

RAINMAKING

During the 1950s this area experienced another drought.

The follow were articles in Kinsley Mercury on May 19, May 17, and 24.

MERCURY
State Historical Soc. Comp

NSLEY GRAPHIC

MAY 10, 1951

FOURTEEN PAGES

Kinsley named University has been Wichita ears. He coming to Wellingsbrook

Farmers to Hear About Rain Making Here Monday Night

Official of Water Resources Development Corp. Will Speak; Everyone Invited to Attend Meeting in H. S. Auditorium

Edwards county farmers will meet in the Kinsley high school auditorium Monday night at eight o'clock to hear about rain making. A representative of the Water Resources Development Corp. will be at the meeting to explain how clouds are "seeded" with silver iodide to cause rain.

Leo Copp, president of the Edwards County Farm Bureau, has called the meeting. Everyone is invited to attend. If farmers are in favor of joining with other counties south and west of here, meetings for each township will be held following the general meeting. Other counties in the organization that Edwards county has been invited to join, have already organized so this county will have to act at once in order to join the organization.

More than 75 per cent of the farmers in Kiowa county have signed for the rain service, according to Keith Sherer of Mullinville.

Cloud seeding with silver iodide particles was begun four years ago. In early experiments, clouds were seeded by airplane, but now the seeding is done by using generators on the ground.

Other counties in the organization that Edwards county has been asked to join are Kiowa, Meade, Clark, Comanche, Barber, Ford and several counties in Oklahoma. John Briggs, Protection rancher who has helped organize this district, will be at the meeting here Monday night.

Kinsley Mercury

May 10, 1951

Ask for Another Meeting To Give "Rain" Information

Those Present at Monday Night Meeting Vote to Join
Other Counties to Contract for Rain Service
and Weather Forecasting

An inch of moisture Monday apparently held down the attendance at the "rain" meeting Monday night. All but one of the farmers attending the meeting—approximately fifty—were in favor of Edwards county joining in the rain making venture.

However, those present were of the opinion that it would be much easier for their neighbors to come to a meeting similar to the one held Monday night to learn all about the experiment rather than solicitors taking an hour or two at each call to do the explaining.

They hope to have another meeting soon if a speaker is available. However, since Monday night there has been some doubt whether some of the counties will raise their money. If the counties south and west of Edwards county do not sign a contract, this county cannot get the service at the low rate.

Mr. Cox of the Water Resources Development Corp., who had been speaking at meetings daily explaining the proposition, was taken ill while at Liberal Saturday and was taken to a Guymon, Okla., hospital where his illness was diagnosed as pneumonia. John Briggs of Protection, chairman of the rain district, talked in his place.

Mr. Briggs invited Edwards county to join the rain district. If adjoining counties are successful in raising their money, if Kiowa and Ford counties do not complete their arrangements it will be impossible for Edwards county to join as this county is at the north and east edge of the district. Mr. Briggs said that they would know about the adjoining counties by next week. He stated this morning that the Texas and Oklahoma panhandle counties have signed a "rain" contract.

"Cloud seeding started with the use of dry ice scattered with the use of airplanes," Mr. Briggs said. "The strip covered by rain would be just as wide as the strip covered by the plane. For 15 years it has been known that rain could be produced by using dry ice. For three years it has been known that rain could be produced by sending silver iodide crystals into the clouds from generators on the ground."

The weather predicting part of the service offered by the Water Resources Development Corp. is very important, Mr. Briggs said. He said present plans call for the farm bureau to handle reports for each county where the county rain making organization wishes. He said the service will call for specific weather forecasting for each county rather than for an area as big as Southwest Kansas.

the storms are generally accompanied by such a wind that all of the snow would pile up in the highways. The best hope for winter moisture is to get plenty of moisture in the fall to carry the wheat through. However, if the wind is from some direction other than from the north it might be possible to do seeding in the winter time.

Q. Don't we need a clearing house in each county for this weather information?

A. Yes. We plan to use the farm bureau office in our county of Comanche.

Q. What percentage do you think they can increase the rainfall?

A. From 40 to 100 percent.

Q. If you are going to increase the rainfall, what are you going to do about the alfalfa seed crop?

A. I admit I am afraid that the farmers of the counties that enter this district may not vote to have rain at a time that will suit raisers of alfalfa seed. For this reason we have refused to take Finney county into the district so far.

George Eslinger: It would be adding insult to injury to make it rain when we are saving our alfalfa for seed.

Q. If there is just one county in the region that remains dry what will be done to bring rain to that county?

A. Dr. Krick's organization will give that county all the special help it can. They have generators mounted on pickups for such emergencies and will surround the county with generators so that

He quoted Dr. Krick as saying that where a cloud has been seeded several times as it crossed a big section of the United States, the amount of rain following the seeding has increased with each seeding and that only two percent of the moisture in the cloud was obtained after several seedings.

"Dr. Krick's organization can make it rain out of a clear sky but not on a commercial basis," Mr. Briggs said. "As the service is offered now there must be clouds to make it rain and the direction the clouds are moving cannot be changed."

"I think this plan will work if we give Dr. Krick an opportunity," Mr. Briggs said. He told of the large Boll ranch in New Mexico engaging this service with very beneficial results until today the entire state of New Mexico is under contract. The Boll ranch paid \$30,000 for the service itself the first year.

"If Edwards county joins the other counties in contracting for Dr. Krick's service, an endeavor will be made to increase the rainfall from 40 to 100 percent," Mr. Briggs said. "A non-profit organization will be formed so that the farmers in the organization cannot be sued." He went on to say that Dr. Krick's company carried a million dollar policy to protect it from suits but so far the company has not been sued by anyone getting rain when they did not want it.

The cost to Edwards county to join in contracting for this service will be about 1½ cents per acre or \$5,800. This will be raised on a voluntary basis if the county decides to go ahead.

George Eslinger was the only farmer present at the meeting who voted against the rain service. He said that he is interested in raising alfalfa seed and wants dry weather during the summer to develop the seed.

Mr. Briggs explained that the generators resemble a self-fed forge. Coke impregnated with silver iodide crystals is burned in the forge which has a forced draft. The crystals are so minute and so light that they rise to the height of the clouds and then spread out.

Questions and Answers

Mr. Briggs asked those present to ask questions with the following questions and answers:

Q. How will the weather information be distributed?

A. That is to be worked out. It will be up to each county organization to decide how they will handle it. Solicitors should be very careful to get correct names and addresses in taking subscriptions to the service. It is probable that regular reports will be mailed to subscribers and that arrangements can be made to have the subscribers called in case an unusual storm is approaching. Under the law the weather reports cannot be broadcast or put in newspapers as the government has a monopoly on that.

Q. Will there be any winter seeding? We have been short of moisture during the winter of late years.

A. There will be no seeding in the winter time unless it is authorized. Many times when there are storm clouds in the winter time it would do more harm than good as

county with generators so that clouds coming from any direction can be seeded.

Q. What have they done in other counties, do they ask the tenant or landlord or both to put up the money?

A. They have looked to the renter. He can take it up with his landlord easier than the solicitors can. If the landlord is not living in the county he will know his address and the committee will not in some cases.

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MERCURY

GRAPHIC

1951

EIGHT PAGES

Flood Water Threatens City Twice During Week's Time

Still Lots of Water Surrounding Kinsley At Press Time Today; River and Creek are Going Down

The fire siren announced a flood threat twice during the past week—Saturday and Tuesday nights.

The river threatened to come to town Saturday night but Coon creek was able to take care of the water and the flood did not extend north of the creek in town.

Tuesday night Coon creek overflowed, covering sections of the north and east parts of town. Four or five families were evacuated Tuesday night by workers who responded to the fire siren.

Lloyd Rumsey and Sam Coover headed a rescue party, using the Rumsey row boat. Mrs. Edith Nolde and three children were rescued from their home just north of the Lincoln grade school building. One of the children was ill in bed. The family was taken to the Kinsley hotel.

Because of built-up highways flood water came into

town in a different way than it has other times. Dry Coon creek, coming into town from the north and northwest, caused trouble in the north part of town soon after dark Tuesday night. Regular Coon creek soon dumped some water into Dry Coon creek to make the rise quite rapid.

Water was all off Marsh avenue this morning but from the creek bridge on Niles avenue south on highway 183 there was considerable water still coming in from the river, although the river and creek are both way down this morning. Water has been flowing into the creek from the river at the Niles avenue bridge since Saturday night.

Residents in the new Hart addition in the northeast part of town did considerable work to dike along the road that goes along the city limits at the east edge of the addition but water came in from the west finally. Water did not enter any of the houses in the addition but flowed in the alleys, streets and yards. Underflow caused many floor furnaces to be moved.

TUESDAY FLOOD NOTES

Chester Bidleman left his home north of Dry Coon Creek late in the evening Tuesday evening and was gone only a short time. When he started to return a culvert on the road had washed out and he was forced to find a new road to his place. . . . Vern Fisher set a gauge on the south bank of Coon creek near the bridge on Marsh Ave. He reported a raise of about an inch an hour from ten o'clock on until after two o'clock Wednesday morning. . . . Water was up lapping at the ties along the Santa

Put off "Rain" Work Until 1952

Abundant Rains Cause Less Interest In "Rain Making"

Raising of money to hire a "rain maker" has been postponed until April of 1952, according to John Briggs of Protection who was elected chairman of the proposed "rain" district. Of the counties included in the rain district only one had raised its quota—that was Mr. Brigg's home county of Comanche.

Kiowa and Barber counties had raised half of their quota. The townships in the east half of Kiowa county had raised their money but the townships in the east half of the county had not been very active.

The counties in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandle that were to be associated with Kansas counties in the district of which Edwards county was the northeast corner have signed a contract for rain service.

All money already raised will be returned and the men who have done the work and incurred expenses will pay all the expenses, Mr. Briggs told a Mercury reporter this week.

SATURDAY FLOOD NOTES

Flood water was two inches higher at the south bridge than it was in 1949—measured by a nail in a tree.

The crest was at 11 p.m. Saturday—11.42 ft.

By noon Sunday—10.97 ft.
2 p.m. Sunday—10.88 ft.

The county engineer will make a complete report on the damage done to property, crops, etc. Copies will be sent to the army engineers and the county commissioners.

Ten army engineers from the Albuquerque, N. M., headquarters were in Kinsley Friday and Saturday. Two men were stationed at the east river bridge those two days to measure the speed of the river and the quantity of water.

The army engineers brought a thousand sacks to Kinsley Saturday morning to be used in making sand bags.

Sand bags were placed at the doors of the city auditorium in South park.

At one time Saturday night there were four men stationed at the east river bridge representing three different governmental agencies. Two were from the army engineers department at Albuquerque, one from the Geological survey, which department keeps the gauge at the east river bridge all the time, and the other was from a state department.

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May 24, 1951