

By this time many in this area had ceased raising beets, and there are now (1994) only two contracts operating here.

Sugar beets were good for the early farmers in this area, and many of them were able to pay for their farms this way. Many of those who later purchased farms did so by paying the former owner so many tons of beets per year.

This story could not be complete without mentioning the backbreaking beet fork, aching backs from thinning and hoeing, siloed beets, and frost and snow at harvest. It was hard but rewarding work resulting in strong, healthy men, very few with protruding stomachs.

Following are a few interesting points illustrating the improvement in the beet industry.

CULTURE

At first whole beet seed was planted at 12 inches. Seedlings emerged as a rope, and application of fertilizer and singling was required. There was a lot of weeds, and wild oats added to the problem. A monocultured seed at five pound per acre had a lot of weeds. A monogerm seed was developed and planted at four pound per acre, thinning became much easier.

LABOR

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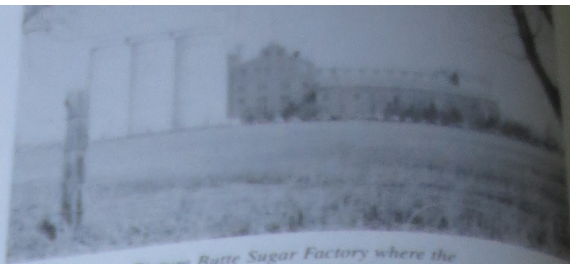
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Picture Butte Sugar Factory where the Diamond City beets were processed.



Marie Olsen begging her father Ervin for a ride to the beet dump.



Emiko Adachi topping sugar beets with sister Betty.

...the Diamond City area over the year
... Gerald Snow, Ken Hill, Arleg
... Hill, Forest Sherwood and Ma
... district service.