

Doña Ana County

Progress Made On LORAN Project

Construction crews and cranes are erecting a 750 foot tower above the desert floor to complete a nationwide navigation system.

The Long Range Navigation System, (LORAN), will be operated by the U.S. Coast Guard to improve air safety. The facility is being built by B&M Cillesson of Farmington, N. M.

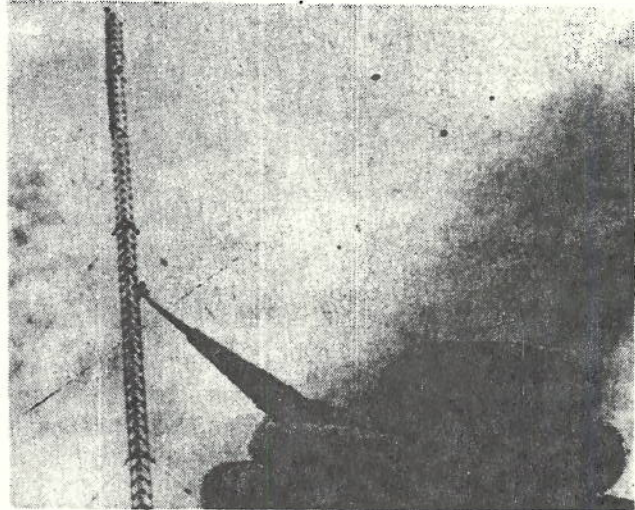
Project director Vic Engberg said the LORAN facility is about 75 percent complete. Located about 20 miles west of Anthony, it should be operational by January, 1991.

Electronically connected with similar facilities in Oklahoma, Montana and Wyoming, the New Mexico site will complete a nationwide LORAN system.

Small aircraft and ground vehicles with LORAN receivers will have 24 hour access to the system, which will function regardless of weather conditions.

Five Coast Guard personnel and their families will arrive this fall in the area to manage the \$5 million facility, which will be operated by a sophisticated computer system.

The facility will have a yearly operational budget of about \$400,000 and should help the local economy as maintenance and other services will be needed.



The LORAN tower under construction

First developed for maritime traffic during World War 11, LORAN is operated by the Coast Guard because the agency is administered by the Department of Transportation, not the Department of Defense.

New Mexico