

Malheur County

Mr. and Mrs. Hull were youngsters together in the Oklahoma strip, were married there, then moved to Caldwell, Idaho in March, 1918. Three years ago this family moved to Dead Ox Flat from Idaho.

“Everything was sage brush as far as you could see, there was only one house.” Since then the father and three sons have earned two forty-acre tracts, clearing land for other owners. They will get their deed to a third forty-acre unit soon, so they can have a 120-acre farm.

“The mother has worked putting up fruit to sell so that one of the boys can go to college (Cascade College, Portland, a Friend’s Bible School). She sold five dozen two-quart jars of fruit for \$23.00 last year. This year she hopes to sell dried corn for the same purpose.

“We couldn’t get the crop off in time this year for him to go, and we didn’t have the finances. Last year he had to stop in the middle of the year, so this will finish his school year.”



Excerpt from Dorothea Lange’s field notes on the Hull farm in Dead Ox Flat, Malheur County.



027 The Fairbanks family has moved to three different places on the project in one year.
Willow Creek area, Malheur County, Oregon

*sponsored by Wyss Foundation
in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Linna Straub*



028 Sam Cates from Oklahoma, now establishing a little farm up Cow Hollow, with his great grandfather's gun, who brought it from South Carolina. The gun is 150 years old.

This family took this gun from South Carolina to Texas, from Texas to Arkansas (five years) from Arkansas to Oklahoma (thirty years), from Oklahoma to Southeastern Oregon. "Hit goes to my youngest boy but I'm goin' to be using that second hand casket I traded for afore he gits it."



029 Mrs. Sam Cates, wife of Cow Hollow farmer.
Malheur County, Oregon



030 Siphon—the world’s longest—which carries water
five miles to Dead Ox Flat. It is eight feet in diameter.
Malheur County, Oregon

sponsored by Phillip Delbert & Cheney Snow Milholland



031 Onions in sacks are drying. Those on ground are culls. 1000 acres of onions are grown. Fifteen percent of onion growers in the country are Japanese. 700 to 800 cars are shipped annually from Malheur County, Oregon.



032 Seventeen year old Dazey boy going to feed the pigs.
Homedale district, Malheur County, Oregon



033 Mr. Roberts, FSA (Farm Security Administration) borrower. “It’s not the land nor the water nor the man that’s going to make the success or failure of these farmers on this project. It could be a Paradise and was meant to be, but I don’t think it’s going to be a go. It’s the market that makes the success or the failure. Our hay sells for \$4 a ton, our hogs for 6½ cents and we get 9½ cents for clover seed for which we had to pay 46 cents for in ’36 when I came.” Owyhee project. Malheur County, Oregon

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in memory of Kelly W. Stamper, Sr. (1933-2009)



034 George Cleaver, new farmer, has five boys. The three older boys, ages twelve, sixteen, and eighteen, are needed at home to develop the farm and do not go to school. Malheur County, Oregon



035 Oklahoman, worked three years as farm laborer, starts next year on his own place. Quit school after third day. Can neither read nor write. Is “best farm laborer” this farmer ever had. Near Ontario, Malheur County, Oregon

*sponsored by David Milholland
in memory of organic farmer 'Bittersweet' Bill Gibson (1951–2009)*



036 Mr. Wardlow, drought area farmer, adjusting to a Western farm.

Dead Ox Flat, Malheur County, Oregon



037 Soper grandmother, who lives with family.
FSA (Farm Security Administration) borrower.
Willow Creek area. Malheur County, Oregon



038 Mrs. Wardlow after church services.
Friends church (Quaker).
Dead Ox Flat, Malheur County, Oregon



039 All the members of the congregation.
Friends church (Quaker).
Dead Ox Flat, Malheur County, Oregon



040 Mrs. Soper with youngest child at the well.
Willow creek area, Malheur County, Oregon

sponsored by Charlotte & Rick Rubin



041 Mrs. Lola Hull, in one room basement dugout home, late afternoon. Originally from Oklahoma, the Hulls moved to the Flat with their three sons from Idaho in 1936. "Everything was sage brush as far as you can see." They are both Quakers from "generations back." They hope to build a permanent house in 3-4 years and "a well come before a house" because they now must haul water from Ontario in barrels, 10 miles away on rutted roads. Mrs. Hull has sold jars of fruit so one of their sons can attend Cascade College in Portland, a "Friends bible school." He had to stop last year because "we couldn't get the crop off on time."



042 Two of the seven Browning children in doorway of their Oregon home.
Dead Ox Flat, Malheur County, Oregon

*sponsored by Deb Casey & John Witte
with gratitude to Dorothea Lange for leaving us these images*



043 Girls of Lincoln Bench School study their reading lesson.
Near Ontario, Malheur County, Oregon

sponsored by Brian & Gwyneth Gamble Booth



044 Mrs. Botner arranging her storage cellar. 800 quarts of “food for the winter.”

“I miss my chickens so, but we’re just not fixed for chickens or hogs yet.”

Nyssa Heights, Malheur County, Oregon

sponsored by Wyss Foundation

in honor of Mrs. Pat Straub



045 Sugar beet factory (Amalgamated Sugar Company) along Snake River. View from Idaho to Nyssa, Malheur County, Oregon, a one factory town.



046 Entrance to Amalgamated Sugar Company
factory at opening of second beet season.
Nyssa, Malheur County, Oregon



047 Sign on old bank building which now houses office of Bureau of Reclamation.
Nyssa, Malheur County, Oregon

sponsored by Bruce & Roberta Weber



048 Twenty-five year old itinerant, originally from Oregon.
“On the road eight years, all over the country, every state
in the union, back and forth, pick up a job here and there,
travelling all the time.”

Car on siding across tracks from pea packing plant.
Calipatria, Imperial Valley, California