

S.E.D.  
FIELD NOTES BOOK No. 90

F.R. Tucker Book No. 2

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Where a ditch cut like this would not furnish material enough for the levee, smaller ditches were cut in the bottom and on the river side of the main ditch.

The ditch was not a continuous one, benches being left every 800 or 1000 feet to prevent the current from washing it out, and to precipitate sediment in time of flood; openings 2 or 3 feet wide were cut, between these benches, and from the river to the ditch, to admit the water during a slight raise. The height of the levee on the San Joaquin River was about 3 feet above the banks; on Old River from 3 to 5 1/2 feet.

All this levee, about 8 1/2 miles was completed in Oct. 1875, total cost \$7,647.75. From the lower line of the Rancho El Pescadero to Willow Lake Slough a distance of 1 1/2 miles the land was owned by James Rea, Wm. Pile and B. Ralto; they each built their own levee, which was of the same dimensions as the other levee, but it was much nearer the river, in some places being not more than 12 feet distant, material was taken from both sides, but mostly from the outside, work was finished in Nov. 1875; as each man did his own work without employing laborers the cost was very little.

The dam in Willow Lake Slough was built with "Slusser Excavators", material being taken from the bank of the Slough.

From Willow Lake Slough to Honker Ridge <sup>along Middle River</sup> 4 1/3 Miles the ground was all plowed 1 foot deep commencing about 6 feet from the bank and extending back about 60 feet; on this plowed ground the levee was located; the banks slope back very fast and to save heavy fills the levee was put as near the river as it could be, and leave material for its construction on the outside. The work was commenced in Sept. 1875; the levee was from 5 to 8 feet high, 4 feet wide on top, outside slope 2 to 1, inside slope 1 1/2 to 1. About 400 chinamen were employed and the work was nearly finished in Nov. 1875, when the river raised suddenly and stopped it.

In a number of places, where the levee was unfinished the water rushed through and would have swept away everything if we had not built bulkheads, as it was very little was lost. Work, of course, had to be stopped until the water subsided, a year was lost on that account.

Four miles of the crop levee, on Honker Ridge, from Middle River to Honker Mound, at the head of Duck Slough, was built during the summer of 1875; a great deal of experimental work was done with machinery; all the land on which the levee was built was first plowed, then "McCall Scrapers," "Wanchape Graders" and "Slusser Excavators" were tried at an immense expense but with very little success, common road scrapers worked well and with them most of the work was done.

This 4 miles was completed before the flood came. The average height of the levee was 6 ft. slopes 2 to 1 and crown 4 feet wide. The two miles along Duck Slough from Honker Mound to Burns' Cutoff was located and construction well started when the flood came, but had to be left unfinished.