

Sue Kozacek
P.O. Box 1128
North Fork, Idaho 83466

July 23, 1984

Mr. Bob Martin
North Fork District USFS
P.O. Box 780
North Fork, Idaho 83466

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a copy of the notarized statement by Velma Ravndal concerning the ditch used by the H Ditch Association. This statement dates the beginning of continuous use of the ditch as 1887.

Could you please inform our Association by a letter of our different options at this point. Send this letter to me, and I will forward it to the other members.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Sue Kozacek

Sue Kozacek
President, H Ditch Association

cc Sue and Russ Kozacek
Stuart Felton
Annie Noyes

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In the Spring of 1887, David P. and Elizabeth M. Eldridge settled at the mouth of Hughes Creek, and subsequently built a 2-story log house with a 1-story lean-to kitchen. At the time of settlement, domestic, stock and irrigation water was attained by tapping the overflow from a spring on the private property now owned by Harold Hanson, and building the "Spring Ditch", coming across Forest Service property to the said Eldridge property.

A Homestead Claim was applied for on Oct. 9, 1908. A Forest Survey was made Oct. 8-9-10, 1908 and approved Jan. 20, 1909. Homestead Entry No. 06540 was made July 20, 1909. List No. 4-81. Patent was granted May 10, 1913.

By the Spring of 1909, there were 600 bearing fruit trees, a berry patch and large garden, all watered by the said "Spring Ditch". (See attached copies of Hughes Creek Ranger, Ora Cockrell's, annual inspection records (Exhibits A and B) of Eldridge Homestead from 1909 through 1912.)

The above property was purchased by Eric and Hattie G. Ravndal on June 1, 1918. Gerald B. and Velma H. Ravndal sold said property to Lou and Sybil Gohmes in July, 1957. At that time, the said "Spring Ditch" had been used continuously from 1887 to 1957 for domestic, stock and irrigation water, and for stock and irrigation water from 1957 to the present date, for a total of more than 97 years' continuous use.

N.B. Albert Hull (born March 1881) visited the Ravndal ranch about 1953 and said he was a small boy of six when he accompanied his father, Joseph Hull, who with other neighbors helped "raise" the 2-story part of the Eldridge log house in the fall of 1887.

Velma H. Ravndal

Mrs. Gerald B. Ravndal.

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