

# Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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## BOYHOOD SCENES

### Seaside Bather is Enjoying His Summer Trip—Finds Things Changed

Grand Ave., Long Island, August 6, 1921.  
Eastern Long Island, as the writer remembers it, is the twenty-five years prior to 1874 was like and yet unlike it is today. In its general shape it is suggestive of a seaside, with north wide open, apparently attempting to swallow the huge manifold of Shaker Island between an upper low ending at Great Point and a much longer lower one terminating at Mountain Point. Gardner's Island, too, which has always remained the private domain of the descendants of Lord Gardner, seems also about to be included in the swallowing process and the intended ferry also makes a large sheet of water between the main Bay.

The east end of the island is quite level in this region being in some places like a water plain; but on the north side of the central bay it slopes gradually up to the cliffs of Long Island Sound, which often reach 100 feet or more in height. The south side of the island is bordered by numerous bays, of which Great South Bay, just inside the ocean beach, extends most of the length of the island.

Our home was on the north side of the island, Grand Avenue running parallel with the ocean shore at a distance of about a mile. In our backyard, Riverside township was covered with timber, principally oak and hickory for about two-thirds of the area, but the greater part is now cleared. Most of the farms were divided into small lots of a few acres each by fences of the native trees lopped over to make division fences that could not be seen, and these fences also usually lined the roadsides, making travel remarkably warm in the fall of summer.

Now the waterfalls of the river were no longer to be seen when the boat is underway and during the small run to what it used to be, while nothing obstructs the view as one travels along the highway.

The county seat town of Riverhead, at the head of navigation on Coquille Bay, its residence streets well shaded with live oaks, which usually arch overhead, and with nearly all the division fences gone presents a decidedly parklike appearance.

General farming used to be the principal business here, varied by fishing and the raising of oysters. Now the only crops grown on an extensive scale are potatoes, cauliflower and corn. Not nearly so much milk and butter, eggs and chickens are produced as formerly, but duck ranches have grown very numerous on the bays and creeks. These fowl will stand such crowding as chickens will not thrive under and it is astonishing to see how nearly the ducks cover the ground in the small area of their pens. In less than two months from hatching the ducks are ready for market, and New York, only eighty miles away, with five million people affords a market for the fowl which is never glutted.

It might be concluded that duck raising must be an insignificant and fading business, but that would be a great mistake, for hundreds of people are not only making a comfortable living but actually getting rich at it and coming up out of the sliver into the limousine class. Indeed, in one case a "poor white" who came up here from Virginia a few years ago, has not only become a director in two of the banks but is seeking to be chosen supervisor, the head of the town government and help guide the destinies of the county after the next election.

A number of the farmers in this township have found potato growing so remunerative that they have invested largely in potato lands in eastern Maine, which is the greatest spot growing region on the continent.

The Riverhead Springs tank, in a small cove, is a beautiful, heated deodorizing to \$7,000,000 and it is the largest tank in the country, and probably the largest in the world. The tank is the largest of its kind in the world and is the largest of its kind in the world. The tank is the largest of its kind in the world and is the largest of its kind in the world.

## REBUILD BRIDGE THEY ARE AGREED

### Plans Making for Rebuilding Solid Structure to Span Spargan Hill

The meeting of Spargan Hill property owners, held at the city hall last Saturday evening, was a highly attended one, about 50 being present. Mayor V. L. Hamilton presided at the meeting. The proposition to build a concrete roadway from Spargan street north on Shaver's and then south to a connection with the highway did not appeal to the citizens present, fully 50 per cent of them favoring the erection of a new pile bridge, either from Spargan Hill to connect with the highway or with a new bridge on Mountain street, the same or over. It was decided that a committee should be organized to make a study of the problem and report to the council at its next meeting.

The committee is in receipt of a report from J. J. Hamilton, written at Coquille, in which he says that he has before him now 1,200 signatures in favor of a new bridge. He was just starting for the Council with the West-East Relief party. He promises to be instrumental in what he says.

## ALL TEACHERS NOW CHOSEN

The school board met at the First National Bank Wednesday evening and attended to several matters. The bid of Paul Bros. for laying out 5,000 square feet of sidewalk and steps at the new school house was the only one submitted, but it appearing reasonable to the board it was accepted. For sidewalks the quotation was 20-1-2 cents per square foot and for concrete steps \$1.25 per square foot. It means an expenditure of approximately \$1250.

The board closed the following teachers:

- Miss Emma E. Brantner, of Appleton City, grade teacher at an annual salary of \$1,500.
- E. E. McCormack, High School teacher and athletic instructor, \$1000 per year.
- Mrs. Bertha E. McCormack, High School Commercial teacher, \$1250 per year.

It has been decided to have no principal of the high school this year, Mr. Parr's duties as superintendent including complete supervision of both the high school and grades.

The bid of C. J. Fehman for school supplies was accepted.

The budget is practically completed and as soon as A. T. Morrison returns the budget committee will pass on it and call a meeting of the legal voters for its final acceptance.

The date for the opening of school was not fixed by the board but it will very probably be on September 12.

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