

THE TRUDE LEGACY IN SHOTGUN VALLEY

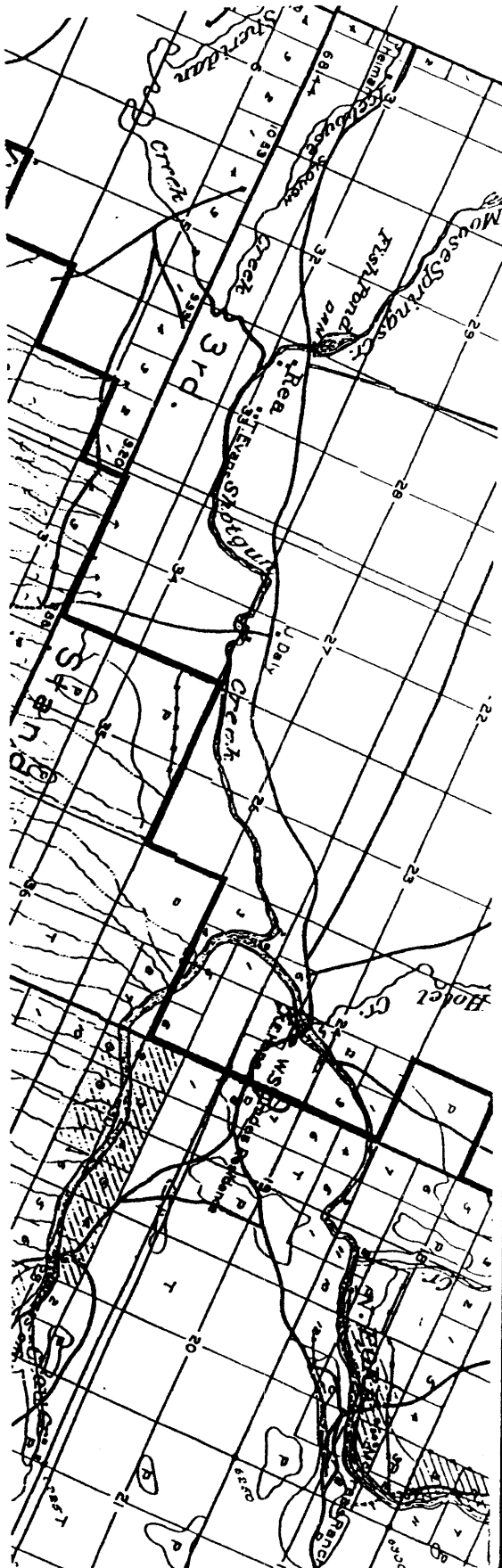


A FAMILY'S FIRST
ONE HUNDRED YEARS

IN
ISLAND PARK

PRESENTED BY THE ISLAND PARK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

McCreas Ranch and the Trude holdings before Island Park Reservoir. This map was drawn by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1912. I.P. Bills Island is located where the N.Fork makes a loop; Shotgun Creek is entirely submerged by the reservoir now.

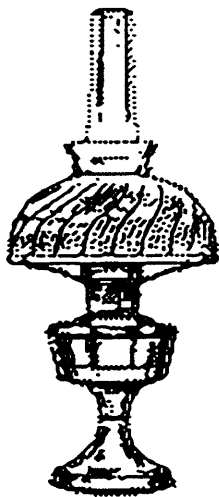


SHOTGUN VALLEY IS SETTLED

A Man of Many Parts

George Rea, who settled in Shotgun Valley in 1878, was Island Park's third legal homesteader. Rea left Portville, New York, in 1864 with a wagon train accompanied by his wife Sarah and child Mary in quest of the gold riches in Alder Gulch, Virginia City, Montana. The trip entailed great hardship in spite of his painstaking preparations. His "Henry" rifle, a sixteen shooter, saved his family from a deadly encounter with the Sioux Indians as they approached Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Mrs. Rea placed her baby girl in the oven of the cook stove in their wagon to protect her from flying arrows and bullets, after which she loaded guns for the men. Indian attacks were a threat in Montana also, and during one such encounter Rea had one of his fingers shot off.

Rea freighted the first quartz mill to be operated in Idaho or Montana on the wagon train from Council Bluffs, Iowa. Immediately after his arrival in Virginia City on October 5, 1864, he set up the mill at the head of Alder Gulch eight miles above Virginia City. The mill was not a financial success, however, and the Rea family moved on. They relocated in the Gallatin Valley near what is now the city of Bozeman, but Indian harrassment made life miserable and they moved to Helena. They stayed in Helena until 1869, then moved on to Missoula, where Mary attended school, and in 1873 to Deer Lodge and in 1876 to Butte.



During this period Rea had become extensively involved with hunting and guiding, which led him to respond to General Howard's request for guides. He joined the Army and served as a guide in the campaign against Chief Joseph during the Nez Perce uprising. The campaign led them over the Divide into Camas Meadows and Shotgun Valley, across the Henry's Fork and into Yellowstone National Park. George Rea was enticed by

the beauty and opportunity of Shotgun Valley and returned in the spring of 1878 to homestead a ranch that he called "Glen Rea."

George set up a cattle ranching business and, along with his brother Tom, a hunting guide service. Because of their extensive knowledge of the entire mountainous region from Island Park into Yellowstone and north into Montana, the brothers soon had a wide reputation. Not only numerous sportsmen from throughout the United States, but even wealthy European adventurers enjoyed their expertise. George guided Theodore Roosevelt for bear, elk, moose, deer and other game in Island Park, Yellowstone and Montana. Alfred S. Trude, a famous Chicago lawyer, had invited Roosevelt to the area.

George Rea established one of the very first fish farms or hatcheries in Idaho at his site on Moose Springs, the principal source of Shotgun Creek. In this endeavor, he sought the advice of Joe Sherwood and the Sawtells on Henry's Lake. Sherwood had a hatchery-type operation on a creek and pond on his homestead on the north side of Henry's Lake, and because Sherwood was a knowledgeable, accomplished individual, Rea studied his operation during the 1893-94 season. By November 1897, Rea had completed his first big dam on Moose Springs, creating a lake that held the trout after hatching. He transported and sold fish to the Denver, Salt Lake City and Montana markets, all of which were financially lucrative. He then built two more dams, but was stymied by the entry of a bill in the Idaho Legislature which would have prohibited him from shipping game trout. He fought vociferously to combat this regulation and eventually won.

In the winter of 1901 George Rea became ill and he died on January 31, 1902. He had spent all of his profits making improvements on his property and financing the fish hatcheries. A. S. Trude lent him money to forward his operation, from which debt Trude acquired ownership of the ranch upon Rea's death when his heirs were unable to pay off the obligation. Trude changed the name to Algernia Ranch in honor of his wife and leased the hatchery operation to Idaho Department of Fish and Game until the land was flooded in the late 1930s by Island Park Reservoir.

George was eulogized in the Deer Lodge Standard of February 4, 1902: "Rea was probably the most widely known guide in the Yellowstone region. He did more toward exploring the Snake River country, probably, than did anyone else."

ANOTHER ENTERPRISE

In 1888 John Kooch and his new wife, Margaret, filed a homestead on the Henry's Fork, and sold it in early 1889 to the Arangee Land and Cattle Company. This new company was formed by New York entrepreneurs named Hopf, Gerber and Rutledge (we do not know their first names), who situated their ranch buildings on the east side of the river on ground now submerged on the northwest side of I.P. Bills Island. The partners became interested in the opportunities of Island Park while visiting Yellowstone National Park. The area reminded them of Switzerland and they surmised that a dairy/cheese factory, combined with cattle ranching, would succeed if they could import some hearty Swiss people to perform the work.

To take advantage of the tourist traffic to the Park which ran through Shotgun Valley via the Bassett Stage Line they immediately constructed the Belview Hotel. The Belview was impressive, a three-story building with 3,360 square feet made of sawed pine logs and California redwood. The first floor boasted a sitting room, ladies' parlor, smoking room, dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms. Upstairs were three deluxe suites off a balcony overlooking the sitting room, plus six more bedrooms down the hall. The third story was unfinished, but led to the cupola which afforded a fabulous view of the area.

John and Chris Reber came from Switzerland to operate the dairy/cheese business. However, after a couple of Island Park winters, the owners realized the project could not be sustained. At the same time the Bassett Stage Line moved its route north to the Centennial Valley to avoid the impassable mud conditions of early spring in Shotgun Valley. These circumstances convinced the Arangee Land and Cattle Company to sell its holdings to A.S. Trude in 1891.

THE TRUDE FAMILY

In 1888, Alfred S. Trude, while touring Yellowstone National Park, heard of the famous floating islands on Henry's Lake and decided to have a look. Leaving Henry's Lake, Trude and his party traveled by team and camp wagon through Shotgun Valley to catch the train at Spencer. They camped overnight in the valley and were enthralled. Trude returned the next summer and every summer after that, camping at or near the George Rea place. He made a decision to purchase a place in Shotgun Valley, and in 1891 obtained the Arangee Ranch with its Belview Hotel when that company dissolved.

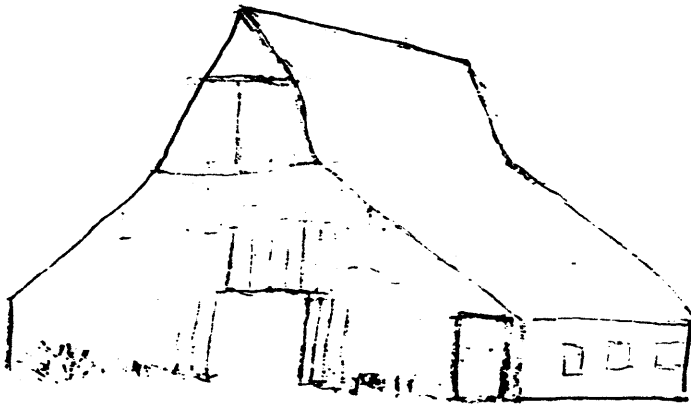
Trude and Rea developed a firm, lasting friendship. Rea even named one of his fishery lakes after Mrs. Algenia Trude. The Trudes called him "Uncle George." The

whole Trude family would come the four miles from Belview in a hay rack to Uncle George's, move out the furniture and have a dance. At other times folks living in the valley would go to Belview and have a dance in the old hotel. The Trudes were fun-loving, friendly people who immensely enjoyed dancing—the favorite pastime of that era.

In 1899, A.S. Trude's brother, Charles J. Trude, moved to Island Park permanently to maintain and operate the ranch and property for his brother. With his children Sam, Fred, Bill, Algenia (who became Mrs. W. S. McCrea) and Althea, he cared for the ranch until 1909 when he moved to California and left the operation to his son Bill. Bill managed the ranch until the 1930s when some of the area was flooded to become Island Park Reservoir. Bill trained race horses on a track located on what is now the Jacobs' Ranch.

The oldest of Charles' children, Sam, was 13 when his father moved to Island Park. As a teenager, Sam became acquainted with George Rea and the other early settlers in Island Park. He raised Canada geese, hatching them from eggs and watching them through the years as they lived to be more than 35 years of age. Sam had several occupations during his lifetime. He taught school in Rexburg and St. Anthony and was manager of the Railroad Ranch from 1921 through 1935. For a short time he owned the Uden Ranch (which he named Elk Creek Ranch) and while there built Happy Joe's, which became Phillips Lodge. He served as Probate judge for Fremont County, as well as participating in many Island Park community organizations and projects. Sam Trude died in June 1969.

When A. S. Trude died in 1933, his holdings were divided among his children. Son Dan received the Lock Laven Lodge and part of the Arangee Ranch. Today this property is known as Lakeside Lodge and I.P. Bills Island. His daughter, Mrs. Cecelia Wilkins, received the property across the river on the west side and north of Hotel Creek. Hal and Per Wilkins now own this property. They moved the barn and other original buildings across the river to their ranch before the reservoir inundated the Arangee and Lock Laven properties. Son Walter received that part of the Glen Rea Ranch (Algenia Ranch) remaining unflooded by the reservoir plus some other. Ken (Walter's grandson) and Judy Wright now own this portion, which includes one of the fish ponds George Rea built and the original dwelling in which A. S. Trude lived. A. S. Trude's other daughter, Mrs. Algenia Kern, received the acreage west of the reservoir which sits on the south side of Hotel Creek between the Wilkins and the Algenia Ranch. This portion was sold to become the Jacobs' Island Park Ranch.



The Trude's barn.

THE McCREA FAMILY

Algenia Sally Trude McCrea (known to most as Gene and fondly as "Mom" McCrea), was born in 1890 at Bobcageon, Ontario, Canada, daughter of Charles J. Trude and Margery Long Trude. As a small child she lived on a ranch in the Black Hills of South Dakota, moving with her family to Rea, Idaho, in 1899. It took her family seven weeks by covered wagon to make the trip. Algenia was schooled at Rea and graduated from high school in Chicago, where she spent every winter with her uncle, A. S. Trude. She married William S. McCrea in June 1907 and they lived on the ranch he had homesteaded in 1905 across and up the river from the Trude's Arangee holdings. They operated it as a cattle and guest ranch. McCrea died in 1921, and after that Mom McCrea managed the ranch in the summer and wintered in California. Algenia McCrea died in 1985, memorialized presently by the Algenia McCrea Award, which is presented annually to a resident of Island Park for outstanding community service. Her son William Gordon McCrea (Gordon), helped his mother manage the Ranch for many years and took it over upon her death. He was active in its management until his death in 1990. Algenia also had two daughters, Margery, deceased, and Reinette Pozzo, who resides in California.

Gordon served as a master sergeant in the Air Corps during WWII and later had a career with Union Carbide Corp. in Salt Lake City. After Mrs. McCrea's death, part of the original homestead was sold and subdivided. Upon Gordon's death the ranch was passed to his daughter Tracie McCrea Price. Gordon was a member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and the National Cattle Association.

At one time there were two eating establishments on the

ranch: Cowbell #1 and Cowbell #2. Cowbell #2 burned, but #1 was reopened in 1995 after thirteen years of inactivity. The property near McCrea Bridge on which it sits was purchased by Dennis Kennedy, who has remodeled the Cowbell and built a deck from which anglers can fish when the historic McCrea Bridge is torn out and replaced by a much larger structure.

THE LEGACY

A.S. Trude was an ardent sportsman and conservationist who did everything he could to preserve the natural habitat for waterfowl, wild game and fish in Island Park. Prior to the organization of the U.S. Forest Service, he was instrumental in having the Big Springs area set aside to prevent it from being homesteaded. In 1906, the Forest Preserve was organized and began administering the thousands of acres of public land in the Island Park area.

Today, the living heirs of the Trude family have dedicated themselves to the preservation and conservation of the heritage they hold in trust—and as Ken Wright says, "God willing, we will be able to keep this legacy alive for the next hundred years."

The Island Park Historical Society was founded to identify, preserve, and cherish places of historical value and educate the public about our historical legacy. The area boasts such well-known names as Andrew Henry, after whom Henry's Lake and Henry's Fork River are named; Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians, who were pursued by General Howard and his military forces; Jesuit missionary Jean Pierre DeSmet; the Gilbert-Salisbury Stagecoach Company; and Joseph Sherwood.

Since we do not have a museum, this exhibit will travel from place to place in Island Park until a permanent collection can be housed.

To become a member of the Island Park Historical Society, or to add to our collections or learn more about them, write to: Island Park Historical Society, P.O. Box 150, Macks Inn, ID 83433; telephone 208-558-7498.

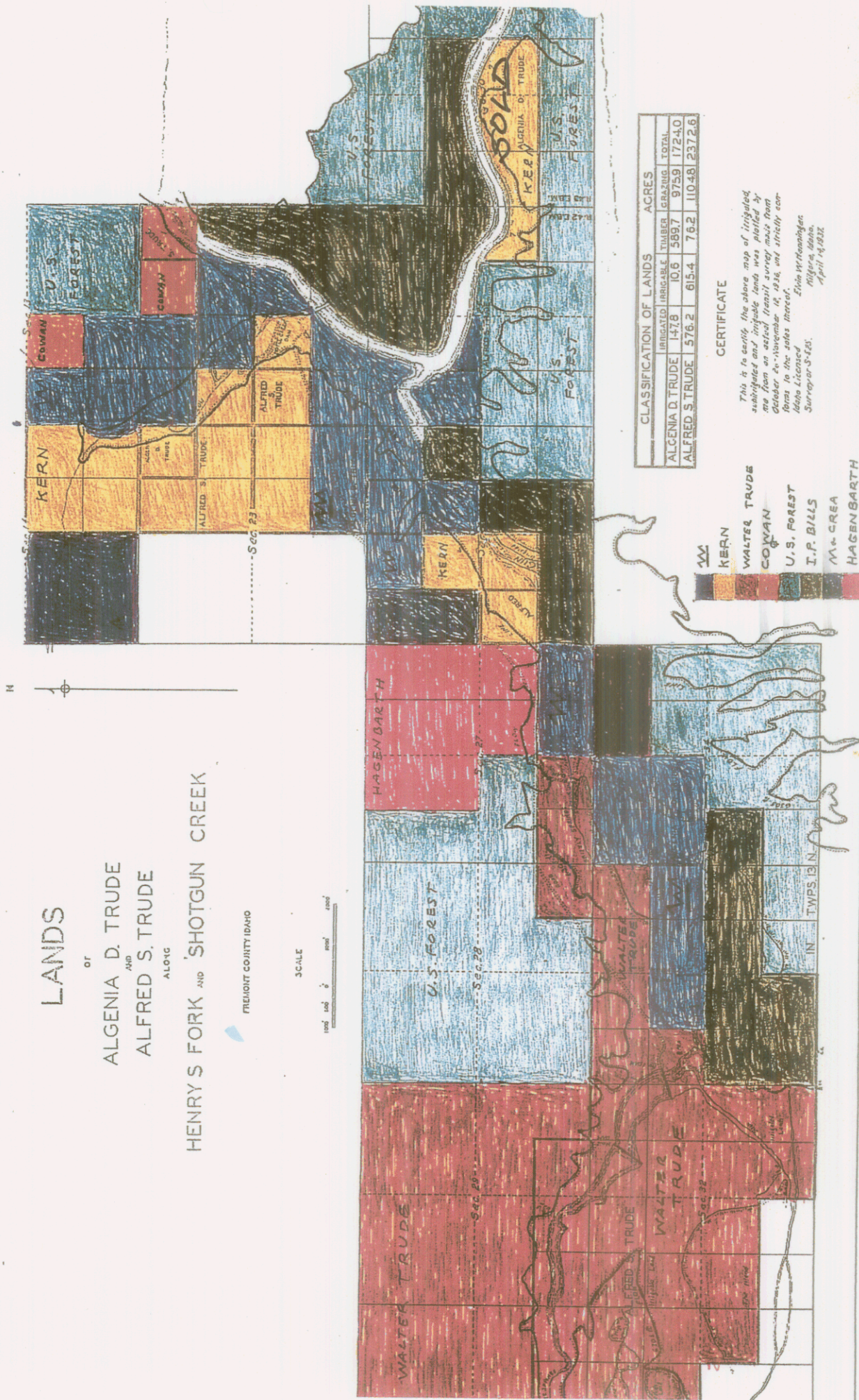
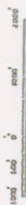
LANDS

OR
ALGENIA D. TRUDE
AND
ALFRED S. TRUDE
ALONG

HENRY'S FORK AND SHOTGUN CREEK

FREMONT COUNTY, IDAHO

SCALE

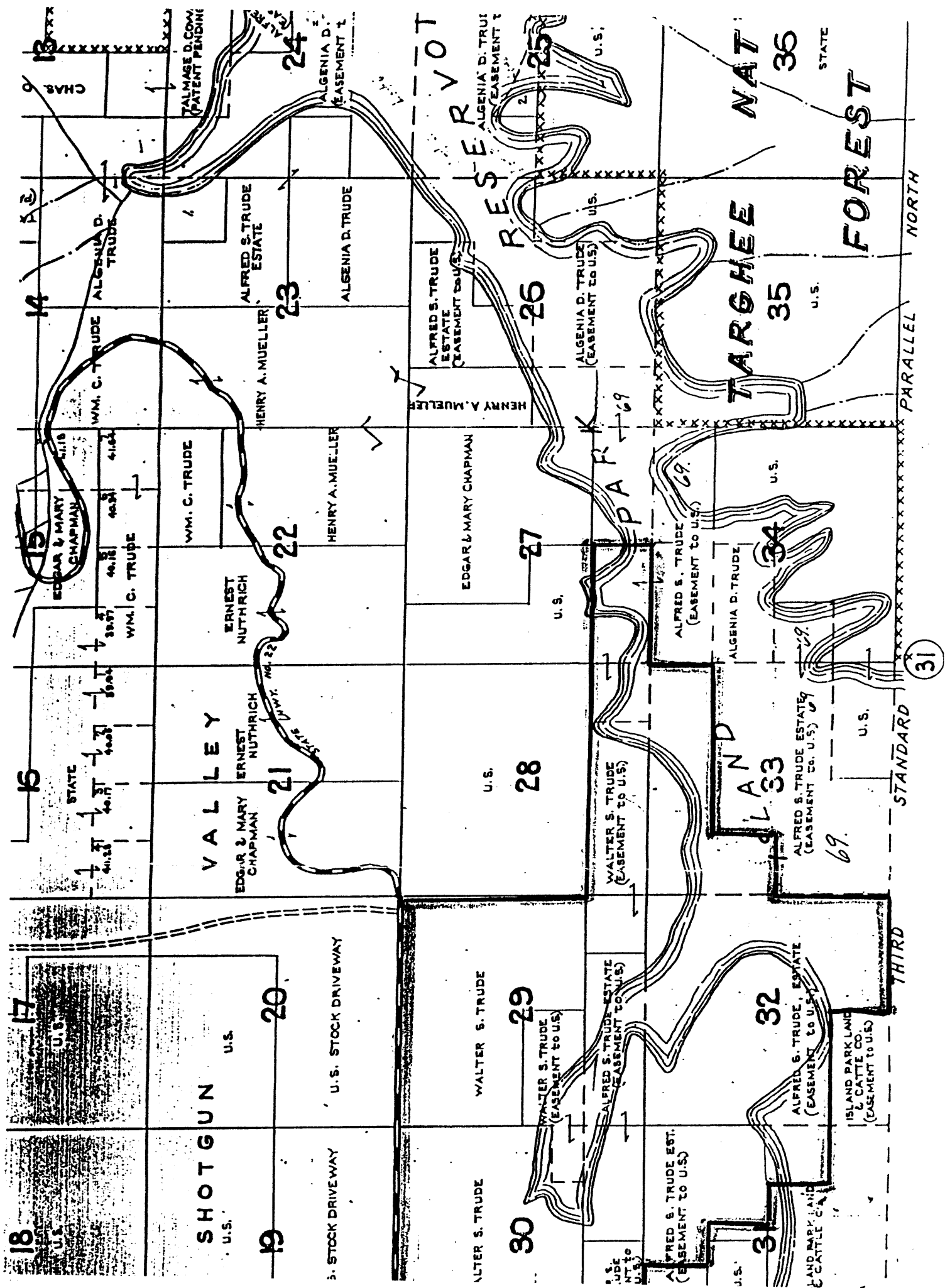


CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS				ACRES	
	IRRIGATED	IRRIGABLE	TIMBER	GRAZING	TOTAL
ALGENIA D. TRUDE	147.8	10.6	589.7	975.9	1724.0
ALFRED S. TRUDE	576.2	615.4	76.2	110.48	2372.6

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify the above map of irrigated, subdivided and irrigable lands was plotted by me from an actual field survey made from October 20, November 12, 1934, and strictly conforms to the notes thereof.
 Idaho Licensed Surveyor-S-128.
 Elvin W. Thompson
 Pocatello, Idaho
 April 14, 1935

- WALTER TRUDE
- ALFRED S. TRUDE
- KERN
- U.S. FOREST
- I.P. BILLS
- M. CREA
- HAGENBARTH



Butch Fowler
2233 E 400 N
St. Anthony, ID 83445
208x624-3354

September 6, 2005

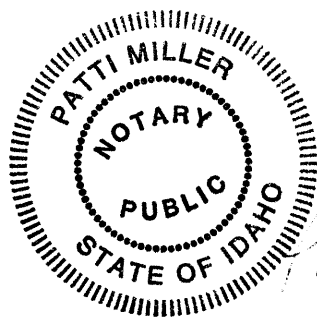
My family and I lived and worked at "The Railroad Ranch" (now Harriman State Park) from 1958 to 1976. Our neighbor directly east of us was Walter S. Trude's Algenia Ranch (now Trude Ranch). His foreman was George Petersen, and my Dad and I rode with him often and knew him well.

George used to tell us stories about all the hay that they put up for many years before the Reservoir was flooded.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale "Butch" Fowler

Dale Butch Fowler



Patti Miller
9-8-05

JUDY WRIGHT

TRUDE RANCH



September 3, 2005

My late husband, Kenneth Trude Wright Sr. spent most of his childhood with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Trude. Walter was a son of A.S. Trude and inherited many acres upon the death of A.S., including the property along Shotgun Creek that once belonged to George Rae, extending west beyond Moose Spring.

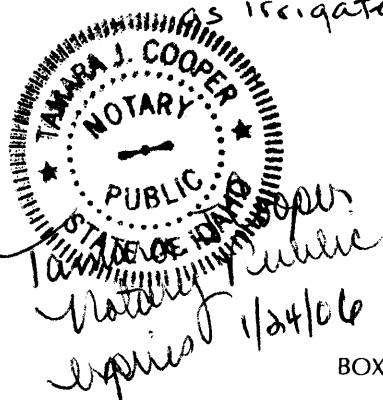
This George Rae property was acquired by A.S. Trude upon George Rae's death (1/31/02) and passed on to Walter S. Trude after the death of A.S. Trude in 1933.

Ken was only 8 years old when the Island Park Reservoir was flooded (1938) but remembered the irrigated hay meadows around the lake created by Moose Spring. More than half of these hay meadow acres are under the water of the IP Reservoir, but the remainder still exist today as irrigated pasture.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Wright

Judith A. Wright



521-9262