcell, Clark and Orval's father, bought the property. Orval A. and his wife, Mary Harris Purcell, lived on the Daugherty property which lies just below the hill where the cottonwood trees still stand. An old cellar still exists near where their house stood. The old house burned down November 17, 1959, as reported in the Weiser paper "A fire destroyed the home of Orval Purcell and his mother Mary Purcell. Nothing was saved but one small trunk. Mrs. Purcell had just finished papering her living room. She escaped with only clothes she was wearing. She and her son Orval are living in tents with only camping equipment". The Shamrock Club, a community service organization, had a shower for them and gave them a new set of dishes (as recorded in their minutes). Orval, Mary's son, built the present house where the Tallents live.

Mary Harris Purcell was the daughter of James Norman Harris who homesteaded the place where Clarence Chrestesen lives today. He was the very first homesteader in the Valley. According to Judge Harris, who wrote THE HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, "The first permanent settlers on the Weiser, were William and Nancy Logan, and the latter's brother J. N. (Norm) Harris". They were here in the fall of 1863 when operation of Olds Ferry began. Mrs. Logan was a great Aunt of Orval and Clark Purcell. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Logan, Bill Logan, was the first white child born in Weiser. The date when Harris came to the Valley is not known, but he filed on his Lower Crane property in 1902 and got a patent in 1907. Very likely he was here many years before that.

Forty acres of land across the river from the Harold Woodland ranch was

homesteaded by A. T. Jennings and later became part of O. A. Purcell's property. The other eighty acres homesteaded by A. T. Jennings now belongs to the Woodlands. The 160 acres which joins Woodlands on the south was first homesteaded by George Triplow. He built the big two-story house that still remains--although in very run-down condition. The Triplow family sold out to the Kendall family. They lived on the property for a few years, but had a mortgage with Union Central Life Insurance Company. They couldn't make a go of it and lost the property to that company. E. N. Harris, or Boge as he was called, bought the Old Triplow place from the insurance company. Today the Tallents call that property the Old Boge Harris Place.

Andrew L. Van Lewen homesteaded land adjoining the Triplow place on the north and east of the county road. He had 120 acres just across from the old Clark Purcell house. That property was later bought by Boge Harris and is also part of what the Tallents call the Old Boge Harris place.

West of the Van Lewen property a James S. Atkinson homesteaded 160 acres. There are still remains of an old rock house or cellar just under the hill next to the river. He was interested in mining and had a tunnel into the hillside on the west side of the river. Rock remains of an old building still exit on that side of the river. All this property later became part of the Purcell place.

Orval A. Purcell and Mary Harris Purcell were the parents of Orval and Clark Purcell from whom the Tallents bought their property. They also had two girls. Etta Purcell Arnold was the oldest child. She moved away and spent most of her adult years in the Seattle area. She was the only one of the four children to get a college education, a Home Economics degree. Orval was the second child. He farmed and ranched on the home place. His wife, Ollie Umbarger, is still living. They both loved horses and did lots of riding which included riding on the Forest Reserve for the cattle association. Nora Purcell Pounds was the third child. She lived on Mann Creek for many years. Both girls attended the Intermountain Institute where they got their high school education. Ernest Clark Purcell is the youngest child of Orval and Mary Purcell. He and his wife, Mary Lou Chrestesen Purcell (daughter of Martha Chrestesen), lived in the little white house just north of the mail box until the Tallents bought the property. Now they live west of Weiser on the flat. Clark worked for the Washington County Road Department for many years. He is now retired. Clark and Mary Lou have four children: Jo Ann Craig who lives in Midvale, Maggie who lives in the Weiser area, Vernon who lives in Oregon, and Patty who lives in southern Idaho.

Both Orval and Clark Purcell attended Echo Dell School for the first eight grades of their schooling. One of their old school mates was Clarence Chrestesen.

Continuing north from the lower Purcell property, the land between the lower fence line and the upper fence line was homesteaded by Jenny Williams and her husband Willis. That property now belongs to the Phil Soulen family. The home site for the Jenny Williams property was just south of the gate to the Tallents upper property. It is located on a creek which bears her name. Jenny Williams' house was located by the lone tree that still stands. Remains of an old well and cellar are still apparent. This was a grazing homestead.

On entering the gate to the upper property, you come to land first homesteaded by John Zumwalt. There is a grove of trees and an excellent spring on this property. A stream flows through with water year round. The rolling

hills have rich soil that was once farmed. According to the book, THEY DARED TO DREAM by Fern Trull, in August 1899 "track laying on the new P&IN Railroad was completed to the Zumwalt place at the mouth of the Weiser River Canyon...", so we know the Zumwalt family was here at an early date. That land was later owned by Marion Kiser, then Jim Knee, and finally by Orval Purcell. The Tallents call it the Lower Kiser Place. Continuing north and joining the lower Kiser place is the Upper Kiser Place, It was homesteaded by Charlie Kiser. It also has an excellent spring and there is a grove of trees--locust and other varieties. There are 200 acres of land in the Charlie Kiser place. Joining on the east, are 280 acres homesteaded by Alice Kiser, Charlie and Marion's mother. The Charlie Kiser land was later sold to a Mr. Fields and then to Orval Purcell. All that land is now Tallent property.

Charlie and Clara Kiser who homesteaded the upper Kiser place had nine children; Nell Kiser Guiver, Chuck, Bob, Leonard, Ellen, Ann Kiser Nielsen, Esther Kiser Baker, and Jerry. One other child died on the homestead. Only four are still living at this writing---Nell, Leonard, Ann and Esther. Clara Barlow Kiser was an aunt of Harold Woodland's--his mother and Mrs. Kiser were sisters.

After Charlie and Clara sold their homestead in the Lower Crane Creek Valley they moved to the Crystal area south of Weiser. Esther, their youngest daughter, went to high school in Payette at the same time as the writer of this history also attended.

Joseph Kiser, a brother of Charlie and Marion, homesteaded part of the elbow just south of the Charlie Kiser land. The Soulen family owns that property now. James Lewallen homesteaded the rest of the elbow west of Charlie Kiser and Joseph Kiser. That 160 acres is also owned by the Soulen family.

Marion Kiser, who bought the Zumwalt homestead and for whom the Lower Kiser place is named, had a short life. He was found dead on the county road near the gate to the Woodland property and the Old Boge Harris land. Evidently he had been thrown from his horse. He died of a skull fracture. There are whispers among the locals that it may not have been an accident! His wife, Agnes, later married Bill Kiser his brother. William, or Bill as he was called, had a homestead on the east end of the valley. Dwight Maddox now owns that property.

Remains of three early landmarks are still visible next to the river on the Purcell homestead. On the east side of the river there is an old concrete abutment for an old geological survey guaging station. It is dated 1932. There is also a concrete abutment for an old swinging bridge just north of the guaging station dated 8-6-32. Parts of the pulley and cable are still attached to the steel loop that held the cable. Across the river on the west side, remains of an old concrete grain storage bin are still visible. Grain was transported from the farms on the west side of the river to the bin then shipped on the P&IN line to market.

In the early days families who homesteaded on the high hills on the west side of the river grew acres and acres of grain. The old Erickson place is visible from the Tallent's home. Another homestead on that side of the river belonged to a family named Sommerville. Their children came down the ravine, crossed the river on the swinging bridge, and went to Echo Dell School.

The lay of the land has changed since the Tallents bought the property. Several fields that were farmed in the early days have been leveled so they gravity irrigate much better. The plateau north of Clark's house and west of

the lane which had been used as a pasture has been leveled. The main irrigation canal which was put in early in the 1900's has been extended so that all the leveled land can be gravity irrigated. The rolling hills that were dry land farmed in the early days are now watered with sprinklers. Water for those hills is pumped from a sump next to the drainage ditch below Clark's house and corrals. A big diesel pump is used to pump the water.

Improvements have also been made to the living/working quarters. Both Clark's and Orval's houses have been enlarged. Water and bathroom plumbing have been installed. A shop area and a loafing shed have also been installed.

The Tallents run approximately 100 head of Black Angus cattle. Their brand is called the T&D which is formed by a large capital T joined by a smaller capital D on the right stem of the T. The T is for Tommy, Jack and Irene's son, and D is for Dorothy, their daughter.

THE GRAHAM FAMILY

In the early 1970's Greg Graham and his father, Lee, bought the holdings of Mike Broomhall. They consisted of the Old George Kiser place, the Old George Harris place, and the hot springs first homesteaded by J.J. Hansen. Greg and Connie and children lived on the Old George Kiser place---at that time known as the Solders place. That place was originally homesteaded by Kiser in 1906. Lee lived on the Old George Harris place in the two-story white house on the south side of Lower Crane Road, and just west of where Echo Dell School had been located. This place had originally been homesteaded by E. H. Wilburn in 1908.

At this writing Darnel Clapp lives where Greg lived. Kenny Skow owns the land where Lee Graham lived. Greg still has the hot springs property. After he sold his other property to Mike Leep in the early 1980's, he built a new log house at the hot springs. He still has that land.

The hot springs is a very interesting geological site. Hot mineral waters come out of the ground hot enough to scald a chicken. Legend has it that hogs were scalded and butchered there in the early days. The area was frequented by Indians in pre-white man days. Many artifacts have been found. One huge rock that is still there appears to have a pictograph of a deer painted on it.

In the days of the early homesteaders, it appears that the hot springs were used as a resort. This article appeared in the WEISER SIGNAL dated July 21-25, 1911, "Mrs. H. R. Warner went to Hanson Hot Springs, near the mouth of Crane Creek, Tuesday where she will remain for several days". This article was a part of a list of Weiser people who were going on summer outings.

In later years E. N. "Boge" Harris had the hot springs. He bought it for taxes. Local folk lore indicates that he had a still for making whiskey hidden in a gulch up the canyon from the hot springs. That gulch is still called Whiskey Gulch.

At this writing, Greg is trying to develop the hot springs. He has several ideas. It remains to be seen what the outcome will be. In the meantime, he enjoys ranch life. He like to rodeo, and rides the bulls for a hobby. He runs a few head of cattle, and has several horses. His brand is the G-3. Lee, Greg's father, passed away in the late 1970's. His ashes are buried in a little cemetery not far from Greg's house. Greg has a strong sentiment for this piece of land because of his love for his father.

Greg and Connie live in town where they are closer to schools and to her work. She is a technician on the local ambulance. They have five children--four girls Kim, Kerry, Kelly and Cassie, and one boy Clayton.

The ditch that carries water to much of the valley originates at the hot springs. A diversion dam forces water from Crane Creek into the ditch (Lower Crane Creek Ditch Lateral). It then goes through Maddox property, Clapp property, Skow property and finally through Tallent property. It waters all the land on the north side of Crane Creek. Every spring it has to be cleaned and maintained.

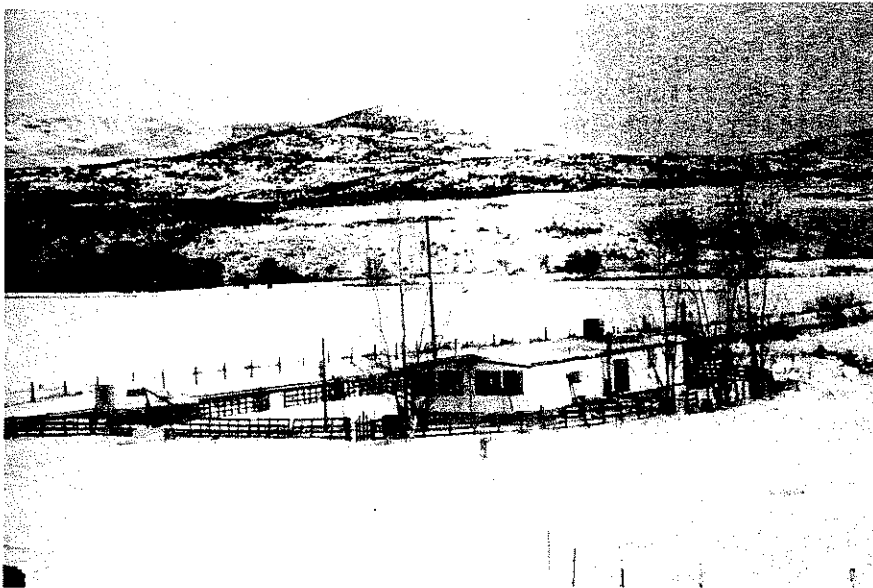
THE CLAPP FAMILY

On the northeast side of Lower Crane Creek Valley, a lane takes off the county road to the north. Up the lane and next to the irrigation ditch is the home of the Darrel Clapp family. This ranch is known as the Lazy A.C. Ranch. Just north and a little to the east of their house a prominent butte stands out. It is round, flat topped, and edged with rim-rock. The Crane Creek Canyon is farther to the east and also is very prominent.

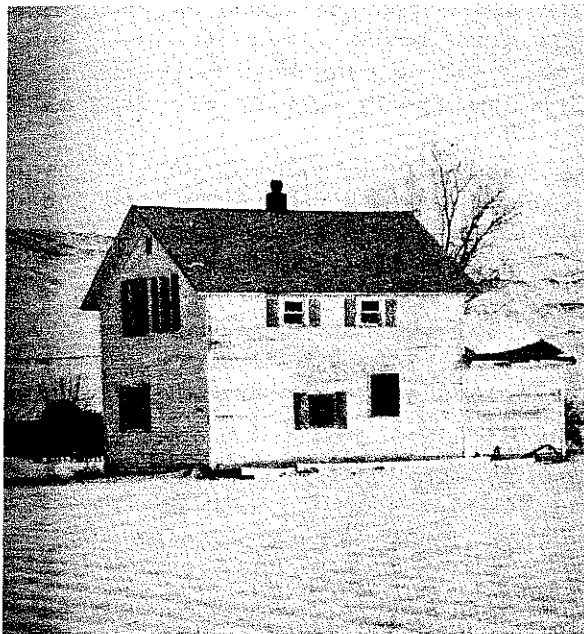
Darrel and Claudia Clapp bought the Old George Kiser place from Mike and Janet Leep in 1985. Greg Graham owned it previous to the Leeps. Clapps are the latest "newcomers" in the valley. They moved here from Boise. Darrel still commutes back and forth to Boise where he works for the Idaho Water Resources Board. They are in the ranching business with Darrel's half-brother, Ron Lewis. Ron is from Alaska, and during the fishing season he operates a salmon fishing boat off the coast of Alaska. He spends the rest of his time on the ranch.

Darrel and Claudia have two teenage children--a boy Jonathan, in high school and a girl, Jessica, in junior high. They are active in band and other school activities as well as 4-H. Claudia supports them in these activities. She also drives a school bus to help augment the family income.

Although Darrel grew up on a ranch, this is a new and challenging adventure. It is a wonderful way of life, but the ranching business is a challenging one in this day of low agricultural prices. They are planning to build a cattle herd. At present they have several horses and a few head of cattle.



MOLLY'S BUTTE
background
Rod Woodland's
home
foreground



OLD GEORGE W. HARRIS HOUSE



OLD PUMP
All that remains of
Echo Dell School

THE OLD TIMERS AND HOMESTEADERS

JAMES NORMAN HARRIS was born in 1840. He died January 27, 1920, at the age of 80 years 11 months and 10 days. He is buried in the Galloway Cemetary.

According to Judge Harris' HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, James Norman Harris, or Norm as he was called, came to the Weiser River area in 1863. Along with him came his sister Nancy and soon to be brother-in-law William Logan. Nancy and William got married in Placerville in the Idaho Basin, then came back to the Weiser River area. They built a road house of willows and mud, and waited for Oregon Trail travelers who would be coming that way to use Olds Ferry which was to go into operation that fall. They were the first white people in Weiser, and the Logan children the were the first white children to be born in Weiser. Norm was 24 years old when he came to the Weiser area and Nancy was 18.

Norm was one of the first homesteaders in the Lower Crane Valley His property is now owned by Clarence Chrestesen. Harris filed on that 160 acres September 12, 1902. The final certificate date was January 17, 1907, and the patent was issued July 18, 1907. The length of time he lived in this valley before he filed is not known. The first adjudicated water right out of Crane Creek was issued to him in 1903.

James Norman Harris was married to Mary "Molly" Kelly. They had four sons: George W., Jim, Earnest, and Bird. They had one daughter Mary Harris Purcell (Mrs. O. A. Purcell). This family was listed in the 1900 and the 1910 census. In 1900 it listed: James Harris born March, 1839, in Canada age 61 (in 1900); Mary D., wife, born May, 1864, in Iowa age 46 (in 1900); James H (F?), son, born January, 1884, in Idaho age 16 (in 1900); Mary, daughter, born January, 1888, in Idaho age 12 (in 1900); Zella D., daughter, born March, 1891, in Idaho age 9 (in 1900); George, son, born December, 1892, in Idaho age 7 (in 1900); Norman E., son, born March, 1896, in Idaho age 4 (in 1900). The 1910 census listed: James N., age 71; Mary, wife, age 56; James, age 27; Earnest, age 14; and Bird, age 5. The older members of the family must have been out on there own by this time. Also in the 1910 census Nancy Logan is listed. She was 65 years old and lived about three miles up the Weiser River.

Mary Harris died November 22, 1915, at the age of 56 years 6 months and 6 days. She is buried in Galloway Cemetary, as is James Norman who died five years later.

JOHANN P. KRUSE was another "Old Timer" in the area. A land clain on the Weiser River was filed March 2, 1900, by Mr. Kruse. The following description was recorded in the POSSESSORY LAND BOOK No. 1 in the Washington County Court House: NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 14; N 1/2 NW 1/4 Section 14; NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 15.

Mr. Kruse was in the valley before 1900. A survey map dated 1899 shows a house owned by a Mr. Kruse. He did not 'prove up' so did not get a patent. The land where the house stood now is owned by the Harold Woodland family.

A. T. JENNINGS got a patent on 120 acres of this land in August 1904. The Woodland family now has 80 acres of that land including the parcel where the old house stood. A 40 acre parcel on the west went to O. A. Purcell then to the Tallents.

Another property recorded and dated September 14, 1896, in the POSSESSORY LAND CLAIM BOOK No. 1 shows the following: Unsurveyed S 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 11; N 1/2 NW 1/4 Section 14 of Township 11 N, R 4 WBM except small portion in northwest corner of said tract (fenced) occupied by H. F. Kelly.

Kruse did not get a patent on any of the land he claimed. The fenced area occupied by H. F. Kelly was probably patented by George Triplow. That land went to E. N. Harris then to the Purcells then to Tallents.

The Kruse family was listed in the 1900 census as follows: John P. Kruse born November, 1851, in Germany age 48 (in 1900); Wife Emma born January, 1867, in Minnesota age 33 (in 1900); son Henry A. born May, 1887, in Washington age 13 (in 1900); daughter Nettie born August, 1888, in Washington age 11 (in 1900); daughter Sadie born April, 1891, in Washington age 9 (in 1900); son Lauren E. born May, 1893, in Washington age 7 (in 1900); son Willis born April, 1896, in Idaho age 4 (in 1900); daughter Sarah born September, 1899, in Idaho age 10 months (in 1900). It would appear from this census that the Kruse family came to the valley between 1893 and April 1896.

F. H. KELLY was an early "Old Timer" in the valley. As mentioned in the above biography of J. P. Kruse, he was here in 1896. Mr. Kelly was the father of Mary "Molly" Harris. Grandfather of Mary Harris Purcell, and great grandfather of Clark Purcell who gave the writer much of this information. He did not prove up on any land, but is important as an antecedent to the Harris and Purcell families.

HENRY AND WILLIAM APPLGATE owned the above 80 acres in 1909 when the water in Crane Creek was adjudicated, and were named in that decree. The Applegate Bothers portion of water was 18.47 miners inches.

STEPHEN A. DOUGHERTY was another 'Old Timer' who lived on the west side of the valley near the river. He filed a land claim which is recorded at the Washington County Courthouse in the POSSESSORY LAND CLAIM BOOK No. 1 dated February 20, 1899. The claim is as follows: "Commencing at a point on the easterly branch of the Weiser River 200 rods above the mouth of Crane Creek and running easterly 800 rods". That land was not proved up on by Mr. Dougherty and was later patented by O. (Orin) Purcell in 1906. The land remained in the Purcell family until 1969 when the Tallents purchased it.

An old survey map dated 1899 shows the Dougherty house. The Dougherty family was in the valley in 1900 as they were listed in the census for that year as follows: Stephen A. Dougherty born October 1865 age 39 in Indiana; wife Alice born September 1876 age 23 in Oregon; daughter Mabel born May 1895 age 5 in Oregon; daughter Carrie M. born January 1900 in Idaho.

GEORGE TRIPLLOW homesteaded land on the Weiser River just north of that patented by A. T. Jennings and now owned by the Woodland family. He patented that land in October, 1908, and built a large two-story house on it. The house still stands although in great disrepair. This land is on the west side of the county road, but he also had land on the east side. This property was sold to a Kendall family, then went to E. N. 'Boge' Harris. After Boge died his heirs sold it to the Tallents. An article in the WEISER AMERICAN dated February 24, 1916, leads one to think that Triplow sold it to R. N. Kendall that year. "R. N. Kendall of Downey bought the Triplow ranch on Mann Creek". Mann Creek is probably an error, as we do know a Kendall owned the property after Triplow.

Kendall lost the land to a mortgage company and Boge Harris bought it. The Tallents call it the Old Boge Harris Place.

According to a neighbor, Triplow also had land on the east side of the valley now owned by Dwight Maddox. I'm quite sure he did not patent any land on the east side, but he may have bought land that someone else had patented--probably John Pierce. George Triplow was born in 1858 in Ohio and died November 29, 1937 in Weiser.

ORVAL ALLEN PURCELL, or "Allie" as he was called, had property on the Weiser River which joined A. T. Jennings on the south and George Triplow on the east, and his brother Orin on the North. He filed a land claim on April 20, 1901, which is recorded in the POSSESSORY LAND CLAIM BOOK No. 1 located at the Washington County Courthouse as follows: "E 1/2 SE 1/4 of Section 10; W 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 11 Township 11 Range 4 West Boise Meridian". His patent was issued September, 1907.

Allie was married to Mary Harris, daughter of James Norman Harris. They had four children--Etta Purcell Arnold, Orval, Nora Purcell Pound, and Earnest Clark. The only one living at this writing is Clark. Allie was born August 25, 1872, and died March 18, 1933 at the age of 61 years 8 months and 25 days. He was the son of Nephi Purcell. The O. A. Purcell property went to his wife, then to his children, and finally to the Tallents in 1969.

JAMES ATKINSON patented 160 acres of land on the Weiser River in 1907. His land joined O. A. Purcell on the south, Orin Purcell on the west and south, and Andrew L. Van Lewen on the east. Atkinson was interested in mining and had a claim of the west side of the river. An old tunnel still remains. Rock foundations for old buildings also still remain--one of the west side of the river and two on the east. All this land became part of the Purcell family holdings, and now belongs to the Tallents.

James S. Atkinson was listed in the 1900 census as follows: James Atkinson born September, 1860, in England age 39 (in 1900); wife Minny born September, 1871, in Kansas age 28 (in 1900).

ANDREW VAN LEWEN patented 120 acres north of George Triplow and east of James S. Atkinson August, 1922. This property is east of the lane which continues north from the county road. It became part of Purcell holdings then Tallent holdings. The Atkinson property and the Van Lewen property form the north boundary of the Tallent's lower place.

ALMIRA JENNIE WILLIAMS and her husband, Willis B. Williams, homesteaded land on the Weiser River between Tallents lower property and their upper property at the north end of Lower Crane Creek Valley. They had a grazing claim and their home was located on the creek just south of the Tallent's fence to their upper property. Signs of the old homestead are still apparent. The creek--Jennie Williams Creek--takes its name from her. The home site was patented in October 1918, and the land south and joining Tallent's lower property was patented in March 1925. All the Jennie Williams holdings now belong to the Phil Soulen family.

Almira Jennie Williams was born in Council Grove, Kansas, May 17, 1869. She was the daughter of Oscar Johnston who was born in Pennsylvania, and Julia Harris who was born in Ohio. Jennie married Willis B. Williams November 8,

1893. The family came to Weiser in 1907, and moved to a farm in Payette in 1935. Jennie died January 31, 1940, in Payette at the age of 70 years 8 months and 14 days. Her husband, Willis B. Williams, died in 1938. They had one daughter, Erma Short, of Payette. Jennie also had two brothers, Earl and Frank Johnston, and one sister, Mrs. George Nesbit, all of Weiser.

JOHN ZUMWALT homesteaded and got a patent on 160 acres of land in the north part of the valley in February 1905. It is located in Section 34 and is the first property inside the fence of Tallents upper property. That land was later owned by Marion Kiser, and is known to the Tallents as the Lower Kiser Place. It was part of the Purcell holdings prior to 1969.

John Zumwalt was born November 8, 1839. He died December 18, 1920, at the age of 81.

Mrs. John Zumwalt was born in 1861 and died August 24, 1912, at the age of 51. She was survived by her husband, John, two brothers E. M. Barton and James Barton. Two daughters Mrs. Johnson Jones and Mrs. Sheff. One son Fred Zumwalt. Died before were a son an daughter Loyd and Maud buried at Council and a daughter Volma Lee age 27 who died July 16, 1909 and is buried in Weiser.

GEORGE AND ALICE KISER and their family had land in two areas of the valley. George homesteaded and got a patent on 160 acres of land in section 12 most of which is north of Lower Crane Creek Road. The land description is as follows: S 1/2 NW 1/4, N 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 12 Township 11 North Range 4 West Boise Meridian. That patent was issued in March 1906. That land was joined on the south by land patented by James Martin and William Aldridge. This Kiser property became known as the Old Solders place in later years. In 1938 Murray and Maxine Solders bought the place. They deeded it to Homer H. Solders in 1941. It was in that family for 17 years. In 1955 Joseph Kelsheimer bought it. Then in 1957 John Wells bought it. It went back to Kelsheimer, then to Carl H. Hansen. From Hanson it went to Mike Broomhall, next to Greg Graham, next to Mike Leep and finally to Darrel Clapp who lives there now.

George and Alice had four sons--Joseph, William, Charles and Marion. Joseph and Charles homesteaded on land in the north part of the valley on the Weiser River near Concrete. Alice also homesteaded land in that area. Her land joined that of Charlie on the east. It was range land. She patented her land in 1923. Charlie patented his in November 1912. That land is part of Tallent holdings now. Joseph patented his land in January 1920. That land is now owned by Phil Soulen. Marion bought the land patented by John Zumwalt--the Lower Kiser Place now owned by Tallents. William, the fourth son patented 40 acres east of his father--now owned by Dwight Maddox-- the SW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 12, T 11, R 4, WBM in February 1912.

The obituary of Alice Kiser is as follows: She was born July 12, 1855, in Grinnell, Iowa. Her parents were Friend Dickens and Laura Holbrook. (Friend Dickens had a homestead on the southeast side of the valley). She was married to George Kiser. She died January 31, 1945, at the age of 89 years 6 months and 19 days, and is buried in Hillcrest cemetery.

No biographical information was found on George Kiser. Charlie and Marion are covered under Tallent Family holdings. William, or Bill as he was called, married Agnes Kiser, the widow of Marion. They had two daughters--Helen and Jean.

JAMES LEWALLEN homesteaded land in the northwestern part of the valley just east of Catrock on the east side of the river. 40 acres on the north and east joined Charlie Kiser. The other 120 acres is just west of Joseph Kiser and forms an elbow on the river. The Phil Soulen family owns that property today. The WEISER AMERICAN, March 30, 1916, contained this article under the heading Lower Crane Creek News "Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Lewallen expect to move from the section house at Cat Rock across the river to their ranch".

ROY ALEXANDER got a patent on 160 acres of grazing land in Section 26 and on another 160 acres in Section 27. This grazing land formed the northern most boundary in this Lower Crane Creek Valley history. It is located across from Concrete on the east side of the river. Morehead Creek is the northern boundary. Alexander's land joined Charlie Kiser's on the southwest and Alice Kiser's on the southeast. No other information was found of Mr. Alexander.

JOSEPH SALB got a patent on 160 acres of land in Section 24 and 13. It is described as follows: S 1/2 NW 1/4, NE 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 24 and SE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 13 Township 11 North, Range 4, West Boise Meridian. His land joined John W. Lane on the south and William Theuer on the east. That land is located in the southeast part of the valley. This property is now owned by the Woodland family. No other information was found on Mr. Salb.

JOHN W. LANE. See "The Old Presley Place" for complete information.

THOMAS LANE. See "The Old Presley Place" for complete information.

F. H. MACDONALD. See "The Old Presley Place" for complete information.

SILAS WILLIAM WOODLAND and his wife Ella homesteaded 160 acres of property in the southeastern part of the valley below the mercury mine in Sections 29 and 30, T 11, R 3, WBM. They got a patent on that land in August 1904. It was west and north of land patented by Chres Chrestesen. It belongs to Clarence Chrestesen at this writing.

Silas Woodland and his family was listed in the 1900 Census as follows: Silas Woodland born June, 1861, in Iowa, age 22 (in 1900); wife, Ella, born September, 1869, in California age 30 (in 1900); son, Walter, born July, 1887, in Iowa, age 12 (in 1900); son, Claud, born July, 1890, in Idaho, age 10 (in 1900); son, Roy B. born September, 1892, in Idaho, age 8 (in 1900).

S. W. Woodland also patented 40 acres near Crane Creek. It was located just south of the James H. Knee property --SW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 12, T 11, R 3, WBM. That 40 acres was patented in August 1907. It is now owned by Dwight Maddox. Woodland was named in the Crane Creek Water Adjudication Decree of 1909 for this property.

Evidently S. W. Woodland was in the sheep business. In Fern Trull's book THEY DARED TO DREAM in 1902 he was on the Assessment Rolls of Washington County Sheep Interest for 700 sheep.

A court action recorded in the Washington County Courthouse to the American Mortgage Company of Scotland was dated September 23, 1915. Woodland may have lost his property at that time.

CHRESTEN A. CHRESTESEN patented 80 acres of land in the southeastern part of the valley just below the mercury mine in Section 29. It was located east of S. W. Woodland and patented in June 1915. The land description is as follows: NW 1/4 SE 1/4, NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 29, T 11 N, R 3, WBM.

Chres A. Chrestesen was born in Norway July 16, 1868. He was married to Minnie Morkgrof. They had two sons, Frank and Clarence. Minnie died March 28, 1932, at the age of 59 years 11 months and 19 days. Their son, Frank, died in 1949 at the age of 46. He left his wife, Martha, and three children, Mary Lou, Martha Jean and Frank Robert. Chres died April 10, 1950, at the age of 81.

Clarence has had the land since his father's death. He calls this his dry land.

SUSAN ELKIN patented 80 acres north of S. W. Woodland in June 1918. The land description is as follows: E 1/2 NE 1/4 of Section 30, T 11 N, R 3, WBM. Clarence Chrestesen owns this land. Nothing else was found on Ms. Elkin.

FRANK W. HARD patented 200 acres of land north of Susan Elkin and S. W. Woodland in 1915. It was in sections 19, 20, and 30. The land description is as follows: E 1/2 SE 1/4 Section 19; W 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 20; NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 29, T 11 N, R 3, WBM. The south 120 acres is part of Clarence Chrestesen's holdings. The north 80 acres is owned by the Woodland family.

This article was found in the February 10, 1916, WEISER AMERICAN "Mrs. F. W. Hard was badly injured while moving to Weiser from their ranch near Midvale. She fell from the sled while crossing Sage Creek". Were they moving to their Crane Creek property?

PHEBE ANN WOODLAND homesteaded 150 acres in the southeast part of the valley. Her land joined William Theuer on the west, Calvin E. Woodland on the north, and Frank W. Hard on the south. She received her patent in March, 1904. The land description is as follows: S 1/2 N 1/2 of Section 19, T 11 N, R 3, WBM. Phebe was the first of a line that still occupies the valley. She was the mother of Calvin E. Woodland, grandmother of Harold Woodland, and Great grandmother of Rod Woodland who still operates the ranch land that she and her son homesteaded. Phebe was born in April, 1836. She died May 2, 1922 at the age of 86, and is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Weiser.

The 1900 Census listed Phoebe A. Woodland and her family as follows: Phoebe A. Woodland, widow, Born April, 1835, in Canada, age 65 (in 1900); son, Calvin A., born February, 1877, in Iowa, age 22 (in 1900); daughter, Elsie A., born January, 1879, in Iowa, age 21 (in 1900); granddaughter, Pearl, born June, 1885, in Idaho, age 15 (in 1900).

CALVIN E. WOODLAND homesteaded the N 1/2 N 1/2 of section 19, T 11 N, R 3, WBM, just north and adjoining his mother, Phebe's, 150 acres. He received his patent in September 1913. His 150 acres joined that of Friend Dickinsen on the west and northwest, and Charles B. Glasby on the north.

Calvin was married to Nellie. They had a son, Harold, and three daughters, Josephine, Dorothy, and Ruby. The holdings of both Calvin and his mother, Phebe, went to Harold, then to his son, Rod, who is operating the ranch at this writing.

FRIEND DICKINSEN homesteaded 160 acres in the southeastern part of the valley in July, 1914. It joins William Theurer on the south, The two Woodlands on the southeast, Charles Glasby on the east, Sarah E. Glasby on the north, and John Pierce on the west. The land description is as follows: SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 13, W 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 18, NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 24, T 11, R 3, WBM.. This land is part of the Woodland holdings--what they call their dry land.

Friend Dickinsen was listed in the 1910 census as being age 60. His wife, Florence, age 47. I found three spellings of his last name...the above, Dickeson, and Dickerson. The WEISER AMERICAN dated January 20, 1916, had this article "Mrs. Friend Dickerson and little grandchild left for Cherryville, Kansas, to visit her mother". That same paper, dated March 30, 1916, included this article in the Lower Crane Creek News "Friend Dickerson and wife were visiting the Charles Kisers Saturday and Sunday". He was Charlie Kiser's grandfather.

CHARLES E. GLASBY patented 160 acres in October, 1915. The land description is as follows: E 1/2 SW 1/4, W 1/2 SE 1/4 of Section 18, T 11 N, R 3, WBM. This is part of Rod Woodland's dry land, and just north of land patented by Calvin Woodland.

SARAH E. GLASBY patented 40 acres north of Friend Dickinsen in June, 1919. The land description is SW 1/4 NW 1/4 of section 18, T 11 N, R 3, WBM. This land is part of Greg Graham's property.

WILLIAM THEURER got a patent on 160 acres in section 24. The land description is as follows: W 1/2 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 24, T 11, R 4, WBM. This land is owned by Kenny Skow. For more complete information refer to the article on the Skow family.

JOHN PIERCE patented 160 acres on the east side of the valley. The land description is as follows: N 1/2 NE 1/4, E 1/4 NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 13, T 11 N, R 4, WBM. Dwight Maddox owns the north half and Woodlands own the south half of the John Pierce property.

The Pierce family is listed in the 1900 Census as follows: John Pierce born November, 1861, in California age 38 (in 1900); wife Eva L., born April, 1870, in Kansas age 30 (in 1900); son, Oliver C., born April, 1888, in Idaho age 12 (in 1900); son, Cyrus M., born September, 1889, in Idaho age 10 (in 1900); Daughter, Sylvia, born July, 1892, in Idaho age 7 (in 1900); Son, Ora, born April, 1894, in Idaho age 6 (in 1900); son, Ira, born August, 1899, in Idaho age 1 (in 1900); son, Nira, born August, 1899, in Idaho age 1 (in 1900). According to a neighbor, there are two graves of Pierce children on this property.

W. H. WOOD got a patent on 160 acres in the eastern part of the valley in 1920. The land description is as follows: SE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 12, T 11 N, Range 4; W 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 7 and NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 18 both in T 11 N, R 3, WBM. This property is east of S. W. Woodland, north of John Pierce and Sarah E. Glasby and south of Fred C. Hansen. Dwight Maddox owns 40 acres on the south. Woodlands own the rest of the W. H. Wood property. No other information

was found on Mr. Wood.

ROBERT WOOD received a patent on 160 acres of land in the eastern part of the valley in 1921. This property was straight east of that homesteaded by W. H. Wood. The land description is as follows: E 1/2 SE 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 7; NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 18, both in T 11 N, R 3, WBM. The Woodland family owns the south 40 acres, and Greg Graham owns the north 80 acres of this land. No other information was found.

JAMES HENRY KNEE received a patent on 40 acres in the eastern part of the valley on Crane Creek. The land description is as follows: NW 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 12, T 11 N, R 4, WBM. This property joined S. W. Woodland on the south, George Kiser on the west, William Kiser on the north, and Fred C. Hansen on the east. At this writing Dwight Maddox owns this land. Some of the Knee family were here in 1956 when Maddox bought it.

Mr. Knee also had the Zumwalt property in the northwest part of the valley for a time. It then went to Marion Kiser, and is known as the Lower Kiser Place.

James H. Knee was born December 12, 1869, and died January 13, 1947, at the age of 78. He was married to Grace. They had five sons: Eldon, Donald, Clifford, Wesley and Clarence. They also had three daughters: Mrs. L. R. Dyer, Mrs. Walter Zumwalt, and Mrs. Fred Stirm. According to a neighbor, two Knee children are buried in the valley above the Dwight Maddox home. They ate poisoned food.

FRED C. HANSEN received a patent of 40 acres in the eastern part of the valley on Crane Creek in June 1906. This property was joined on the west by James Knee, on the north by John J. Hansen and on the east and south by W. H. Wood. The land description is as follows: NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 12, T 11 N, R 4, WBM. The Woodland family owns this property.

JOHN J. HANSEN homesteaded and received a patent on 160 acres of land in the eastern part of the valley on Crane Creek in the hot springs area. He received his patent in March, 1906, and in May of that same year he deeded the land to Henry G. Hansen. The land description is as follows: NW 1/2 NW 1/4, NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 7, T 11 N, R 3, WBM; and SE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 12, T 11, R 4, WBM. Greg Graham owns this property at this writing.

J. J. Hansen was one of the land owners named in the Crane Creek Water Adjudication suit which was decided in 1909. That decree decided who got Crane Creek water and also the amount.

According to a neighbor, Mr. Hansen was a carpenter from Caldwell. He may have used that skill to develop the hot springs into a resort. This article appeared in July 24, 1986, edition of the WEISER SIGNAL in the "In Days of Old" 75 years ago column: "July 21-25, 1911. Mrs. H. R. Warner went to Hansen Hot Springs, near the mouth of Crane Creek, Tuesday where she will remain for several days".

John Hansen and family were listed in the 1900 census as follows: John Hansen age 43 (?); wife, Alice, age 44; son, Fred, age 17; and daughters Irene and Inez age 13.

In later years this property was owned by "Boge" Harris, and at this writing is owned by Greg Graham.

WILLIAM R. ALDRIDGE received a patent on 160 acres on Crane Creek in July, 1904. He sold this land to William Theurer. The history of this property will be more fully described under that name, and under the present owner Kenneth Skow.

WASH HINZE owned 40 acres patented by J. J. Hansen in March 1906 (SE 1/4 NW 1/4 in Section 12) and Government lots 2 and 3 in Section 7. He was named in the Crane Creek Water Adjudication Decree of 1909. He was granted the third right for 0.45 miners inches.

JAMES MARTIN received a patent on 160 acres in the center of the valley on Crane Creek in November, 1907. The land description is as follows: SW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 12, NW 1/2 NW 1/4 Section 13, SE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 14, all in T 11 N, R 4, WBM. His land was joined on the west by James Norman Harris and H. Wilburn, on the north by George Kiser, and on the east by William Aldridge. This property is now owned by Kenneth Skow.

E. H. WILBURN received a patent on 160 acres in the center of the valley on the north side of Crane Creek in October, 1908. This property is just east of the county road and across from Rod Woodland's home. The land description is as follows: E 1/2 SE 1/4 Section 11, N 1/2 NE 1/4 Section 14 both in T 11 N, R 4, WBM.

Wilburn's name was one of those listed in the Crane Creek Water Adjudication suit in 1909. The first water right went to James Norman Harris.

The Wilburn family were listed in the 1900 census as follows: Edward H. Wilburn born July, 1872, in California, age 27 (in 1900); wife, Louisa, born August, 1873, in Utah, age 26 (in 1900); daughter, Ethel B., born January, 1897, in Idaho, age 3 (1900); son, Merlin G., born May, 1898, in Idaho, age 2 (in 1900).

The year 1903 must have been one short of hay for winter feed. This information was found in Fern Trull's book THEY DARED TO DREAM: "Mr. Horn found some hay at Mr. Wilburn's place on Crane Creek and has moved his sheep there--dated January, 1903".

It would appear that Wilburn had a hard time making a go of farming. Records at the Washington County Courthouse show several law suits in the years 1921 and 1922. There was a sheriff's sale in November, 1922.

This property was later known as the Old George Harris Place. There is a large, two story, white house on it next to where Echo Dell School stood. It has gone through several owners since. After George Harris came Ralph Lyle, Mike Broomhall, Greg and Lee Graham. Now the property belongs to Kenneth Skow.

GEORGE WASHINGTON HARRIS was not a homesteader, but he was the son of the earliest pioneer in the valley--James Norman Harris. The land homesteaded by E. H. Wilburn was more commonly known as the Old George Harris Place, and the two-story house is referred to as the George Harris house. According to a neighbor, George raised beautiful gardens down next to Crane Creek. He took his extra produce to Presley Station where the "Galloping Goose" picked it up and delivered it to Weiser to be sold by local businessmen.

George was born December 16, 1891, the son of James Norman Harris and Molly Kelly Harris. His wife was Lisie M. Harris. They had three daughters:

Susan Marsh, Mrs. Elmer Staples, and Mrs. Jim Scott. They had four sons: Bird Harris, Charles Harris, Calvin Harris, and Wallace Harris. George also had three brothers: Jim, Earnest, and Bird Harris, and one sister Mrs. O. A. (Mary) Purcell. George died June 17, 1950, at the age of 58 years 6 months and 1 day.

JAMES ADAMS did not receive a patent on any land in the Lower Crane Creek Valley, however, there was an irrigation ditch named after him. Near the mouth of the canyon a ditch took off on the south side of Crane Creek which watered the Theuer place and other properties on the south side of the creek. It is called the James Adams ditch and is mentioned in the Crane Creek Water Adjudication Decree of 1909. It is also mentioned in an early abstract for Theuer property.

There were two James Adams families listed in the 1900 Census. They were probably relatives. As listed in that census, the elder James Adams was born March, 1836, in Ohio, age 64 (in 1900). His wife, Elinor, was born July, 1839, in Pennsylvania, age 61 (in 1900).

The second James Adams was born August, 1869, in Missouri, age 40 (in 1900) His wife, Annie, was born January, 1882, in Indian Territory, age 18 (in 1900). They had one daughter, Nellie, born August, 1899, in Idaho, age 1 (in 1900). It is hard to say for whom the ditch was named. Since both families were in the valley, both may have had a part in its construction.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE

Rodeoing is the main form of entertainment in Lower Crane Creek Valley, and has been since earliest times. It is an outgrowth of everyday ranch life. Most young people learned to ride a horse almost as soon as they learned to walk. In the early days that was the only means of transportation as well as entertainment, and many rode their horses back and forth to school. Young people of both sexes took part in horseback riding. Some became experts and competed in local rodeos. The ladies were no exception. Several were rodeo queens or princesses. They had to know how to ride as well as to look regal on the back of their steed. The men tried their luck on bucking broncos, brahma bulls, and calf roping. Names of valley men were prevalent on the local rodeo circuit, and some went on to national competition.

Social life in the valley was also centered around the schools. Country dances, community dinners, box socials, and other get-togethers took place at Echo Dell School. In later years that school was closed and students went to Jeffreys School at the mouth of Mann Creek. Many similar activities took place at that school. After 1955 when Pioneer School in Weiser was completed they went to Weiser. By this time the School District had consolidated eliminating the need for country schools.

An outgrowth of social activities associated with the school was the formation of ladies clubs. From earliest times there was a desire and need for country women to socialize. The Shamrock Club served the Lower Crane Creek Valley and the Mann Creek area as a social and community service organization.

Eva Breshears who lived across the road from Jeffreys School was the prime mover and organizer of the Shamrock Club. On March 17, 1922--St. Patrick's Day--a group of women met at her home and formed that club. Meetings were held in homes or at Jeffreys School (now called Jeffreys Community Hall). The club always supported the school. They sponsored Christmas parties, graduation parties, hot lunch programs, and saw to it that needy students were taken care of.

Home Extension Service from the University of Idaho had started in 1918 with the purpose of helping women in their work. Mrs. Breshears was involved from the beginning in bringing those services to Washington County and the Shamrock Club in particular. This club was the first rural club in the county to take part in those services. Many Home Demonstration classes were held in the following years. The first was a health project for children. Examples of other demonstrations were "How to Raise Poultry", "How to Can Vegetables and Meats", "Dressmaking", "Millinery", "Gardening and Landscaping", and even "Flower Arranging". These demonstrations helped the ladies in making a fuller and more meaningful way of life for their families and themselves. The Shamrock Club has also supported 4-H projects for young people in the community. Although the Shamrock Club started in 1922, it wasn't until the late 1940's and early 1950's that many Crane Creek ladies were able to take part. Up until that time roads were ungravelled and almost impossible to travel during wet weather. Since the 1950's roads have been improved and maintained making travel much easier, and the names of most of the ladies who live or have lived in Lower Crane Creek Valley are listed as members in the minutes of the Shamrock Club.

The Grange was also a social and community service organization that served farmer/rancher needs. Most farm families belonged to that organization

in the early days. The Unity Grange served this valley and joined the Shamrock Club in purchasing the old Jeffreys School in 1959. Both held meetings there. Recently (1985) the Grange disbanded and turned their interest in Jeffreys Community Hall over to the Shamrock Club. Farmers today are not as interested in the Grange as an organization as they were many years ago.

REQUIEM

Thus ends the history of Lower Crane Creek Valley. If the proposed Galloway Project goes in as many outside this valley would like, the only items that will remain will be a body of water surrounded by the eastern and western hills, the tip of Molly's Butte in the center of the valley, Hitt Mountain overlooking all in its majestic way---and a MEMORY!

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