

Lee Lester Reader

A Small Enterprise Well Kept:

# COLUMBUS COURIER

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## A Trip Into The Country

Large Development Taking Place  
Northeast of Columbus

Sunday afternoon the Chief Pencil Pusher on the COURIER staff, accompanied by the Foreman of the mechanical department took a little jaunt out into the country. We had heard so much about the country lying northeast of Columbus, and of the abundant supply of water which it possessed, that we had a great curiosity to explore it.

And it is certainly a beauty; as fine a stretch of fertile valley land as we ever looked upon, in many places reaching out for miles apparently as level as a floor, yet gently sloping toward the south and east—just enough to give a nice fall to the irrigation ditches, letting the water flow freely. As a matter of fact there are whole sections of this land that may be cleared, leveled and prepared for cultivation at a cost not exceeding from \$5 to \$10 per acre.

Driving down the cozy lanes, and looking across the country at the many happy homes nestling in peace and quietude within the fond embrace of the great glowing mountains that skirt the edge of this alluvial plain; catching the glimmer of the many wind mills in the brilliant sunlight; inhaling the fragrance of the new mown alfalfa, one almost forgets this a NEW country. And the mind in fancy runs ahead a few short years when the laughter of the sons of toil fill the land with the sweet, rich melody of the songs of industry, while plenty sits enthroned and crowned, and sways her joyous scepter over happy homes, where thousands dwell in peace and content.

We stopped at the home of James Durham, who, with his family come here from De Ridder, Louisiana. Mr. Durham was formerly a hardware merchant at De Ridder, but hearing of the Mimbres Valley country and its many latent possibilities, it did not take him long to decide to journey this way. He has already put down a forty five foot well and installed an eleven h. p. Foss engine and a No. 3 Worth-

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## The Virtue of the Pump

It is not infrequently said by the skeptical, the uninformed and those prejudiced toward the gravity ditch system of irrigation that pumping for crop growth is impracticable and destined sooner or later to become a failure. And, falling back on the dignity of their supposed logic, they give as their reasons that "pumping is too expensive, and that the underground flow cannot be accurately determined."

Taking the reasons transverse-ly we wish to say, that the latter argument will apply more forcefully to the gravity system of irrigation than that of pumping.

The surface streams, especially in this latitude and longitude whose volume depends very largely upon the amount of snow-fall at their source, necessarily loses much of their liquid flow by reason of evaporation from sun and wind. The underflow is never affected in this manner. Last year, which was probably the driest in the recorded history of New Mexico, the wells of the Mimbres Valley were not affected in the least. This notwithstanding the fact that a far greater quantity of water was pumped from the underground strata than ever before.

As a matter of fact we believe it is only a question of time until all of the western mountain streams of any consequence will be under the direct supervision of the state or national governments their flow safely guarded and conserved in order to accommodate the great demands made upon them by the numerous irrigators.

Another advantage to be derived from pumping for irrigation is the fact that each irrigator is practically "master of his own crop destiny" in that he controls his own plant and may put the water onto his growing crops just when they need it and in the proper amount. The pump irrigator never has to worry about the supply giving out before it reaches him. He does not have to wait his turn, nor is he limited to the amount he may use. No dependence on the surface flow of a stream, no care about floods or drought, no dams to build or

rebuild, no ditches to break, no compulsion at taking water or being charged for it just the same as tho you used it, no question of prior water rights sometimes causing long drawn out and expensive lawsuits, no quarrels with the man above you on ditch or stream. Every agriculturist, whether he be farming under some one of the Government projects, the Cary act or a private reclamation scheme knows the importance of being able to irrigate at will—at the proper time, in the proper manner, and with the proper amount. Hence these facts all appeal to him in an intelligent manner as being heavily laden with truth and reason.

Again the pumping process does not mean the issuing of bonds on the irrigators land, only in exceptional instances. It stands for individuality. The man of small means has the same proportional opportunity as the one of large estate. Being able in a small way the poor farmer may gradually increase his acreage until he attains his satisfied amount without burdening his land with one cent of indebtedness.

Further-more, the pump irrigator invariably has a purer water to apply to his crops than the surface ditch man. Especially is this true in the Mimbres Valley. Here the farmer floods his land with water which is the purest yet discovered in the United States containing only sixty parts of mineral substance to every one hundred thousand parts of water. Thus no deteriorating minerals are spread out over the fields, no alkali, gypsum, or other harmful salts which sterilize the soil and reduce the crop production are to be contended with.

Weeds are the farmers bane. And every irrigator knows that the surface ditch is one of the most potent agents in spreading obnoxious seeds over the fields. He also knows the extra labor they entail and the effect they have upon the crops, the yield and the prices. The man who pumps his irrigating water from

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## Columbus Will Celebrate

Athletic Events--Basket Dinner  
Base Ball Game

Columbus will celebrate the Fourth of July. "Nuff Sed." This is a guarantee of a GOOD TIME to every one who will be fortunate enough to attend.

An excellent program has been arranged by the citizens and officers of Troop "C". There will be special athletic events, foot and mounted races, base ball game, tug of war, grotesque parade, basket dinner, musical and literary program. The soldiers of Troop "C", U. S. Cavalry, will take active part, giving various demonstrations of military manoeuvres. Every one is cordially invited to spend the day at Columbus. Come help us celebrate the "Glorious Fourth," and have the "time of your life." Following is a synopsis of the program.

### PROGRAM

10:30 a. m.

1. Mounted Tent Pegging, 100 yards—U. S. Soldiers.
2. Mounted Wrestling—U. S. Soldiers.
3. Rescue Race, 100 yards and return—U. S. Soldiers.
4. Roman Race, 300 yards, with two foot hurdles at finish—U. S. Soldiers.
5. Mounted Tug of War, (bare-back.) Open to civilian teams. Teams to consist of captain and five men.

6 Steeple-chase. Open to soldiers or civilians. One half mile. Start from barrier. Brush hurdle 3 1-2 feet, board hurdle 2 feet, sand bag hurdle 2 feet, post and rail hurdle 3 feet. First prize, \$5, cash; second prize, \$3 cash. 12 o'clock, noon.

Basket dinner at the church.

1:15 p. m.

Music and literary program.

1:30 p.m.

Grotesque Parade. Prizes given for most comic costume mounted, most comic costume on foot, and most comic rig. Parade starts at the Customs House and ends at the church.

### Athletic Events.

- 100 yard dash.
- Stake race.
- Sack race.
- Three legged race.
- Ladies needle and thread race.

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