ment. The beauty of the narrow valley in early spring or late autumn helps one understand why homesteaders chose to settle in the remote area, a Shangri-La accessible only by a long and arduous trail.

Shown on this early map are the homestead cabins of Harry Stoudt, Elva Smith, Walker, Williams, Carter Allingham and Carl T. Hubbard. An occasional foot log shown spanning the river to Indian territory would indicate that good relations existed with their neighbors to the north. The trails shown on both sides of the river were no doubt used by the Indians long before the coming of the homesteaders.

Today little evidence remains of the old homesteads. A few rotting logs, rusted scraps of iron, an occasional gnarled fruit tree struggling for survival and a couple of stone fireplaces are the only signs to be found.

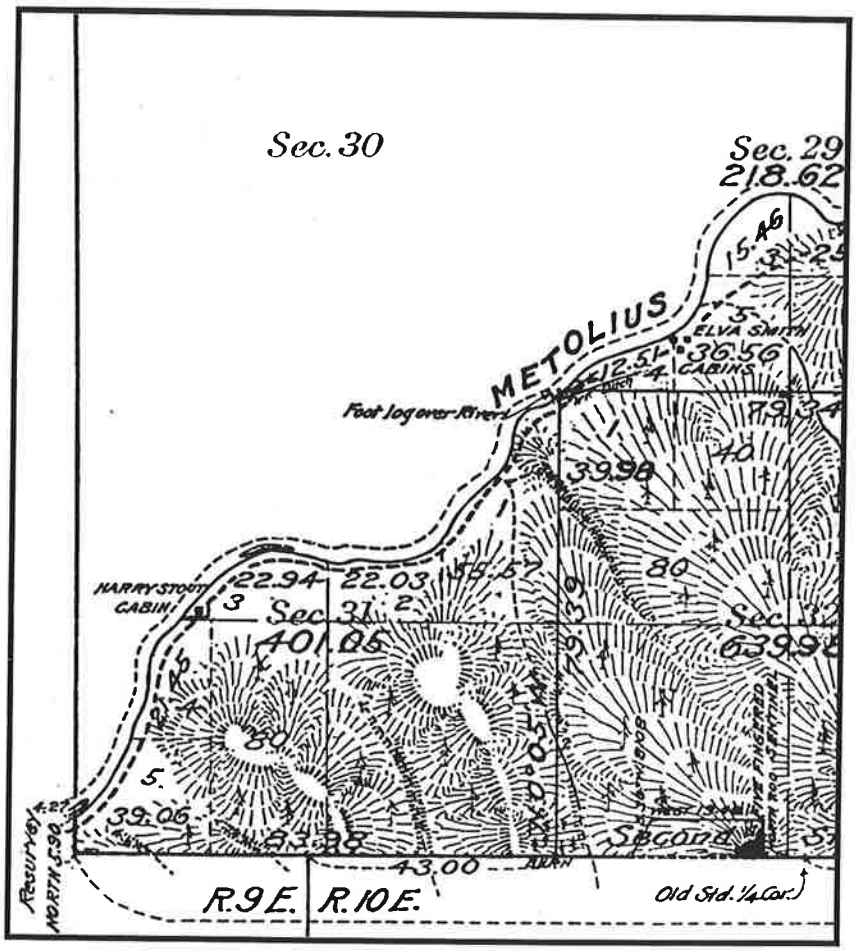
One of the last of these homesteads to be occupied was the Hubbard Ranch in Section 34. Commonly known as El Rancho, it was one of the first guest ranches in Central Oregon. Bureau of Land Management records show patent No. 48112 dated July 2, 1915, being issued to Carl T. Hubbard for this parcel. The date of application was not indicated but manifestly was prior to 1910.

In early days, access to the homestead was by trail. The 1915 Forest Service map shows the road from the Cove ending 2 1/2 miles downstream from Hubbard's ranch. Upstream, the road ended at Allen Springs, 15 miles away. Not until 1928 was the road completed to the ranch. Telephone service came at an even later date.

Reconstruction of the primitive road was necessitated by the building of the Round Butte Dam, with reservoir waters flooding much of the old route. In 1968 the U.S. Forest Service built a two-lane road extending upriver across all of the Hubbard lands. This construction destroyed the Lower Shut-in, a scenic high rock cliff jutting into the Metolius near the Carter Allingham cabin. Herein, the homesteaders had placed stepping stones which provided a somewhat dangerous passage around the rock cliff.

A lodge, guest cabins, barn and chicken house, largely of native materials, were built at El Rancho. A small tract of level river bottom land was planted to fruit trees and garden, and for the first time on record, Metolius River water was used for irrigation. Water was diverted about one-fourth mile above the lodge and carried in a ditch, still visible, to the garden.

Hubbard's accomplishments showed considerable ingenuity. As well as providing irrigation, the diverted water powered an undershot water wheel made with paddles mounted between two buggy wheels. Through a drive-belt, the water wheel drove the family washing machine and grindstone. A small sawmill was built later, but was powered by gasoline engine.



Survey map of the lower Metolius (T.10 S. R.10 E.,W.M.). The map was drawn after resurvey of the area by John A. McQuinn on February 19, 1910. The map shows the location of Five Fingered Sentinel, now believed by the authors to be the original Castle Rock (SE1/4SW1/4 Sec.32), as well as several cultural landmarks—remote homestead cabins and a foot log bridges over the Metolius. (1910 Plat of Survey)

> Here summer guests were entertained by Hubbard, who was bare-headed, bare-chested and bare-footed. The fishing rods and lures resting on the porch of the lodge gave some hint as to why people vacation in this remote place.
>
> In addition to ranching, Hubbard served as station master at Culver when rail service was started in 1911.
>
> Not occupied after World War II, El Rancho was shamelessly vandalized to the point where the present owner deemed it wise to raze what remained of the buildings. All that remains at the old homestead today are a few fruit trees and the stone fireplace chimney of the lodge standing like a monument to the old homesteader.[240]

Theodore Hubbard built El Rancho in the spring and summer of 1933. *The Redmond Spokesman,* May 4, 1933, reported that at that time four cabins had been finished and that the lodge would be ready that summer. The newspaper added that the Hubbards were making a place that "would attract Central Oregon folk and tourists during fishing season and summertime." While summertime weather on the Lower Metolius is likely to be delightful, winters are such that anyone living along the Lower Metolius can be isolated. Such was the case in 1937 as Mrs. Theo Hubbard,[241] correspondent to *The Redmond Spokesman,* February 27, 1937, wrote:

> Your correspondent has been marooned for some weeks. I haven't seen a soul, was completely isolated, a prisoner in my own domicile. The only communication I had was the radio, and it is a one-way affair, does all the talking. I cut down a couple of small cedars and was working hard to hew out a pair of skis, when my boy showed up on his horse, Famous, bringing me the news and a few bits of gossip.
>
> There was a measure of 32 inches of snow at El Rancho, although it snowed a foot or more afterwards, but kept settling; so I do not think it reached a much deeper measure. There is an enormous amount of moisture lying on the ground. I should say there are six inches, and should it all go off at once, the Metolius would probably rise to flood waters. About 50 years ago it rose four feet. As a rule, there is less than a foot variation from year to year in this most equable river.

The last sentence is an interesting comment on the hydrology of the Metolius River. Stream flow has been measured at Hubbard Ranch (El Rancho) since 1910. As of 1988, the long-term mean monthly flow for the Metolius at that point (now called the Grandview recording station) ranged from 1,353 cubic feet per second in January to 1,638 cfs in June—not a big variation. However, daily extremes have ranged from a high of 8,430 cfs at 4 p.m. February 7, 1996, a time of devastating floods in NW Oregon, to a low of 1,080 cfs on February 17, 1933.[242]

Another ranch on the Lower Metolius that had historic significance was the Montgomery Ranch, located close to where Perry South Campground is today. The Montgomery Ranch site was originally homesteaded by Homer Street, for whom Street Creek was named. Street, a rancher and preacher, moved from Washington to Central Oregon looking for a homestead with plenty of water and fertile soil upon which he could grow small fruits and strawberries. He found what he was looking for on the Lower Metolius. In addition to his farming, Street preached at schoolhouses within riding distance of his homestead. He successfully raised vegetables and fruit, including tomatoes, watermelons and strawberries, which he sold to nearby settlers. He also hauled his products to Prineville, the largest city in Central Oregon at that time. It should be noted that the homestead was at an altitude of 1,900 feet, or about 415 feet lower in elevation than Madras, with an even milder climate than the Agency Plains near there.

To irrigate the lands, Street (with the help of his neighbor Link Stiver) made ditches to water the large gardens, using dynamite to blast rocks. One day, in the mid-1890s as the story goes,[243] the horse that Street was riding stepped on a stick of dynamite lying on a rocky spot. The dynamite exploded and hurled both horse and rider over a 20-foot embankment into the Metolius, killing both.[244] The ranch then became the property of the Montgomery family, who turned it into a bulb farm. The Redmond Spokesman, October 7, 1937, reported that Mrs. Florence Montgomery shipped 12,000 lily bulbs to such states as Pennsylvania and California. From April 1930 to December 1948, the Montgomery Ranch had an official weather station.

TRAILS ALONG THE METOLIUS

Except for relatively short stretches of the river where there are privately-owned lands, the Metolius is accessible to hikers and fishermen on one or both sides of the river as far downstream as Candle Creek, a mile below Lower Bridge. Along the way, the mood of the