

MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA.

ANNUAL REPORT

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to
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SITUATIONAL STATEMENT

Mohave County is the fifth largest county in the Continental United States. There are 8,486,400 acres within its boundaries, including three Indian Reservations totaling 559,972 acres.

The northern one-third of the county is separated from the southern portion by the Grand Canyon. The southern two-thirds of the county is crisscrossed with four hundred twenty four miles of oiled State, Federal, and County Highways. The transcontinental highway 66 and U. S. 93 cross at the county seat, Kingman. The northern one-third of the county has only thirty miles of oiled road. The remaining 2,000 miles of dirt roads in the county are only fair weather roads and subject to closing due to cloud burst or inclement weather. The Sante Fe main line, which is a double track system, has over one hundred miles of double track, crossing the county near the center of the county running from North East to South West.

There are very few telephones in Mohave County, and mail is delivered on alternate days in the rural areas.

The population of Mohave County is approximately 8,000 with over one-half of this population living in the county seat of Kingman. There are one hundred forty ranch and farm families in the county, most of which live on their farm or ranches in the southern part of the county. In the northern part, very few actually live on their holdings but live in adjacent small communities out of State. A large percentage of the private land in the county has been sold to speculators for sub-dividing. There are twenty five different companies sub-dividing and grading streets and roads in what once was good range land. Some of these companies are working on townships, not just sections or acres. In fact, there are three companies that have and are working on two to five townships. One of these large sub-dividers

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has sold over 15,000 parcels after advertising in Life, Look, and The Saturday Evening Post as well as over T. V. and Radio. Mail inquiries are received daily, as are office calls, pertaining to what can be grown and as to the water situation.

Mohave County as a whole is a livestock county, with farming second and mining third in importance. Mining is gaining in importance and will likely move up the line as one large mining concern may be in the production of copper within two years. Mohave County in the past twenty years has probably lost as much mining population as has any other county in the state. There are three mining ghost towns that at one time could boast of over 10,000 population each and there were many small communities of five hundred or more that today are non-existent.

There are 9,600 acres of irrigated cropland in Mohave County. The principal crops are Alfalfa, Milo, Cotton, Cereals, Pasture, and Produce. The dry land farming on the strip is just about out of the picture as moisture has been too limited for much production. As a whole most of the farms are small and sub-marginal with only a few larger operators that depend solely on farming as a livelihood. It is estimated that within ten years fifty to sixty thousand acres of good agricultural land on the Colorado River will be developed. Most of this land is river bottom and is a checkerboard pattern of Indian and White ownership.

Mohave County boasts of over one thousand miles of shoreline and more water than all of the other counties in the state. There are three large lakes in the county and one more on the drawing board. These dams are used for hydro-electric power and are fast becoming the Recreation Playground for boaters, skiers, and fisherman. It is not uncommon for as many as five thousand people to enjoy the facilities at Lake Mead or Lake Mohave on any Labor Day or Memorial Day weekend.

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There are one thousand two hundred children of 4-H age attending schools in the county. Less than two hundred fifty are of Indian or Spanish American descent.

The Extension Service has been in the county a little over two years. One Agricultural Agent, one Home Agent, and one secretary make up the county staff. The agent has spent eight years in the county and the secretary four years. The Home Agent has been in the county less than one year having come to the county from the Montana Extension Service.

The organized extension groups include a 4-H Leader's Council with seven different 4-H clubs. Two Homemakers Club have recently been organized in the Kingman area. There are no Farm Bureau, Grange, or Farmers' Union organizations. There are six Service Clubs in Mohave County and one Garden Club.

A Mohave County Livestock Marketing Association has been formed by the assistance of the Mohave Livestock Association. The Cowbelles are very active in supporting the Extension Program in Mohave County.

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A. ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM PLANNING

The county staff consists of a Home Agent and a County Agricultural Agent.

Relations with the Cowbelles and Mohave Livestock Association, the only organization county wide, is excellent.

The Livestock Association has approximately seventy members and includes practically all of the ranchers South of the Canyon and approximately twenty ranchers North of the Canyon. The President for 1961 was Mr. Leonard Neal who has been very interested in the Extension Program and much of our program planning has gone thru the Mohave County Livestock Association.

Audrey Davies joined the staff on March 1st as the first home agent in Mohave County. Her time has been devoted primarily to meeting with groups and individuals to explain the Extension Service Family Living program and to clarify the role of the home agent in the county.

Organizations which have been active in helping the home agent establish an educational program are: Mohave County Cowbelles, Kingman Garden Club, Soroptomists of Kingman and the guilds of the Methodist Church. Many individuals have played a part in laying the foundation for the Family Living program; however, special credit should be given to Francis Mahan, Helen Weir, Terry Mitling, and Hilda Rutschman for the extra effort they have made.

Two Homemakers Clubs were organized in October. In addition to these educational clubs, interest meetings, news articles, and a weekly radio program ("Mohave County Homemakers Highlights") are media for reaching the public.

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A. ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM PLANNING (continued)

Mohave County is growing quite rapidly in the resort areas. A large number of these people are not seasonable as would be expected.

Mohave County has been designated as a Rural Area Development county. The two agents attended meetings in Prescott, Holbrook, and Phoenix to obtain background information and suggestions for techniques in setting up the program. This program is still in the talking stages with hopes of bringing it before the county as a whole sometime next spring.

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B. AGRICULTURE

1. Livestock:

The Mohave Livestock Marketing Association is functioning very well. Approximately ten thousand head of cattle were listed in the spring listing. Three hundred and fifty buyers were sent this combined listing sheet. Livestock moved in an orderly manner. The ranchers and livestock buyers are very interested in the continuation of this marketing service. The county agent acted as clearing agent as to whether the livestock had been sold or not.

Mohave County is still designated as a drought disaster area. Livestock numbers are very low in the county due to the prolonged dry period.

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B. AGRICULTURE (continued)

2. Agronomy:

(a) Cotton:

A variety and fertilizer trial was planted on the Sam Joy farm on the Colorado River. This farm is operated by John Vanderslice who has been most cooperative in making these trials a success.

The varieties planted were: 4-42; De Kalb 220; A-44; 44WR; and D. P. L. The operator also had his own D. P. L. seed therefore making six trials.

The results are not conclusive to-date, but it appears that Phosphate does not pay its' cost, and that D. P. L. will produce more seed cotton than the other varieties tried.

The highest yields were obtained with split applications of Nitrogen at the rate of 75 pounds to 100 pounds per acre.

The De Kalb variety gave the poorest yields per acre.

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B. AGRICULTURE (continued)

2. Agronomy:

(b) Sorghum:

A grain sorghum and hybrid trial was planted on the Dave Hulet farm on the Colorado River. All went well until the birds took over.

Materials for a forage trial were obtained but due to the lack of interest this material was retrieved for a trial at a later date.

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B. AGRICULTURE (continued)

3. Horticulture:

Pruning demonstrations and slide lectures were used in the Kingman and Bullhead City vicinity to promote home beautification. Harvey Tate the Horticultural Specialist did the honors.

Commercial vegetable growers in the Littlefield area encountered marketing problems in their onion and radish crops due to pink root and viruses. A trial planting of resistant varieties has been planted with hopes of relieving this situation.

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B. AGRICULTURE (continued)

4. Forestry:

The Mohave County Park has a bad infestation of Dwarf Mistletoe.

The County Park Board asked for technical assistance in setting up a program to rid the park of this parasite. The county agent spent a number of days surveying the problem.

The Board of Supervisors appropriated ten thousand dollars to start the program. Progress is well under way and it is hoped that within five years this project can be brought to a maintenance phase.

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B. AGRICULTURE (continued)

5. Range Management and Range Fertilization

A fertilizer trial was established on the Rubel Ranch in 1961 with a commercial dealer out of Phoenix.

Very little results were observed due to the lack of rainfall during the growing season.

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C. HOME ECONOMICS

Food and Nutrition:

There was no organized adult work carried on in food and nutrition this year.

The home agent cooperated with the Cowbelles in setting up a beef promotion contest held at the Mohave County Union High School. Beef dishes and note-books on beef and beef cookery were judged by the area home economist for Southern Union Gas Company, the Junior High School home economics teacher, and the home agent. The Cowbelles hope to help the home economics department in their teaching of nutritional value and cooking of meat by providing the beef for cookery lessons and the incentive to do additional work through this contest.

Individual help was given in planning a Church luncheon, use of surplus food, and planning food for a school girl on wheat, egg, and milk free diet. There were many calls for information on canning and freezing local fruits.

Radio programs featured a series on weight control, food for teenagers, food for older folk, labeling, marketing, planned shopping vs. impulse buying, and nutritional needs.

The Extension Nutritionist presented "Food and Your Weight" at an open meeting. This was the first of a number of interest meetings that will be held.

There were thirty nine girls enrolled in the foods project in 4-H. The home agent did no special work with this group this year.

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C. HOME ECONOMICS (continued)

Clothing:

A sewing workshop was held in Kingman for a group of women interested in improving their sewing skills. Techniques taught included: selection of fabric, grain-perfect cutting, stay-stitching, understitching, collar and sleeve setting. Seven women completed blouses or dresses. Six of these women are members of the L. D. S. Church who are sharing their learned skills with other members of their group. The remaining woman is being encouraged to serve as a 4-H leader.

Assistance was given to individuals in pattern alteration, lining coat, cutting out garments, and alteration.

Radio programs during the year included information on wardrobe planning, labeling, special fabrics, and care and pressing.

The home agent assisted third year 4-H Clothing members with construction details such as collar, sleeve and zipper. A lesson on selection of cotton fabric was given to the Busy Bee's 4-H Club of Davis Dam and the Wee Willing Workers Club of Kingman.

There were forty-nine girls in Mohave County enrolled in 4-H Clothing projects.

Cheryl Evans represented Mohave County in clothing judging at Roundup.

Sixteen girls modeled in the 4-H Dress Revue held during the Mohave County Fair. Cheryl Evans, Junior Leader, acted as commentator. County award pins went to Margaret Ann Thomas and Sandra Casson.

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C. HOME ECONOMICS (continued)

Family Economics:

The two recently organized Homemakers' Clubs have indicated a special desire to become better informed in family business matters. To increase their knowledge they have included wills, insurance, and money management in their plans for the future. As a foundation for this long range program, the home agent presented "Family Record Keeping" to the groups in November. This included the "What? why? where? and how long?" of record keeping. This lesson will be made available to additional interested groups after the first of the year. Parts of the material on family record keeping have been used on radio programs, also.

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C. HOME ECONOMICS (continued)

Other:

A number of radio programs have considered various phases of "Human Relations". A series was devoted to understanding of the age groups from the new baby in the home to better understanding between teenager and parent. Infant Care, Parenthood in a Free Nation, Public Affairs pamphlets, Dr. Pelican's Letters, and notes from Town and Country Life Conference were sources of material for these talks. The older person in the home and in the community was used as a subject for two programs. The "Senior Citizen" situation is particularly important in Arizona where the percentage of persons over 65 is double that of the nation.

Re Health and safety has received emphasis during the year through radio programming. Such subjects as: Family Food Stockpile, reports from Arizona Poison Control Center, reports from the National Safety Council, the need for safety in the home, and importance of water testing have all been included. The 4-H Clubs are being encouraged to add health activities to their program.

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D. YOUTH (4-H Club)

1. Highlights

The Mohave County 4-H program has progressed thru their third year with quite a number of accomplishments.

The 4-H Leaders Council has not been too active but ready and available for guidance when needed. The council officers are: Howard Grounds, Chairman; Wesley Bobo, Vice Chairman; and Dovie Evans, Secretary - Treasurer. The Leaders Council main project this year was the handling of the food sale at the Mohave County Fair. The proceeds will be used to send leaders to Leaders Conference and help needy 4-H boys and girls attend different State functions.

Over 125 4-H boys, girls, parents and families attended the Mohave County 4-H picnic in the Walapai Park.

Six Mohave County boys and girls and one leader attended 4-H Roundup. Cheryl Evans brought special honor to the county by winning the Roundup Medallion for public speaking. This was the first year a delegate from this county had entered the speaking contest. Cheryl also received a red ribbon for clothing judging. Additional Roundup awards winners were: Charlotte Isaacs and Chuck Warren, red for showmanship; Helen Warren, Chuck Warren and Hubby Grounds, white for livestock judging; and Mike Tarr, red for his foods demonstration. Everett Isaacs was the accompanying leader. The enthusiasm of this delegation has fostered much interest for next year's Roundup.

The Wikieup Community Club again held it's Achievement Day which was a big success.

The livestock clubs held two county wide tours to look

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D. YOUTH (4-H Club) continued

at all of the livestock projects. A Livestock Judging Team was selected and had a practice session in Yavapai County with Mr. Allen's group.

The two home economics clubs, Busy Bees of Davis Dam and Wee Willing Workers of Kingman, received training in judging. This was the philosophy and purpose of judging as well as general information needed before decisions can be made.

It is very enlightening to see some of the older club members taking their full responsibility as officers. They have undertaken their community projects with gusto as they have their citizenship and safety.

Mohave County was fortunate in having three Junior Leaders that have really worked for the 4-H clubs.

The Mohave County 4-H youth exhibit their projects in conjunction with the County Fair. This phase has really added a great deal to the County Fair. Interest has been so high that a new building has been erected and will be in use for next years fair.

This year twenty two members exhibited one hundred twelve items in the home economics division and thirty one members participated in the 4-H livestock division.

2. Agriculture Projects:

Twenty seven boys and girls were enrolled in Beef projects this year. Timothy Brown showed the Grand Champion Steer. Eddy Odle had the Reserve Grand Champion fat steer. Eddy's calf is being saved for showing at the Arizona National in

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D. YOUTH (4-H Club) continued

January of 1962.

The Beef Club members were fortunate in selling all of their calves locally for above market price and not one boy or girls lost money in 1961. The local people have really gotten behind the 4-H youth and are looking forward to this event next year. Each year a Buyers Recognition Banquet is held to honor the buyers of 4-H beef.

There were ten 4-H boys and girls enrolled in horse projects which is really gathering momentum as time goes on. This project is expected to have the largest increase in enrollment of any of the Agricultural projects.

Dairying has a small enrollment in the county with only two the past year.

The outlook for bigger and better agriculture projects is bright. New projects set up for 1962 in Electricity, Home Beautification gardening, and possibly Range Management are showing considerable interest.

3. Other Youth:

Leadership was given the Boulder Dam Scout Council in conducting a conservation camp at Camp Levi Levi in the Walapai Park. Comments have been made concerning the wonderful job the boys have done in this field. This camp is also infested with Dwarf Mistletoe and an eradication project has been set up for this group.