

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

BALLENTYNE CANAL

Number 533

1974

The Ballentyne Canal begins on the north bank of the Boise River near the center northwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 15, T4N, R1E. It extends in a westerly direction for about five and one-half miles. In 1887, James Ballentyne purchased around 800 acres of unimproved land. His plans called for the construction of a ditch to supply water onto this property and subdividing the land into smaller tracts for sale. During 1887, he acquired the necessary water rights. In the spring of 1888, he hired D. O. Stevenson to stake out and supervise the construction of a canal. When completed that year, the canal was six feet at the bottom with a slope of one to one and carried about 600 inches of water. By 1900, the canal had been enlarged to ten feet on the bottom and was estimated to have cost \$8,000. Ballentyne had very little trouble in selling portions of land under the canal and soon had sold all of his original tract.

In 1903, the canal maintained a capacity of 30 second feet, extended five and one-half miles in length with four miles of laterals, and irrigated over 600 acres. In 1906, the canal received water rights (98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103) of 538 inches.

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