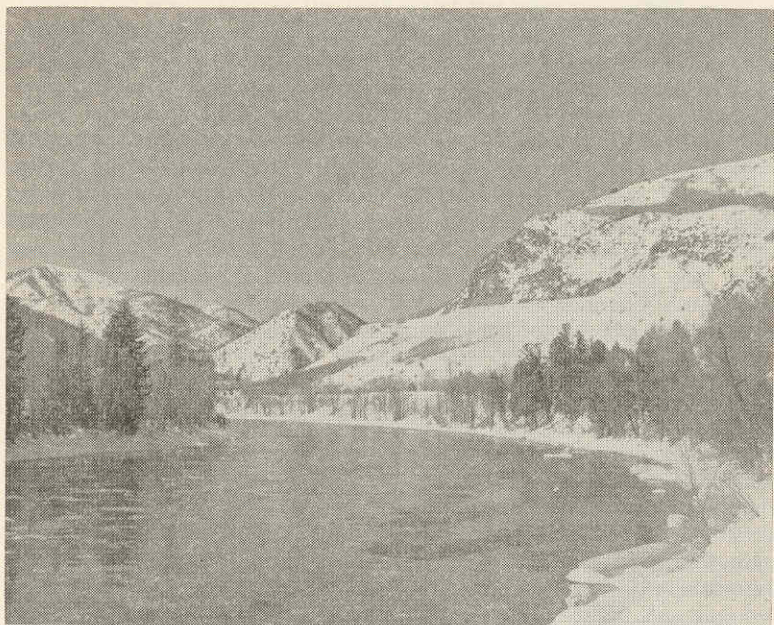


The Great Feeder



The Mighty Snake

THE GREAT FEEDER

It has been said that the Great Feeder located in Jefferson County is the largest single irrigation unit in the world. It supplies water not only to the residents of Jefferson County but to other surrounding counties.

NOTICE

Notice is here given that the undersigned representing the Great Feeder Canal Company has this day appropriated One Hundred and Ten Thousand miner inches of water to be taken from the South Fork of the Snake River at a point near the east line of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. of Sec. 36 tp N R 40 E.B.M. and to be conducted by a canal 100 feet wide three-fourths of a mile to the "Dry Bed" thence through and along the channel of the Dry Bed a distance of about 12 miles to the head-

gate of the North Rigby Canal in the Northwest Quarter of Sec. 9 tp 4 N R 39 E.B.M. to be used for agricultural and other useful purposes. January 5, 1895

Joseph A. Clark, Josiah Call, David Stowell, Parley J. Davis, J. O. Webster, William H. James.

CREATION OF GREAT FEEDER

During the period from 1882 to 1900 many families migrated from Utah and from the Eastern States to the Snake River Valley. Many new canals were taken out of the Snake River especially the South Channel which later was named "The Dry Bed," for the reason that the river shifted to the North leaving this channel of the river *dry*. The result was that all the canals which drew their water from this South Channel, or "Dry Bed," were without water during the most of the summer of 1894 when they needed it most.

A dam was put in the river to divert the water into the "Dry Bed," but when the high water came, it swept the dam away and when the flood stage was over they were again short of water. A second attempt was made to dam the river, but the second dam was washed out.

A meeting was called of all the officers of all the canals which depend on this "Dry Bed" for water. At this meeting it was decided to go up the river between one-half and three-fourths of a mile and cut a large canal through the flat, sagebrush-covered land, large enough to carry water to supply all the canals which drew water from the "Dry Bed." This meeting was the real creation of the Great Feeder, so named because it fed all these other canals. The canal was made one hundred feet wide in the bottom with a large headgate in proportion to the size of the canal.



Crib Wheel, Forerunner of a Dam.

The Incorporation was put on record on the First Day of January 1895, according to the information contained in a small book which is in the hands of Mr. David Lee, Sr.

Perhaps Joseph A. Clark did the legal work in connection with the Incorporation and signed same as a Notary Public. The Articles of

Incorporation first have to be made by the State of Idaho, which could have been done months before. The date it was recorded in the records of Bingham County was January 1st, 1895.

For several years the Feeder carried plenty of water, but then came a bad year. During the high water the river cut another channel, which was known as The Hat Spring Channel and left the Great Feeder without sufficient water. Again a meeting was called and it was decided to dam off this Hat Spring Channel. By the use of cribs filled with rock and brush, and large trees, the dam was completed, bringing the river back in the channel which supplied the Feeder. This was a hard and expensive undertaking. Thousands of loads of rock and trees were used in this work. The writer worked on this job hauling rock from the mountains east of Heise Hot Springs—a small mountain known as Kelley Rock was blasted down and entirely used up in the construction of this huge dam.—*C. P. Smith*

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

ARTICLE I. This certifies that the undersigned have this day formed a corporation for the purposes hereinafter specified, and which shall be known as the Great Feeder Canal Company, Limited, with the powers and privileges allowed corporations by law.

ARTICLE II. The object for which this corporation is formed is to take water out of the South Fork of Snake River in Fremont County, Idaho, at a point in the southeast quarter of section thirty-six, Township 4 North of Range 40 East, as now located and excavated, and to convey the water by canal, one hundred feet wide in a general northwesterly direction about a mile to the intersection of the dry bed of Snake River, thence through and following channel of the said dry bed in the same general northwesterly direction to the headgate of the North Rigby Irrigation Company, in the northwest quarter of section 9, Township 4 N. 39 E.B.M., a distance of twelve miles, for the purpose of using or of disposing of the same for agricultural and other purposes and to purchase, claim, hold and own real estate, so far as may be necessary for the purpose of a corporation, not exceeding the amount allowed by law, and to sell and convey the same.

ARTICLE III. The capital stock of the corporation shall be one hundred and ten thousand dollars, divided into shares of five dollars each, which shall be assessed by trustees of corporations as provided by By-Laws of this corporation, when necessary to defray the expenses of the construction and maintenance of the canal, provided that each individual or Canal Company, owning or using water from the dry bed under this corporation must be held responsible for seeing that the water reaches his gate or ditch or canal, as the case may be, this company obligating itself

only that the water carried and covered by stock certificate, water sold or rented, shall be delivered into the dry bed and conveyed from the beginning to the terminus, and to be distributed prorata, under the care of a watermaster to be hereafter provided for the trustees of this company, and as provided for under the Statutes of Idaho.

ARTICLE IV. That the term of the existence of this corporation shall be fifty years from the date of these Articles.

ARTICLE V. The officers of the company shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and the number of trustees shall be seven, with full powers to manage and control the affairs of said company as provided by law.

ARTICLE VI. All stock subscribed and owned or controlled, belonging to this company, shall be assessed uniformly, as to labor and cash to meet actual expenses of construction during the year 1895, and thereafter as the actual emergencies demand to complete the canal and maintain its efficiency and the running expenses economically administered.

ARTICLE VII. The names and addresses of those who shall manage the affairs of the company and act as trustees until the third Saturday in March, 1896, shall be as follows, and the principal place of business shall be Rigby, Fremont County, Idaho, viz.:

1. Eli McEntire, Grant, Fremont County, Idaho.
2. William H. Jones, Rigby, Fremont County, Idaho.
3. J. O. Webster, Grant, Fremont County, Idaho.
4. Parley J. Davis, Prospect, Bingham County, Idaho.
5. Josiah Call, Rigby, Fremont County, Idaho.
6. David Stowell, Labelle, Fremont County, Idaho.
7. Joseph A. Clark, Idaho Falls, Bingham County, Idaho.

ARTICLE VIII. The capital stock subscribed is as follows, to-wit:

Eli McEntire, for the Poverty Flat Canal Company.....	\$11,000.00
William H. Jones, for North Rigby Canal Company....	2,000.00
J. O. Webster, for Burgess Canal Company.....	22,000.00
Parley J. Davis, for Harrison Canal Company.....	11,000.00
David Stowell, for Labelle Canal Company.....	3,000.00
Joseph A. Clark, for Idaho Falls Canal Company.....	15,000.00
R. F. Jardine, for Lewisville Canal Company.....	10,000.00
H. M. Perry, for self.....	250.00
D. M. Steele, for self.....	200.00
Hyrum Edwards, for self.....	400.00
O. Armstrong, for self.....	400.00
J. M. Finn, for self.....	200.00
Mrs. Martha Finn, for self.....	200.00

Joseph Fisher, for self.....	200.00
Henry Hulse, for self.....	200.00
C. Rolf, for self.....	200.00
E. J. Wilkinson, for self.....	200.00
J. B. Cure, for self.....	200.00
Peter Yorgenson, for self.....	200.00
Peter Later, for self.....	400.00
Jesse Clark, for self.....	300.00
Peter Melling, for self.....	300.00
Helen Purser, for self.....	200.00
William F. Smith, for self.....	300.00
Alfred Boram, for self.....	200.00
K. L. Persons, for self.....	200.00
James Brown, for self.....	200.00
Charles Hadden, for self.....	250.00
John E. Clark, for self.....	150.00

State of Idaho }
County of Bingham. } ss.

On this eighth day of December, 1894, before me, Joseph A. Clark, a Notary Public, in and for said county, personally appeared Eli McEntire, William H. Jones, J. O. Webster, Parley J. Davis, Josiah Call, and David Stowell, personally known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument, and they each duly acknowledged to me that they executed the same as trustees of the Great Feeder Canal Company, Limited.

Joseph A. Clark,
Notary Public.

(seal)

My commission expires August 21, 1897.

CANALS TAKEN OUT ABOVE THE BIG FEEDER

Riley Ditch, Anderson, Eagle Rock, Farmers Friend, Enterprise, Heise, Nielson, Mattson and Craig, Arnsberger, Butler Island, Ross and Rand, Steele, Harrison, Cheney, Farmers Progressive.

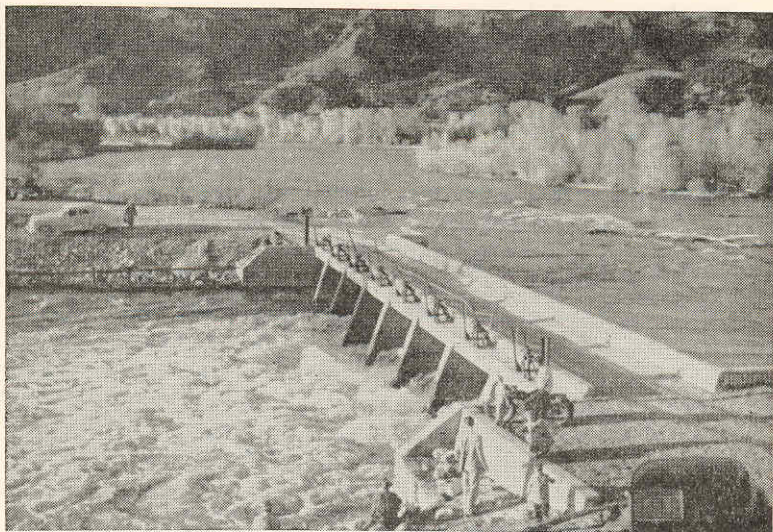
CANALS TAKEN OUT FROM THE BIG FEEDER

Boomer, Rudy, Kite and Nord, Burgess, Clark and Edwards, Lowder, East Labelle, Jennings, Nielson Corey, Hill-Pettinger, Rigby, Island, Dilts, West Labelle, Long Island, Parks and Lewisville, North Rigby, White, Ellis, Bramwell.

LOWER CHANNEL CANALS

Sunny Dell, Lenrott, Reid, Teas Feeder, Another dam across the river, Idaho Canal, Great Western, New Sweden, Porter.

Woodville Canal taken out lower than the last three .



The Great Feeder

DESCRIPTION OF GREAT FEEDER

The headgate of the Great Feeder Canal is said to be the largest in the United States. It is 116 feet from end to end and contains two hundred and fifty cords of stone. It has nine piers, each pier is five feet thick, sixteen feet high and thirty-two feet at the base. The space between each pier is ten feet. Excavation was made to hard rock then built up from that point. There is a bridge on top. The canal has a thousand foot bottom and is a little less than a mile in length connecting the main river with the Dry Bed. The canal has a capacity of 2,500 second feet.

JEFFERSON COUNTY AND THE GREAT FEEDER

In Jefferson County, in the extreme eastern end near Poplar, one of the world's largest diversion dams diverts the water of the mighty Snake on its South Fork. This network of canals branching out from the diversion dam and massive headgates is known as The Great Feeder. It supplies water for some twenty major canal systems, and supplies irrigation for 100,000 acres of valley farms.

The incorporated canal systems flowing from the Great Feeder are: Butler Island, Harrison, Rudy, Burgess, Clark and Edwards, Lowder and Jennings, East Labelle, The Island, Long Island Irrigation Company, Rigby, West Labelle, Parks and Lewisville and North Rigby.

Three other canal systems whose headgates are above the point of diversion of The Great Feeder but whose supply of water is controlled by the diversion dam have been made a part of The Great Feeder System by a ruling of the Supreme Court of Idaho through an adjustment of the waters of the Snake River in 1894. These three canals are Anderson's Canal, The Farmers Friend, and Eagle Rock.

On the Jefferson County side of the South Fork and the river there are four major canals that have their intake directly from the Snake River. They are Mattson-Craig, near the Great Feeder intake; the Butte and Market Lake Canals, where the North Fork enters the South Fork of the Snake at the Menan Buttes; the Independent Canal System, also in the Menan area, and the Idaho Canal.

The earliest canals built by the first settlers received their intake from the Dry Bed, which was high water flowing through a natural channel. Year by year the Snake River began to cut its way through the shallow north channel to greatly reduce the water flow of the Dry Bed. This presented a serious situation to the settlers. Their efforts were fruitless in coping with it. The settlers called a mass meeting and decided to unite their interest, their money and their strength to curb the Snake River. Thus was formed the company to be known as "The Great Feeder Canal Company."

On the 5th of January 1895, a notice was duly posted by the new company at the point of intended diversion claiming that the canal company, known as The Great Feeder, would divert 110,000 inches of water measured under a four inch pressure from the South Fork channel; and stated the purpose for which said diversion was made. The Great Feeder System is not only the largest irrigating system in the west but it is the cheapest. The cost of operating averages from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. These canals are owned by the people and they are operated by the people.

Accordingly at the election of March 21, 1896 the following men were made directors: E. Bachman, H. W. Perry, Omie S. Call, P. J. Davis, Eli McEntire and F. W. Smith. Later J. S. Bonham, J. W. Couchner, Joseph L. Taylor, H. W. Perry, C. F. Blomquist, Parley J. Davis and James O. Webster, who became president, served on the Board.

Other men interested in the canal were: J. T. Vance, Charles Henry Billman, Hy. Edwards, James H. Brady, Enos Ormond, Josiah Call, Alma Sayer, Charles G. Haddon, Orson Hudman, E. E. Golden, Melvin Cook, Cyril Call, E. A. Jones, H. Hulse, Richard F. Jardine, Erastus Walker, T. A. Hoggan, Mason Meulfeith, David Stowell, Neil Gilchrist, Samuel Gates Marler, Jesse Clark, J. J. Chandler, Frank Kite, Ben Myler, John Cuthbert, D. A. Rushton, James Denning, Joseph Olson, Ernest Empey, John and Perry Molen, and William Olson.

From 1896 to 1954 men have zealously guarded the water rights of The Great Feeder System. Lyman A. Taylor "rode the river"

during the early years when this system was the most controversial issue of its era; Willard Moore followed to serve 36 years. He tendered his resignation at eighty years of age to David Lee, Sr., in 1940. "Dave" Lee, a man who knows the river, has in the past fifteen years directed an extensive building program at the gates to strengthen this system to keep pace with the rigid demands of irrigation. The first to sign his name under an official election as secretary was Adam Sauer. John Lee followed to serve until his death in 1949—a period of thirty-six years. At his death the books were turned over to his son, Eldred Lee.

Doctor O. F. Call, of Pocatello, Idaho, describes the manner in which The Great Feeder diversion dam was built:

"The dam was started on and built out from the northeast bank of the river. It ran diagonally down and across the stream to a point a few yards below the Feeder headgates. It did not go clear across, as I remember, it went about three-fourths of the way. It was built out gradually from the bank and up from the bottom of the river. It was made wide enough on the top so that a team of horses and a loaded wagon of rock or cottonwood trees could be hauled out to the end of the structure as it grew out farther and farther into the stream.

"The teams could not turn around, so after the loads were dumped, the horses with the wagons and the driver had to go off the end into the surging waters of the mighty Snake. The water was very deep. The horses had to swim and take the floating wagon out with them. The rock racks were chained to the wagon so they could not float off. The driver's seat was bolted high on a standard fastened to the rack which kept the driver from going under the water when the horses and wagon plunged into the icy water. We drivers got so we enjoyed the plunge and it seemed that the horses did also. Most of the crew were mature men but there were two sixteen year old boys driving rock wagons; Sam Briggs, son of Will Briggs, and myself.

The lava rock was hauled from Kelley's Canyon, two miles from the river. We made three or four trips per day. Trees were plentiful near the dam site. Ed Kite was the boss of the gang in which I worked. We slept on the ground. We did our own cooking on campfires; ham and eggs, Mulligan stew, sourdough bread baked in Dutch ovens. It was lots of fun, hard work, and there were no accidents that I can recall."

Richard F. Jardine, founder of the Lewisville settlement spent many days with his men working at the Feeder. The men all liked "Dick" Jardine as they called him, reserving his title of Bishop for other occasions.

W. A. Marler, (Bert) of Burley, Idaho recalls the building of The Great Feeder:

"My father, Samuel Gates Marler, was general foreman from the time the first spade of dirt was dug until he helped cut the false dam to let the water through the gates. After that they built a



Mr. Marler

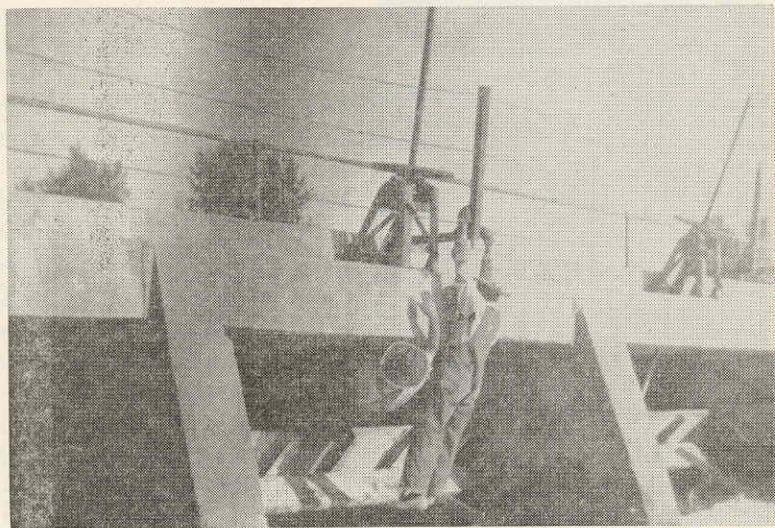
long dam and put cribs in to turn the flow of the river into the diversion gates. The dam was built in the winter. They drove piling through the ice. The men lived in tents warmed by little Sibley stoves and cooked and ate in one big tent. I drove a team on the pile driver. There were as many as 25 to 30 teams working at a time. Among those who drove teams on slip scrapers were: Harry Howard, Brigham Campbell, John Erickson, James L. Marler, Wm. N. Marler, Lester Taylor and Hyrum Campbell who worked nearly the entire time."

The project was well organized. Supervisors heading their particular piece of work and crews were: A. K. Dabell supervised carpenter work; L. F. Oswald, Sr., directed rock work; and Eli McEntire was an overseer. Abe Gneiting's team was the second on the plow that plowed the first furrows; William John Smith is said to have hauled the first rock on a stone boat; Mate Cole had five teams working; the Groom brothers, Harry W. and Nathan Groom, worked from the beginning to the finish; Erastus Walker hauled rock by sleigh from Birch Creek; George Kite and Keith Clark and others hauled rock by wagon and teams.

E. Z. Taylor, from Vallejo, California says that he had a part in building the dam. He was "water boy" which was next in importance to foreman. His foreman was Samuel Gates Marler. Other boys who worked on the Great Feeder were Pleasant W. Dabell, John Lee, H. Mark Bramwell, Tom Winder, and Fred Hanson.

Mrs. Lizzie McEntire of Rexburg, Idaho, recalls many scenes she shared with her over-seer husband, Eli McEntire, "the unity of purpose and teamwork that went into the endeavor was marvelous." Each canal or company was assigned to supply so many men for a designated period of time. The great part of the work fell in the winter months. The women would bake bread, cookies and meats of various kinds, and prepare supplies to last at least two weeks for their men folk who lived in tents pitched on the ice or snow.

There are many incidents, both grim and humorous, that happened daily as the men worked on the Great Feeder. One such experience is told by W. A. Marler of Burley, Idaho concerning two girls out for a ride one afternoon along the river. Katie Heise, now Mrs. Hunting who lives at Stanley Basin, and her girl friend decided to ford the river in a light buggy. What they learned, almost too late, was that the horse was balky. With the situation clearly beyond their



Men crawling under the dam to replace worn bolts. George Radford and Jack Spraker

control the girls made ready to jump from the buggy into the river. They had removed their shoes when Harry Howard, who was with Bert Marler, shouted: "Stay in that buggy, you little fools!" Bert quickly headed his team and wagon into the swirling river to go to their rescue. When the girls were safely in the wagon, Bert guided the swimming team toward the nearest shore. Harry mounted the balky horse mid-stream and brought the buggy to land.

One Sunday Jacob Metzner and L. F. Oswald, who were working on the dam, decided to hike over to Heise Warm Springs. Oswald hung his clothes on a sagebrush because the rattlesnakes were so numerous in this locality. Metzner thought differently and did not bother to hang his clothes. When they had finished their swim, Oswald heard his friend making a big fuss. "Brudder Metzner, what is the trouble?" To this query Metzner replied: "The snakes have taken possession of my clothing."

A big celebration was held at The Great Feeder headgates, June 22, 1895. An estimated crowd of a thousand was present.

They came in all kinds of conveyances, wagons and teams, buggies, horseback and afoot. Mrs. Leith S. Huffaker relates: "Many of the pioneer families were present, among them being my father, W. W. Selck, Jr., and my mother Sarah Elizabeth Myler Selck and the children, Will and Millie. The day was exceptionally warm. A thick covering of dust hung everywhere. My mother took the small children down into the bottom of the canal below the gates to escape the dust and heat. Others were resting there, too.

"Suddenly the alarm sounded. 'The water is coming!' Everyone scrambled from the deep ditch to seek safety. My mother called for help. One man looked back, hesitated, then hurried to save himself. The water was beginning to race through the gates. Mother took Will, the eldest, and began pushing him up ahead of her. She had the baby in her free arm. Digging her fingers and shoe toes into the dirt they slowly edged upwards. As they neared the top the swirling water was curling itself about her feet. My mother testified many times that it was the providence of the Lord that saved them."

THE GREAT FEEDER CELEBRATION, IDAHO FALLS TIMES JUNE 27, 1895



Great Feeder Celebration

Saturday June 22, 1895 was a day of great rejoicing among the farmers whose lands are watered by the great network of irrigation canals between Idaho Falls and the South Fork of the Snake River, about 22 miles northeast of Idaho Falls, and at a point where the South Fork makes a neat turn entering upon its way into the broad and fertile valley. A large crowd of honest sons and daughters of

the soil assembled to participate in appropriate exercises to view the grandest piece of irrigation work ever accomplished in the west.

At an early hour the crowd began to assemble. Teams and buggies and carts coming from all directions and by 11 o'clock there were hundreds of people upon the grounds. It was announced that the exercises would begin immediately after dinner. Just before the exercises commenced a snapshot was taken of the headgate and the crowd.

R. F. Jardine conducted the exercises which opened with a song—"Red, White and Blue" by a selected choir. H. Kinghorn led in prayer and the choir enlivened the occasion with a catching song "Queen of the West." Josiah Call, secretary, read a report relative to the construction of the canal. Next on the program was a speech by Joseph A. Clark, the veteran of the enterprise. Mr. Clark's speech was forcible. His remarks were confined largely to the work in detail and he ended by saying that this great undertaking has been accomplished with no little cost. Great applause followed: H. M. Perry recited "A Hindoo Tale" which was also greeted with a round of applause.

Next in order was a speech by J. A. Webster, President of the Company. He said he felt his inability of making an appropriate speech. It was an event long to be remembered. Capitalists had dubbed this country a howling sagebrush flat but the builders of this canal would relieve this section, at least, of that stigma.

Mr. Thomas E. Ricks of Rexburg expressed his gratification at being present on this occasion. He did not come prepared to make a speech, but he could foresee the great good which would result from this enterprise. J. P. Davis, one of the Board of Directors, made a short talk upon the work performed.

A comic song "Before I Fell in Love," by George Webster afforded a great deal of amusement. W. E. Wheeler gave a talk on canals and irrigation which was well received referring to this as the greatest undertaking in Idaho. "Darling Ilene" was sung by Charles Ellsworth, Clara Ellsworth, Irene Selck, Rowenna Jardine and J. T. Willson.

R. L. Bybee was next on the program for a speech. Mr. Bybee stepped forward and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to—" Boom, went the dynamite, tearing away the embankment which held the river from the canal, and with a mighty roar, in rushed the foaming stream, and 2000 second feet of water passed through the headgate before the speaker could utter another word. The miner, having the dynamite in charge, had touched it off before the signal was given. Mighty was the roaring of water, but no more than the cheers and yells of the crowd.

—Copied from newspaper by *Mrs. C. N. Scoresby*

DIVERSION DAM

I, Sol R. Harris, worked on the Diversion Dam at the big feeder for five months in the winter of 1900-1901 while the water was



Mr. and Mrs. Sol R. Harris

at its lowest level. This was the first part of the first permanent dam built by E. J. Hall and his son, Lem J. Hall, contractors. My father-in-law, Sam Marler, was contractor driving pile that would secure the cribbing the following summer. There were four other men who helped us, William Marler, Lester Taylor, Lee Harris and another man whose name I do not remember.

The Diversion Dam was built to keep the river from washing away the headgates. Thousands of loads of rocks, trees and brush had been hauled to hold the dams in previous years, but each year in "high water" they would be washed away. The Diversion Dam reached from the Big Feeder almost to the Anderson headgate about two miles, on the north side of the river, on what we called the Island.

We drove piling two or three rows for the two miles, cribbed it with logs, then filled in between the rows with rock. The piles were huge logs twenty feet long. We had to blast holes in the ice and even in the ground below the frost. We then drove the pile down ten feet in the gravel. The dam was ten feet high and ten feet wide.

We did not have much trouble until we were on our way home for Christmas and tried to cross the river on the ferry. We were halfway across when the ferry struck a gravel bar and we were stuck for four hours. It was twenty degrees below zero. Fortunately Hank Killian came along in a small boat and brought us a rope. He returned to the bank, hitched a team to the other end of the rope and was able to pull us off the gravel bar.

When we returned to our work after the holidays, we built a camp on the island. We had two tents and a covered wagon box which we used for a bedroom as I had brought my bride, Sarah Marler Harris, back with me. She was to do the cooking for the men. Our wages were \$3.00 per day for both of us. The men, with teams, who ran the pile driver received \$2.00 per day. We built shelter for our horses from trees and willows which also supplied our firewood.

One night in March we heard a great *Bang*. In the morning we found that one-third of the river had changed its channel and was running about thirty feet from our horses. We loaded up our things and left as quickly as possible. The ice was breaking up and large pieces were piling up from six to twenty feet high along the river where we had been working.

MEN WHO WORKED ON THE GREAT FEEDER

John A. Cuthbert, who resided in Idaho Falls, told the following story of his own work on the Great Feeder.

"In the spring of 1884 my father filed on a homestead in what is now known as Rigby, Idaho. There was no other settlement in the vicinity at that time except a few families who had located the previous year around Lewisville. These settlers had built their homes and made a small ditch or swale to get enough water to grow limited crops. My father and I, with the help of two other families, proceeded immediately to dig a well, which was in high water, and we got water at thirty feet. I was then fourteen years of age. We then went back to Salt Lake City, Utah to bring the families to their new home. We arrived on the 13th of October of that year and found that during our absence the well had gone dry. We had to go over to what is now Annis to get water for household purposes and for our stock.

"Up to this time we had been living in a tent, but we soon got timber out of the canyon to build houses. We completed our house and moved in on Christmas Day which was very cold and there was much snow on the ground. We continued getting our timber to build stables for our horses and cows. During the winter months we got out wood and in the spring we took it to Idaho Falls and traded it for groceries.

"When spring arrived, we were busy clearing the sagebrush from our land getting it ready for crops. Then we started to make a small canal for five miles to irrigate. From year to year we cleared more land and made the canal bigger and bigger. We put a temporary dam in the river near what is now known as Heise to get enough water down the dry bed to irrigate our crops. Half of the men would go up on the river to work while the rest of the men stayed home and irrigated the crops.

"As the settlement grew and more people came in, we started to build The Great Feeder Canal. We did this in order to get water down to our farms. We worked on the canal as long as we could stand the cold and break up the frost. One device invented, because necessity made it so, was to dig a pit and bury large rocks which had been heated in the campfires. A layer of filler and straw partially covered

the rocks. Beds were made over the pit and the heat penetrating upwards kept the tired men warm as they slept. During the day campfires were kept burning in such position that the prevailing breeze or wind, there was always one or the other, wafted the warmed air in the general direction the men were working.

"I worked on the canal without shoes. I wrapped my feet in sacks and deer hides to save my shoes for Sunday. Game, however, was plentiful and there was good fishing. We were lucky in getting all the meat we needed and the people were all united in their efforts to help anyone in need.

George Radford of Ririe has spent many years of his life working on the Great Feeder headgates and is still considered the handy man. Because of his small stature he is able to get in places under the dam to do some of the jobs necessary to keep it clean. During these years he has had some interesting and harrowing experiences. Many times he has crawled down under the dam to replace worn bolts and, although he is now 69 years old, this wiry little man is still working. He now has a rope tied securely around his body when removing driftwood and tightening bolts.

On one occasion a man was drowned in Jackson Hole and his body came down the river to the headgate. Andrew Ross, Reuben Ross, Ezra Moore, Willard Moore and Mr. Radford recovered the body and buried him beside the river in a casket which they constructed. During George Radford's long years of service he had the support of his wife who often stood on the bank silently praying for his safety.

One year, when the high water brought down a solid bank of driftwood, the men worked incessantly to keep the river from washing away the Great Feeder headgate. They filled hundreds of sacks of cobble rocks and placed them on the headgate five or six feet high to keep the water from going over. This was dangerous work but George Radford loves his job and continues to do it in a most efficient manner.

John A. Wheeler—Mr. and Mrs. John A. Wheeler came from Utah, in 1898, and settled in the Poplar Ward then known as Birch Creek. Mr. Wheeler helped to build the Poplar Ward church, when it was a branch of the Shelton Ward. He helped to build many of the canals in the early days of Idaho including the Great Feeder.

Willard Moore—The stockholders of the Great Feeder Canal Company at their annual meeting held March 9, 1940 expressed their appreciation and thanks to Willard Moore for his continuous service

through thirty years as water-master of the Great Feeder Canal Company. Mr. Moore is now eighty years of age.

Before coming to Idaho in 1881, Mr. Moore served as a watermaster on the Sevier River. His former residence was in Lexington, Utah. He took up a homestead in Shelton Ward, now known as Ririe, in 1891 and has resided there since that time.

His first home was a dug-out. He and his wife experienced the hardships of early days but were blessed with success in making a comfortable home for themselves and their ten children. Willard Moore was employed in 1904 by the Great Feeder Canal Company and during his many years of service had many narrow escapes from drowning in the treacherous waters of the Snake.



Willard Moore and son Witt

Thomas and Charles O'Neil—Thomas O'Neil was born in Ireland and came to Washington D. C. when he was eight years of age. He became a professional ball player and was catcher for the Washington Senators. He had the misfortune to break his leg and decided, since he could not play ball for some time, that he would go West. He moved to Ogden, Utah where he met and married Sarah Campbell. He had learned the harness making trade and worked in Reed Brothers' harness shop in that city.

About 1890 he and a brother-in-law, Hyrum Campbell, filed on 160 acres of land on Strawberry Island. While building their first home a son, Charles, was born to the Thomas O'Neils'. Thomas again took up his trade as harness maker and is said to have been the first harness maker in Rigby. He worked on the Great Feeder headgate and also helped to build the Parks and Lewisville canal.

Charles has been actively engaged in canal work through the years starting at the age of thirteen. He has worked on the Thornton overpass; the Sugar City overpass; the Idaho Falls underpass; Snake River bridge at Lorenzo and Swan Valley often as foreman and has helped with miles of levees on the Snake River. Recently he was employed on the building of the Palisade Dam.

Hyrum Campbell was born in Pleasant View, Utah, March 11, 1875. Hyrum went to the Snake River Valley when he was thirteen years

of age. The following year he went to Montana to work, but came back to Idaho after two years and decided to make this his permanent home. About 1890 he went in with a brother-in-law Thomas O'Neil and filed on a 160 acre homestead on Strawberry Island northwest of the present city of Rigby. He gave a team of horses, a harness and a wagon on the deal.

In 1904 he married Alice Fox and they were the parents of six children. In the early part of their married life they moved to Annis where they took up a farm near the Snake River. At first it was nothing but a tract of sagebrush and willows; but by hard work and getting water on the land it was made a productive farm.

Mr. Campbell has been active in the irrigation problems of this area. He helped to build the dam across the Snake River for the Great Feeder and worked all through the construction of the Great Feeder headgates. He has also worked all the way through the building of the present Island Irrigation canal. Among the men who worked with Mr. Campbell he recalls the names of Ott Browning, John Reed, Tim Brown, Jack Browning, Ed Browning, George Marler, Albert Beazer and Joseph Morgan. Once at high water time Frank Goody, Levi Sorenson and he got in a boat and rowed all the way down to Market Lake and got out of the boat on the depot platform.

—*Mable H. Hoggan*

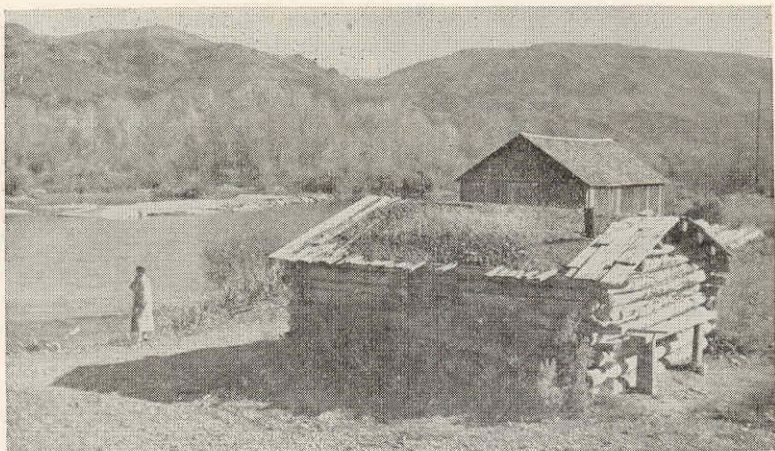
Parley J. Davis and his wife came to the Snake River Valley in the spring of 1884 and homesteaded 160 acres in the Milo vicinity. His hope of sustenance was to bring the water from the river to his homestead. For three years his work resulted in failure—then he with others devoted the greater share of his time, wits, and strength in making and directing the canal systems that would serve the valley.

The early minutes of The Great Feeder Canal reveal many of the problems confronting the directors of this enormous enterprise and the way in which they met them is a tribute to their judgment, foresight, and faithfulness.

The place for their meeting was scheduled for Rigby, but a great number of their meetings were held in a cabin built at the Feeder. Their method of travel was by team or horseback. Adam Sauer, W. A. Webster, D. A. Dabell, had a distance of about 22 miles to cover.

Theirs was a continual battle with the river. They must inspect the gates, the dam, the condition of the channels in the river—they must foretell the river's moods and changes, and do all the business necessary to attempt to control it.

In July, 1904 it is recorded they borrowed \$5,000 in gold, to mend a break in the dam, and to make necessary improvements. In



Log Cabin Where Directors Met

August, 1906, at a meeting of all stockholders, the question came up concerning putting in new gates. From the minutes I quote this statement from a shareholder: "I am willing to take chances with the present headgates for another season." This opinion was shared by others but not by the directors. They could not afford to take chances. The gates were in bad shape and water was going under the foundation of two. Under pressure from the directors the reluctant ones agreed and the new gates were put in that fall with the watermaster, Willard Moore, having charge of the work.

Mr. Davis was re-elected each year as a director on this Great Feeder Board, and served from its beginning in 1895, with the exception of two years spent in the mission field, until 1932. He was an excellent teamster and adept at repair work. A great share of work was done with his hands and team. He was chosen as a director of the Protective Board about 1919. This board was to protect the water rights of the Upper Valley against the claims of the lower, or Twin Falls Valley. There were many false stories circulated at this time against the people in the lower valley and he did much to publish the truth and restore good feelings.

—Charlotte D. Campbell, Caroline D. Olsen, June D. Larsen

Wallace Fife—Mr. Fife came to Idaho as a young man first going to Grant where he, and his brother Charles, batched in a dugout during the entire summer. Part of the time they worked on the Little Feeder living in a tent with Bishop A. K. Dabell. Later he worked on the Great Feeder. He is now 79 years of age and lives with his wife in Lewisville, Idaho.

Andrew Ross—Andrew Ross worked on the Great Feeder and later helped to remove the Kelley Rock when it was blasted into the Snake

River. Andrew and his wife, Maud Radford Ross, lived in a tent by the Great Feeder. They moved there in the early spring and stayed until late summer. She cooked for some of the men. Several families camped near the Great Feeder during the summer months among whom were the families of Edward Brown, Beebe and Andrew Ross, Robert Morgan, John Hadden and John Chase. Other men in the community worked on the Great Feeder when they could be spared from their farms. Although the settlers went through many hardships there was also time for enjoyment. On Wednesday night the Heise Warm Springs was turned over to these working men and their families and at other times bonfire parties were held.

—Mrs. Andrew Ross

KELLEY ROCK

Kelley Rock was located one mile east of the Great Feeder head-gates in Jefferson County. It was on the north bank of the Snake River.

The Kelley Rock before it was shot was 45 ft. in height and 60 ft. in width. The tunnel was placed 35 ft. from the back of the rock; on the south it was 22 ft. in length with an off-set to the west of 5 ft. for the powder. There was a tie on the northwest corner that was loaded with 500 pounds of dynamite. The tunnel was loaded with 3,200 pounds of black blasting powder. The work on the tunnel was done by James Ross and it was loaded by James Ross, William Ross, Ezra Moore, George Radford and Willard Moore, watermaster.

The channel that was shut off was 42 ft. wide and 18 ft. deep. The shots were timed so that the dynamite would explode first to break the tie at the northwest corner. When we came back after the shot we walked across the channel without getting wet.

The Blasting—In the early part of 1900 Heber Bauer was chairman of the Board of Directors over The Great Feeder. For some time he had studied an immense rock called the Kelley Rock which rose to a good height near the river bank a little below the old upper ferry site. This rock was so distinctive it had been used as a landmark for years. Mr. Bauer felt certain that this rock would dam the channel and hold the cunning Snake River in line over against the diversion dam.

The day the blasting was scheduled, a group of officials were lunching in the hotel. One, an experienced civil engineer remarked, that the German didn't know his business. Mr. Bauer quietly replied, "In an hour or two we will show you."

The first small group of fuses were lighted which only loosened the great rock. The second group placed the rock across the channel,

closing it to such an extent that it raised the river 18 inches. It was as though a hand from Heaven had laid that rock in place. Three thousand pounds of black powder and the prayers of those in charge had accomplished the task. This outstanding event called for another celebration.—*Ezra Moore*

ERASTUS WALKER STORY

Prominent among the builders and early supporters of the Great Feeder was Erastus Walker. He came to the Upper Snake River Valley in the fall of 1883, when he was sixteen years of age. He rode horseback from Cottonwood, Utah to where Lewisville, Idaho is now located, driving a band of horses and cattle. He assisted his mother, a plural wife, to get established on a homestead previously purchased by his father, William Holmes Walker.

Erastus had learned many of the ways of pioneer life during his childhood. At the age of five he drove a yoke of oxen and, at thirteen, was able to handle two yoke of oxen, driving them up the canyon and dragging logs to a sawmill. He became associated with irrigation when he first came to Idaho. This began with small ditches taken from the Dry Bed river. Then he helped to build the Parks and Lewisville canal and was chairman of this company at the time of litigation when decrees were granted to canals in this locality. He helped to build the Great Feeder, hauling the first load of rock for this headgate and continued working on the canal until it was finished. He was a delegate to the International Irrigation Congress held in Salt Lake City from September 30 to October 3, 1912.

Erastus was married to Alice Ellsworth and they were the parents of nine children. Four years after her death he married Mary Harrop, a widow with two children. Three children were born to them. He lives now in Annis and is still active although 88 years of age.

—*Mable H. Hoggan*