

IRRIGATION

1890 - PRESENT

History

Early settlers arriving in the area came with no knowledge of gravity flow irrigation. Their previous homes were in areas where rain provided the needed moisture to raise crops. Irrigation soon became a necessity, since having a water source was a requirement for receiving the patent for the land from the U.S. Land Office.

Irrigation was and continues to be backbreaking hard work. Long hours spent using shovels have been shortened by newer methods of irrigation, but it is still a daily task for the person in charge of agricultural crops. Many of those early settlers returned to the land where the rain fell instead of remaining in the area where watering crops was a full-time occupation. Those who stayed in Idaho were hardy citizens. Irrigation districts, such as the Nampa-Meridian and Settlers irrigation districts, continue to serve the immediate Meridian area.

Design Elements

Water played an invaluable role in Meridian's history and marks two distinct economic milestones. First, the village settled next to Five Mile Creek, where water was available year round, as represented by the abstract water feature on the plaza's south side. Next, the man-made New York Canal, which brought a new form of water delivery in 1900, opened vast amount of acres for agriculture and opportunity; the long waterway on the plaza's north side is reminiscent of this form of water delivery.



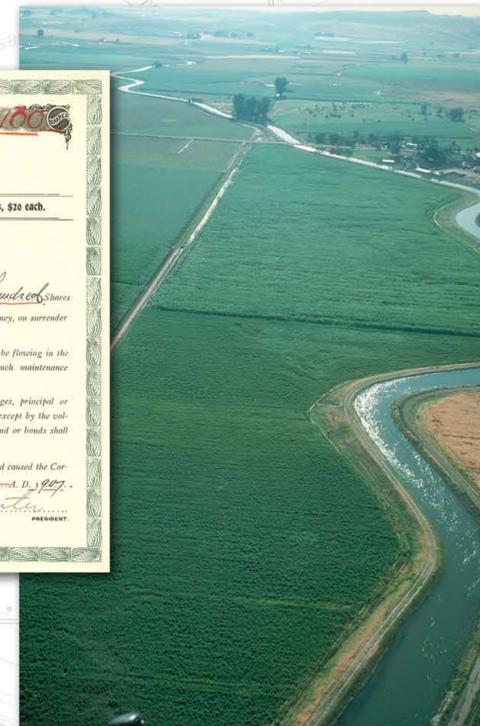
Working on the Settler's ditch, 1884



Ditch with siphon tubes



Five Mile Creek



New York Canal



Irrigation, 1912



Local settlers digging the Settler's ditch along Ustick Road

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN

Irrigating season is here and we are ready to serve our customers in our usual way with CANVAS DAMS made to order in any sizes you wish. We also make the dams with but very little more cost than without being made up.

CANVAS BY THE YARD at very lowest prices.

Don't forget that we have: Harness, Collars, Pads, Saddles, Riding Bridles, Halters, Passing Link Chain, Rope in all sizes; and the *Cheapest Prices in Town.*

Garden Rakes, Hoes, Shovels, and Forks, priced right. A complete line of Men's and Boy's Shoes and Gloves.

See Us Before You Buy

Meridian Harness & Shoe Shop
G. H. LEININGER.

P. S. We have Water Bags, Watches, Clocks, Knives, and Snaps of all kinds; Curry Combs and Brushes.

Meridian Times advertisement, 1934

