

Talent, the Garden Spot of the Valley



Talent is situated about half way between Medford and Ashland on the Pacific highway and the Southern Pacific railway, and all tourists or others passing through Rogue River valley must pass through it.

In the last few years that the valley has become famous Talent has been taking on a gradual growth and it is now getting to the place that it will take a faster and more permanent growth.

There are over 500 inhabitants within the town limits and the immediate country surrounding it the most thickly settled rural district in the Rogue river valley.

Talent was incorporated last year and since then a new interest has been manifest and all building that has been done in the last year is of a creditable kind, and will aggregate \$60,000, which is an increase in building of a large per cent.

Water Supply.

Talent is now anticipating a water supply, which will be finished next season, and this may be accomplished at a very low figure, as the water supply is both near and adequate for any future use. The cost of putting in the system, including all expenses of mains, has been estimated by the engineer at about \$15,000, which is very reasonable for a good system.

Talent is furnished with both gas and electricity for both heating and lighting purposes. The Rogue River Gas company furnishes the gas and the Jackson County Electric Light and Power company, with their substation at Talent, do a general light and power business and handle all kinds of electrical appliances for all purposes.

The school is being put in the best of condition, a new building having been erected this last summer at a cost of \$24,000, nothing having been spared to make it modern and sanitary, and the finish is of high grade, being the best finished school building with the exception of one, south of Eugene, in Oregon. There are six acres in the grounds, giving plenty of room for playgrounds and agricultural training.

Schools.

F. C. Smith is superintendent of the schools and is planning a full 10-year course for 1912-13. There are two schools near Talent and there is a movement to consolidate the higher grades of these schools with the Talent school, which would be much better for the pupils of the outlying districts, which are much crowded now.

There are four churches which hold services, namely: Methodist Episcopal, Rev. G. H. Way of Talent, pastor; Christian, Rev. Harvey of Phoenix, pastor; Baptist, Rev. Holmes of Medford, pastor; Dunkard, Rev. L. B. Overholser of Talent, pastor.

Town officers: Marion Tryer, mayor; Jay Terrill, recorder; G. A. Gardner, treasurer; T. J. Bell, J. H. Laey, E. B. Adamson, J. R. Robinson, W. H. Brece and J. S. Crawford, councilmen.

The following is a list of the business houses located in Talent: R. L. Burdick, general merchandise, located in the new concrete building erected where the store of C. W. Wolters was burned February 1, 1911; Talent Mercantile company, also carry general merchandise; J. S. Spitzler & Son, carry groceries; J. S. Spitzler, livery and feed stable; Marion Tryer, hardware store; C. A. Brown and James Gonley, drug and furniture store; E. LaBelle, bakery and lunch; G. W. Wood, barber shop; J. F. Norman, barber shop; Charles High, barber shop; Harry Leonard, blacksmith

cers are W. D. Holdridge, president; R. E. Robison, vice president, and E. B. Adamson, cashier.

There is one business that is not sufficiently represented, that being a good, first class hotel. While there are two small hotels, both hotel owners agree that a large, modern hotel would be a great benefit to the town and a paying proposition to anyone that would start one.

It might be well to mention that the town is "dry" at present.

School officers: J. B. Coleman, G. A. Morse and Marion Tryer, directors; G. A. Gardner, clerk; F. C. Smith, principal.

Country Rich.

The country surrounding Talent is of the best variety of Rogue river soil and the products raised and marketed from this community always are classed among the best wherever exhibited.

On the place of G. A. Morse, a half mile from Talent, a 3-year-old peach tree bore 10 boxes of peaches last season and many others were about as heavily laden.

The Newtown apples selected from T. E. Seantlin's orchard, one mile out, took first prize at the world's fair at Seattle, thus getting a gold medal for the exhibitors.

Also in 1911 the Newtown apples from Houston brothers' orchard, or generally known as the Berkeley orchard, took first prize at the Spokane apple show, Spokane, Wash., November 30.

A remarkable feature of this car that took the prize was that it was not specially prepared to be sent to the show, but selected after it had been packed at Talent by Houston



Talent High School.

tent in the young orchards and sometimes fields of it are planted altogether for the profits to be derived, as the price is always good with a ready market. While this is not represented to be a corn country, yields are common at 40 to 50 bushels per acre and even larger yields have been reported.

Alfalfa has been grown that yielded six tons to the acre per season without water, which is a good record, considering the long period without rain in the summer months.

In addition to the advantages that are naturally to be thrown to Talent

Hope mine has been made to show some good returns. These, as well as many smaller mines, go to show that the field for the production of gold has not even been scratched.

Talent a Peach and Nut Section.

It is claimed that the first peaches grown in the Rogue river valley were raised on the Stearns place, one and one-fourth miles southwest of Talent, and brought fabulous prices. For those days the leading occupation was mining. In fact, the early pioneers were of the opinion that nowhere else could they be successfully grown in

The opportunity is here and awaits the hand of the steady, industrious man. No crop is more sure of profit to the man of limited means, and a more clean and honorable occupation cannot be found. The great number of varieties that do well here admit of a long drawn out harvest, insuring steady work almost the year round for the man and his family; the work being of such a nature that a great deal can be done by all members of the family, with profit both in health and pocketbook.

Peach Varieties.

The early varieties, some of which are Early Mayflower, Alexander and Early Imperial, are in great demand at present, but the safest varieties to plant, in my estimation, are the Elberta and the Muir. The Elberta is a fine canner and a beautiful market variety, while the Muir is the best eating and drying peach now raised in the valley, though it lacks color, which is at present necessary to make a popular market variety. The late varieties are the most apt to be overdone, though a few can be handled to advantage.

There are at present thousands of peach trees in the vicinity of Talent, which will be in bearing in the immediate future. As the soil is very fertile, one can reasonably expect to see a great shipping and canning center established in the near future. With its splendid schools and churches, its absence of saloons, and taken as a whole, one of the best class of citizens on earth, the vicinity of Talent has laid the foundation of a wonderfully prosperous and happy community.

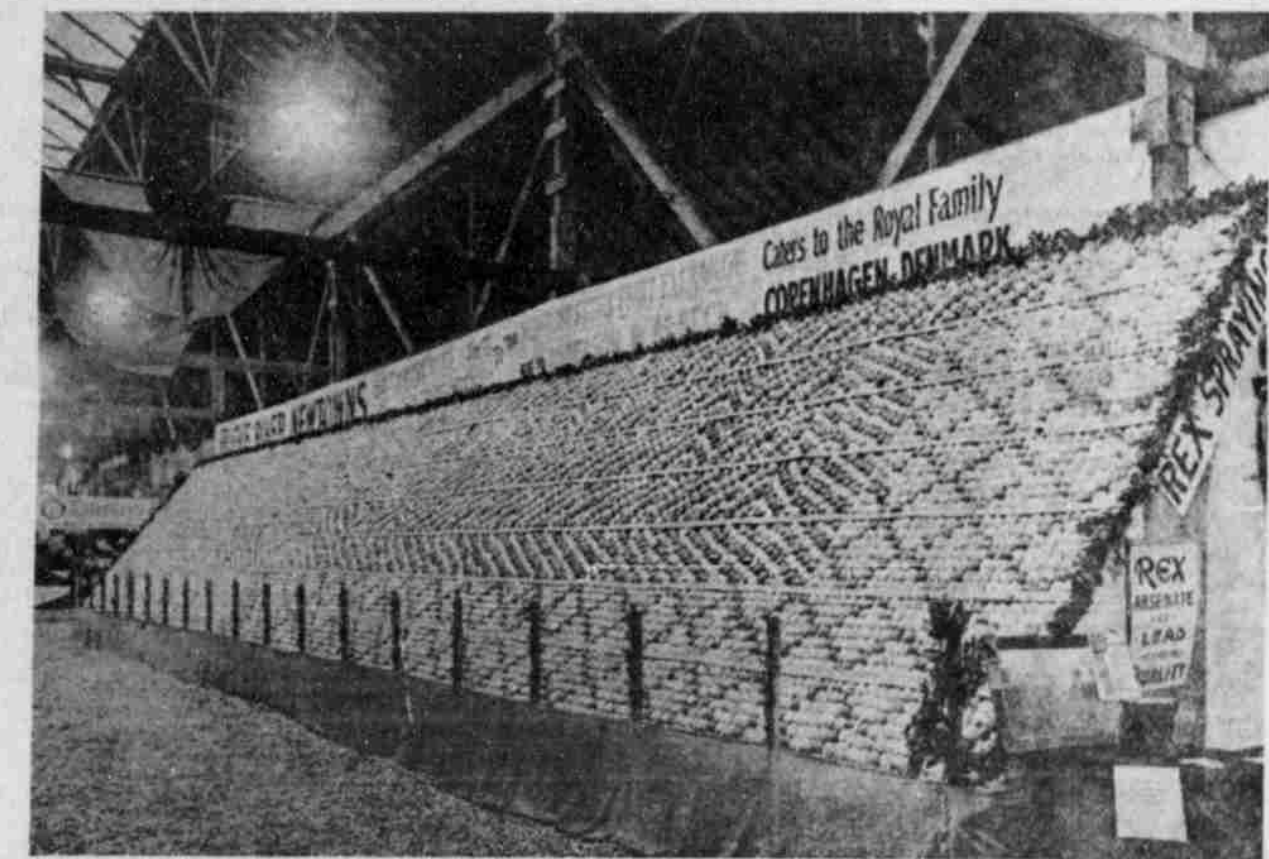
E. E. FOSS.

Suncrest Orchard.

The Patterson ranches which form the Suncrest orchard have been known for years as among the greatest producers of agricultural products of any in the valley, and as a fruit ranch, is now, and will be in the future, one of the great show places that will command the attention of the public.

The property contains 31,000 trees, covering 461 acres, of which 140 acres in full bearing is said to be the most perfectly grown block of trees in the Pacific northwest; also 300 acres of young pear trees, of which 100 acres have peach fillers.

The equipment of the property is ideal, having a large ranch house, two barns, packing house, etc.; also teams and a full line of machinery necessary for its care. The fall work



Car of Newtown Apples That Won First Prize at Spokane National Apple Show in 1911—Grown Upon the Berkeley Orchard, Talent, by Houston Bros.

Bros. for the fruit association. A much better car could have been packed from the fruit of the same orchard had it been known in time that it was going to be used for such purpose.

Planting Pears.

There are not many bearing pear trees about Talent at present, but, judging from the ones that are bearing, the time is coming when pears will be one of the leading fruits at Talent, as there are several young pear orchards that will be bearing in a few years which are located on first-class pear soil.

There are over 3000 acres of orchards surrounding Talent that will assure it a future resource of no small caliber. This is not including the rich bottom land that is at present

by it having a superb agricultural and horticultural surrounding are its natural resources.

Lying north and east are the large pastures that for years were not supposed to be worth much for anything but grazing. However, in the last few years it has developed that there is a coal belt of quite an extent. Already there are developments on the Dunlap tract which are very encouraging, and which no doubt will be the cause of 1500 acres of the land selling recently.

Coal Mines.

On Emmett Beeson's place there has been a hole sunk which gave evidence of a good vein. However, there will be other developments made in the spring in a different place and in a place that gives evidence of a 4-foot vein, and by a man that has had almost a life's experience in mining coal. While the coal proposition is promising, there is one that is sure of being a revenue producer to the operators, as has been proven in the past, the cutting and marketing of wood which has been the means of many of our most well-to-do families getting their start.

Most all the hills are covered with trees that are accessible, and enough may be found in the surrounding foothill country to keep up the wood business for many years.

Mill Timber.

Another great asset is the mill timber that is to be found up the Wagner creek country. There are millions of feet of good timber that simply await the coming of sawyer, and a good mill site is within three miles of Talent that will be tributary to a most valuable area of mill timber.

However, there is one of the great features of industry that looks most promising for the future of any yet mentioned. It is the mining of gold. There are some ledges near Talent that have produced a large quantity of gold, and all that is needed is the combination of enough capital to go after the yellow metal.

In the Wagner creek watershed there are two large mines, the Ashland mine, which has produced paying ore for years and is well known all over the coast; and the Shorby

has been carried on consistently and the ranch now is in perfect condition for this season of the year. The location is one and a half miles from Talent, and the sloping hillside give it not only perfect soil and air drainage, but overlooks the valley for miles.

Mountain View Orchard.

Talent is also the home of the famous Mountain View orchard, which came into bearing in 1906 and has never missed a crop yet, while year after year Newtown apples from the tract have secured the highest prices paid for apples in eastern markets.

The Mountain View orchards today

are owned by a syndicate of Minneapolis men, represented locally by A. C. Randall, formerly a large grain dealer of Minneapolis and St. Paul, who was forced to come west in search of health.

The orchard was planted by M. L. Pollett and Henry Ameran in 1890. An occasional Winesap is found on the tract, which covers 40 acres, although the greater number of the trees are Newtowns. The tract is made more valuable by two artesian wells on its highest point, which provide a stream of 30 inches of water for irrigation purposes.

This orchard is one of the show tracts of the Rogue river valley.

Talent Timber Resources

Beginning three miles south of Talent on Wagner creek and continuing south on Wagner creek and through the Wagner Gap on to Applegate creek for a distance of 10 miles north and south and six or eight miles east and west is the largest body of saw timber in one body lying that near to the Southern Pacific railroad anywhere in southern Oregon.

There are about 60 sections, or about 40,000 acres, of this timber, with an average of about 12,000,000 feet sound good quality timber to each section, or an aggregate of over 750 million feet of saw timber. One-third is yellow pine and two-thirds

brought with her across the plains in a wagon drawn by oxen, requiring six months for the trip. These seed were planted in the fall of 1853 and our records show that 87 seedling apple trees were dug and planted in an orchard in the fall of 1854. These trees were planted and some of them are yet in bearing in the E. E. Foss orchard.

Some the Beesons here have been engaged in orchard and nursery work on the same farm of which the Foss orchard is part during all the years since that time.

Trees grown by us in bearing orchard have been sold during the last



Residence of G. A. Morse.

fir and larch, and it is directly tributary to Talent. The one thing that holds this timber dormant is the fact that the Southern Pacific railroad owns or claims every alternate section in the entire tract. No milling company can operate under these conditions and none will undertake it in a large way until the title to these railroad lands is settled.

Whenever the title to this railroad land is settled so that operating companies can secure all the timber on this land in a solid body, then Talent will become one of the greatest lumbering centers in southern Oregon.

To handle this timber would require the labor of 200 men working steadily every day for more than 25 years.

This body of timber is the great Applegate cattle and sheep range. It is one of the best hunting and fishing sections, and is also highly mineralized. When denuded of the timber this will become the great live stock and dairy section of southern Oregon.

Talent as a Nursery Section.

The Wagner Creek valley has long been recognized as producing the best fruit trees grown in the Rogue River valley. The first nursery trees ever grown in southern Oregon were grown by the grandmother of the writer, Mrs. Anne Welborn Beeson, from seed she had gathered in Illinois and

two years for nearly one-half million dollars.

The Ashland Nursery company's plant, one of the plants of the Rogue River Valley Nursery company and the plant of the Wagner Creek Nursery and Orchard company, the latter owned by Welborn Beeson and C. T. Lester, are all in the immediate vicinity of Talent and all produce a splendid quality of trees.

Beeson & Lester dug this season from three-fourths of an acre \$800 worth of peach trees, requiring two years to make the crop.

WELBORN BEESON.

Small Fruits, Berries and Garden Truck.

This industry, little fostered under the early growing conditions of Jackson county, is now beginning to assume the proportions which the demand for small fruits, of all kinds, and berries in northwestern and other markets call for. Peaches, as already mentioned, are of unusual quality, while apricots, plums of the different favorite varieties and berries grow to very good advantage, and are in demand in the local markets for home consumption and canning purposes. These fruits are being grown in considerable volume in small tracts, or as adjuncts to orchards of 10 acres and less.



Walters Block and Talent State Bank Building.

shop; Clements Lumber company has a good lumber yard. There is also a butcher shop, cleaning and pressing works and three real estate firms.

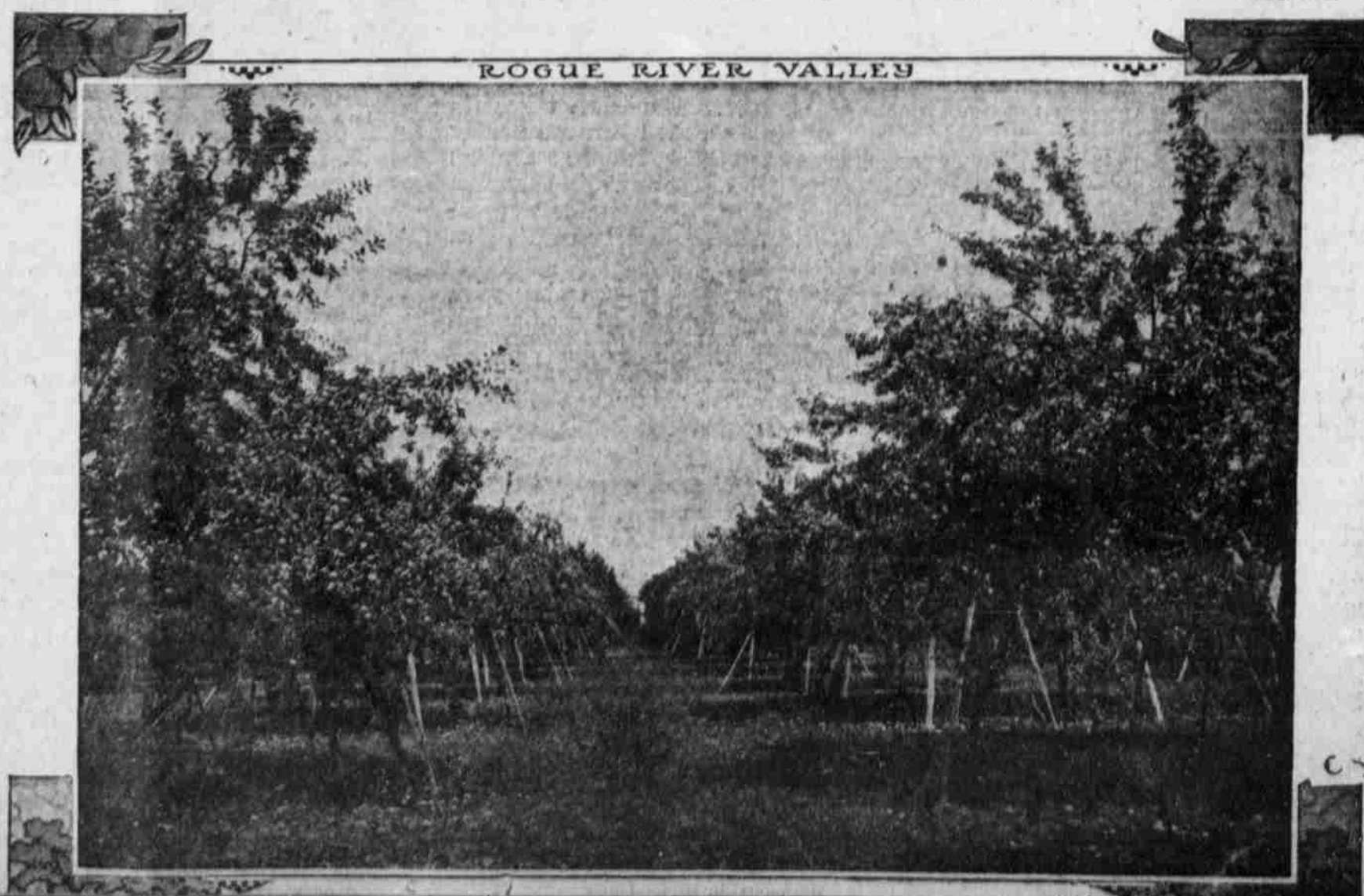
New Bank Home.

The State Bank of Talent is in its new concrete home with neat and well finished interior, new fireproof vault and new burglar proof safe. The bank has been under its new management since June 1, 1911, and has been making rapid progress. The capital has been increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and all of the new stock has been subscribed by local people, which goes to show their confidence in the institution. The offi-

ent in alfalfa and sown to grain each year, besides the fine garden and small fruit ranches that are producing a nice income for the owners.

On Fred Rapp's place, which joins Talent on the south, William Bruin raised \$300 worth of watermelons on one acre, \$251.50 worth of potatoes on one acre, baled 14 tons of grain hay off three and a half acres and cut 275 tons of alfalfa from 50 acres. This goes to show that Talent is not only one of the best fruit belts in the West, but has soil that is well adapted to culture of vegetables of all varieties.

Corn is also grown to quite an ex-



ROGUE RIVER VALLEY