

Yakima, Washington
616 Voltaire

October 8th., 1950

Dear Miss Anthoñ:

As one drives up the Nachez Highway, the scar of an old irrigation ditch can be seen on the hillside to the left of the valley. This old construction took away from the Nachez just below the confluence with the Tieton. This old ditch is the only physical reminder of an early attempt to irrigate the fertile lands of the Nob Hill area.

But there is a story back of this futile attempt to bring these lands under cultivation. This story is full of color and should not remain lost to this community.

The instigator of this abortive attempt to irrigate the valley 58 years ago, yet lives. E. C. Burlingame, 94 years of age, living at Walla Walla is the man and he is keen of mind and physically young for his age. The enclosed letter just received from him only scratches the surface of the story. He said nothing about his slipping out of his tent in the darkness to elude the anger of the Italians he could not pay and who were intent upon taking his life. Burlingame saved his hide, so the story goes, by having the sheriff of Yakima County lock him up until the Italians had left the country.

Knowing your interest in these early developments, successes or failures, I have thought you might want further examine this matter as a basis for a Sunday story for the Republic publishers. Your reporter will find Burlingame one of the most interesting characters ever contacted.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Virgil O. McWhorter
Virgil O. McWhorter

W. O. McWhorter

[Enclosure 1950 Oct 8]

Dear Sir
answer your letter of the —
I will say, in 1892. Byron
Barlow + myself organized
the Tacoma Yakima Land
for the purpose of irrigating
several thousand acres of
land lying west of Nob
hill ~~it ended~~ the survey ended
up near the autumn school
I commenced work on it with
my teams and built several
miles in the good soil
we had a board man come + look
it over & he said it was much
better than I had reported it to be
He said to I will give you a draft
for \$5000.00 when we get to Yakima
+ you go ^{to} work while I am getting
the mortgage Bonds drawn up
However when we got to Yakima
he found a telegram. his people in
the East telling him to mark

9/30-50

V O McWhorter 1616 Voltaire St
Yakima wa

Dear Sir

answering your letter. I would

say The Tacoma + Yakima Land was
Organized by Byron Barlow of
Tacoma & me in 1892 for the
purpose of irrigating the land west
of both cities. We made a survey
+ a survey to ascertain the amount
of land

No new investments or share
a pains convincing
That stopped Everything for the
timbering. Mr Barlow got hold
of friend of his arranged for
a Portland man to give us
\$ 60000.00, and he ariged for us
to start. He contracted a lot
of Slaves to start the work + sent
over a hundred to Yakima
the shipped Supplies such as
Power beef + food
I put them to work + did a lot
of work as you see
However when for the first Payday
he failed to bring the money to
Yakima. They sent a man from Porllos
to tell up the man who was to
furnish the money was in the Hospital
they went back to work but the
Money was dead + they quit the
work + left I kept buying land
whenever I could find a few

50	90	96	95	105	210
45	100	130	130	110	145
43	100	145	225		335
38	100	60	60		85
20	10	285	285		35
15	20	35	85	250	120
75	75	30	85	65	32
85	85	110	60	70	125
0	0	160	330	40	75
250				110	200
85	60	115	75		75
10	70	15	80		
115	135	130	155		
123	110	80	140		
	145		295		
	80		15		
	325		25		
			15		
50	80	85			
45	75	85			
95	75	75			
30	20	83	85		
65	83		125		
110	105		210		

hundred dollars I bought the
dry land under the survey
I finally had 3600 acres
I knew that land would be irrigated
when Senator Jones was elected
I went after to government order for
the arid land & he was instrumental
+ getting the first reclamation project
authorized. That is what gave Yuma
its first real boom in irrigated land
I then owed $\frac{1}{6}$ of all the land
under the Tipton survey
there thru a land boom in the
land under survey
I sold my land for about

\$250,000.00

Sincerely

E. C. Burlingame