

Artesian Well In Chino Valley

Important Development *Keen Interest Shown as Result of Discovery*

KEEN impetus has been given to the development of Chino Valley, through the bringing in of what is said to be the largest artesian well in Arizona. Perseverance and hard work, coupled with faith in themselves and a desire, as stated by one of the men, "just to build a home for ourselves where we could make a living for our families."

That Chino, Williamson and other valley areas of Yavapai county have decided advantages for the development of agriculture and particularly in the truck gardening branch, has been the opinion of the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce and the Arizona Industrial Congress. Recently, as outlined in another article appearing in the Yavapai Magazine, these organizations have assisted materially in the development of Chino Valley.

The bringing in of the well in Chino has stimulated this opinion and there is every reason to believe that agricultural development on a scale commensurate with the possibilities of this wonderful fertile valley will be forthcoming.

The men responsible for the bringing in of the artesian well are: J. H. Rogers, J. A. Hatch, J. L. Sanders, O. N. Despain, Owen Rogers, and Jenser Hatch. The well was started on February 8, 1930; some water was struck at fifty-four feet, but upon making a test with an electric pump, furnished through the courtesy and cooperation of the Arizona Power Company, the water was sucked out in practically no time. Within thirty days, these men had drilled to a depth of 342 feet, but had the same result. Misfortune took charge, according to the report made by Margaret Hirshfeld, city editor of the "Courier," when the pump fell into the well a depth of 240 feet. After fishing it out, the level was sunk around 140 feet more, when the big flow was reached.

Just before reaching the big water, the driller, Tom Benedict, and to whom the men give great credit for the bringing in of the well, had to pierce eight feet of hard malapai rock, which was

found to be the impervious formation just above a moving current of water, whose volume could not easily be computed. That it is a large volume seems certain, for tests with proper tools show that the stream is at least fifteen feet deep.

As the water flows out over the top of the well it is icy cold, clear as a crystal and palatable. The general opinion is that it is a part of the underground channel that supplies the inexhaustible wells at Del Rio, some of which are owned by the City of Prescott and which are called upon during emergencies for water for consumption in Prescott.

As mentioned, great credit is given to Benedict by the men who own the well, for he waited patiently for his remuneration of services as did also Charlie and Lem Woods, who loaned the rig. Benedict had been the driller for Paul, Sheffield and Paul at the Puntenney lime quarry, but in the interim of moving the concern's operations from Puntenney to Perkinsville, Benedict threw in with the Chino men and drilled their well for them.

The new well is located about three miles north of the large well brought in by L. L. Bates, on the property of the Mormon Church, and from which water is now being pumped to irrigate 200 acres of fall peas, as a test crop, under contract with Barker-Miller Produce Company of Phoenix, dealers in vegetable products. The well is located

in what has heretofore been no more than pasture or range land, at least unimproved agricultural land, making almost unlimited opportunities for development. According to Malcolm Bridgewater, general superintendent of the Arizona Power Company, there are thousands of acres of level land surrounding the well, which with additional wells, either those that have to be pumped or artesian, can be brought into cultivation, meaning hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers and as much more to the business men of Prescott, for Chino Valley is exceptionally fortunate in being able to raise truck garden stuff during the off seasons in the Salt River Valley in Arizona, and the Imperial Valley, in Southern California.

To a depth of 212 feet below the surface, the well has a twelve-inch casing; between that depth and 342 feet there is an eleven-inch casing and from there to the water, a nine-inch casing. One of the owners of the well expressed his sentiment as follows: "I've been living in Chino Valley for ten years and have just been making a living. We cannot express the delight it gives us to have this artesian well come in—and you can bet we are going to hold on to our land."

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