

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Ephrata, Washington

ADVANCE — For P.M. Release Thursday, September 28, 1950

Ephrata, Wash., September 28 — Leslie R. Annett, who started working for the Government in 1902 as a surveyor with what was then called the Reclamation Service, retires tomorrow after spending a total of 19½ years as a Federal employee, according to H. A. Parker, Supervising Engineer of the Columbia Basin's Irrigation Division.

Annett is at present stationed at Quincy, and ends his Government career tomorrow as an Engineering Aide with the Bureau of Reclamation. In the interim he has been with several other Government agencies, has spent many years in private industry, and served as a Captain of Engineers during World War I.

When Annett started work with the forerunner of the present Bureau of Reclamation, he was stationed at Boise, then a struggling frontier town which was just hearing about what water would do for the barren wastelands of the West. He has seen many projects "grow up", and bows out after helping lay the groundwork for the biggest of all, the Columbia Basin Project.

Leslie Annett attended both Iowa State College and Utah State College. After a few years with the Reclamation Service he left the Government to work for private construction organizations. One of his employers was Morrison and Knudsen, with whom he spent four years before going into the Army in 1917. After the war he went with the Idaho State Engineering Department, and later worked for the Los Angeles County Engineering Department.

Annett did not return to Government service until 1929, when he took a position with the War Department. Other Government agencies he has worked for include the Public Works Administration and the Department of Commerce, and he was a foreman with the Civilian Conservation Corps before World War II.

He came back to the Bureau of Reclamation in May of 1948.

Friends of Annett say he is definitely not the type to retire to his armchair; he has a gold-mining claim in Idaho and has told them he intends to work it. Although he was 70 years old on September 5, those who know him admit he is spry enough to work the mine for a good many years.

Annett is fond of children and dogs, and always has a pocketful of candy and gum to hand out to the kiddies, while he scratches the ear of a favorite pet and talks over with his master the best way to keep him out of mischief, keep fleas to a minimum, and keep him well fed.

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