

ESTANCIA NEWS-HERALD

News Established 1904
Herald Established 1905

Estancia, Torrance County, New Mexico, Thursday, April 29, 1915

Volume XI No. 28

RALPH C. ELY ON IRRIGATION

If a man has property that is liable to be destroyed by fire he has it insured, and the greater the danger the more certain he is to take out a policy. It would be a nice thing for most of us if we could insure our earning power, but no one has ever tried to write a policy of that kind that I ever heard of.

The man who is farming in Illinois or Iowa, or any of the eastern states where the rainfall is sufficient year after year to produce a crop, and where it is frequently excessive, improves the crop and in a measure insures it by a drainage system. In the Estancia Valley you are very likely to have lean years and years of plenty. It looks now as tho the rains this year would be entirely adequate to raise a crop and I am afraid that a great many people, filled with a false hope because of this unusual condition, will be led to rely upon the ordinary rainfall in the succeeding years; but they will often fail to produce crops. The value of land cannot be determined by its earning power in a single year but it must be determined by its absolutely reliable net earning power, year in and year out for a period of years. If you would insure your house or barn against the loss, if the thrifty farmer of the eastern states insures his crops, as far as possible, by a drainage system, why should not the farmer of the Estancia Valley insure the adequacy of his water supply by the installation of a pumping plant if he can do so? If the year is a wet year and the pumping plant is not required at all, the only cost of having it, is the interest on the investment and the taxes, with some possible slight deterioration due to the passage of time. If the year is, generally speaking, a wet year, but there is a period of a few weeks in the early summer, we will say, when it is droughty and crops don't grow, even if it is not bad enough to destroy them and they merely stand still, the farm has a lessened earning power and the farmer a decreased income, because of that unfavorable condition; and that condition is likely to occur every year. About once in so often in this arid west, we may reasonably expect a year or two years, to come when there will be practically no rainfall when it is difficult to germinate the seed or practically impossible to mature crops. Everybody knows that, and everybody realizes the awful discouragement that confronts the man who sees his field of corn grow up two or three feet in height and then stand still and the ears bright into profitless nubbins. If the rains come at all, they come just too late to do him any good. After the harm has been done, the showers start in but his income is gone. If the average man has forty years in which to work, every time he loses a year he has lost a part of his life. Why not insure against this living death?

Now, it can be done. Not without effort, not without cost, not without difficulty. A pumping plant is a mechanical device. It may kick up and go wrong. The average farmer is not a good mechanic and wants a simple, fool-proof outfit. He doesn't want to be tempted to fuss around with the monkey-wrench to overcome difficulties which he does not understand. Cheap outfits merely breed trouble, and trouble means disappointment. A skillful man can sometimes use cheap stuff and get better results out of it than an awkward man can get out of a first class outfit; but the first thing I want to advise is, that whatever you get should be absolutely good. I have seen a number of my friends save a little money in their installation

and spend that amount over and over again in repairs and in tinkering and in losses sustained through the unreliability of their equipment.

So far my personal acquaintance with the Estancia Valley is largely confined to the district up and down the railroad and comparatively close to the track. I am informed by others of the conditions existing back farther. I judge this to be true: That in some places a thousand or even fifteen hundred gallons of water a minute may be developed from the underflow and that in other places one could not expect to exceed four or five hundred gallons a minute.

I judge that almost always, one can dig a pit below the permanent water level; that is to say, that you can dig your pit and when finally you enter the strong strata, the water will be artesian at some point between the bottom of the pit and the surface of the ground, rising more or less in the pit when released.

I judge that the character of the water in the lower strata is frequently better than the surface water and likewise more abundant. I am informed that the ground stands up very well and does not show much disposition to cave.

Under these conditions, if I were making a well, I would proceed upon the assumption that it would be an average well, as to capacity, until I knew better. I would dig a pit down as far as I could go without encountering water and would cement it up as I went down to prevent any possibility of its caving and covering my pump. I would begin at the bottom of the pit with the best type of augur that can be obtained, and bore a hole from 26 to 36 inches in diameter just as far as I could go with that size. I would case the ground that does not produce any water with a plain casing; but wherever there was any water producing gravel, I would put in a perforated casing with a world of holes in it. If necessary to reduce the diameter of the hole to get down as far as I want to go, I would do so, but I never would have it smaller than 16 inches in diameter, and I would have a perforated casing wherever there was any chance to get water. That is what you are making the hole for, and you don't want to drill a hole and then shut the water out with solid iron. I would make this hole to whatever depth might be necessary for the development of all the water in that particular spot. We have used what we call a "merry-go-round" as an augur but I am informed that there is a more satisfactory rig built, altho I have never seen it in operation. Our casing is made of sheet steel, sometimes galvanized and sometimes of black iron. It is slotted so that about three eighths of the entire surface is open for the admission of water. This stuff is riveted up. It is easy to handle and you put it in from time to time as you go down. It does not follow the drill.

Having completed my well I would put in as large a vertical centrifugal pump as I thought the well would supply. This pump I would hang on a steel frame and not a wooden frame. No matter how well a wooden frame may be made, it is bound to warp, and shake to pieces. Your shaft will get out of line and all sorts of trouble will develop. But with a steel frame, if made right in the first place, the thing stays right. It should rest on a good cement foundation at the top of the well and be put in in a workman-like manner. No matter what anybody else might tell me I would put a check valve in my suction pipe below the pump to avoid priming or to make priming easy. In my judgment, your suction pipe ought to extend below the bottom of the lowest strata producing water. That will have

the effect of catching all the sand that washes into your well and it will come out through the pump and be discharged in your ditch preventing your well from filling up.

I would buy a thoroughly first-class internal combustion engine, built to consume a low grade of distillate which we ought to be able to buy delivered at any point in the valley at between six and seven cents a gallon. It makes an immense saving against gasoline for which there is a great demand nowadays. The engine should be simple in construction and easily understood. The purchaser should remember that the Estancia Valley is from six to seven thousand feet in the air. The internal combustion engines are much less efficient at this altitude than they are at sea level. I would discount their rate of horse-power at least twenty per cent and then be sure and get an excess of power.

It is quite possible that after you have been pumping all over the Valley for a number of years, the permanent water level may recede somewhat and your lift increase fifteen or twenty feet. You don't want to have to buy a new engine and scrap the old one. Neither do you want to reduce the capacity of your pump, because you will probably have more land to cultivate then than when you started.

Your engine should be anchored to the best cement foundation that you can make. No matter how small it is or how big it is this installation should be just as good as it can be made, and then the whole business should be housed and protected against the weather and sand and the plant should be kept clean.

I have known of plants which would pump enough water for forty acres to cost complete, at about \$800.00 and I have known of \$2000.00 spent on a plant to serve only twenty acres. It is needless to say that there is a difference in the plants. The cheap one will not last. I think it is fairly safe to approximate the cost of a 500 gallon outfit, such as I have described, from \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 and expect it to be good.

With an adequate reservoir such a pumping plant should take care of forty acres of land in a pretty dry year and in the average year, it would do the emergency work on twice that amount of land with the rainfall that you usually have in the Estancia Valley. That is assuming that your farmer is thrifty and cultivates his land thoroughly and uses his water intelligently and frugally. The fuel cost, with a lift of 40 ft., ought not to exceed \$1.75 an acre foot of water. A good deal of land that I have seen will irrigate very readily and open ditches will carry the water for a reasonable distance without excessive losses. I personally have tried to cultivate too much land and have made my ditches very long, standing a heavier loss than I would advise others to figure on.

You have a world of good grazing in your country and the man who is just beginning would, in my judgment, be wise to figure on his cows earning a considerable portion of their living by grazing during a large part of the year. He can raise a world of stuff on forty acres of land and if he provides himself with a silo and takes good care of everything he produces, he will find that forty acres will balance against a very considerable area given over to pasture. After he increases in his experience and adds a little to his resources he can either put in a second pumping plant or enlarge his first one. If he has more water than forty acres will require, he can add more cultivated area of course, and let his business grow just the same in this generation as business has grown in every other generation.

Men don't get rich in a single

season farming, as a rule, and the attraction of the business is not the lure of sudden wealth. It is to be found in the gradual increase of the farmer's possessions and the slow but sure growth of his bank account together with the perfect certainty that in time, the value of his land holdings, particularly his cultivated lands, will enhance. The raw land is only worth what it is worth for pasture. The man who puts in a pumping plant and devotes his earnings to the development of his property is the one who will make the profit. In spite of all the talk about the exhaustion of the arable land in the country, the fact remains that there is a world of undeveloped country both east and west; and the food supply of our country will increase every year in every state as the result of improved methods of farming, the drainage of wet places, the redemption of pastures and the better utilization of our soil resources. We of the west are sometimes inclined to think that our wealth is in our land. It is not. Our wealth will come out of the application of our energy to our land and the land merely furnishes our citizenship an opportunity to work.

It is a pitiful thing to see a family giving a year to the cultivation of the little patch and losing their return because of a drought. It is an inexcusable thing to sustain that loss when there is an abundance of water just a little way under the surface of the ground. Your pumping plants are your crop insurance; and the difference between a good crop and a total loss on forty acres, will almost pay for the installation of the plant in one year. By putting in a pumping plant a man only capitalizes his life. You can call it income insurance or you can call it life insurance as you please. For a year lost out of the middle of a man's life is even more serious than a year clipped off from his later days.

Every farmer in the Estancia Valley should have a pumping plant, except those who have gravity water from the mountain springs; and every farmer who proposes to feed any cattle, either for beef or dairy purposes, should arrange to conserve his feed by building a silo.

A few years of frugal living and good hard work will put him on "Easy Street". He must not try to do too much. It is a frailty that is common to all of us in the west. A little done well and done at the right time is immensely better. If one gambles on the rainfall he must expect to sustain his losses and merely figure that these losses offset the cost of a plant. This is not designed by Nature for a dry-farming country. It is fundamentally an irrigation proposition and the best irrigation in the world, in my judgment, is that which is accomplished by pumping, where the irrigator absolutely controls his own destiny and is independent at once of his neighbors and of any ditch company or of the government for his water supply.

What other folks have done, you can do. Nature has done her part in providing an excellent soil, an abundant water supply and a splendid climate. The rest is up to Man.

RALPH C. ELY.

M. E. LADIES' AID

The Ladies Aid met at the church Tuesday, April 20th, with a small attendance. Each member was to try and bring a new member to Aid the next meeting which will be at the church Tuesday, May 4th. Everyone come and bring someone with you.

Rev. R. E. Farley went to Springer the latter part of last week to help Rev. Lockridge in series of meetings. As soon as the meetings there close the two will return here and hold a series of meetings.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The ladies of the club met on Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Roberts, with eleven members and two visitors present. The meeting was conducted by the vice president in the absence of the president. The book committee reported having ordered 26 new books, which will add much to our library. A letter was read from Dr. Clark stating that his party would sure be here May 31 and they would put on a first-class entertainment. The ladies were pleased to know the council was willing to give them the job of cleaning up the town. Women do like to work, you know.

After the meeting adjourned the hostess assisted by Mrs. Rousseau, served an elegant two course luncheon. The Woman's Club certainly appreciates some of the honorary members who so kindly take us to the meetings in the country in their autos. The fine refreshments and a nice way to go makes one feel glad they are members of the Woman's Club, even though we do have to work once in awhile.

For Exchange

Diamond ring, 1 carat, finest grade, ladies mounting, cost \$60, bargain in exchange for horse or pony and saddle. Inquire or address "Ring", in care of News-Herald.

CHILILI

Special Correspondence.
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Frahm and family took dinner Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sanchez and spent the balance of the day with them.

Mrs. Raymond Sanchez, who for a while was quite sick, is up and around again. She is not strong yet, but she is among us, and we are very glad. She will soon be as well as ever.

R. C. Hamby passed through to McIntosh Sunday with a load of hay from La Jara ranch.

Monday afternoon Miss Melba Sanchez entertained her friends Misses Mamie and Lily Frahm, her cousin Miss Lina McAfee. In their games they had some young men—Max Frahm, and Elmer and Lincoln Sanchez. They had a good time, though Lina and Lily fell into the arroyo that runs in front of the Sanchez place. But that was nothing, and they went on with their fun.

M. F. Cunningham of Santa Fe was here Sunday on business with Mr. Sanchez.

Mr. and Mrs. Elias Tajira are the parents of a baby boy, who arrived at their home Tuesday, the 23rd.

MOUNTAINAIR

Special Correspondence.
Ellison Newberry has resigned his position at the depot and has gone to Socorro. Clyde Mayo is successor to Ellison.

Albert Supplver, an old timer here, left with his family Friday for an overland trip to Colorado.

Mrs. Geo. V. Hanlon and Mrs. M. B. Fuller were elected members of the board of education April 5th. With two such capable women as members, the progress of the school is assured.

E. C. Sharpless and family are now living on their ranch ten miles north of town.

Mrs. Sallie Fulton has accepted a position as clerk in the T. Tabet store.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Martin left Monday to live on their ranch. Their many friends regret their departure, but hope they may enjoy a bountiful harvest.

Mrs. J. A. Beal is the popular new deputy postmaster.

Mrs. Maurice Hanlon is very ill at her home north of town.

B. B. Simmons, recently ar-

FOR 30 DAYS

We are making a

Big Reduction

On our Shoes and Dry Goods for CASH ONLY. Get our prices before buying.

Estancia Lumber Company

rived from Texas, has rented the Fulton ranch.

J. H. Griffin went to Albuquerque Wednesday on business.

P. A. Speckmann of Estancia was calling on friends and attending to business here Friday.

Chas. L. Burt made a business trip to Albuquerque Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers of Haynes, Ark., have located on a ranch four miles west of town.

Miss Maude Graham of Oklahoma City has bought the Campbell place five miles northwest and is now at home there. Miss Graham is a school teacher and is attracted here by the unexcelled climate.

Mr. Douglas and family have moved out to the Orme ranch.

C. A. Bishop of Santa Fe, receiver of the McCoy store, left Carlos M. Craemer in charge here and returned home Thursday.

Friday afternoon Mrs. P. Stevenson died suddenly. Her brother-in-law, Bart Goodman, came Sunday and shipped the remains to Hamilton, Mo.

John W. Corbett, secretary of the newly organized State A. H. T. A., has applications for charters for local organizations at Barton and Mt. Dora.

Rev. Farley left Thursday for Springer, N. M., to assist in a revival meeting at that place.

Miss Beesie Spann of Fort Sumner is teaching the spring term at Cedar Grove.

Mrs. T. L. Capt will entertain the Thursday club on the 29th inst.

Our school will close May 14th after a successful term of nine months. The Eighth grade, Miss Lois Hollon, Henderson Imboden and James Bryan will celebrate Commencement at Voss Hall on the evening of May 13th, at which time the school will give an entertainment. Practice on the drills, folk dances, dialogs, etc., is in progress and a fine program is to be given.

GEDARVALE

Special Correspondence.
Working in the fields seems to be the order of the day in these parts nowadays.

Our school closed last Friday with a big dinner, with a big crowd present. There was also a good program.

Charley Smith left Monday for Texas for medical treatment for cancer, for which we all hope he will be benefited.

Little Adeline Alsup had the misfortune to be run over by a wagon loaded with five barrels

of water. She seems to be getting along nicely at present writing.

Charley Vickery and his mother arrived from Texas last Friday where they have been spending the winter.

R. F. Taylor and wife visited with Deek Killinsworths last Sunday.

Clarence Mitchell has gone down to Tularosa where his father is at work, to bring home a team his father bought.

Judge Wells has moved his improvements one-half mile farther west where he intends to drill a well.

Mr. Wilkey has his windmill up now and will stop hauling water.

B. W. Means preached us a very interesting sermon last Sunday at the school house.

W. K. Twyeffort moved on his claim near Pinos Mountain last Monday.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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