

PLEASANT VALLEY IS THRIVING LOCALITY

By G. N. SAGER.

For the information of those who are not familiar with the location of this beautiful little valley we will state that it is situated 11 miles east and south of Portland, three miles beyond the city limits and four miles south and west of Gresham and is traversed by the Foster road. The area of the valley proper is approximately two miles in width by three in length, and is practically surrounded by low lying hills, ranging in altitude from three to five hundred feet. These hills in a measure protect the valley from the severe winds that some times prevail in adjacent territory.

The soil in this locality is unsurpassed in richness and productivity anywhere in the Willamette valley and is particularly adapted to the growing of fruits, (especially berries), filberts, walnuts, and general farm products. This region is also well adapted and has many advantages for dairying and poultry raising.

The water supply is ample and is derived from wells and springs. That there has not been a case of sickness occasioned by the use of impure water in this neighborhood during a period of over 40 years attests its purity and healthfulness.

Fully 75 per cent of the adjacent hill lands are as yet undeveloped, some of it is still covered with timber. However, the timber is being rapidly converted into lumber and cordwood for which there is an ever increasing demand.

This hill land, when brought under cultivation, is very productive, in fact it is better suited to the growing of nuts and the tree fruits than are the low lands.

The chief industries of the valley are fruit growing, poultry raising, dairying, and general farming. Considering the adverse conditions under which these industries have labored during the past three years, it would indeed speak well for those engaged in them to say that they have held their own in a financial sense. However, it affords us great pleasure and satisfaction to be able to say that the people of our little valley have not only held their own but have made substantial gains, as is shown by the many improvements that are in evidence throughout the neighborhood.

Building.

More than 100 buildings of various kinds and sizes, ranging from chicken houses to modern residences, have been erected during the past two years. Of this number, 45 were domiciles ranging in cost from a few hundred, to five thousand dollars. Among the more pretentious buildings we would mention the homes of G. H. Richey, W. L. Kesterson, T. R. Berry, T. E. Taylor, J. H. Nolte, Ben Nelson, Roy Miller, Jos. Lilly, Walter Edelman and Glen Harmon. F. W. Hill, C. A. Ekstrand and Jas. Kelly each have expended several hundred dollars remodeling and modernizing their homes. Miss Nellie McKinley has just finished building an addition to her

dairy barn to provide room for her growing herd of registered Jerseys.

Jenne Lind suburban tract, which is a sub-division of the original Jenne donation land claim, was put on the market something over a year ago by P. P. Jenne, present owner. About one-half of the holdings have been disposed of and homes to the number of 19 have already been established thereon. A great majority of the purchasers of these tracts are people who have positions or a small business in the city and who are seeking to get away from the exorbitant taxes and high rentals that make living in town well nigh impossible for those possessing small means.

Berry Plantations.

The total number of acres planted to berries in this vicinity is conservatively estimated at 200. The red raspberry leads with an acreage of more than 100, strawberries come next with an acreage estimated at 75. The remaining acreage covers blackberries, loganberries, currants, gooseberries and blackcaps. A large majority of the growers are members of the Berry Growers association with headquarters located in Gresham. Notwithstanding the rather low prices received for the fruit during the season just past, the growers are showing their faith in the ultimate success of the industry by planting additional acreage.

Tree Fruits.

Including apples, pears, cherries, prunes and plums, there is approximately 200 acres now in bearing. A very large per cent of this acreage is apples. Among the larger growers of these fruits we would mention J. Z. Olson, F. A. Lehman, H. E. Poppleton-Chas. Ericson, Will Richey, Lawrence Stevens and A. B. Olson.

Filberts.

This narrative would be incomplete without reference to Percy Giese's filbert orchard. So far as we know Mr. Giese is the pioneer in this particular line of the nut industry in this section of the state. Mr. Giese retired from active farming a number of years ago, retaining a few acres of his farm for a home. He determined to set out a portion of this acreage to filbert trees as he said "to have something to play with."

The venture has not only afforded Mr. Giese a source of much pleasure and pastime but has added materially to his bank account and incidentally brought renown to his name as Mr. Giese has come to be considered an authority on the subject of filbert growing.

Dairying.

Dairying is another one of the leading industries of this section. Among the larger operators are H. Paulsen, Lutz Brothers, G. A. Bowen, C. Hemrich, F. Bortor and the Bliss Brothers. Besides there are quite a number of small producers who are milking from six to twelve cows. All of the larger dairies have modern equipment for handling their product.

The Bliss Bros., in addition to conducting the largest dairy in this part

of the county, are engaged quite extensively in growing general farm crops.

Poultry.

While there are no large poultry yards here there are numerous small flocks of from 100 to 1500 fowls. In the aggregate the industry is quite a factor in the assets of the community. Among the leading fanciers are C. A. Ekstrand, L. Wagner, Victor Rileula, D. Savo, Aaron Springer and Howard Tittel.

General Farming.

General farming is still carried on to a considerable extent. However, the larger farms are one by one being subdivided into tracts of from one to twenty acres each. The new owners for the most part are giving their attention to fruits and poultry raising. A considerable acreage is being devoted to truck gardening.

Transportation and Electric Lights.

The northern border-land of the valley is traversed by the Gresham-Estacada, and Bull Run lines of the Portland Railway Light & Power Company. Two stations, Sycamore and Jenne, afford passenger and shipping facilities for this section of the country. However, by far the greater part of the traffic from this neighborhood is taken care of by the motor car and truck.

The P. R. L. & L. Company has extended its power lines from Linne-mann Junction along Pleasant View avenue, and from Jenne Station along Jenne road, Sycamore road and Foster road which provides residents along these thoroughfares with light and power.

Roads.

The Foster road, which runs through the valley, is paved from the city limits of Portland to the Multnomah and Clackamas county line. Through the action of the Clackamas county court the Foster road, beginning at the county line and running through to Damascus, has been created a market road and contractors are now busy delivering crushed rock for the base preparatory to hard surfacing next spring. All other roads throughout the valley are macadamized or gravelled.

Pleasant Valley supports a general merchandise store and a garage. The former is owned and operated by our genial merchant, C. C. Babbidge. The latter is under the management of A. E. Oades who is ever ready to take care of those who may be in need of his services.

School.

A year ago the district found it necessary to add another room to the school to care for the growing attendance. The district now has a three-room school which has met and complied with all requirements necessary for standardization. The enrollment at present is about 100. The school has the cooperation of a working Parent-Teacher association which meets twice a month for the consideration of problems of moment to all concerned.

Church.

The spiritual necessities of the neighborhood are being taken care of by the Pleasant Valley community church under the ministrations of the Rev. E. G. Ranton. In point of numbers the attendance at church ser-

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ices is not as good as they should be for a community of this size. This, however, is probably accounted for by reason of so many having affiliations with churches of their particular faith which they can attend in Portland or Gresham. The Sunday school however is better attended and the interest seems to be growing from month to month.

Grange.

Pleasant Valley grange has long been a factor in the community life

of this neighborhood. The grange owns its hall and its doors have always been open to the social and educational activities of the community. Much of the progress made in this vicinity had its inception in the grange.

Community Fair.

Last October 7th the first community fair ever staged in the valley was held in the grange hall. The exhibits consisted of over 40 varieties of grasses and legumes, many varieties of grains, fresh fruits of all kinds in season, canned, preserved and desiccated fruits, and vegetables of the finest quality galore, also poultry and dairy products. There were many beautiful pieces of needlecraft on display. The exhibits of the school clubs, both in products of the soil and handiwork were excellent. The artistic setting and arrangements of the exhibition brought forth many expressions of commendation and admiration from visitors present.

The success of the show exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the promoters, and was a splendid example of what the spirit of cooperation will do in a community.

Retrospection.

It has been the privilege of the writer of this somewhat disconnected narrative to have witnessed and to have participated in the work of trans-

forming this beautiful little valley from a wilderness into the modern community that it is today. Forty-two years ago there were not to exceed two-score homes in the valley. Today there are upwards of 200 homes within the confines of this same area. Forty-two years ago we were ten miles from the city limits of Portland. Today we are less than three miles distant. The road leading to the city at that date was little more than a trail meandering through a dense forest rough and uneven in summer time and full of mud holes of uncertain depth in the winter time. The nearest postoffice at that time was East Portland. Some times we received our mail once a week, sometimes once a month. Forty-two years ago the beautiful little city of Gresham was as yet undreamed of. Time has wrought wonderful changes in this brief span.

When we think of the progress that has been made in the realm of science in all of its multitudinous ramifications, we are constrained to exclaim: What will the next two score years bring forth?

SUBORDINATE GRANGES ELECT NEW OFFICERS

At the meeting last Saturday, Fairview grange elected new officers who are Mrs. Jeanette Grant, master; Mrs. John Jonas, overseers; Mrs. E. R. D. Hollensted, lecturer; Mrs. Wm. Sales, chaplain; Mrs. J. W. Townsend, secretary; J. W. Townsend, steward; Rev. E. R. D. Hollensted, assistant steward; Miss Clara Sales, lady assistant; Mrs. John Mollor, Pomona; Mrs. Peterson, Ceres; Mrs. Earl Townsend, Flora.

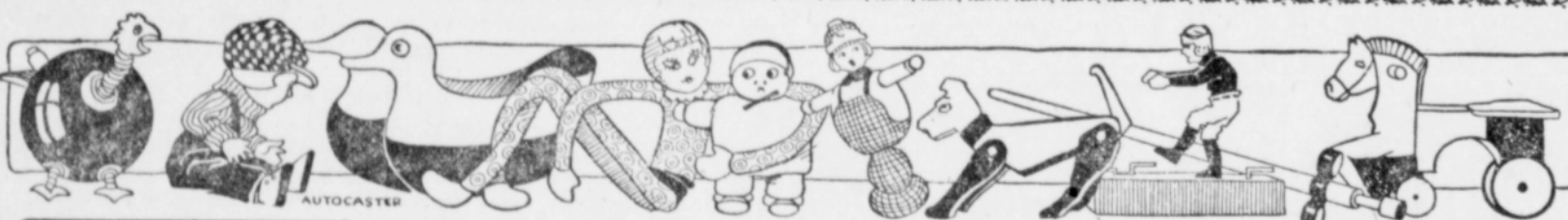
A complete list of officers of the Gresham grange, elected last Saturday are M. M. Squire, master; Frank Hodge, overseer; Mrs. H. A. Curry, lecturer; Mrs. Geo. Slerat, steward; Geo. Honey, assistant steward; Mrs. A. Ruegg, lady assistant steward; Mrs. Wm. Hornecker, chaplain; Mrs. M. M. Squire, secretary; Geo. Leslie, treasurer; Geo. Slerat, gatekeeper; Evelyn Curry, Ceres; Margaret Aniker, Pomona; Clara Mason, Flora.

At the December meeting of Columbia grange, officers were elected for 1923 who are W. F. Henkle, re-elected master; Joe Dobing, overseer; Veda Butler, secretary; Clara E. Smith, re-elected lecturer; Fred Benfield; Minnie Pounder, chaplain; Lewis Benfield, treasurer; Fred Knieriem, re-elected assistant steward; Wm. Kay Morgan, gatekeeper; Mary Northway, Ceres; Marie Evans, Pomona; Glenora Butler, Flora; Frances Knieriem, lady assistant steward.

The county grange meeting was well attended. There were from 200 to 250 present during the day and evening sessions. Representatives were present from all of the county granges.

Money to loan on real estate. B. W. Thorne, at Bank of Gresham.

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