

White Bluffs, Dec. 5-1908-Citizens of White Bluffs are considering the advisability of incorporation. The desire to make its debut as a municipality of the fourth class is strong and White Bluffs is filled with considerable honest pride at being able at the tender age of 14 months to boast of the necessary population of 300 to 400.

As a city of the fourth class White Bluffs people see the way to certain municipal improvements and a certain amount of prestige. Development in this part of the valley has been rapid, but White Bluffs would be the first city. Incorporation, its opponents argue, would also mean certain expenses and taxes now avoided and the advantages and ~~disadvantages~~ disadvantages are being carefully considered. The plan has had much informal discussion and will probably come to an issue in the near future.

White Bluffs, June 14, 1909--The White Bluffs and Columbia River Telephone co. has completed its line from White Bluffs to Kennewick F.M. Weil, president of the company has signed the contract and sent it to the Pacific States Telephone company at Walla Walla for signature and when this is done the line will be in operation. Through the company the subscribers on the White Bluffs line are put into communication with all telephone lines and can talk to Chicago as easily as Kennewick or Hanford.

The capital was almost entirely supplied by White Bluffs and the line under the direction of the White Bluffs men, was built. It is 45 miles long and runs down the west bank of the Columbia from White Bluffs to Hanford, thence to Richland and from Richland to Kennewick.

This last stretch is seven miles and there was a telephone line between the two towns but the White Bluffs company continued to Kennewick, giving a through line to the central stations there and in Pasco.--The Yakima Herald, June 16, 1909.

Using a steam launch, railroad train and an automobile in relays ten claimants for government land in the Columbia river country rushed with all speed to North Yakima Monday only to find that rival claimants had reached here ahead of them and were in line at the local land office waiting to make entry on their claims.

This places the second party in the position of contestants for the land.

The party was made up of H.H. Thomas, A. Moen, W.A. Hawes, Max Priebe, A. Boag, Will Farley, Vernon Fanning, Dr. W.W. Schwabland and A.R. Byers.

The story of the wild race to North Yakima from the White Bluffs country on the Columbia river excels in interest most of the rushes common at government land openings.

When the White Bluffs country was thrown open for settlement a few weeks ago there were four claimants for nearly every piece of land. The law rules that the first claimant to make entry at the land office is considered the rightful claimant with all other entrymen as contestants.

Those who made up the party of 10 rushed here early Tuesday morning were settled upon land by F.M. Weil. They started from White Bluffs shortly before noon Monday, several hours before the first claimants had set out for North Yakima. Realizing that they could not hope to beat their rivals to this city overland they pressed into service a steam launch belonging to one of the party, tied a row boat behind so as to accommodate the entire party and set out down the Columbia river for Kennewick in the hope of getting train No. 5 at that point for North Yakima which

would bring them to this city in the lead of their rivals.

The race against the Northern Pacific, however, was in vain as they reached Kennewick just five minutes after No. 5 had gone through. This forced them to wait in Kennewick until No. 15 Monday night which they boarded and reached here at 2:10 a.m. Monday Tuesday. Still hoping against hope that they might beat their rivals to it, the Weil claimants were determined not to lose a minute of time and wired ahead to North Yakima for an automobile to meet them at the train here to whirl them the two blocks to the land office in the Miller building.

The automobile was at the depot when No. 15 arrived and scarcely waiting for the train to stop the 10 claimants piled in the auto in a wild ride to the Miller building. They dashed up the five flights of stairs to the land office with the agility of so many school boys only to find that their rivals had reached here a short time before and had taken their stand at the door of the land office.

In the Weil party were two other claimants, Sherman Perry and Mrs. Fisher. On arriving at the depot here they did not take the auto but walked to the Miller building. On finding so many ahead of them Mr. Perry and Mrs. Fisher became discouraged and made no effort to make entry on their respective claims--The Yakima Herald, Oct. 6, 1909.

White Bluffs

White Bluffs wants to get in on the proposed cheap power BNA project outlined to the city commission 10 days ago by officials of the Inter-Mountain Construction and Electric company of Seattle. Mayor William B. Dudley received a wire yesterday from the White Bluffs "power users committee" announcing a determination to cooperate and asking advice as to what plans are taken here to further the project.

A committee of White Bluffs citizens is forming to push the development, the telegram stated. It was signed by R.R. Woods, M.S. Branick, Ira C. Hawley, C.A. Whitney, F.J. Bonn, J.C. Schuster, R.B. Barge and L. Andrew Coddington.

Since the conference with the Seattle party the city commission has done nothing more toward investigating the project and does not expect to take any action until more details are available and the plan takes more material shape, Mayor Dudley said today.

The proposed power plant that would be located in Glade canyon and would be capable of turning out 130,000 horse power electric energy and the same water running its turbines would irrigate 300,000 acres of Horse Heaven land, the officials said. Power could be laid down at Yakima for 1/2 cent per kilowatt hour it was said--The Yakima Republic, October 31, 1924.

White Bluffs

Land Settlement

Olympia, Jan 10--D.A. Scott, director of the state department of conservation and development today announced that the White Bluffs-Hanford land settlement project would be thrown open to other than former soldiers with ex-service men being given the preference in the order of application. Mr. Scott's action followed a request that the project be opened to the public received yesterday from the executive committee of the Washington state American Legion. Thirty-nine tracts are ready for occupancy when applications are approved, Mr. Scott said.

Buildings have been completed, wells dug and electric pumps have been installed upon 99 tracts but settlers, all former soldiers have taken up land on 60 of the 99 tracts in addition about 20 tracts have been cleared, leveled and seeded to rye, Mr. Scott announced--The Yakima Republic, Saturday, January 10, 1925.

White Bluffs

Above is a brigade of genuine cow county veterans. All of them are settled on the state's soldier project at White Bluffs, Hanford, and all have qualified as milk farmers under the soldier's cow bill, passed by the last legislature.

Every Legionnaire and Spanish American War veteran in the northwest will during the coming week receive a pamphlet telling of the White Bluffs-Hanford soldier settlement and about the plans for its development.

It is desired to people the second unit of the project, now ready for development, entirely with veterans by September 1. A contract has just been let for the construction of 35 sets of buildings on the extension of the project and an equal number of wells has been dug, machinery installed and everything prepared for selection by the settler.

Lands under the new unit are the best in the Priest Rapids valley according to Fred Weil, state colonization agent, and are mostly located a half mile to two miles north of White Bluffs. The lift of water will not average 30 feet.

Settlers of the first project, Weil says, some 50 in number are getting on splendidly and the amount of acreage placed under cultivation considering the limited time the settlers have been on the project is not only remarkable but more than could reasonably have been expected.

Under the present plan the settlement the state puts up \$8 to the veterans \$1. The Priest Rapids valley is situated in a horseshoe bend of the Columbia river with about 5,000 acres reclaimed by the pioneers of the district. The growing season is 204 days, one of the longest in the state.

Under the terms of the bill the settler is prepared to back the settler with heifers and milch cows when he is ready for them, advancing all the money for the purchase price. The money is to be repaid by the settler with returns from the cream check and the off-spring--
Yakima Republic, March 4, 1924.

told of the development of the department for which a half
mill state levy is made. From this fund \$250,000 was loaned for
furnishing seed to needy farmers which has practically all been
repaid. Yakima Republic, September 25, 1924.

W. A. Agate of the state department of development and irrigation
costing from \$4,500 to \$6,000 including all improvements.
The lands at present are ex-servicio. The units are 20 acres
"Bobbins have water rights in the project. All land on a
for water.
in there will be 60,000 acres on the east side of the river ready
efficient production. As soon as the first Pacific power dam is
project of how to use it to make a successful self-sufficient and obtain the
proceeding at a good pace. The state department is looking on this
that have been sold and 30 more to be sold with development work
interest in the matter of citizenship. They are now 60 farms
farming as the man who owns the property takes a deeper
development. It is desired to keep down the tenant system of
capable of production as they which can be brought into similar
The state of Washington has numerous areas of land just as
suspecting it at the time the document comes on it.
the power will for three years. The aim is to have the power sell
providing building improvements worth a cost \$1,500 and pays
by centrifugal pumps operating with electric power. The state
Scott said. "The wells furnish an ample flow with the water raised
The system of watering is by wells being away with ditches." He
in shape and then selecting the men.
the expert of making farms from sage brush land setting the land
have a history of the project starting back in 1922. The state started
J. B. Scott, director of the irrigation department project

White Bluffs

It is stated that active operations will commence on the new townsite of White Bluffs early in the spring.

The contractor who is to have charge of ditch construction is already there. One of the first enterprises will be a brickyard and the first brick building will be a store 25x60. The steamer to ~~Opauy Opauy~~ ply between that point and Pasco is an assured fact--The Yakima Herald, January 10, 1904.

Judging from a deed filed with County Auditor Jenkins there is going to be more than one new town over in the "White Bluffs country in this county under the Hanford irrigation project.

The deed in question was the transfer of section 29 in 14-27 by Walter Hersom and wife to the White Bluffs Land & Irrigation Co. of which C.B. Smith of Tacoma is president, the consideration being \$32,640.

On the same day the company recorded a mortgage to Mr. Hersom for \$24,480, indicating that the difference, \$8,160 was paid in cash.

As stated in the Bulletin last week the Hanford Irrigation Company filed with the auditor the plat of the new town of Hanford which is located in section 26, 13-27 while Manley Haynes, a relative of Judge Hanford filed the plat of Haynes' garden tracts which lie in section 23, adjoining the townsite of Hanford, both being on the Columbia river.

Several months ago the Hanford company purchased section 33 in 14-27 for \$31,000 in which J.R. McKeand of this city was interested, it then being supposed that would be the site of the company's new town. But the town of Hanford, which is undoubtedly the official town of the company has been located about six or seven miles down the river.

Whether the purchase made for the townsite will now be used for that purpose is not known, but it is undoubtedly the intention of the White Bluffs Land & Irrigation company to start a town on the land just purchased of Mr. Hersom. President Smith of this new company is understood to be a heavy stockholder in the Hanford Irrigation & Power company, a number of his associates also holding stock and it would therefore appear that there has been or is about to be a clash between the stockholders in

"hite Bluffs

The White Bluffs Land & Irrigation company with offices in this city has purchased 600 acres of land located on the west bank of the Columbia at "hite Bluffs ferry.

This land is located about 40 miles north of Kennewick. A portion of the land will be platted into a town and the remainder will be irrigated and divided into small garden tracts consisting of from five to ten acres.

The land will be irrigated with water pumped from the Columbia river. Work will be started immediately constructing irrigation ditches and installing a pumping plant--The Yakima Herald,

May 8, 1907.

Acting on a invitation of a townsite company with a plat of ground adjoining White Bluffs orchards and less than a mile from the business portion of town ~~and~~ ~~decided~~ to move the business portion ~~add~~ business houses to the railway tracks, a mass meeting of business men, city property owners and ranchers held yesterday unanimously voted to remain in their present location on the banks of the Columbia river.

The resolution which called forth the unanimous vote, set forth that no advantage could be gained by moving and that many advantages are held by the business men located as they are.

Only one building and that owned by the agency selling lots, will be moved from White Bluffs.. The Yakima Herald March 30, 1913.

White Bluffs

Plans for a direct telephone communication between Yakima and White Bluffs were announced here today by D.S. Wilkenson of White Bluffs who manages the telephone service for the Columbia river town.

The connection is planned in recognition of the growing amount of business between Yakima and White Bluffs and the certainty that this will increase as the Priest Rapids development is begun.

Wilkenson today obtained the privilege of a direct connection with the Bell Telephone company, which he anticipates will cut the costs of Yakima-White Bluffs service about 30 per cent. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000 to build the line between Yakima and White Bluffs, which will obviate the present necessity of sending calls by pasco. Construction is to begin as soon as the preliminaries are arranged--The Yakima Republic, Oct. 23, 1925.

E.K. Carrant has returned from an extended trip to White Bluffs and the Columbia river district. Mr. Carrant says there appears to be every prospect of a canal, as capitalists headed by Judge Hanford have been looking over the feasibility of watering that vast tract from the Columbia river.

It is also believed there that the Chicago & Milwaukee railway is headed for White Bluffs by way of Yakima and the Moxee valley as a large corps of surveyors has been making its headquarters at the home of John Brice and lines are stakes about two miles from the river and through the town of White Bluffs. The townsite company is about to purchase 160 acres of land which will be platted and attached to the city of White Bluffs. Altogether there is considerably stir in that vicinity and old timers are jubilant over the prospects of securing water and a railway—the Yakima Herald, June 27, 1906.

White Bluffs

White Bluffs will soon enjoy the distinction of having the largest apple orchard in the state of Washington.

F.M. Weil has just closed a deal with eastern capitalists for 1,000 acres of land two miles northwest of White Bluffs at a price of \$85,000 and the entire tract will be set out to standard commercial varieties of apples next fall.

A portion of the land fronts on the Columbia river where a first class pumping plant will be installed, electric power to be secured from the Hanford Irrigation & Power company. The underground wooden pipe system of irrigation will be used.

The purchasers have formed a company, the Columbia White Bluffs Irrigated Orchards company with a capital stock of \$250,000 which will plant the trees and care for them for four years. At the end of that time the land will be sold off in small tracts.

Among former owners of the property (some of the) are several well known Yakima people; H.M. Helliesen, F.W. Magler, COWO C.E. Grimes, S.A. Ferguson and others. They bought the land a year ago and are realizing a substantial profit--The Yakima Republic, June 3, 1910.

White Bluffs

Irrigation

Pumping beats gravity irrigation even where land is under the ditch according to the experience of ranchers in the vicinity of White Bluffs according to the statement of A. R. Starr of South Ninth avenue.

Mr. Starr and his family departed on Monday to occupy a ranch in Hooded in the White Bluffs country and expect to remain a year and if his hopes are fulfilled to make a permanent residence there. The family drove over, taking the household goods. Mr. Starr will rent his home.

"One of my neighbors near White Bluffs has a well about 40 feet deep. A straw dropped to the bottom on one side of the well will immediately float across to the opposite side, there being a strong constant flow. He has used a gasoline engine for pumping. When he first begins to pump he lowers the water level in the well about six inches but after that his pump is unable to make any impression and the water remains stationary.

"It is claimed that if electricity is supplied to this district it will cut the cost of pumping in two compared with gasoline. That will be still better.

There is every prospect that electric competition will compel the ditch company to reduce its rate.

Mr. Starr will set out part of his ranch in apples and sow the remainder to alfalfa--the Yakima Republic, Oct. 28, 1910.

E.C. Hanford, manager of the Hanford Irrigation and Power Company was in North Yakima recently from a trip to the 33,000 acres of his company now being placed under irrigation between the new town of Hanford and Priest Rapids of the Columbia river.

Mr. Hanford stated that the low line ditch, 15 miles in length, is nearing completion with 250 men and 10 teams at work. The canal is eight feet wide at the bottom and about 28 feet at the top and is six feet deep.

It will water 18,000 acres, the largest portion being owned by the Hanford Irrigation and Power Company.

The high line, next to come under construction, will water 15,000 acres. The power machine is about done; materials for the buildings to house the machinery is fast arriving on the ground. Upon completion of the concrete power house and pumping station this fall the machinery will be installed. The construction of the power canal at Priest Rapids has been under way for the last two months and material headway is now being made. The new steamer Yakima has just delivered a steam shovel and car and track to carry on this work. It will be completed some time in October next.

The Priest Rapids Transportation company has arranged a schedule on its line for the steamer W.R. Todd leaving Kennewick Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. This boat is now successfully handling the heavy transportation on the river but the company realizing that increased traffic is ahead, is building a large and commodious passenger boat to be launched July next.

Many people are purchasing 10 acre tracts in this district...

Mr. Hanford saw the camp of the engineering crews for the North Coast railroad on the banks of the Columbia near the town of Hanford. It is near the lower end of

the white bluffs and construction of the tracts on the east side will be in a draw which comes down through the bluffs for a number of miles east of the Columbia river. The construction west of the river will be over level country toward Kiona and Yakima.

A bill was passed by congress last winter authorizing the road to bridge the Columbia near Hanford. The Yakima Herald, May 22, 1907.

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Mr. Owens, engineer connected with the Hanford irrigation company was in Kiona yesterday. He expected to meet one of the officials of the company here who had arranged to come in on November 16 to take a team here and drive out to Priest Rapids.

Their object was to map out a route from that place to their new townsite of Hanford and establish an automobile service between the two places. The train was late, but the men started out about three o'clock.

If this road is established it will be of great benefit to Kiona valley, as the company will be constantly bringing would-be buyers here and taking them out to the Priest Rapids property-Kiona Enterprise, April 2X 1907.

White Pluffs Paint store, Eilerton Bros, Ra time club, billiards,
confectionery etc.; C.W. Gamble, postoffice and real estate
building; Johnson & Ross, lumber office, H. Spoelstra, barber shop,
Walter Helsom, saw mill, local telephone system, to be made long
distance this fall, Spokesman Printing office and plant, Buckley
Bros, meat market, Howlett, Callahan & Co., Daniels & Co., comm
i sion house, Perry's Blacksmith shop, Columbia ferryboat, "Mary
Ann," \$800; School house and site, \$7,000; Presbyterian church
and site, residences, barns etc \$60,000....and in addition
being erected and assured at this time, State Bank, 2 story concrete
building, long distance telephone, capital \$10,000; Catholic
church, \$3,000, dozens of homes and other improvements....
Duckeye Real Estate Co. No. 8 Yakima avenue. F.M. Weil,
manager and promoter of "White Pluffs Land & Inv. Co....
Yakima Herald, Dec. 9, 1908.