

5/15/20

Information from seller regarding the well on APN 065240022, Oakhurst, Madera County

Seller says (quote):

“...the property has a well that is undeveloped and untested. The top 1 foot of the well casing will need to be repaired if the well is to be used....”

“I have no documentation on the well. The previous owner had the well drilled before the sale. If the owner mentioned the name of the company that drilled the well, I have forgotten about it as that was over fifty years ago. I went to the Madera County hall of records several years ago to get some information on the well, mainly to get a location on the property. They had no records. One real estate agent I talked to suggested that the information might be at the Fresno County hall of records. I didn't investigate that.

I enlisted a friend from Modesto with a metal detector and we swept the property and couldn't find it. A week later, I got another friend from Fresno with a metal detector and we found it right away. I stopped the search with the first friend because I seemed to remember the well being further back from Rd 427. With the second friend we started the search from where the first search ended.

As for the damage to the top of the well casing, I'm pretty sure my property was used as a staging area for heavy equipment used in the widening of Rd 427, in which they took approximately 0.15 acres off the front of my property. When I bought the property, Rd 427 was a narrower dirt road. Sometime during the road construction, I made a trip there to see what was going on. I saw two huge piles of dirt on my property. I can only imagine that sometime during the construction, a piece of heavy equipment rolled over the top of the casing smashing it flat to the ground. Shortly after the location was discovered, my friend from Fresno and I went there to check the well out further with a 100 foot tape measure. A resident who lives off Windsong Way up behind my property (with a German accent) loaned us a pick & crowbar. We poked a hole over the center of the casing. The tape measure showed a depth of 36 feet with the water level 10 feet below ground level. I have a feeling some dirt must have poured in the well before the casing was smashed. I can't believe the previous owner would have the well driller stop at 36 feet. The fellow who loaned us the tools said his well was over 600 feet deep. I have since placed a stainless steel cover over the casing to prevent further contamination.

That's all the information I currently have on the well.”