



Arrowrock Dam was the highest in the world when it was completed in 1915. (Bureau of Reclamation)

## Nampa-Meridian Irrigation District takes big part in Meridian Public Works Week

Otto Otter made a special public appearance, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of Arrowrock Dam was featured and water managers demonstrated how siphon pipe is used to move irrigation water from ditch to crop furrow as the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District took part in Meridian Public Works Week. (Ed.: See Page 10 for coverage of the WWTP ribbon cutting and open house.)

The life-sized Otto Otter is the mascot of a water safety program originated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The safety program is aimed at children to try and reduce deaths and injuries involving water. The program is especially important in Idaho due to the enormous number of irrigation canals, drains and other water-related hazards.

"Nampa-Meridian uses the Otto Otter program to help educate young people in the area about the dangers of the miles of canals and ditches that are in or pass through Meridian residential areas," said NMID Secretary-Treasurer Daren Coon. "Children take to Otto almost instantly and that makes it much easier to help teach them to stay away from canals

In some ways, Otto is more effective at carrying the water safety message than adults."

(Continued on Page 2)



Siphon tubes supply irrigation water from a ditch to irrigate a field of grain. (NMID Photo)

## Otto Otter is NMID's 2015 mascot for canal safety

Arrowrock Dam was built to store irrigation water for the growing agricultural economy in the Treasure Valley. A comprehensive poster display of the dam coupled with a explanations about the dam supplied by a local historian were part of the NMID series of events.

Another highly interesting element were demonstrations of how to set siphon tubes, an integral part of irrigated farming. Siphon tubes are a common sight in farm fields in the area and are used to draw vital irrigation water from ditches at the edge of fields and deliver it to plants via row crop furrows in the soil.

"The district supplies water to thousands of acres of farmland in the Meridian area plus thousands of pressurized irrigation systems in Meridian residential subdivisions, Coon said.

In photo at right, NMID's water/canal safety mascot, Otto Otter, visited the Public Works Expo.



Gage Hurley, 7, assembles a birdhouse with assistance from mom Jodi. Home Depot provided all materials including parts, hammers and nails.



Caleb Long, 4, prepares to 'high-five' Otto Otter at the Public Works Expo held on June 3rd at Meridian City Hall Plaza.