

Man answered questions about success in area

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society
July 10, 1904: Hall Writes Again as to Description and Agricultural Possibilities of Northwest Kansas — R.E. Hall, having enlightened the ignorant outside world as to the rare possibilities in agriculture and stock raising in Sherman County, is receiving many inquires about this country.

He has not the time to answer them by letter, but writes the following open letter that all who are interested in northwest Kansas may read:

"Mr. Editor, One gentleman in Texas seems to doubt whether the communication published in your valuable paper is genuine or not, and that it might be possible that there is no such person as myself. If he were to take time and trouble to investigate, he would find me a reality and very much alive. I will try to answer in a general way the many letters which I have received, asking for information about northwest Kansas.

"First, in describing this section of the country, I will say that Sherman County is the second county south of the Nebraska line, being bounded on the west by the state of Colorado.

"The surface is level to gently rolling, except along the streams where exists a little rough land with some rock. But the best land or high prairie land contains neither sand, gravel or stone, and is a dark rich loam, very productive and easily cultivated.

"Bottoms along the streams are narrow and embrace only a small portion of the productive land. Speaking of this country as a whole, alfalfa can be grown very successfully along the streams as the roots penetrate to sheet water moisture, but on the prairie it cannot be raised with any great success, the distance to water being too great, ranging from 125 to 150 feet to water.

"But instead of alfalfa, sugar cane is grown with good results for feed, and the climate being dry, in the fall it cures perfectly and makes a superior feed for stock of all kinds; even hogs eat it with relish.

"During the very dry year of 1901, when crops were a failure in many states, farmers in northwest Kansas realized from \$20 to \$25 per acre for the seed alone, besides a fine crop of fodder for their stock.

"Millet and corn also thrive and make a good feed, but sorghum cane is generally preferred and rarely fails to make a fair crop. Wheat is sown extensively in the eastern part of the county. It often makes an excellent crop.

"Last year, a good many farmers in northwestern Kansas threshed from 3,000 to 5,000 bushels of small grain. The yield of wheat sometimes reaches 30 to 40 bushels per acre, but 20 to 25 bushels is counted a good crop.

"Barley has made 55 bushels to

today in history

the acre. Last year, a considerable amount of corn was grown in the eastern and northern part of the county.

"Land is selling for \$400 to \$1,000 for a quarter section, depending on the location and improvements. All prairie land is good, no poor land whatever.

"There is much raw land for sale cheap, and it is well worth the price asked, for it makes no difference how raw it is.

"There is no natural timber except a little along streams, but there are a good many planted groves, which seem to grow nicely when properly cared for.

"There is no first class land to be homesteaded, but some second and third choice lands among the hills along streams which is open to homestead entry.

"Horses sell for from \$40 to \$125 each; milch cows sell for from \$20 to \$30 per head. This is a fine country for poultry.

"One gentleman asks 'How about the fleas in Kansas?' Well, I have seen them pretty bad in places, especially where a good many hogs were kept, but I must inform my friend that I have not seen a flea for over three years, so don't worry about the fleas, for Kansas was never in it at all when compared with southern California for fleas, and there land sells for \$200 to \$300 per acre.

"Another inquirer asks whether the wind blows. Well, sometimes it blows very hard, but don't let the wind keep you away for 'he that regardeth the wind will not sow and he that soweth not shall not reap.'

"The wind pumps the water for our stock and also causes it to flow out upon the land, changing the desert spot into a beautiful oasis of plenty. Farm crops are not irrigated.

"Small fruits invariably do well when tended properly. I have seen some very fine apples and peaches grown here. Wild fruits also grow profusely along the stream. I have seen wild plums grow almost as large as peaches and of excellent flavor.

"The cost of a good drilled well for either stock or irrigation is about \$70. For pump and windmill, together, from \$75 to \$100. It depends upon the size of the wheel and pump wanted. This is for the deepest wells; shallow wells cost less.

"This county is especially adapted to raising of horses. There is not one year in ten but what horses can live through the winter without one bite of hay or grain as they paw away the snow and get the grass, though it is very seldom that snow falls to a depth of more than two to four inches and very often drifts in piles so a portion of grass is bare.

"Cattle must be fed through all storms, but generally one to two days at a time is all that is necessary

as the snow soon melts and disappears. I generally count on feeding none in November and from three to five days in December, January two to three days, February three to eight days, March and April three to five days each, but sometimes the winters are so open and mild that but very little feed is required.

"This is also a splendid sheep-raising country. A man with a flock of 400 to 500 good ewes may become independent if he only attends to his business. But don't bring sheep from the east here, rather start with western ewes and grade them up with eastern rams.

"The main line of the C.R.I. & P. railroad extends through this county. Trains are run over this road from Chicago to Denver, Colorado Springs, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"Goodland is a division station and contains machine shops and employs a large number of men at good wages, besides a great many train men reside here, such as conductors, engineers, firemen, brakemen, etc. The company has a commodious hotel and other buildings located here.

"The town has a population of 1,000 and is what one could call a thrifty growing town. More than 50 new business houses and residences were erected during the last twelve months.

"Some ask, 'How much land one should own and how many stock a section will keep?' It is preferable to own at least one section, although a great many own less and do well by leasing additional land which can be leased very cheaply.

"One section will keep from 35 to 40 head of grown cattle were they

fed through the winter the same number of months it is customary to feed in the east. The price of butter fat at creameries brings from 15 to 24 cents per pound, it being higher during fall, winter and spring.

"A good many ask what they can do with \$1,000 and others with \$2,000 and \$3,000. I cannot advise you what you can do or how you will succeed here. I can only tell you about the success of others, and you know that where there is one success, another is apt to follow.

"I returned here and began with a little over \$1,000; others came years ago and staid who only had wife and team and have met with greater success than myself. Some have become discouraged and gone away.

"So will not advise you. But I believe there is money here for the right kind of people, who are ready and willing to work, for one must work if he desires to make a success. 'There is no excellence without great labor.'

"I am nearly 40 years of age and have traveled over 40,000 miles by rail and have lived in a good many places but never have yet found the place where money grew on trees, for it don't grow that way and besides if it did, in most countries the trees would grow so tall that any ordinary man could not reach it. So we must work it out, dig it out, anyway that is respectable and honorable.

"One need not leave this country and go to the Klondyke, or to Thunder Mountain to find gold. For there is gold under the sheep's back; there is gold under the beef's hide; there is gold in the prancing horse; there is gold in the cow's teats and in the air, which only requires willing hands to extract it with energy and with care and build up happy homes

where the joyful accents of the mother and father may be heard mingled with the sweet prattle and laugh of the child.

"I shall not tell more for the half was never told. Come and investigate for yourselves, and we will welcome those who come to build up the country and in so doing we will subdue the wilderness, creating, as it were a new empire and lasting new riches not the lap of the nation!"

R.E. Hall

From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.

public notice

BONNIE J. SELBY, #13604
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE INTEREST OF JOAQUIN LOPEZ RODRIQUEZ, D/O/B 09-18-03, A MALE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

CASE NO. 04-JC-06

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Adrianna Marie Rodriguez Moreno, D/O/B 01-14-86, Maternal Mother of Joaquin Lopez Rodriguez

Modesto Rodriguez, D/O/B 06-15-63, Maternal Grandfather of Joaquin Lopez Rodriguez

Kathy Rodriguez, Maternal Aunt of Joaquin Lopez Rodriguez

A Petition has been filed In this Court requesting that the Court terminate the parental rights of one Adrianna Marie Rodriguez Moreno, D/O/B 01-14-86, ma-

ternal mother of Joaquin Lopez Rodriguez, D/O/B 09-18-03.

You are required to appear before this Court at 3:00 o'clock P.M. M.T. on the 10th day of August, 2004, at 813 Broadway, 2nd Floor, in Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas, or prior to that time file your written response to the pleading with the Clerk of this Court. If, after a child has been adjudged to be a child in need of care, the Court finds a parent or parents to be unfit, the Court may make an order permanently terminating the parent's or parents' parental rights.

R. Dean Dinkel, an attorney of Dinkel Law Office, L.L.C., whose address and telephone number are: P.O. Box 117, Sharon Springs, Kansas 67758, (785) 852-4096, respectively, has been appointed as guardian ad litem for the child. Each parent or other legal custodian of the child has the right to appear and be heard personally either with or without an attorney.

Clerk of the District Court
By: Karlin Barton

Published in the Goodland Star-News Fridays, July 2 and 9, 2004.

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