

During 1965, the first year of his lease, Stearns produced 3000 bushels of grain, netting 75 bushels to the acre. His 60-70 acres of hay produced 250 tons for his dairy herd. He has 50 head of his dry stock and young animals on winter pasture on the Third Division lease.

Stearns says the North Pavillion land he now leases would be of great permanent benefit to his dairy farm operation. Stearns is getting up in years himself, but has a grown son at home to help. The home place and the lease were run as a family business, except for part-time help at haying time.

Stearns would be interested in buying the Blair place if it were offered at a fair price.

"We can farm over there and make as much per acre as we can on the home places," Stearns said. "Other settlers could have stayed, too, if they had wanted to farm," Stearns said.

The additional land on Third Division could help improve his profit picture. The cost-price squeeze has pinched down profits.

"Getting the lands in private ownership would be of great benefit to the community as a whole," Stearns said.

ELTON WILLIAMS

The Williams' place in Paradise Valley was the show place of the area. But it went wet, the Williams' boys moved off to establish farm operations elsewhere. It could be reclaimed.

Several men whose stories are told in "Those Remarkable Men of Midvale" series mentioned it was the Williams place and that fine-looking Paradise Valley that made up their minds to settle on Riverton project.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude C. Williams and their children, including Elton and Lyle, had a show place. It wasn't fancy, but the house was neat, the grounds well cared for and a big, green windbreak surrounded the buildings.

Today the trees stand naked and dead. Fields are white with alkali. The house is empty and abandoned. The water table is so high that the place is worthless.

"For a while it was excellent," recalls son Elton Williams. "We were the first farm that could raise 20-ton per acre beets in the Valley." But after a few years the lower part of the place became marginal. A strip west of the house went totally wet.

"It raised Kochia weed and foxtail for awhile," Williams said, "but then it got so wet even foxtail couldn't grow." Mr. and Mrs. Claude Williams stayed there nevertheless, until Claude was stricken with a stroke that left him paralyzed for five years before he died.

The family rented other places and got a living, but little more. When Mr. Williams died, the sons sought different farms, rather than try to fight the seepage at home.

Elton bought the 100-acre Steven Stark farm in 1948 near Pavillion, and since has bought 160 acres from Bill Paul that was the Tracy Guhl farm. He recently bought another 40 acres from May Murphy.

"We got these places only through a lot of hard work," Williams said. He and his wife Helen, daughter of another project farm family, the Gabe Larsons, have seven children. One is married and attending college in Casper. Five girls and a boy help at home with the 60-cow, grade A, dairy operation.

Mrs. Claude Williams is in town. She can't bear to go back to look at her "show place".

BILL BROWN

Brown left a high paying supervisor's job with a road construction company to get his family to a farm. He now leases over 600 acres of land and is buying 500 besides.

Bill Brown, a longtime Fremont county resident, had a \$12,000 a year job with Gilpatrick Construction Company. But at the end of 1963 he looked at his records. He had been gone from home more days than he had been there. He decided to get back to the farm.

Brown is a newcomer to Midvale, although he grew up on a farm. He took his life savings and bought the Mrs. Otis Williams' farm, a place with an acre of grass for a front yard and windbreaks on all sides.