Yakima, Washington 616 Voltaire

October 8th., 1950

Dear Miss Anthon:

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 Takima 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.

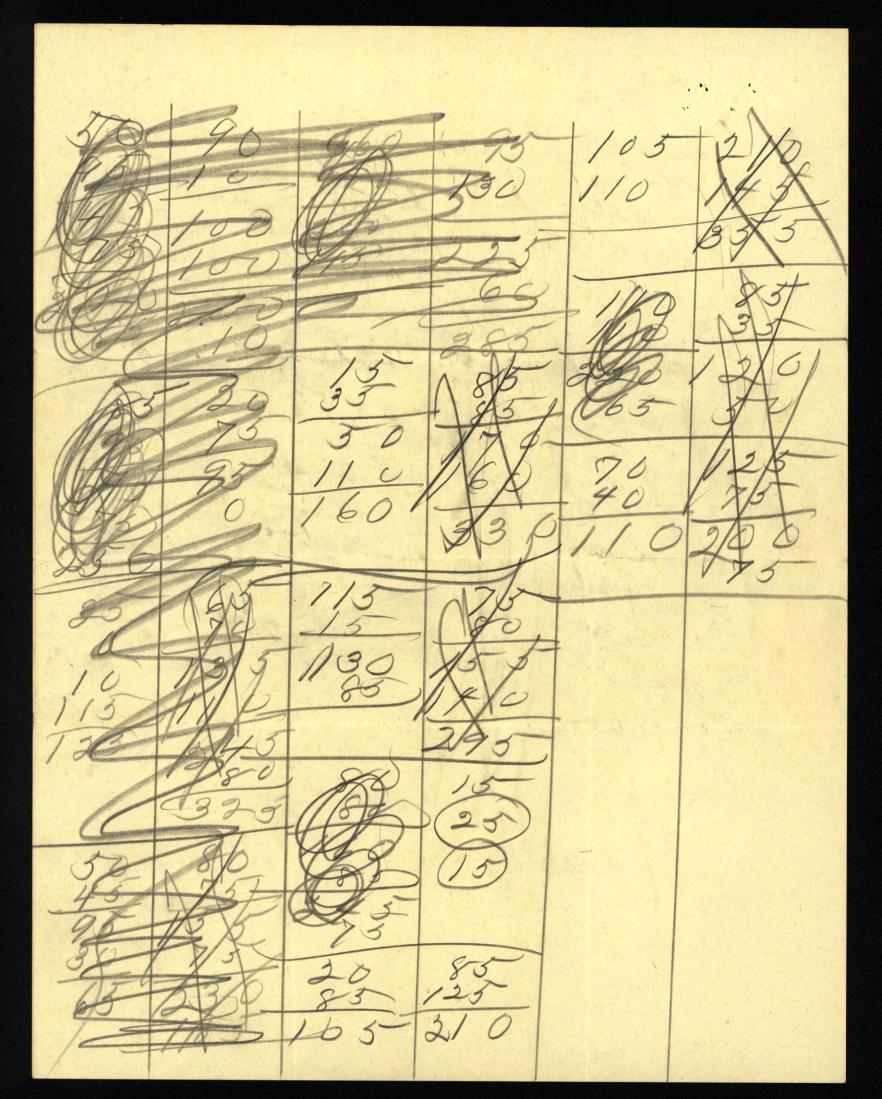
Very Sincerely Yours,

Virgil O. McWhorter

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