

that required irrigation for productive farming—the so-

called 'arid lands.

Regional Timeline

Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1890 1894 1895 1896 1899 **Wyoming Carey Land Act Big Horn Basin** Park County, Wyo. Park County, Wyo. August 18 – President Grover Cody, Wyo. is platted. Cody was founded. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody July 10 – Wyoming Cleveland signed the Desert and investors acquired rights Burlington and Otto, Land Act of 1894, better becomes the 44th State from the State of Wyoming known as the Carev Act. Wyo. are established. in the United States of appropriate waters from the Sponsored by Wyoming America. Shoshone River for 120,000 acres Senator Joseph M. Carey, the of public domain near Codv. Act was meant to improve the success rate for the settlement of the public lands. The law specifically addressed the millions upon millions of acres in the western states



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1901

Park County, Wyo. Reclamation Act

1902

Park County, Wyo.

1903

Park County, Wyo.

the initial construction of the

\$2,250,000 is set aside for

Shoshone Reclamation

1904

Shoshone Dam

1905

Burlington Railroad completed its spur line to Cody, Wyoming from Toluca, Montana.

Cody, Wyoming was incorporated.

Garland, Wyo. was founded.

June 17th – Newlands Act (Reclamation Act) is signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. A federal act directing the Secretary of the Interior to reclaim arid lands in the western United States, use irrigation projects to revive the lands, and prepare the lands for homesteading.

Cody, Wyo.

November 18th – Irma Hotel, named after William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's daughter opens. The Wyoming State Board of Land Commissioners, with William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's approval, urged the U.S. Reclamation Service to complete the proposed irrigation development.

Project. Shoshone Reclamation Project

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody transferred his water rights to the Secretary of the Interior and drilling began that July. Construction of Shoshone Dam begins (In 1946, Shoshone Dam was renamed Buffalo Bill Dam by President Harry S. Truman).



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1906

1907

1908

1909

1910

Shoshone Project

Construction of Corbett Dam and diversion work starts.

Construction of Garland Canal starts.

May – Camp Coulter, government base of operations for work on the Garland Division is established.

Ralston, Wyo. platted.

Shoshone Project

Entries open for **Garland Division** homesteading with 35,000 acres.

November 25th - First drawing for homesteaders are chosen by lot; 276 units, 15,237 acres.

Park County, Wyo.

Camp Colter is renamed Powell.

March 16th – Ralston, Wyo. Post Office was established.

Shoshone Project

Ralston & Corbett Dam were completed.

First water delivered to homesteaders on Garland Division.

Powell, Wyo.

March 13th – First Powell Tribune published.

First tree is planted.

School opens with 36 students.

Population about 300.

Shoshone Project

May 8th – Second drawing on the **Garland Division**; 217 units, 15,662 acres.

Garland Canal completed.

Park County, Wyo.

February 15 – Legislature for the formation of Park County was authorized.

Powell Business

May 10th – Powell incorporated. May 25th – Town lots go on sale in Powell, including business section.

Shoshone Project

January 15th – last bucket of concrete poured completing the Shoshone Dam, total cost \$929,558.88 (World's Tallest Dam at this time = 325 feet above canyon floor).

Powell, Wyo.

May 10th – A.P. Libby elected mayor.

January 28th at Midnight – Disastrous fire destroys Bent Street block.

62 lots had been sold in the town of Powell by end of year.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

Park County, Wyo.

Park County commissioners hold first official meeting.

Park County valuation is \$6 million.

Powell Business

September 18th – S.A. Nelson sells the Powell Tribune and founds the First National Bank of Powell.

Art Owens opens the first barber shop in Powell.

New school built.

Estimated population on the **Shoshone Project** was 1,700.

Shoshone Project

Government forces begin correcting bog problems on the new project by installing drains.

Shoshone Project

Garland Division complete with 450 homesteads.

Powell & Powell Business

January 15th – Early morning fire destroys almost all wood-framed buildings on Bent Street.

Powell Telephone Company is incorporated.

May 20^{th} – Powell's first high school class graduates.

Powell water system is completed.

Oil was discovered in **Elk Basin**, **Wyo**.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1916

1917

1918

1919

1920

Powell, Wyo.

800 acres of sugar beets is contracted.

First hospital (Whitlock) in the Big Horn Basin begins construction in Powell.

April 21st – Powell Volunteer Fire Department established. **Shoshone Project**

September 15th - Frannie Division opens to homesteading with 14,600 acres.

Powell, Wyo.

Whitlock Hospital opens.

Population reached 800.

Big Horn Basin

William F. Cody dies in Denver.

Germania, Wyo. changes its name to Emblem.

Powell Business

Fire destroys the Powell Tribune building.

Powell Business

Powell Electric Company files incorporation papers.

Big Horn Basin

Public gatherings are prohibited because of Spanish Influenza.

Wyoming

Severe agricultural depression follows the war.

Wyoming banks begin to fail.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1921

1922

1923

1924

1925

Powell, Wyo.

Natural gas turned into mains in Powell.

Shoshone Project

Drilling at the foundation of the **Willwood Dam** was completed.

Shoshone Project

Willwood Dam

construction camp had been set up and work began on the dam, which would divert water from the Shoshone River to the 3rd Division of the Shohone Project.

Shoshone Project

June – **Willwood Dam** complete.

A new bridge across the Shoshone River linking Powell and the new irrigable Willwood lands was completed at a cost of

\$20,000.

Powell Business

Powell National Bank fails.

Wyoming

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman governor in the United States – 14th Governor of Wyoming.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1926

1927

1929

1930

1933

Powell, Wyo.

September - Powell hosted the Shoshone Project Fair (Park County Fair) for the first time, even though Powell had fairground facilities since 1921.

Shoshone Project

June 1st – Willwood Division opens; 42 units.

Powell, Wyo.

Powell gets streetlights and concrete sidewalks.

Shoshone Project

About 25% of the land on the **Willwood Division** had been settled.

Powell, Wyo.

Powell Schools had 1,043 students enrolled; high school students included 103 freshmen, 56 sophomores, 55 juniors, 37 seniors, and 3 post graduates. **Wyoming**

Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross (14th Governor of Wyo.) becomes the first woman director of the U.S. Mint.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

Powell, Wyo.

488 people in Powell have telephones.

Powell, Wyo.

New high school was built with Public Works Administration funds.

New Powell library was built across the street from new high school building. The Powell Branch Library is still located on the corner of Clark and 3rd Street.

Powell, Wyo.

May 2nd – Powell's brand new bandshell, built by Public Works Administration was dedicated.

Shoshone National Forest

Blackwater Fire on the Northfork of the Shoshone River kills 15 firefighters and injures 39 more. **Shoshone Project**

Bid invitations for construction of earthwork and the canal lining for the Shoshone Project's 4th division, **Heart Mountain**, were issued.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1939

1940

1941

1942

1943

Powell, Wyo.

11 days of Earl Durand

March 13th – Earl Durand arrested for poaching elk.

March 16th – Earl Durand escapes custody; shot/killed Town Marshal Charles "Chuck" Lewis & Deputy Sheriff D.M. Baker.

March 24th – Earl Durand shot during First National Bank Robbery by Tipton Cox. Park County, Wyo.

Road over Dead Indian Pass to Sunlight opens for travel – Chief Joseph Scenic Highway.

Shoshone Project

September 10th – First water was turned through the Shoshone Canyon Conduit controlling works and into the Heart Mountain Canal.

Powell Business

March 31st – 7:00am KPOW, the first radio station in the Big Horn Basin, begins broadcasting with 250 watts of power. Al Meyer established the station, which is the 5th oldest in Wyoming.

Heart Mountain, Wyo.

May – Heart Mountain Relocation Camp construction begins, over 2,500 workers erected 456 barracks and other necessary facilities to handle the Japanese-American internees (over 10,000).

August 12th – First internees arrive. During this period, Heart Mountain was Wyoming's 3rd largest city.

Elk Basin, Wyo.

New well in the Tensleep formation in Elk Basin produced 100 barrels of oil a day.

First deep well at Elk Basin comes in.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1944

1945

1946

1947

1948

Powell, Wyo.

Sewer system is expanded to serve entire town of Powell.

Heart Mountain, Wyo.

November 10th – Last train of internees leave Heart Mountain Relocation Camp.

Powell, Wyo.

Home mail delivery begins in Powell.

Shoshone Project Heart Mountain Division

of Shoshone Project opened to homesteading. (4,000 applications sent out to inquirers).

Powell Business

Polio outbreak closes swimming pool.

Fall – Northwest Center of the University opens.

Elk Basin, Wyo.

New well in the Madison formation produces 247 barrels of oil a day.

Shoshone Project

February 4th - **Heart Mountain Division** is officially opened to 212 veterans. Drawing held in Powell; 82 applicants became owners of 7,720 acres.

Powell, Wyo.

Challenger Airlines made its first flight to Powell. Later, Frontier Airlines replaced Challenger and served Powell until 1967, when the company ceased service, leaving Powell without a commercial carrier.

Northwest College

Northwest Center graduates its first class.

Shoshone Project

The 2nd drawing of the **Heart Mountain Division** awarding
31 units, more than 10,000
letters of inquiry had been
received.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1949

1953

1954

1955

1956

Powell Business

Powell Tribune begins publishing twice a week.

Bent street bridge over the canal is completed.

Paul's Drive-in theater is built on the Willwood highway.

Shoshone Project

September 23 – 3rd drawing of the **Heart Mountain Division**, final 104 farm units awarded at drawing held in Powell.

Elk Basin, Wyo.

Elk Basin repressuring plant is completed.

Northwest College

University of Wyoming, Northwest Center, becomes Northwest Community College. Powell, Wyo.

Polio vaccine is being administered to Powell students.

Elk Basin, Wyo.

Town of Elk Basin is dismantled, and most houses moved to Powell.

Park County, Wyo.

Hail ruins crops in a twenty-square mile area east of Heart Mountain. Elk Basin, Wyo.

Elk Basin Post Office closes after 39 years.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1959

1964

1965

1966

1969

Powell, Wyo.

Powell Golden Jubilee celebrating the town's 50th Anniversary! 1909-1959

Powell, Wyo.

October – Ground was broken for the Rocky Mountain Manor, retirement apartments for independent living. Most of the \$767,246 construction cost was raised locally. Powell, Wyo.

North End water line construction started.

Powell gets cable TV that offers five new channels.

Rocky Mountain Manor retirement home is finished.

Planning Commission

proposal to turn Bent Street into a pedestrian mall rejected by the business community.

Powell, Wyo.

January 21st – The worst fire in history of Powell raged out of control at the Powell Bean Mill.

June 3rd – Rocky
Mountain Manor
officially opened with 10
of the 78 apartments
already occupied.

Powell city budget is \$909,097.

Park County, Wyo.

Early hard freeze and railroad car shortage threatens sugar beet harvest.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1972

1973

1975

1976

1977

Powell, Wyo.

The emergency 911 system is put into effect in Powell.

Garland, Wyo.

The Garland Post Office closes after nearly 75 years of operation.

Powell, Wyo.

January 21st – Ground was broken for Powell's law enforcement facility. Completed in 1976, Construction costs for the modern facility were shared by federal, state, county, and city governments.

Powell, Wyo.

Powell turns 67 years old while America is celebrating its 200th birthday. The Bicentennial was the theme for the Park County Fair, Cody Stampede, and several other functions throughout Park County.

November 9^{th} -

Homesteader Museum moves to the American Legion Building.

Powell, Wyo.

Homesteader Museum

grand opening held in their new location, the American Legion Building (currently in same location, corner of 1st and Clark Street).



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1981

Shoshone

Irrigation District

Shoshone Irrigation

building power plant

on Ralston chute.

District begins

Chacha

1983

Shoshone Irrigation District

Garland Canal Power Plant begins full commercial production.

Fall – Powell Middle School students started in a brandnew building. The 5.6 million project took three years to complete. 1984

Powell Valley

North End water system is finished.

Unable to work out a contract, farmers in the valley grow no sugar beets.

Powell, Wyo.

Powell Diamond Anniversary Celebrating 75 years! 1909-1984 1987

Wyoming

Cutthroat Trout adopted as Wyoming State Fish.

Knightia adopted as Wyoming State Fossil.

1988

Big Horn Basin

Construction begins on Shoshone Municipal Pipeline.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

1990 1992 1994 1995 2001 **Powell Business** Powell, Wyo. **Powell Valley** Ralston, Wyo. Powell, Wyo. June 14th – Powell First commercial Beet growers purchase Western Anheuser-Busch builds Baker Bean and Feed selected as an Allinternet service is Sugar. huge barley receiving elevator and America City. available in Powell. facility west of Ralston. warehouse burn. The downtown *improvement project is* completed.



Development of the Big Horn Basin & Powell Valley

