

Lake County Examiner
Aug. 6, 1959

Geologist Believes Crump Geyser Should Be Saved

By C. E. Williams

I have just returned from Warner Valley and have seen the geyser on the Charles Crump ranch. They say this perpetual geyser is the largest in the world. I have seen many, but have never heard of or seen any that can compare with it.

Many ideas have been expressed as to what should be done with this water. As a University of Oregon graduate in geology with course later in Ground Water (both hot and cold), and having drilled a great number of wells in Lake County, I feel qualified to express my opinion along this line.

It was in 1922 that my rig drilled the first geyser in Lake County at Hunter's Hot Springs; the drillers were my father, Frank H. William, and my brother, the late F. R. Williams. This geyser is still "shooting."

The following spring I drilled the hot well which furnishes heat for Goldmohr Terrace and Hunter Hot Springs Hotel.

During 1930 and 1931 two deep holes were drilled for live steam at the edge of the mountain east of Goldmohr Terrace. I did this for Hewitt Hunter, Favell-Utley and myself with some ideas of heating the town of Lakeview. About 1935 I drilled a well on a location only about 100 feet from the present Crump geyser. My well-drilling business was carried on in Lake County from 1920 to 1945..

When told that the State considered capping the Crump geyser, I said it would be a mistake for several reasons. One important purpose would be to preserve such an unusual attraction, an outstanding point of interest in southeastern Oregon.

If it was capped, who knows or could prove that the water would not come up some place in California, which state is already claiming all the Colorado River and is rumored planning to file a water right on the Columbia River and channel it south through canals and tunnels.

Why not let Crump make the decision as to the disposition of this water? It is certainly helping him with his irrigation problems.

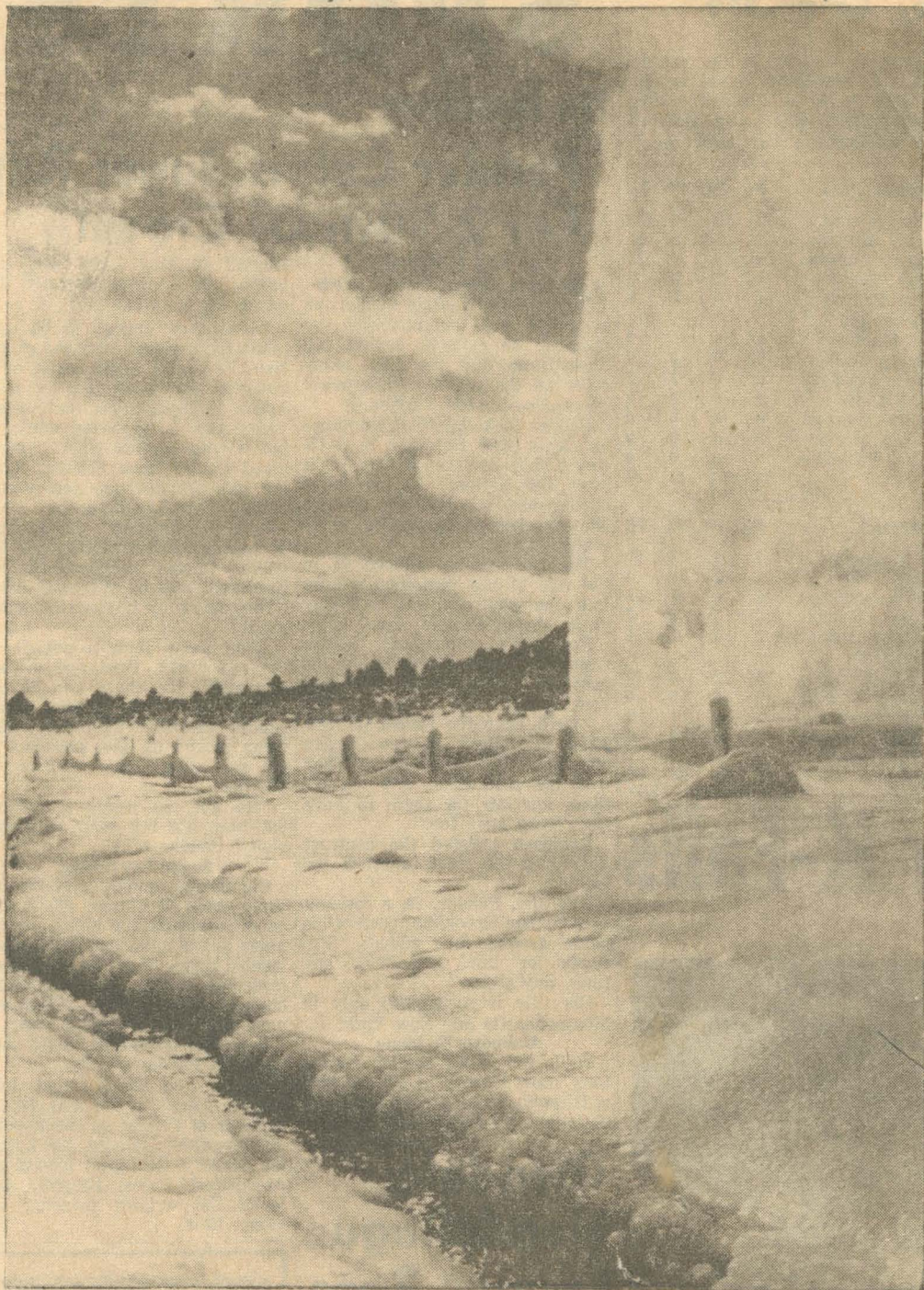
For 25 years I have watch-

ed the Hunter Geyser and fail to see where it has affected either the ground water in Goose Lake Valley or even neighboring hot springs a few hundred feet away. There are water rights filed on the flow, which irrigate meadows west of Lakeview.

This same picture is present at the Crump Geyser. Within 200 yards it enters a swamp, irrigates grass and within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile it would flow into Crump Lake, the seepage from which feeds all the underground water table of Warner Valley.

The capping of this geyser I am sure could never be justified from any geological or engineering reason and I certainly hope for no political one.

Lakeview Geyser Creates Frozen Fantasy



LAKEVIEW — Frozen fantasy in below-zero temperature is created by 150 foot Crump's

Geyser set off July 1, 1959 by a drilling crew. It leaves the earth at 220 degrees in stream

that spouts at least 30 feet higher than world famous Old Faithful of Yellowstone Park. —UPI Telephoto

Lake County

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Lakeview, Ore

The Crump Geyser

'Old' Well Making New History at Crump Ranch

The "old" Crump Geyser is a thing of changing habits, and now is behaving in a peculiar way said the owner, Adel rancher Charles Crump. The geyser is located on Crump land four miles north of Adel.

For the past couple of years or more, the old well has been "geysing" about every hour and 20 minutes. Now, says Crump, the drilled well hole shoots hot water and steam about every four hours, but it puts on quite a show.

When it shoots, it carries on for about three minutes with a steady, high plume reminiscent of the continuous day after day, month after month steady pluming of the "new" Crump geyser in 1959 and '60. When the 3-minute splurge lets up, the old geyser waits about 20 minutes and for a short time it makes like the Hunter's Lodge geyser just north of Lakeview . . . it spouts high, recedes, spouts again, and keeps this up for awhile. About 20 minutes later it does this "Hunter Geyser" bit all over again, but on a lesser scale, then it lays dogie for about four hours.

About 1955, Charlie Crump had this "old" well drilled for stock and irrigation water. What he got was an intermittent geyser that spouted at intervals of several hours unless he lowered a pail into the casing to bring on a spout . . . a practice not recommended to visitors.

In 1959, he contracted with the Nevada Thermal Power Company, exploratory division of Magma Power Company of Los Angeles, to drill a well. The company was looking for steam of 300 degrees or more as a source for thermal generation of electric power. The drillers hit varying degrees of hot water, up to 250 degrees, but on June 29 at a depth of 1684 feet and with the temperature back to 160 degrees, the drillers gave up and moved away.

Two days later, the big gey-

Two days later, the big geyser roared in, spouting to 150 and 200 feet from the 20-inch casing. There were no intervals in this spouting, no let-up, but a continuous high plume of steam and hot water that went on month after month until, in the spring of 1960, vandals succeeded in cutting off the flow by getting planks and boulders lodged into the casing.

When this "new" geyser came in, the "old" geyser about 100 feet away quit entirely. After the "new" geyser gave up the ghost, the old one began again its intermittent spouting, at 45-minute intervals for some months then settling down to about an hour and 20 minutes . . . until now.

In the fall of 1962, Crump again contracted with Magma Power to drill another well, but this work has not yet been undertaken. However, Crump says the company is still interested, and is "still paying the rent," so he expects they will move in to

July 30

Geyser Photo Widely Used

The Crump geyser is receiving wide publicity through an Associated Press photo that was sent out recently from Portland by Wirephoto.

The picture, under the title "Surprise Geyser," appeared in the July 25 edition of the Toledo Blade, at Toledo, Ohio. A clipping was sent to Leonard Proctor, of Lakeview, by his sister, Mrs. Mina Clark, of Toledo. The picture legend states:

"LAKE COUNTY, Ore. — Imagine the surprise of Charles Crump when an unfinished well on his property burst forth into a 150-foot hot water geyser. Water has been spouting constantly since July 1 and shows no signs of easing up."

Crump Geyser Spouts Again After Incident

The Crump Geyser near Adel is spouting again as usual. Except for a cloud of steam, the perpetual geyser was shut off for awhile Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peat and Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Kelley drove to the geyser Sunday and were there when some young men were throwing rocks into it. Returning to their car they looked back and saw only a cloud of steam; no geyser.

They reported this to the owner of the geyser, Charles Crump, who was able to remove the obstruction, whatever it was.

With exception of this incident, the Crump Geyser has spouted continuously to a height of 150 to 200 feet ever since it blew in last July 1. *Lake County Examiner*
Thurs. Jan 28, 1960.

Spouter Becomes True Geyser; Spouts 100 Feet

The hot water phenomenon at the Charles Crump ranch in Warner Valley is again making Lake County history. Now it is a true geyser, spouting at about two minute intervals to around 100 feet in height. The up-spouts last for about 20 seconds.

As late as three weeks ago, the spouting was still continuous, as it had been since it first blew in July 1 of last year, but the spouting was only some eight or 12 feet in height. About two weeks ago it began its truly geyser action . . . spouting at intervals, and Crump says that since that time the spouting has been gaining in strength.

The original continuous spouting had continued for several months, a plume of steam and hot water around 200 feet high, until vandals

succeeded in getting boulders lodged inside the 20-inch casing at the top, which reduced the height of the up-spout.

Norman Peterson, of Grants Pass, geologist with the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, has pointed out that a true geyser is one which spouts at intervals (such as the one at Hunter's Hot Springs Lodge and such as the Crump well is now). He said the only name for a spouter, such as the Crump well has been,

would be "continuous spouter."

The new action has caused other changes at the Crump Ranch. When the big geyser blew in last July, it dried up another geyser some 100 feet to the north where Crump had drilled a 100 foot well two or three years ago. Now the water in this well stands about four feet below the top of the 8-inch casing where it can be heard bubbling. Before the big well blew in last July, the smaller one would spout at intervals of several hours. Another change Crump has noted is that springs downhill from the geyser, which dried up when the big spouter blew in, have started running again.

Voice Of The People

23 July, 1959
Redmond, Oregon
1233 W. Indian Ave.

Gentlemen:

We read with great interest in a local paper today of the man-made geyser in Lake county, south of Hart Mountain being studied to be capped because it is wasting hot water. We have seen it and have taken pictures of it.

It could be made one of the biggest attractions in the State. We do not believe that is any more a waste of water than any of the COL streams which come out of the hills in Oregon such as the Metolius and Wood Rivers. It could be fed by Crump Lake which it finds its way back into after spouting out of the ground. The whole area between the geyser and Crump Lake has hot springs coming out of it, one of them so hot it was used to scald hogs in by local ranchers.

The well at Lakeview has been spouting for many years and nothing has been done about capping it.

We think that if we have a good Chamber of Commerce in Oregon, a great attraction could be made of it. There wasn't much around Old Faithful when it erupted, but it has become a real attraction because some people went to work and made something of it.

Oregon's "OLD CONSTANT"

is close to the National Game Reserve for antelope and mountain sheep on Hart Mountain and in the center or some of the best wild duck and goose and deer hunting that you can find anywhere.

We drove from Redmond down to see the geyser one Sunday and stayed on a good surfaced road the whole trip as far as Adel and then only 4 miles on a graveled county road. The proposed highway from Winnemucca-to-the-Sea will be within 4