



8-27-1949

Letter from Gilbert Holtan to Representative Burdick Regarding Rent Received by Army Engineers for McClean County, October 27, 1949

Gilbert Holton

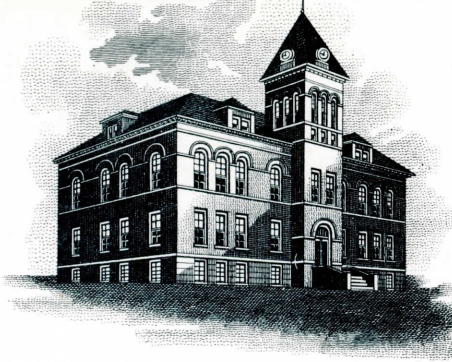
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MCLEAN COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Garrison

OFFICE OF
GILBERT HOLTAN, COUNTY AUDITOR
GEO. H. WEBER, DEPUTY

WASHBURN, N. DAK.
October 27, 1949

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Hon. Usher L. Burdick
Representative, North Dakota
Washington, D. C.

Re: Rent received by Army Engineers
from land unindated by the
Garrison Pond.

Dear Congressman Burdick:

We have been informed that McLean County will receive about \$90,000.00 per year until the Reservoir is filled; however, to date we have recieved only \$3,917.21.

Seventy-five percent of rentals collected is remitted to the County of which the Board of County Commissioners have allocated fifty per cent (50%) for schools and fifty per cent (50%) for roads in areas affected by the Garrison Pond.

For comparisn, I give the valuation of McLean County for the years 1946 to 1949.

1946	\$9,504,585.00
1947	\$10,238,632.00
1948	\$10,409,265.00
1949	\$11,330,983.00

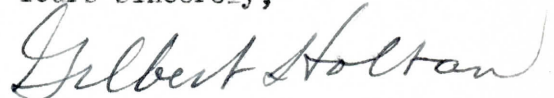
Although McLean County has lost thousands of acres (approximately 7%) on account of the dam, we must also remember that much of this land was non-productive (other than for pasture) and much of it Indian land that never was subject to taxation, however, if we take into consideration the increase in valuation of irrigable farm land in McLean County due to the Garrison Dam, I do not anticipate that valuations will decrease in the County as a whole.

Mr. Burdick, continued:

The present increase in valuation of the County is partly due to much expensive road machinery used in connection with the building of the Garrison Dam, also personal property of all the employees and a general upward trend of Real Estate and personal property in the County.

Perhaps, I am too pessimistic about revenue coming into the County Treasury from the rental monies collected by the Army Engineers, but we have heard rumors that rentals have been reduced in order to find renters and in some cases land was idle for want of a renter principally because rents were considered excessive.

Yours sincerely,



Gilbert Holtan, Auditor
McLean County, North Dakota

P. S. I will also add that McLean County is now carrying a much too heavy Relief Load on account of the laborers and business men coming to the County on account of the Dam, and really, since the State stands to gain as a whole, the State should help carry this burden, at least until the Dam is completed and conditions get back to normal.

