

The solvency of the fund indicates well the stability of agriculture in Wyoming.

So far in 1967, the resource board has had 42 requests for investigations of small water projects. Wyoming agriculture is actively pursuing its own betterment.

We have one of our best small projects on the Midvale Irrigation District, the Benesch-Brough sprinkler irrigation system which is irrigating 380 acres of new lands. Thus we have proven our confidence in the Riverton project not only by our resolutions, but by putting our money where our mouth is.

Senator ANDERSON. Is this land irrigated?

Mr. PECK. Yes, sir. This is land that lies above the ditch, in other words, above the flat irrigation level on the upper side of the ditch, and we have loaned money to put this land under cultivation.

Senator ANDERSON. Is this in conflict with the land in the Riverton area?

Mr. PECK. It is on the Riverton project. As a matter of fact, it is right in the center of it. It is in the second division of the Riverton project, which is a part of the Midvale project.

Senator ANDERSON. What is the product?

Mr. PECK. The product is small grains.

Senator ANDERSON. What is the acreage?

Mr. PECK. It is 320 acres. The main products of the Riverton project, which will be mentioned later, are sugar beets, beans, grain, alfalfa, dairying, livestock operations—a very diversified agricultural situation.

Senator ANDERSON. Thank you. You may proceed.

Mr. PECK. Perhaps I might be permitted some personal observations on irrigation in the Wind River Valley.

I am a native of Riverton, and I have lived all my life near Riverton. The considerable black eye that comes from Riverton, my hometown, disturbs me very greatly. My present business is copublisher of the Riverton Daily Ranger, a newspaper which my brother Bob and I have built up from a small weekly to a daily. I am now on leave of absence from the Ranger to permit me to assist in Wyoming's programs of economic development.

In Riverton, I live in the farmhouse in which I was raised. My home was built in 1926, and at that time it was "in the country," west of Riverton. Now the city limits of the town surround our farm on two sides, and much of the strong growth of Riverton is attributable to agriculture.

My family business is the dairy business. We started the Morning Star Dairy with one cow in 1931, at the depths of the depression, and my brother Bob and I delivered our first milk to customers in town using the little red wagon which we had received for Christmas.

There were some dark days in those depression years. We milked our 60 cows by hand until the great change took place in 1938 when we installed a Surge electric milker. I remember what a great thing that was, I thought, when that came about. I had the longest continuous tardy record in the history of Riverton High School, because after arising every morning at 4:30 a.m. to milk the cows, I delivered the milk on the route with my little sister hopping bottles.