

SETTLERS MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM



Farm fields in Quartet drew their irrigation water from the Eightmile Lateral, Creason Lateral, the Rutledge Lateral and the Five Mile Creek / Drain, and serve also as drains for fields along their routes. Typically, a central farm yard would be surrounded by pens and corrals for the animals, which in turn were surrounded by pastures and fields that provided grass, grains, and winter fodder for the cattle and horses necessary to operate the farm. These farms had modest homes with much larger barns to contain the winter food and protect equipment. As the area grew, the farms began to specialize with one or two cash crops while maintaining the interwoven subsistence farming practices.



EIGHTMILE LATERAL

Although the date of construction is unknown, the Eight Mile Lateral, appears on maps by 1896 and is an early example of gravity irrigation in the Boise Valley and its importance to the valley's agricultural roots.

CREASON LATERAL

The Creason Lateral was independently constructed in the early years of the 20th Century, but as with other small independent ditch systems, it was folded into the larger U.S. Reclamation Boise Project around 1914. The name is likely to have come from a local farmer and rancher, Harry C. Creason, who arrived in the Boise Valley in 1876 to homesteaded land.

RUTLEDGE LATERAL

There is some evidence that the Rutledge Lateral was excavated 1896 or 1897. Laterals are often named for prominent farmers to be served by the water when it is first excavated. In this case, the lateral may have been named in honor of local farmer Hugh Rutledge.

FIVE MILE CREEK / DRAIN

Five Mile Creek was one of three natural waterways that existed south of the Boise River before large-scale irrigation practices altered the landscape.



FIVE MILE CREEK PATHWAY

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