

Oregon Agriculture and the Women who Shaped It

Highlights from Oregon's Agricultural and Natural History

Animal Waste Management Workshop

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SONG OF THE HOMESTEADERS

Serried and sharp is the region's rim
 Like lunar cliffs clear-cut and bold,
 Plains under quivering waves of heat,
 Plains under fierce, untempered cold.
 Dreary the landscape, lichen-gray,
 Sage brush and juniper miles on miles.
 Never a wood bird whistles gay,
 Never a violet peeps and smiles.
 Coyote and jack rabbit, wolf and owl,
 Prairie dog, eagle, and rattlesnake.
 Bones of the bison and starveling steer
 Season on season bleach and bake.

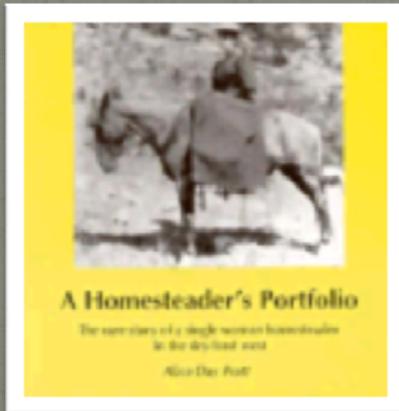
Whirling dust storm and shifting sand—
 This, oh this, is the Promised Land!

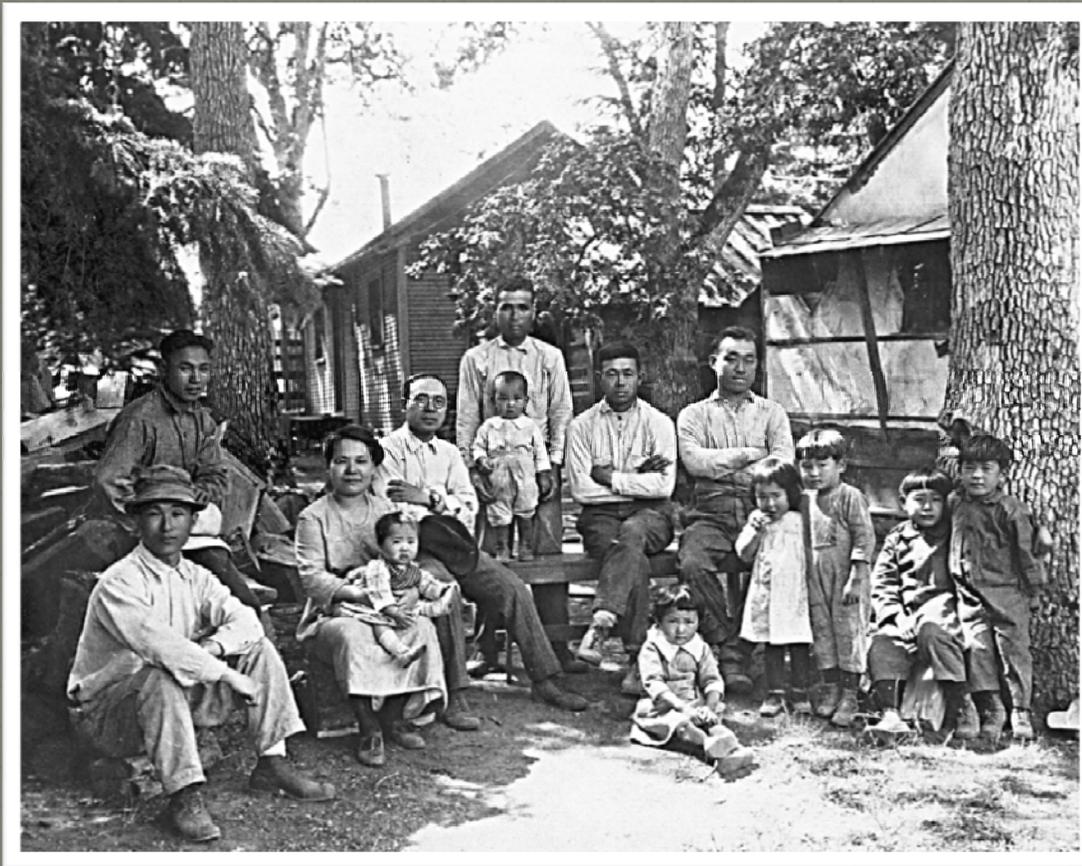
Silvery, sinuous, ditch and flume
 Leading down, from the arid steep,
 Water of life to the land below—
 Virginal valleys rich and deep.
 Limitless orchards of peach and plum
 Checking the landscape east and west,
 Garden and vineyard and soft-eyed herds,
 And woolly flocks with abundance blessed.
 Barn and haystack and bungalow
 And blaze of flowers for the passerby,
 And soldierly ranking of poplar spires
 Silhouette on the sunset sky,

And sweet-breathed meadows a billowy sea—
 This is the Country-That-Is-To-Be!

Alice Day Pratt
 (1872-1963)

Longed to,
 "own a
 portion of
 the earth's
 crust in my
 own right to
 tamper with
 unrestrained"





Miyo Iwakoshi

From 1907 to
1910 the
number of
Issei farms in
Oregon grew
from 71 to
233.



Women's Land Army

Between 1942-1945 Oregon recruited and trained nearly 100,000 women as emergency farm workers.



Mabel and Jessi Blackwell “wigwaming” flax, Benton County

Juliet Montague Lord

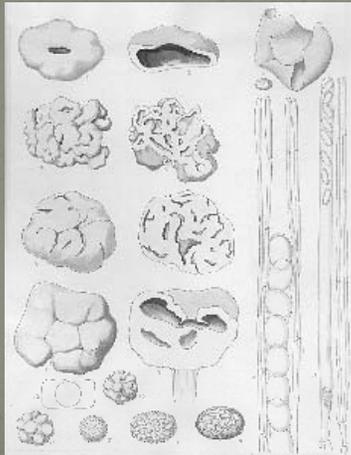
The “Flax Mother
of Oregon”

“A gathered quart
of seed had
enough fiber floss
to pad two quilts
and a hank of the
finest fiber I’ve
ever seen” Sarah
Damon Owen



Helen Gilkey
1886-1972

She received her
masters degree
from Oregon
Agricultural
College in 1911
with a thesis
entitled,
“Oregon
Mushrooms”



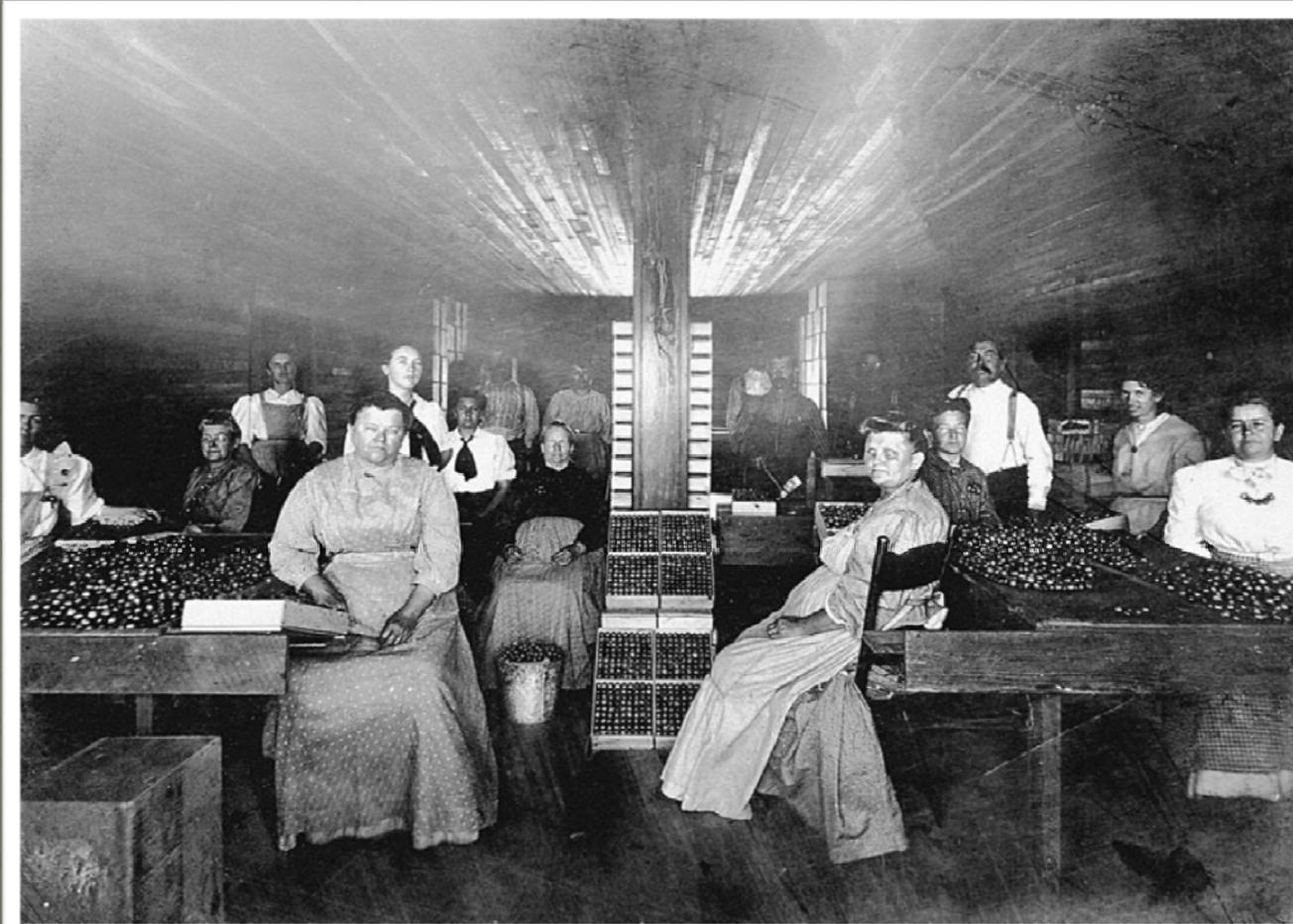


Women Cannery Workers

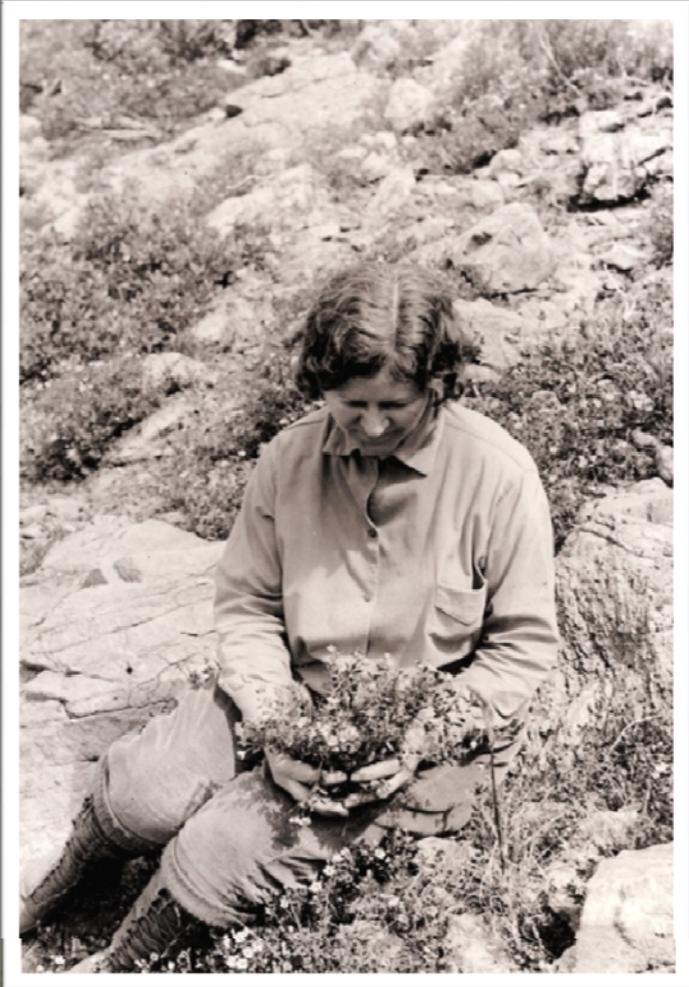
From the late 19th to early 20th century women worked in fish canneries all along the Columbia River.



Women Cherry
Packers,
Hood River



Women began entering the labor force in greater numbers in the late 19th century as more jobs became available to them.



Lilla Leach at Horsesign Butte, May 1931



Lilla Leach (1886-1980)

From 1928 to 1938 she covered over a 1000 miles of the rugged Siskiyou Mountains in Southwest Oregon with husband John.

Oregon Women For Agriculture



Oregon Women for Agriculture was organized 40 years ago by Willamette Valley farm women who were concerned with the shutdown of grass seed field burning. Since that time, this all-volunteer group has broadened its scope to include nearly all facets of agriculture.

Purpose-

- To educate the public about the importance of agriculture and its effects on our economy and to the environment.
- To encourage and support agriculture locally and nationally
- To promote research that will benefit agriculture

**Susan
Sokol-Blosser**

In 1983 Sokol-Blosser Vineyards was honored by the Soil and Water Conservation District for Susan's work in cover crops to control erosion.



Susan Sokol Blosser with daughter Alison; circa 1981



Siblings Alex and Alison Sokol Blosser become Co-Presidents; circa 2008

Questions

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Sources

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- Oregon Department of Agriculture www.oregon.gov
- www.sokolblosser.com
- The Oregon History Project www.ohs.org