

Lyon Leader Of Overton Project

(Nevada State Farm Bureau News Letter)

After about eighteen months of effort rural electrification has come to Clark county in southern Nevada.

In June of 1936, the State Farm Bureau personally contacted Mr. Boyd Fisher, director of the R. E. A., at a Western Regional Farm Bureau Conference at Walla Walla, Washington, urging him to send someone into Nevada to make a survey of the possibilities for the service in our state.

Mr. Fisher promised to do this and in the meantime the state office wrote every county farm bureau relative to conditions in the county for rural electrification, if they were not already being served by public utilities.

As a result of this effort we found the following counties interested: Clark, Lincoln, Elko, Pershing and White Pine.

The office of the R. E. A. at Washington was notified and in the latter part of November Mr. J. C. Long arrived in the state for a week's work. He met with the farmers in Pershing county in the lower Lovelock Valley, conferred with representatives of Lyon county to consider a project in the Dayton area — considered the Elko county project at Lamoille, then went to Ely, where a meeting was called of representatives from Clark, Lincoln and White Pine counties. Clark county presented data regarding a project in the Moapa and Virgin Valleys. Lincoln county, a project in the Pahrana-gat Valley and at Ursine and White Pine; a project for Lund and Preston.

Local committees worked hard on all these projects and Mr. Long took their findings back to Washington for consideration.

To date the Clark county project

is the only one that has been approved.

Prior to all this, the people at Overton, Clark county, through their Power District No. 5, and its president, Mr. W. H. Lyon, had been working on the project. The trials and tribulations of this group were many, but due to the perseverance and hard work of Mr. Lyon, the thing was kept alive and there is probably no man in the state who knows more about the details necessary to set up such a project than he. The people of Clark county are to be congratulated on having such a leader carry through for them. The congressional delegation, the American Farm Bureau and others assisted also, and the combined efforts of all working together were able to get it over.

The project, of course, is meritorious and will involve an allotment of \$178,000 to build ninety-four miles of line to serve about 428 users.

An attorney, project manager, engineer, and surveyor are to be appointed and credentials in each case must be sent to Washington for approval before appointments are made, and Mr. Lyon writes that no doubt construction will soon be under way.

The thing to be emphasized in the whole matter is that in the beginning the R. E. A. had never considered that a project was feasible in Nevada due to scattered or sparse population and isolation. Correspondence seemed to get nowhere, until we had made a personal plea as a part of a great national organization whose purpose is the welfare of agriculture and its people.

Once we got a toe hold, all the efforts of those interested seemed to count for something. Nevada does not win anywhere without a struggle because we are few in number, and spread out thinly over such a large area — so, we need plenty of courage and leadership of the type that has achieved in this project which will mean so much to our people.

"LEND A HAND"

This year Fire Prevention Week will be observed from October 3 to 9. This slogan for the week, featured in posters and news releases issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, is "Lend a Hand."

This slogan is particularly apt. For if fire is to be prevented and controlled — and the hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of lives fire destroys each year, are to be saved — all of us must lend a hand. Fire is largely an individual problem — each one of us, with the exercise of a little effort and care, can easily eliminate the common hazards of our property.

Fire Prevention Week is about a month away — but no one need wait for it. It is a simple matter to put

on an individualized fire prevention period of your own, starting today. How long has it been since you cleaned out basement and attic — old newspapers, furniture, clothing and other odds and ends that are prolific sources of fire? In a few months maximum demands will be made upon your heating plant — before then, have it inspected by an expert, and if necessary, repair and replace parts. Remember that amateur electrical repairs may be the cause of turning your home into a heap of ash and wreckage, unless properly installed and inspected.

Yes, it's always time to "Lend a Hand" when fire is involved.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Russell have returned from a short stay in San Francisco.

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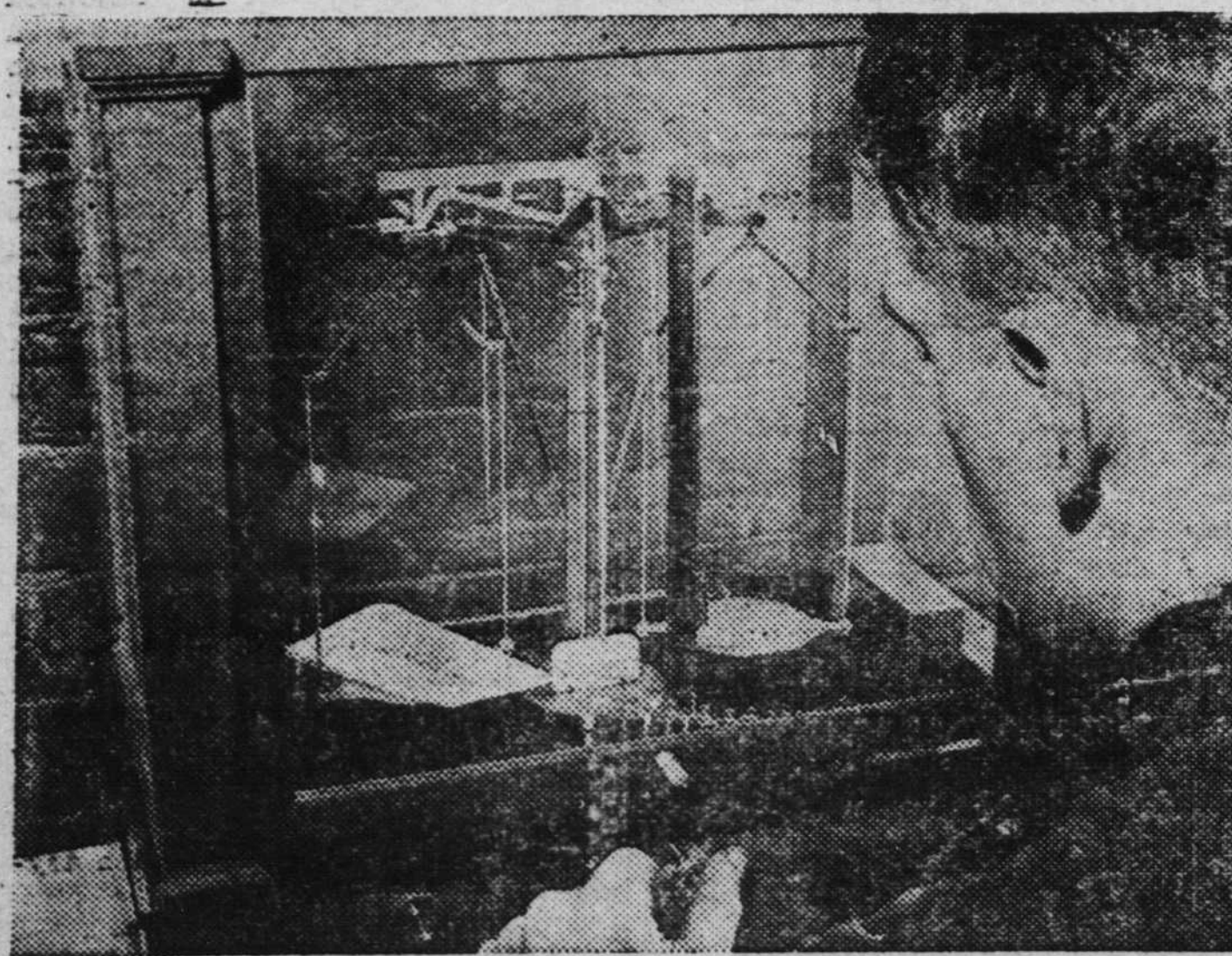
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