

*RENO EVENING GAZETTE TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1928*

**Airway Beacon Erection Starts with First Light To Be Placed near Mogul  
Two-Million Candlepower Lights Will Flash Guiding Fliers over Nevada;  
Emergency Fields To Be Lighted Also**

Erection of a two million candlepower beacon, the first of the airway beacons in Nevada, started yesterday near Verdi on top of the mountain above Mogul between Reno and Verdi. A fifty-one foot tower for the huge light was taken to the bottom of the mountain this morning by truck, and with tractors was hauled as far as the ditch which runs along the side of the mountain. Getting over the canal is a problem, the men in charge of the work said. Twenty-six lighting units will be installed between Verdi and Battle Mountain by the San Bernardino Rock and Gravel Company which has the contract for this division. Six emergency landing fields between here and Battle Mountain will be lighted and the huge beacons will be placed on high mountains all along the 225-mile division. W W Seanor is in charge of the work here.

The lights are controlled by an astrological clock which turns them on at sundown. At first a sun gauge was used on the beacons but they were too efficient, for the beacons were turned on every time a cloud obscured the sun. Each beacon flashes a code number corresponding with the number of the beacon and aviators seeing the beacon are able to determine their location and the location of landing fields in the vicinity.

Where power lines are available the beacons are electrically operated, but in isolated locations acetylene gas is used, while others have individual power plants. The second beacon will be erected just east of the mouth of Vista canyon on a peak above the Lockwood ranch.

Placing the beacons is a difficult job in some places, Seanor said this morning. The parts are taken in big White trucks as far as possible and then hauled by caterpillar tractors. When the going gets too steep they are loaded on sleds and hauled by the tractors and from then on it is a job for the men working. At the present time there are only about ten men working near Verdi but later Seanor said that there would be between twenty and thirty men on the job.

The first emergency landing field to be lighted will be at Fernley. On one corner a large beacon will be built and small fifty-watt lights will border the field at three hundred-foot intervals. In the center of the field a circle will be outlined in white. The circles indicate the condition of the field. If the circle has no marks on it then a plane can land in any direction. White lines radiating from the circles indicate the direction of safe landing.

Within sixty days it is expected that the beacons will all be flashing, and all of the work on the Reno-Battle Mountain stretch will be completed by Thanksgiving, Seanor said.