

Water Shortage Is Threat To Lockwood Lane Homes, Firms

The threat of a water shortage is hanging over residents of the mountainous Lockwood lane sector of Scotts Valley.

Fred Pinckney of 3413 Lockwood lane said yesterday afternoon the 22 wells in the three-quarters of a mile section are "dangerously low." He believes the main fear of property owners in his neighborhood at the present time is the possibility of a fourth mushroom plant being installed.

"If we go along the way we are," Pinckney said, "we will be able to get by. There is definitely not enough water, however, for another mushroom plant and the residents."

The elder Bill Graham, co-owner of the Graham and Son construction company located at the north end of Lockwood lane, told Pinckney that several wells are completely dry. Other wells, according to Pinckney, are dropping to a limited amount for domestic use.

Lockwood lane residents and other property owners nearby own pressure pump wells ranging from 80-120 feet in depth. The average property owner uses between 800-1000 gallons daily for domestic purposes Pinckney figures. In the summer, the wells drop 10-12 feet lower than normal.

Many property owners have to "shoot" their clogged up, dry wells to restore the flow of water. When water reaches a low level, sand is sucked into the well casing and the flow stops. The clogged up section is blasted with a small stick of dynamite to restore normal flow.

Faced with a water shortage is a blueberry grower, Robert Houghton, who operates an extensive area in the canyon below the mountain-rimmed Lockwood lane section. He has reason to worry. Of three deep wells on his property, only one works. Just enough water is obtained for domestic use—nothing else—from the single operating well. Houghton does not get enough water for irrigation from the wells and uses a nearby stream.

"We face quite a water problem," Houghton added.

The largest of the three mushroom plants in the Lockwood lane section, Scotts Valley Mushrooms, is not able to operate at an increased pace because of the water shortage.

Fred Fitz, plant owner, reveals that he has just enough to get by—but no more. He has one 200-foot well that is labeled "dry" for all practical purposes. The owner explains that the water does not seep in fast enough when pumped to be of any value. Sometimes the plant needs a great deal of water during a two or three-hour period, but there is not enough water available.

"There is not an adequate amount of water," declared Fitz. "At least we haven't hit it."

Carl Roynon, of 600 Mount Hermon road, an old hand at installing wells, sees the situation becoming darker instead of brighter.

The Lockwood lane area, Roynon said, is known in geological terminology as a "running strata" where the water flows freely. The available supply to the residents will inevitably be depleted if the amount is consumed at a faster rate than the normal flow.

Pinckney and Roynon agree on a need for outside help. To avert a serious problem in the future, they believe a water system for the benefit of the mountain folks in the area will have to be installed.

Car-Selling Promotion Irks Ohioans

Cleveland (AP). — California promoters have invaded Cincinnati and Dayton—selling automobiles on the chain letter principle—and the Cleveland Better Business bureau says it's a bad business.

The bureau says it wants to forestall spread to Cleveland of the scheme, which they say works like this:

The California promoters sign up a car dealer, and install a battery of telephone girls to phone prospective customers, offering "a new car free."

When Mr. X visits the agency, a salesman tries to sign him up for a new car, telling him he can make the payments with commissions he will earn by selling cars to his friends.

If X buys, he pays \$650 down for the car, signs the time-payment contract, and an application for an Ohio car salesman's license. He also gets an agreement that the agency will pay him \$100 for every car sold to a customer brought in by X, and \$50 for every car the second customer is able to sell.

The Better Business bureau says there is little likelihood anybody could earn a car under the scheme.

C. Ervin Nofer, state registrar of motor vehicles, said several hundred salesmen's licenses have been issued in Cincinnati and 140 in Dayton as a result of the promotion. He said the attorney general ruled there was no violation of the law.

RAMS OPENING TRAINING

Redlands (AP).—Rookie fullback Joe Marconi of West Virginia and a flock of other newcomers checked into training headquarters of the Los Angeles Ram football squad, at the University of Redlands today.

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