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Our PUBLIC LANDS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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OUR PUBLIC LANDS . . .

500 million acres of land that belong to us and to our neighbors and to all the people of the United States . . . public lands that are rich in natural resources . . . timber, rangeland, water, minerals, and land for every use . . . "active acres" that must be carefully and wisely managed for the welfare of the Nation . . .

As a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on the development, utilization, and conservation of the resources on public lands, this periodical contains no copyrighted material. If pictures or material are reprinted, a credit line should be given Our Public Lands *and the Bureau of Land Management.*

Carlos Whiting, *Editor.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Douglas McKay, Secretary

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Marion Clawson, Director

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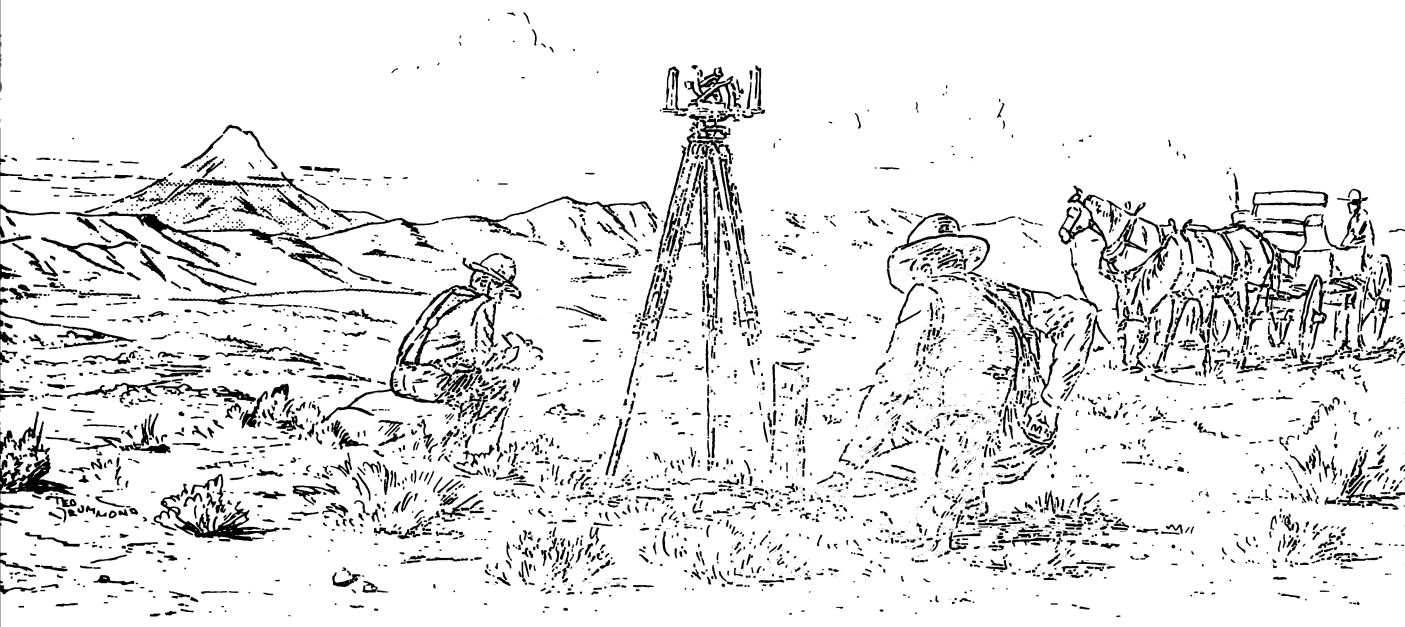
COVER

Recreation is an important and major use of the lands and waters under Government administration. Public lands provide scenic, hunting, fishing, camping, and many other "outdoor" values to literally millions of people. The cover picture, by Fred Cunningham, shows fishing on the Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper Souris Refuge in North Dakota, and is an FWS photo.



HISTORY. Edwin Richardson, early cadastral surveyor in Washington, imitated Johnny Appleseed by planting tree seeds. Richardson planted his seeds to mark survey corners. No one knows if any trees have survived to date, although some oaks may still live.

CADASTRAL SURVEYING'S "JOHNNY APPLESEED"

by MARION N. NANCE, *District Forester,* Region 1

A recent review of the original descriptive notes that were recorded concerning the field work completed for the first survey of public domain lands in the Pasco-Richland area of Washington almost 100 years ago has brought to light the interesting activities of a "Johnny Appleseed" surveyor. During the course of one seasonal assignment in the summer of 1863—26 years before Washington became a State and 10 years after the establishment of the Territory—Edwin Richardson planted a grand total of 1448 tree seeds in the sagebrush-bunchgrass country in the vicinity of the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

Practically the entire western portion of the United States was surveyed by men with special training and ability, who were appointed United States deputy surveyors. Richardson was one of these.

The primary purpose of these surveys was, of course, the establishment of permanent corners, and since the iron pipe with brass cap of today was not available in 1863, only a limited number of possibilities existed where Richardson was working for marking corners. Consequently, with few exceptions, his field notes indicate that he used a charred (for added durability) stake for each corner monument, with a trench and pits to witness it. And it was probably a desire to add more permanence to his work that prompted him to plant tree seeds in the witness pits.

Mr. Richardson evidently gave considerable thought to his project and added as much variety as possible under the circumstances. The number of seed planted were: apple 726; cherry (wild cherry stones) 389; white thorn 251; oak (acorns) 73; and peach (pits) 9. The number left in each pit varied from 1 to 7, and from 1 to 20 at the several corners.

Richardson evidently recognized the desirability of trees in the area, but there is no hint of the origin of his seed-planting idea. However, he lived and worked during the same period as Johnny Appleseed, and it is possible that he was endeavoring to emulate that well-known character in his efforts to establish fruit trees.

During the past year I completed a field examination that involved a small number of the corners at which seeds were planted, but I found no evidence to indicate that any of them had sprouted and grown. Certainly none of the trees, with the possible exception of the oaks, would be in existence today if they had survived.