

Fresno Scraper

Before this implement was created, a buckboard was used. This was a board pulled by horses in an upright position so that it scraped and pushed the soil to smooth and level the ground.

But in 1877, James Porteous, opened a wagon shop in the downtown area where he fabricated buggies and heavy wagons. He recognized the dependence of Central Valley farmers on irrigation and the need for a more efficient means of constructing canals and ditches in the sandy soil. Working with the simple buckboard, he made several design improvements and called it the Buck Scraper in 1882 then a Dirt Scraper in 1883.

He perfected the scraper once again and called it a Fresno Scraper. A two-horse model sold for \$28. They were shipped throughout the U.S., as well as South America, India, the Orient, South Africa, Australia and Europe.

The “Fresno” played a vital role in the construction of the Panama Canal and later served the US Army in World War I.