

Forty Feet of Water Bearing Strata Reached By Albuquerque Man Who Demonstrates Mesa Can be Reclaimed By the Pumping System

Eight Wells in Bottom of 164 Foot Shaft at Netherwood Park With Compressed Air Furnish Water for Irrigation Northeast of City on 400 Acre Addition Where Sub Irrigation System Has Accomplished Interesting Results; Commercial Club to Investigate.

Forty feet of water bearing strata has been discovered at a depth of 164 feet by E. Netherwood, owner of Netherwood park, the 400-acre addition to the city of Albuquerque, about a mile and a half distant in an air line on the mesa north of the underline, on the mesa north of the university and east of Santa Barbara cemetery.

While Mr. Netherwood has been working quietly he has been spending considerable money, and as a result has demonstrated in a convincing manner that water may be pumped on the mesa lands east of this city and the ground successfully irrigated. Those who have seen Mr. Netherwood's installation believe he has solved the problem of reclaiming the splendid mesa lands stretching between the Rio Grande and the Sandia and Manzano mountains, a tract averaging from nine to fifteen miles wide and from thirty to forty miles long.

It is understood the Commercial club will interest itself in the proposition sufficiently to thoroughly investigate Mr. Netherwood's plant and test its results. Not only does water on the mesa mean a tremendous agricultural asset for Albuquerque, but it is of interest in connection with the fight now in progress at Washington to procure a big army post for this mesa.

Mr. Netherwood, with the assistance of one man, has dug a shaft six by eight feet to a depth of 164 feet. Those familiar with mining know how expensive a proposition the sinking of the shaft alone has been. This shaft which went through dry material all the way, is strongly timbered and Mr. Netherwood has constructed a series of step ladders which make the ascent and descent comparatively easy. The shaft ends five inches above the water level and at the bottom of the pit is installed an American two stage pump. In the bottom of the pit eight inch and a half wells have been driven, the eight pipes being connected on to the pump. The deepest driven well is forty feet, through water all the way and the others, range in depth from ten to thirty feet. A dozen or two more wells can be driven in the same way in the shaft bottom increasing the flow as desired; the supply of water, which is pure and cold, is apparently inexhaustible. The flow has not been measured, but pump men who have examined the installation say that 400 to 500 gallons can be easily developed. In addition to the American pump Mr. Netherwood also has an ordinary force pump geared on to the well, this pump being set at the collar of the shaft.

By an arrangement of pipes the

operator can prime and start and lubricate his pump from the surface. The driven wells may be sand pumped by inserting a half-inch pipe and pumping water through it to the bottom, thus driving the sand out between the small and larger pipes. No perforation or screen is used in the wells. Sunk just below the surface adjoining the pump house is a big compressed air tank which applies a pressure of as high as seventy-five pounds, throwing a powerful stream of water. Mr. Netherwood has the water under pressure piped through the large two-story cottage which he has built on the property, with garage adjoining. A small gasoline engine is hitched to the pump equipment.

SUB IRRIGATION SYSTEM SUCCEEDS UPON TEST.

Mr. Netherwood has tested a sub-irrigation system, modified from a patent system of pipes, with which he is successfully irrigating two or three small patches of garden truck.

By this system every drop of moisture is placed where it is needed, at the root of the plant, and the soil retains it for a remarkably long time. In soil which is hard as rock almost before sub-irrigation, a spade may be easily driven to the hilt after it is irrigated.

The site of "Netherwood park" is a commanding and beautiful one, offering a magnificent vista of the mountains and the valley. The only picture of the Sandia mountains painted so far as known was done by an artist from the east veranda of the Netherwood cottage after the painter had in vain sought elsewhere for as good a location. The owner of the land promises to put on a "bus line" in the near future in connection with his selling campaign for the new residence section and a new road is to be completed which will cut directly over to North Fourth street, affording a bee line from that thoroughfare to the addition. A telephone and electric light line have already been strung to the Netherwood place.

CLIMATE VERY BEST DECLARES MR. NETHERWOOD

Mr. Netherwood, who has been a resident of Albuquerque for some years past, has been in various lines of business, mostly building city additions, in nine states of the Union, and declares that in no city or state has he found a climate which so nearly approaches the ideal as that here. Mr. Netherwood also claims that he has the very best of the local climate at Netherwood Park, which gets all the air and sunshine there is to get, without a single solitary mosquito and only half as much dust as people get in the valley.