

December 20, 2007

Good morning everyone,

It is with great anticipation and pleasure that I meet with you today.

I would like to take a few minutes to have you get to know more about the lives and the sacrifices Everett and Mabel made to build the 120,000 acre ranch, in New Mexico and Arizona.

Everett was born in Hill County, Nebraska on January 10, 1902, and passed away at the age of 82 in 1983. Mabel was born on November 22, 1907 in Bowie, Texas. She passed away at her home in St. Johns, Arizona from a heart attack on July 17, 2001 at the age of 93. She continued to run the ranch up to the time of her passing. Everett and Mabel were married on the tenth day of September in 1938. It was the first marriage for both. Before that time, Mabel was working in a dry goods store and living with her mother in a small home in Clovis, Texas. Mabel attended Baylor University in Texas and received a degree in business administration and took extension courses from University of Arizona. Everett and Mabel had a long courtship and were intending to get married eventually, however Everett had purchased the ranch in New Mexico, in 1938 (Ojo Bonita) and at that time he broke his leg jumping off a horse. He had his mother call Mabel and ask her if she could come to the ranch and care for him. She immediately quit her job, in Clovis, and got on a train at midnight for Gallup, New Mexico, arriving at noon. They were married during the noon hour (the minister, the witnesses, and marriage license bureau were available at that time). they spent the night in a motel and the next day after Mabel picked up a few groceries and spices, they left for the ranch at Ojo Bonita.

At the age of 15, Everett came to Muleshoe, Texas by means of hitching a ride on the railroad, and when he arrived at his Uncle Charlie's ranch he had only fifteen cents as his life savings. He worked on Uncle Charlie's ranch for a long while and then his uncle gave him a small ranch, which he built up to what he had when he passed away. Everett was a charter member of the National Cattlemen's Association, and a devoted member of the Methodist Church.

Mabel and Everett were to become parents after two years, however Mabel went into labor and had a miscarriage. Everett drove rapidly to Gallup to get a doctor. Mabel was hemorrhaging badly and believed that she would not live. Early the next morning, however, the bleeding stopped and she survived. They never had any more children.

During World War II, Everett was granted exemption from the draft since he was in an essential occupation. Everett and his crew first built up his cattle herd by trail riding steers from Old Mexico. These were long horn steers and after keeping them for a while he would trail drive them to the railroad in Chandler, which was about a distance of 100 miles from the ranch. Later he exclusively raised black Angus cattle because they could better withstand the extreme temperatures. You probably know that being a rancher is a seven-day a week job, and usually 12 to 14 hours, or more, a day. There were many accidents, including one in which, on a cold, snowy, early morning, their vehicle turned over after running off the road. Mabel and Everett had to wait until some of his help came along and rescued them. Luckily they were not badly hurt.

After a long friendship and being neighbors for a long period of time Mabel and Bill were married on January the 18, 1992, in Albuquerque in the home of Bill's sister and brother-in-law. Mabel often mentioned that she was very happy that we were able to share our lives together. Mabel was not only my wife, but also my best friend and companion. Our togetherness is one of my most pleasant memories. Mabel and Everett are buried in Hereford, Texas along beside her Mother, Brother, and Sister-in-law.

It is my desire to carry out Everett and Mabel's wishes and I believe that what is being done here today is a small step in accomplishing that goal.

Thank you for your time and hopefully, we will have a cordial and successful relationship.

Bill Hanshaw.

William C. Hanshaw made these comments on December 22, 2007 on the occasion of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Hinkson Memorial Living Care Center in St. Johns, Arizona. Bill Hanshaw donated funds to build the Center in honor of Everett and Mabel Hinkson.