

Prospect Canal To Get Permanent Lining

A request for technical aid in installing permanent lining in a mainline irrigation canal was made recently by a group of Prospect ranchers to Sams Valley-Beagle Soil Conservation district.

It has been estimated that the canal, which is located in a pumice stone area, loses about 85 per cent of its water annually. In previous years the canal has been plagued by cave-ins which created a serious irrigation water shortage in 1955. The canal serves 38 users and irrigates about 700 acres.

Soil conservation service technicians Albert Petska and Ira Spires will make a preliminary survey of the project to determine the type of permanent lining.

Ranchers who use water from the canal include V. L. Chapman, Waldo Nye, Bruce Grieve, Dave Neville, Christine Dobbins, T. C. Cunningham, Frank Simmons, E. M. Boothby, Dee Hedgepeth, Reuben Moore, Elsie Phipps, Hazel Ulrich, George Wayman, I. M. Chandler, Marian Bossler, Warren L. Barr and Howard Mather.

There are several other users who irrigate small areas.

Confessed Murderer of Three Men Wants To Write Book On Crime

Los Lunas, N. M. —(U.P.)—David Cooper Nelson, who once studied for the pulpit, wants to write a book about a murder—one of three he confessed in the past two days.

Nelson, a 35-year-old truck driver and sheet metal worker from Las Vegas, Nev., faced arraignment today for first degree murder in the death of Ralph Henderson Rainey, 48, of Santa Monica, Calif. Nelson confessed Rainey's murder to the district attorney at Albuquerque on Sunday.

Authorities said Nelson was brought here late Sunday and confessed killing Kenneth Short, 36, of North Hollywood, Calif., and John Valenti, a Pioche, Nev., bartender.

Nelson, who served two sentences in the Montana State Prison in 1943 and 1947 for forgery and armed robbery, told a state patrolman he shot Valenti on Jan. 4 when he was caught burglarizing the bartender's home. Nelson later denied the confession, but New Mexico authorities said they had accepted the admission and so notified Nevada officials. Next on Nelson's three-week

killing binge was Rainey, whose blanket-wrapped body was found beneath a culvert near Albuquerque on Jan. 10.

Nelson said he was hitchhiking a ride with Rainey and shot him with a .38 caliber revolver when Rainey refused to let him drive. "I shot him again to put him out of his misery," Nelson confessed.

It was the next shooting that led to Nelson's arrest and also the one which the one-time ministerial student "plans to write a book about." Nelson was arrested shortly after he wrecked Short's car near Las Vegas, but victim's body still has not been found.

Nelson said he threw Short's body from the car about 35 miles west of Amarillo, Tex., or about 200 miles east of the spot where Rainey's body was found. Nelson said he hitched a ride

with Short in Oklahoma on Jan. 21. Short had been reported missing while driving his new car home from Flint, Mich. When Nelson was arrested, he claimed he found Short's car "abandoned" near Santa Rosa, N. M.

Nelson's trail of death ended with his arrest at the wreckage of Short's car. He told authorities he had traveled from Pioche to New Mexico, where he killed Rainey; then to Utah, where he abandoned Rainey's car; on to Oklahoma, where Short picked him up, and then through Texas, New Mexico and Arizona back to Nevada.

Snap to Sew



9311 12-20; 30-42

by Marian Martin

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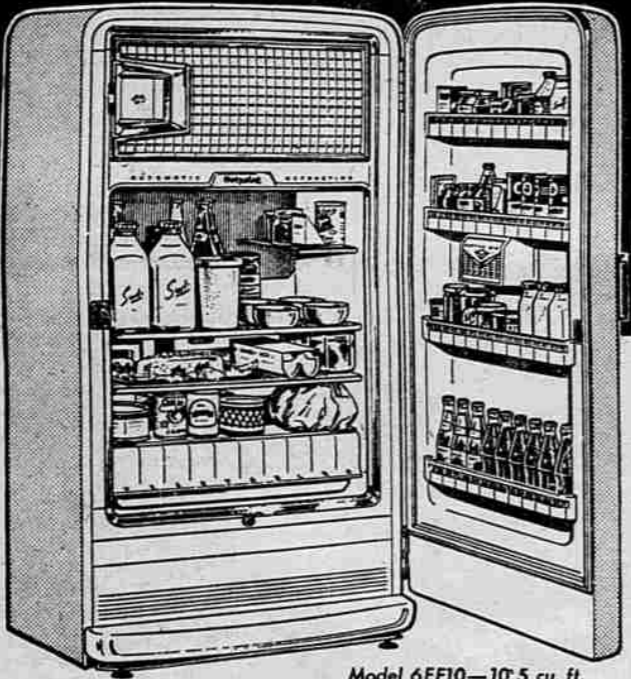
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