

7-29-54-

Wiley G. Mountjoy, Irrigation Manager at the Wapato Irrigation Project, has been nominated for the Commendable Service citation of the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mr. Mountjoy will retire on July 31 after serving more than 35 years with the Department of Interior's irrigation divisions.

Mountjoy entered the Federal Service with the Flathead Project of the Bureau of Reclamation at St. Ignatius, Montana on May 29, 1919. He worked as laborer, special laborer, ditchrider, carpenter and assistant watermaster. On April 10, 1924 he transferred to the Flathead Irrigation Project under the Bureau of Indian Affairs and received his promotion to watermaster. On November 13, 1949 Mr. Mountjoy transferred to the Wapato Irrigation Project as Irrigation Manager where he has remained to the present time.

A letter from Don C. Foster, Portland Area Director, commended Mountjoy for long and faithful service to the government and for his

contribution toward making the Wapato project one of the outstanding developments in the Northwest. In nominating Mountjoy for the award to be presented by the Incentive Awards committee of the Department of Interior, Jack E. Stenberg, local project engineer, commented, "In all of his appointments, Mr. Mountjoy has been a conscientious employee giving freely of his own time in the interests of the project he served. He is fully deserving of the Commendable Service award."

After retirement from government service, Mountjoy will make his home in St. Ignatius, Montana.

WAPATO PROJECT DESIGNATION UNDER WAY

The work of designating and determining the exact construction costs for the Wapato-Satus Unit of the Wapato Irrigation Project is progressing at a fast rate. There is one item which should be of interest to many holders of non-Indian land within the Project area. The law under which the present determination is taking place makes no provision for adding additional lands to the Wapato-Satus Unit after the designation is completed. This means that all owners of non-Indian lands under this unit, not fully covered by existing water-right contracts, should contact the Project office about the possibility of obtaining water-rights for all such non-irrigated lands which they will ultimately want to develop as irrigable. This applies equally to small tracts now occupied by sloughs, abandoned farmsteads or other small undeveloped areas, and larger fields or pastures for which irrigation water is not now being purchased. Contracts should be completed by June 1, 1962, but if water is not used during the current season, no assessments will be made until the water year of 1963.

NEWS RELEASE
NOV. 7, 1966

WAPATO IRRIGATION PROJECT
WAPATO, WASHINGTON

**SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROPOSED FOR
WAPATO PROJECT**

A special assessment is being proposed for the Wapato-Satus Unit of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Wapato Irrigation Project to provide funds for the replacement of the 72-inch diameter wood stave pipeline located above the Project Main Canal about seven miles northwest of Wapato. This pipeline which serves more than 10,000 acres of orchard and other farm lands was constructed in 1928 and has been in service for 37 years.

The wood stave pipeline will probably be replaced during the winter of 1967-68 with concrete cylinder pipe. The estimated replacement cost is \$250,000 to \$275,000. The special assessment being proposed is for \$0.20 per acre per year over a period of ten years to begin with the calendar year 1967.

The replacement of this large pipeline has been studied for several years and discussed with the Yakima Tribal Council and the Yakima Reservation Irrigation District Board. Both groups recognize the need for replacing this old structure and have indicated their support for this special assessment as the best means of financing the Project.

The proposal to amend the operation and maintenance charges for the Wapato-Satus Unit of the Wapato Project was published in the Federal Register on November 1, 1966. It is the policy of the Department of Interior, whenever practicable, to afford the public an opportunity to participate

in the rule making process. Accordingly, interested persons may submit written comments, suggestions or objections with respect to the proposed amendment to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C., 20242, within 30 days of publication of the notice in the Federal Register.

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J Y Christiansen
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Project Engineer

Yakima Dailies
Wapato Independent
Toppenish Review

11-8-66

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WAPATO, WASHINGTON

**SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROPOSED FOR
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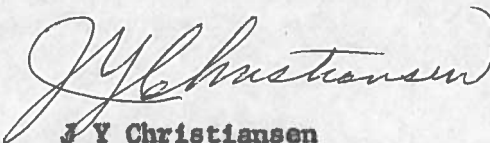
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