

Riverton is located in Fremont County, in west-central Wyoming. The county population is approximately 30,000. Riverton is the largest town in the County with an estimated population of 8500. The City of Riverton is located just south of the Riverton Reclamation Project.

Irrigated farming has been a mainstay of the Riverton economy during all of its sixty-one years. The U.S. Government opened the land for settlement in 1906, laying out the Riverton townsite to serve the needs of the homesteads which were drawn by lots. Those who won a homestead broke the land from the sagebrush. The pattern of development has been repeated over the years as the Midvale Irrigation District portion of the Project came in to being. Many Riverton people remember the excitement of the 1948-50 period when the Veterans of World War II, by the hundreds, applied for a chance at Third Division lands. At the time of this land opening, Midvale lands in Paradise Valley, Lost Wells Butte, Missouri Valley, Buckhorn Flats and the Pavillion area had been under irrigation for a number of years. Some of these lands went wet and alkali showed plainly on others, but emerging from the continuing adjustment, came good farms, operated by people with experience and a desire to farm, plus the capital and the know-how to carry out their aspirations.

There were very few trade or service establishment in Riverton when the Project began. Estimates today indicate that there about 300 business establishments. The Chamber of Commerce boasts of a membership of 197 members from the business community.

Many trades and service establishments in Riverton depend completely upon the agricultural community. Two creameries, four elevators, five farm-implement stores, a sales barn and a packing plant fall within this business category. Practically all other Riverton business establishments depend, to some degree, upon agriculture. Grocery stores, gasoline service stations, dry good stores, appliance stores, automobile and truck dealerships and banking institutions are among the major businesses in the last classification.

Many local people are employed by Government agencies who are directly connected with agriculture and the livestock industries. These agencies would include Farmers Home Administration, University of Wyoming Extension Service, Bureau of Reclamation Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

From these observations it is quite evident that Riverton relies heavily upon the irrigated farming on the Riverton Reclamation Project for its economic well-being. The Riverton Chamber of Commerce acknowledges agriculture's contribution to the community and stands with those who have faith in the agricultural potential of the Project.

We wholeheartedly support S. 670 and H.R. 3062 and urge its immediate enactment into law.

Respectfully yours,

TED KINNEY, *President.*
JAY McFARLAND, *Chairman,*
Agricultural Committee.

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 32,
Pavilion, Wyo., September 27, 1967.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,
Midvale Irrigation District,
Pavillion, Wyo.

GENTLEMEN: It has been brought to my attention that you might want to consider information regarding the effect of the removal of the Third Division lands from the tax rolls of the School District.

Initially the most serious problem was the loss of valuation and bonding capacity. This amounted to a direct loss of \$209,265 in real estate valuation in addition to the loss of personal property such as livestock, machinery, etc. Net loss of dollar income to the School District which has a tax rate of 35.6 mills was \$3,260 for real property valuation and approximately the same amount for personal property valuation or a total of \$7,500 per year. In addition to this bonding capacity was lowered by \$20,000 during a time that it was needed for construction of new facilities.

Following the sale of Third Division lands the school experienced a decrease of 17% in enrollment. This decrease resulted in a net dollar loss of \$17,000 per