

# THE MOUNTAINAIR INDEPENDENT

VOL. 1

MOUNTAINAIR, NEW MEXICO, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1916

NO. 1

## MOUNTAINAIR SCHOOLS SET HIGH STANDARD

Teachers and Board Working in Harmony toward Full High School Course

## NEW BUILDING BEST IN THE COUNTY

Modern and Up-to-date in its Arrangement, Sanitation and Lighting

Our schools have started on the third week of what promises to be one of the most pleasant and most profitable years in their history. Thus far teachers, pupils and patrons have done nothing but "Boost." The teachers feel that no school in the state has a more earnest nor more courteous lot of pupils. The pupils feel that their teachers are not only able but are anxious to give their best to the schools. The patrons, hearing so many favorable reports are loud in their praise and are determined that Mountainair shall have a school of such standard that their children will have the advantage of schools equal to any in the state.

With our new building and equipment we are able to put our schools on a standard basis. This year we are only offering a two year High School Course, but hope to be able to add the third and fourth years as they are needed.

During the first two weeks twelve had enrolled in the freshman class and four in the Sophomore. Our High School will have 20 per cent of our total enrollment this year and there are few High Schools in the state that can boast of such a large percentage of the total enrollment.

The course of study offered is as follows:

### FIRST YEAR

Algebra, Complete  
First year Latin  
English  
Agriculture  
Physical Geography  
Domestic Science  
Manual Training

### SECOND YEAR

Plane Geometry  
Caesar  
English  
General History  
Domestic Science  
Manual Training

The schools were closed on Monday and Tuesday of this week to allow the carpenters to put on the new steel ceilings. This work has been done and it has made a wonderful improvement in the appearance of the class rooms.

Contractor Lloyd Moore expects to complete the basement at once and when he has finished we will be ready to order equipment for our Domestic Science and Manual Training departments. The Gymnasium will furnish a splendid recreation room for the children during the stormy days of the winter.

There seems to be no limit to the influence of good, standard well advertised schools in any community. People who have children to educate will be drawn to the towns that have reputations for good schools. The influx of people will be followed by industries. Mountainair already has her newspaper, a bank will follow and when we realize that we are the center of most progressive and successful farming communities in the state our future is assured.

If you are interested in the future of Mountainair, if you are interested in the welfare of your children, if you want to be proud of the community of which you are a part, boost the public schools. In order to boost with a clear conscience visit the schools and familiarize yourself with what is being done.

There are also "movies" on the farm—a lively moving about from one place to another, and getting something accomplished with every move.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN ATTEND STATE FAIR

As Reward for Meritorious Work are Given Week's Outing, all Expenses Paid

Among the visitors to the State Fair at Albuquerque this week none will be more interested in the "big doings" than the score or more of Torrance County school children, who, on account of meritorious work in one of more lines of school work in connection with the Extension Work of the Department of Agriculture of the United States are given a treat of a week's stay at the Fair with all expenses paid.

The boys are in charge of County Superintendent Chas. L. Burt, while the girls are under the tutelage of Miss Annie Porter of Estancia. These boys and girls are, almost without exception children from the farms, and very few of them would have enjoyed the outing except for the arrangement under which they are now there, as this is a busy time on the farm.

In a number of instances these boys and girls have done what their elders have failed to do in the matter of securing results.

Word from Mr. Burt is to the effect that the Torrance County Delegation, the first to reach the camping grounds, had first choice of tents. The camp is known as Camp Southard, a courtesy to the president of the State Fair Commission. About 275 boys and girls are in camp, representing twenty counties. The counties having a live wire for a County Agent, as has Torrance, are making the best showing.

The Girls Club work is showing exceptionally good and lots of it. The Boys work does not show so much in quantity, but is fine in quality. Torrance county has six bean exhibits—other counties one; Torrance two potato exhibits—other counties one; Torrance also shows corn and pigs, the whole exhibit showing up well.

The whole bunch of Boys and Girls live at the Camp and are not allowed outside the gates and downtown, unless accompanied by chaperone. The youngsters are having the "time of their lives."

From Supt. C. L. Burt we have secured the names of those in attendance at the Fair, full list being as follows. Upon Mr. Burt's return we will try to secure an article as to what each of the individuals accomplished in his or her special line of work.

Mountainair—Thelma Farley, cooking; Walter Hoyland, Oral Hollon, beans.

Cedarvale—Cecil Markham, pig; Estancia—Nellie Williams, sewing; Willie Clark; Harold Johnson.

Lucy—Ruby Mattingly, sewing. McIntosh—Luther Vanderford, beans; Ollie Gates, poultry; Clara Torrence, cooking.

Moriarty—Chester Shockey, potatoes; Negra—Clara Seay, A class; Mary Belle Hamrick; sewing. Pine Grove—Bera Butler, Conchita Vijil, beans; Nola Butler.

Progreso—Albert Mulkey; Ray DeVaney.

Silverton—Mildred Milbourne, sewing; Walter Merrifield.

Willard—Lawrence Bledsoe, pig; Beatrice Trujillo.

## Average 1135 Pounds Beans from 65 Acres

Gas Dunn, whose farm lies east of Manzano, threshed part of his 80-acre crop of beans last week, yielding him 73,800 pounds. From one measured acre he threshed 1,600 pounds, this being one of the best yields of which we have heard thus far.

From the sixty-five acres threshed, Mr. Dunn has 738 sacks, averaging about a hundred pounds each. This is an average yield of 1,135 pounds per acre from the sixty-five acres, which is certainly some beans. He still has fifteen acres to thresh.

## NESTLING AMONG THE CEDARS, AT THE FOOT OF THE MANZANOS

Lies the town of Mountainair, Surrounded by a Fertile Farming Country, Capable of Supporting Thousands of Inhabitants

Located on the Eastern Railway of New Mexico, the Belen Cut-off of the Santa Fe System, the town of Mountainair nestles in the cedars at the foot of the Manzano Mountains just east of Abo Pass, 6,547 feet above sea level.

Surrounding the town is a rich deep soil of red loam, adapted to the growing of all crops suitable to this latitude, fruits including apples, grapes, peach es, berries and all small fruits being unexcelled in flavor and yield. The pinto bean, commonly known as the Mexican bean, has come to be the staple crop, the yield being from five hundred to fifteen hundred pounds per acre. The market demand for this staple is increasing each year and the price is advancing accordingly.

Good yields of corn, wheat, oats, rye, and similar crops are grown each year, the farmers being able to produce all their feed for work teams, milk cows, swine and chickens. The rainfall which has averaged twenty inches during the past ten years, is sufficient to assure crops each year with scientific cultivation, and no crop failures have been known in the territory adjacent to Mountainair and the foot-hill country.

The native gramma grass not only furnishes the best of pasturage for stock of all kinds, but produces large quantities of feed when cut and cured as hay, being one of the most nutritious grasses known.

The mild seasons make stock growing of all kinds profitable, but little shelter and winter feed being required. Milk cows grazed on the native grasses produce large quantities of butter fat, which finds ready market at good prices at the Albuquerque Creamery, only seventy miles distant. Swine thrive the greater part of the year on the Russian thistle or "tumbleweed" and in the autumn they fatten on acorns and piñon nuts in the foothills, requiring very little grain for finishing the pork for slaughter. Poultry of all kinds pays splendid returns on the investment and has been the salvation of a number of the "early settlers" who were compelled to change their farming methods when coming from districts of greater rainfall. Albuquerque each year imports from Kansas points poultry and poultry products to a valuation of over \$750,000, a large portion of which could and should be produced right here at home, the Santa Fe furnishing direct shipping facilities to the New Mexico metropolis.

Cheap fuel is at hand in abundant quantities. The Manzano National Forest is right at Mountainair's door, where the best of dry fuel can be had by the homeseeker and home maker for the hauling. Building material is to be had as reasonable as in any district and more so than in many less favored portions of the country. Saw mills along the foothills to the north of Mountainair produce both rough and surfaced lumber of all kinds at very reasonable rates.

At Mountainair the Santa Fe has constructed one of its unique stucco stations, commodious in its apportionment and comfortable for the traveling public. Large yards are maintained here, with stock pens for the accommodation of the stock growers and shippers.

Mountainair has always stood for the better things in life, never having tolerated the saloon, each deed for a town lot bearing the revertible clause in case liquor is dispensed on the premises. On the other hand, schools and churches have received the hearty support of the people. Both the Methodist Episcopal and the Baptist people have church buildings and hold regular services. At the upper end of Broadway avenue, the principal street, overlooking the town, a modern school building, one story and basement, containing assembly room, four recitation rooms, wrap rooms, superintendent's office, manual training and domestic science laboratories, has just been completed, and is now in use. The building is of native stone and brick, pebble-dashed, and shows an investment of about \$15,000, every cent of which was used to best advantage in the work of construction and furnishing. A corps of four teachers has charge of the work, which includes two years of high school work.

That the business of the town and vicinity is well provided for is attested by our advertising columns, showing most lines of business necessary. The merchants carry large and well selected stocks of merchandise, and are accommodating and appreciative of their patronage.

Practically all of the government land has been homesteaded, so there is no more free land to be had. Patented claims are to be had at prices ranging from about five dollars per acre upward. Naturally some claims are fairly well improved while others have practically none whatever. Some choice quarter sections without ten miles of Mountainair, with comparatively shallow water, can be secured for about a thousand to fifteen hundred dollars. It is not expected that this cheap land will remain on the market long at these prices. When land will produce a crop of beans which bring from sixty to eighty dollars per acre, it will not go begging at ten to fifteen dollars per acre.

The altitude together with the location in the foothills makes of Mountainair a natural health resort. The mild winters and temperate summers, the warm sunshine and cool nights are life-giving elements, beyond price. The ozone-laden atmosphere re-builds and strengthens the lungs, gives new appetite, and re-creates the whole physical system.

Two great Highways intersect at Mountainair; the Abo Highway, which connects with the western extension of the Camino Real at Los Lunas on the west, extending eastward through Abo Pass to Mountainair and on to Wellington, Kansas, where it connects with the Oil Belt Road to St. Louis. At Wellington, the Abo Highway also intersects the Meridian Road, the great north and south system of the middle west. The Quivira Highway connects at Carrizozo with the southern route, branching to Roswell and El Paso, extending northward, passing near the historic ruins of Pueblo Pardo, Gran Quivira, near Moctezuma and Abo, to Mountainair, thence northward to the ruins of La Cuaraí, the ancient apple orchards at Manzano, on through the ancient towns of Torreon and Tajique to Estancia, thence north to Santa Fe.

## TORRANCE COUNTY AGAIN WINS FIRST PRIZE

Journal Speaks Well of Exhibit in Charge of County Agent Harwell

Torrance county has again proven its superiority in the non-irrigated class, by walking off with first and highest honors at the State Fair. During the past twelve years, whenever Torrance county has made an exhibit at the State Fair, it has come away with high honors and often with first prizes that the case has long ago been proven chronic. This year, as it so often occurs that the big money prizes goes to the irrigated sections. County Agent Harwell is to be congratulated on his work in the midst of what appeared insurmountable difficulties.

Although other counties in the state have been assisted in making displays at the State Fair at Albuquerque by funds appropriated by the county commissioners, which Torrance county did not have, and notwithstanding the further fact that the Fair is held several weeks earlier than usual, and too early in fact for Torrance county to make its best showing, yet the display made by the county under County Agent Roland Harwell is a most creditable one, as witnessed by the following from the Albuquerque Journal:

Although Torrance county did not appropriate the funds necessary to have an exhibit at the State Fair, nevertheless Torrance county has an exhibit—and a very enterprising one. Roland Harwell, Torrance county agent, is on the job at the fair grounds accompanied by a committee composed of J. A. Brittain, representing the Estancia Valley Fair association; Dr. Ot-tison, and John L. Lobb, of the Torrance County Fair association. These two fair organizations subscribed the money for a state fair exhibit, when the county failed to contribute. And it is a certainty that Torrance county will profit by the venture. Torrance county has what may be termed a strictly dry farming exhibit, with potatoes, squashes, beans and other staples on display. In grains, there are splendid showings in millet, barley, wheat, oats, rye, corn, sudan, hog millet, sweet clover and alfalfa. As an example of the things that are being done in Torrance county, there is a brief story told in placard form in the Torrance booth. The story is this; W. G. Dunn produced 52,000 pounds of beans on forty acres, 1,300 pounds to the acre, which he sold at five cents a pound, a total of \$65.00. The cost of producing, less interest, labor and depreciation was \$8.05, leaving a net profit of \$56.95 an acre, or 560 per cent on the investment, the land being \$10 land.

### BIG BEAN CROP

County Agent Harwell enthused over this year's Torrance county bean crop. The crop totals 7,500,000 pounds, grown on 15,000 acres. The farmers will receive \$375,000 in real money for their beans.

The bean king of Torrance county is John Cooper, with 250 acres, averaging 1,000 pounds to the acre. He and his son did practically all the work required on the crop.

Fair visitors will do well to take a look at the Torrance exhibit and those interested in dry farming will find County Agent Harwell ready to tell all about the methods of raising crops without irrigation in New Mexico.

## Autos Turn Broncho and Kick

Florian Chavez, the twelve-year old son of Jacobo Chavez, dislocated his arm at the elbow Tuesday while cranking his father's Ford.

Mike Shaw is likewise carrying his arm in a sling, having suffered a fractured bone when cranking an auto on Monday. Both boys are in school again although only on partial duty.

## BOTH LIMBS SEVERED FROM BODY

Virgil Campbell Narrowly Escapes Instant Death in Falling from Train

## DEATH COMES AS RELIEF MONDAY AFTERNOON

Interment was Made in Fairview Cemetery at Albuquerque Yesterday

Virgil Campbell, one of our busy young men, met a horrible accident last Friday night when he was run over by a Santa Fe freight train his right leg being amputated at the hip and the left leg above the ankle. He had gone to Abo to look after some collections for the firm for which he travels, and having finished his business, and not caring to wait for the passenger train which arrives about two o'clock in the morning, he boarded a freight, climbing on top of a box car. So comfortable was he that he soon fell asleep, rolling to the track, with almost fatal results.

He was brought to Mountainair by friends who learned of the accident, and given emergency treatment. Early Saturday morning Clem Shaffer and Tex Cravens took him by auto to Albuquerque where he was placed in a hospital. Mr. Dyer hastened to Cedarvale to bring Rev. J. W. Campbell, father of the unfortunate young man, who with the heart-broken mother, were hurried to Albuquerque also.

A message from Rev. J. W. Campbell brought the information that Virgil had passed away at 1:15 Monday afternoon, at St. Joseph's Hospital. The funeral was held yesterday at 10 o'clock, interment being in the Fairview Cemetery at Albuquerque.

The young fellow showed wonderful nerve and vitality. Following the accident he crawled across the track almost to the public road, and hailed a passing auto, which brought him to Mountainair. He stood the trip to Albuquerque well, and after arriving at the hospital, was made as comfortable as possible. In a short time he asked the nurse for something to read. Sunday morning he told Mr. Dyer, that he was to undergo an operation and that he would come out all right.

Many friends sympathize with the stricken parents in this hour of sudden grief.

## "Grazing Homestead" Bill not a Law

Department of the Interior, General Land Office, Washington, September 18, 1916.

The newspapers throughout the country announced immediately after the adjournment of the recent session of congress that a law had been enacted allowing homestead entries for 640 acres of grazing land.

The newspaper articles were based on the fact that, during the last day of the session, the senate passed H. R. 407, "A Bill to provide for stock-raising homesteads, and for other purposes," but with various amendments. The House of Representatives thereafter took no action on the amended bill, and hence the measure was not submitted to the President for approval.

The amended bill will probably be considered by a conference committee of the two houses upon reconvening of Congress next December.

Very respectfully,  
CLAY TALLMAN,  
Commissioner.

Never wait for a thing to turn up. Go and turn it up yourself. It takes less time and it is surer done.

Everybody should go away from home once in a while and stay long enough to get homesick.