

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

EAGLE ISLAND DITCHES

Number 507

1974

1. Mace Catlin Ditch. Begins on south bank of Boise River in Lot 5, Section 17, T4N, R1E, and runs through Sections, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 24 in T4N, R1E, for a distance of 3.5 miles. The ditch was constructed in 1864 by T. C. Catlin, J. E. Wood, J. C. Wilson, G. W. Paul, C. R. Barnes, John Johnson, and M. M. Johnson. As originally built, the ditch measured two-and-one-half feet in width and eighteen inches in depth. In 1864, 150 inches of water was diverted through the ditch. It was enlarged annually until 1872. From 1872 to 1905, the size of the ditch remained at six feet on the bottom, ten feet at the top, and two feet deep. Also during this time, 500 inches of water were appropriated and diverted. Two headgates serve this ditch, one being three feet wide and eighteen inches deep and the other two-and-one-half feet wide and eighteen inches deep. Polette Mace and T. C. Catlin each irrigated about 350 acres from this ditch. In 1864, Catlin first utilized water from this ditch to raise forty acres of hay. In 1906, the ditch received water rights (4 and 51) of 536 inches.

2. Davis and Hart Ditch. Received water from a slough that connected with the Boise River. The headgate for the ditch is located in the NE 1/4 of Section 18, T4N, R1E. The ditch extends westerly through lands originally belonging to E. N. Hart, Mary G. Davis, and T. C. Catlin. These lands were located in the center of the NE 1/4 of Section 18, T4N, R1E, the SW corner of Section 13, T4N, R1W, lots 9, 10, 11, and 12 and the E 1/2, SE 1/4 of Section 14, T4N, R1W.

This ditch was constructed in 1863 by Edward N. Hart. It was enlarged in 1864, and again in 1865. In 1865, it measured six feet at the top and four feet on the bottom. Hart at this time appropriated and diverted twelve cubic feet of water under a four-inch pressure. The ditch irrigated 575 acres. In 1906, the Davis and Hart ditch received water rights (6, 57, and 58) of 165 inches.

3. Thomas Aiken Ditch. The Thomas Aiken Ditch begins in Section 16, T4N, R1E, about sixty rods from the west line of said Section 16 and near its southern line. In 1876, Thomas Aiken filed on 250 acres in section 17, T4N, R1E. The same year he built the ditch and appropriated 500 inches of water. The ditch

extended through a portion of William H. Conway's land and Aiken's land for a distance of one-and one-quarter miles. Conway used some of the water but the majority went toward irrigating Aiken's property. In 1876, Aiken had forty acres in cultivation. He cut sixty tons of hay and raised some grain. In 1906, the ditch received the water right (63) for 260 inches.

4. Conway-Hamming Ditch. This ditch originated on the land of W. J. Hamming that was situated in Section 21, T4N, R1E. This land was originally owned by Lewis and Goff, who occupied it in 1864. They built a ditch, but it remained vacant when property was sold to Gabe Newman in 1870. Newman built a new ditch that same year. In 1877, Thomas Aiken extended and enlarged the Conway-Hamming Ditch to run through his land and Conway's property. In 1885, the ditch was enlarged by Lewis McShane and a Mr. Cobb. After this work was finished, the ditch measured four feet on the bottom, was a foot deep, and would carry 200 inches of water. When Gabe Newman died in 1891, T. C. Catlin bought up his land. Catlin in turn sold the 180 acres to Frank Short, who in 1904 relinquished his title to W. J. Hamming. Luther McShane and Thomas Aiken were the original owners of the 148 and 48/100 acres owned by William Conway. Conway purchased his property on October 1, 1891, from Jack Vincent, who had bought McShane and Aiken on January 1, 1891. However, Aiken kept a portion of his water right, which he sold to Conway in 1900. By 1905, the ditch measured four feet on the bottom, six feet at the top, two feet in depth, and about one mile in length. In 1906, the ditch received water rights (48, 64, and 118) of 285 inches.