

The Famous Hollywood Orchard Near Medford

Hollywood Orchards, consisting of 200 acres, is one of the finest and most ideally located in Rogue river valley. It is situated two miles west of the S. P. tracks in Medford. Its position is ideal in that it lies close to the center of the valley, and is about half way between Medford and Jacksonville, on the main road connecting the two places. It has a frontage on the Jacksonville road of 2091 feet and about 1100 feet of this is occupied by a magnificent grove of large oak, madrone and fir trees. In winter, about the holidays, the grove is ablaze with red madrone, or laurel, berries which so much resemble holly—hence the name Hollywood.

In this grove, containing about 30 acres, is the deer and elk parks which have become so widely known in the valley. Standing back from the road, with the deer park in front, stands the residence and main buildings of the ranch. Here under the magnificent oak and madrone trees, surrounded with lawns and beautiful flowers, lives the owner, Mr. Albert C. Allen, and his family.

Buildings. Driving through the main entrance to Hollywood Orchards in the summer, one is immediately impressed with the apparent abundance of water which is to be seen playing constantly on the lawns and flowers. In the residence is seen every convenience to be found in a modern city dwelling. It is lighted with acetylene gas, furnished by a plant on the ranch, and each light is fitted with electric lighting attachments, making it as convenient as electricity. The plumbing is of the most modern and complete, and water is supplied from the un-falling supply on the ranch. On the west side is built two large sleeping porches.

Near by stands the ice-house, with a storage capacity of several tons, and arranged on its shelves is a most

furnish the ranch with different kinds of fruits for the tables. tempting array of fruits, vegetables, etc., all put up in glass. Here can be found venison, wild duck, fish and other meats; all kinds of vegetables from asparagus to Swiss chard; all kinds of jellies, preserves and sweets too numerous to mention. This Mr. Allen calls "the canner" and is a department of which he is very proud, for every one of the 1500 or more jars were put up under the direct supervision of Mrs. Allen, who has evidently become an expert in the art of preserving fruits, vegetables, etc.

Water Supply. Near the house stands two large redwood tanks mounted on towers over 30 feet high. These contain 8000 gallons of water, clear and pure, and these supply all the water for the buildings, parks, lawns and all other purposes.

A large barn with several corrals contain the mules and horses necessary to run the ranch. There is also a new modern packing house 50x60 feet and two stories high; besides a blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, tool sheds, etc. Also a greenhouse, in which are grown the plants for early spring setting. Under the shade of some large oaks stands the boarding house for the men and their sleeping quarters. Further along is the house for the foreman, and it stands under some very large oaks and cedars and surrounded by fruit trees. This house, as are all of the buildings, is furnished with water from the main system.

Orchards. At the southern end of the ranch, running along the Jacksonville road, is a yearling pear orchard with peach fillers. This contains approximately six acres. North of this is a young Spitzenberg orchard of about fifteen acres. Two acres of this is set to mixed fruits and is known as the

family orchard, as it is used to

Scene in the Deer Park--Hollywood Orchard



has 40 acres planted to alfalfa and grain. Also at the north end of the ranch there is a plot of eight acres planted to Timothy hay, which has yielded an average of four tons per acre, in one cutting, and without irrigation. There are a few more acres adjoining this which is used exclusively for vegetables.

Water and Irrigation. Here at the north end of the ranch is situated the water plant and the abundant water supply. The water system of Hollywood is unique and one of its most valuable assets. In years gone by the lower, or north end, of the ranch was a swamp in which the old settlers of the valley used to kill ducks and snipe. This has now all been drained by an ex-

tensive system of tiling, and the surface is under cultivation. The water running through these tiles is clear and pure, and no matter how hard it rains or the condition of the surface of the ground, this water is always perfectly clear. It is this water which is conveyed to the ranch buildings. One of the most striking features of it all is the simplicity of the system and the economy of its maintenance. Here is seen no expensive machinery nor elaborate pumping plant. The water itself does the work at a cost of a few cents per year, for here, obscurely placed at the bottom of a shaft, stands a hydraulic ram, which thumps away year in and year out, pumping its never ceasing supply of water to the ranch

buildings. By bringing one of the six-inch tile lines nearly to the surface and then running a pipe down to the ram (which is nine feet below the surface) sufficient head is obtained to force the water anywhere. The capacity of the ram now in use is about 5000 gallons per day.

Waste Water Caught. The waste from the ram is caught by the fence line and carried off near the more line, where it empties into a 60,000-gallon reservoir. Here is built an engine house in which is installed a three-inch centrifugal pump with a capacity of 200 gallons per minute. This pump is operated by a heavy 12 horsepower gasoline engine and is so arranged that by merely extending the pipe line it is possible to deliver the maximum amount of water to any part of the ranch. At present there is 750 feet of pipe connected with this pump, which puts about 15 acres under irrigation. As Hollywood is abundantly supplied with sub-irrigation, Mr. Allen has not found it necessary to irrigate his orchards, merely using the water to irrigate his vegetables, flowers, etc.

In the engine house is an auxiliary pump which is connected to the main running from the ram. This is merely an emergency plant which can be used to supply the ranch with water in case of an accident to the ram. It may be interesting to note that, during the seven years' residence of the present owner on the ranch, this pump has been used but once, and then but for a few hours. During the winter the engine, which is mounted on a steel truck, is hauled up and used around the ranch to furnish power.

Well Arranged. Another striking feature of the water system is that all of the different tile lines (measuring over two miles) are so arranged that they drain into the reservoir. In this

manner every bit of water, running through the ground at or above the level of the tile, must go into the reservoir before getting off the ranch. After the reservoir is filled it overflows and runs through a ditch through the Snowy Butte Orchards, past Central Point and into Bear Creek. The average flow of water into the reservoir is about half a million gallons daily. This can easily and cheaply be increased to any amount desired, but the present flow is sufficient for the needs of the ranch.

Soils. The soil on Hollywood is varied in character and runs from the rich gravelly soil, to be seen at the south end, to the heavy black deposit soil at the north. All of it is free soil and has no hardpan or bed rock.

From an accurate record taken, during the frost season in the past three years, it is shown that the temperatures range about two degrees higher than the average of the valley floor.

The Hollywood brand of Comice, though but a couple of seasons on the market, has become famous throughout the eastern markets and the European Comice markets. The orchards have just begun to bear, and will soon be one of the largest producers of Comice in the country. All in all, Hollywood Orchards is most ideally located. The ranch is perfectly equipped and cared for and nature has been lavish with her gifts.

The late Mr. J. H. Stewart, the "father of the fruit industry in Rogue river valley," in a personal letter to Mr. Allen, says of Hollywood Orchards under date of April 20, 1904: "Taking the place all together, I don't think there is a better tract of land in the valley of the same number of acres. It can be improved and further developed so as to make an ideal home and a money-maker at almost any price."

Soil Survey of the Rogue River Valley

Although all of the field work on the soil survey of the Jackson county area has been completed, it will be some time before the results will be published. The making of a soil map, as well as a thorough study of the soils of the Rogue river valley, is no easy task when it will be remembered that there are more than fifty soil types in the valley. There is an impression held by a few people that a soil survey of the valley had been made some three or four years ago, but this is not true. Naming perhaps half a dozen soils in a very indefinite way without mapping them is not a soil survey. Previous to the making of a soil survey it is usual to consider the geology of the district. This is done in order to determine very carefully the nature of the rocks from which the soils have come. The following notes with the accompanying map will show approximately the area over which the government soil survey was made, as well as some of the larger groups into which the valley soils have been placed. The notes

are largely on the general form of the valley, the geology of the rocks, the geological structure and the geological history of the district. The notes are in no way complete, but represent merely an outline of what one may find by a hasty excursion over the valley. Not until the soil map and advance sheets of the soil survey have been completed will there be anything published as to the nature of the 50 or more soil types.

Notes on the Rogue River Valley, Oregon, Survey.

The "valley" is a lowland belt formed by the more rapid erosion of a belt of soft rocks, along the strike of which it lies, than has taken place on the harder rocks lying on both sides of it. Its floor is uneven, except when made even by the construction work of the streams that flow along or into it. A large part of the present floor of the valley consists of smooth but strongly sloping surfaces made by the smaller streams which flow into it from the adjacent streams, consisting in such

cases of alluvial fans and a former high grade plain formed by Rogue river and the larger streams which flow into the valley, forming a plain sloping strongly toward the axial line of the valley. This plain is known as the desert. In addition to the desert and the alluvial fans, the rest of the valley floor consists of the rather narrow flood plains or low bottoms of the existing streams.

There are a number of hills of rounded, rather smooth outline rising above the valley floor, being most abundant near the outer boundary of the valley, forming often a series of low foothills to the bounding mountains.

Most of these hills are, up to the present time, in the native brush and timber growth, except their lower slopes. The valleys among them and between them and the mountain foot are usually cultivated. These small valleys and the low slopes of the bounding mountains are mainly covered by colluvial wash from the adjacent hills and mountains.

The bounding valley walls differ strikingly. The western wall, extending around the northern end, is timber covered, usually steep and has been left almost entirely uncleared. The eastern wall, on the other hand, has an uneven slope, broken by many breeches and is covered with cleared, though steeply sloping, land well toward the top. It has the appearance of never having been heavily timbered. This slope also has a number of remnants of an old colluvial valley filling, occurring, apparently, only in the southern end of the valley. They are now long ridges with uniform slopes from high up above the valley floor, the highest series starting from 500 to 700 feet above the valley, downward toward the axis of the valley, ending in a steep drop to the stream floor plain along the axial line of the valley. There seems to be at least two series, a higher and a lower, of these colluvial remnants. They are really remnants of former fans formed at a time when the valley floor had not yet been eroded to its present depth.

In addition to these features, the east slope is characterized by a great many narrow benches and escarpments. In fact, this and the alluvial fan remnants form the characteristic features of the eastern slope of the

valley. They are much more pronounced, however, in the southern than in the northern end of the valley.

Geology—The Rocks.

There are five sources of material for the soils of the Rogue river valley. They are:

1. A series of hornblende, micaeous, feldspathic rocks usually metamorphosed into slates, serpentines and schists.
2. A series of granites and granite gneiss.
3. A series of rather soft sandstones, shales and conglomerates. The sandstones and sandy material in the shales and conglomerates seem to be made up to a considerable extent of other material than quartz. They are not at least pure, or nearly pure, quartz sandstones. The pebbles in the conglomerates, however, are many of them quartz. They are thus of Quartzite and other metamorphic rocks and of various fine grained igneous rocks.
4. A series of basalts, tuffs and possibly breccias.
5. The valley filling consisting of material from all the rocks named, as well as material carried from greater distances. The greater part of it, however, is derived from the rocks described in 1 to 4.

Geology—The Geological Structure.

The rocks all dip eastward except some sheets of volcanic rocks in the northern end of the valley which lie nearly or quite horizontal. The rea-

son for this, whether due to a flow that took place subsequent to the folding of the other rocks or to a decrease of the folding in that direction, was not determined.

As a result of the eastward dip, the older rocks lie to the west and the younger ones to the east. The older rocks, the metamorphic rocks, and the granites are relatively hard rocks and form the mountains of the western side of the valley. The metamorphic rocks seem to be softer than the granitic rocks; and along at least a part of the valley boundary they form a series of lower mountains with the higher granitic hills lying back of them.

The sandstones lie next above the granitic and metamorphic rocks. Being soft, they have been eroded, and it is on them that the valley has been worn. They form the low hills lying in the valley and along the valley boundaries. They lie up on the slopes of the lower metamorphic hills and the western side of the valley, but do not seem to reach more than a very few hundred feet above the valley floor. The conglomerate beds seem to be responsible for a number of low hills out in the valley.

Basalt Flows Above.

Above the sandstone series lie the basalt flows and the tuff and breccia beds. They form the eastern valley wall, but outcrop mainly on the higher slopes, the sandstones dipping into the mountain below their outcrop in the lower slopes. There is some in-

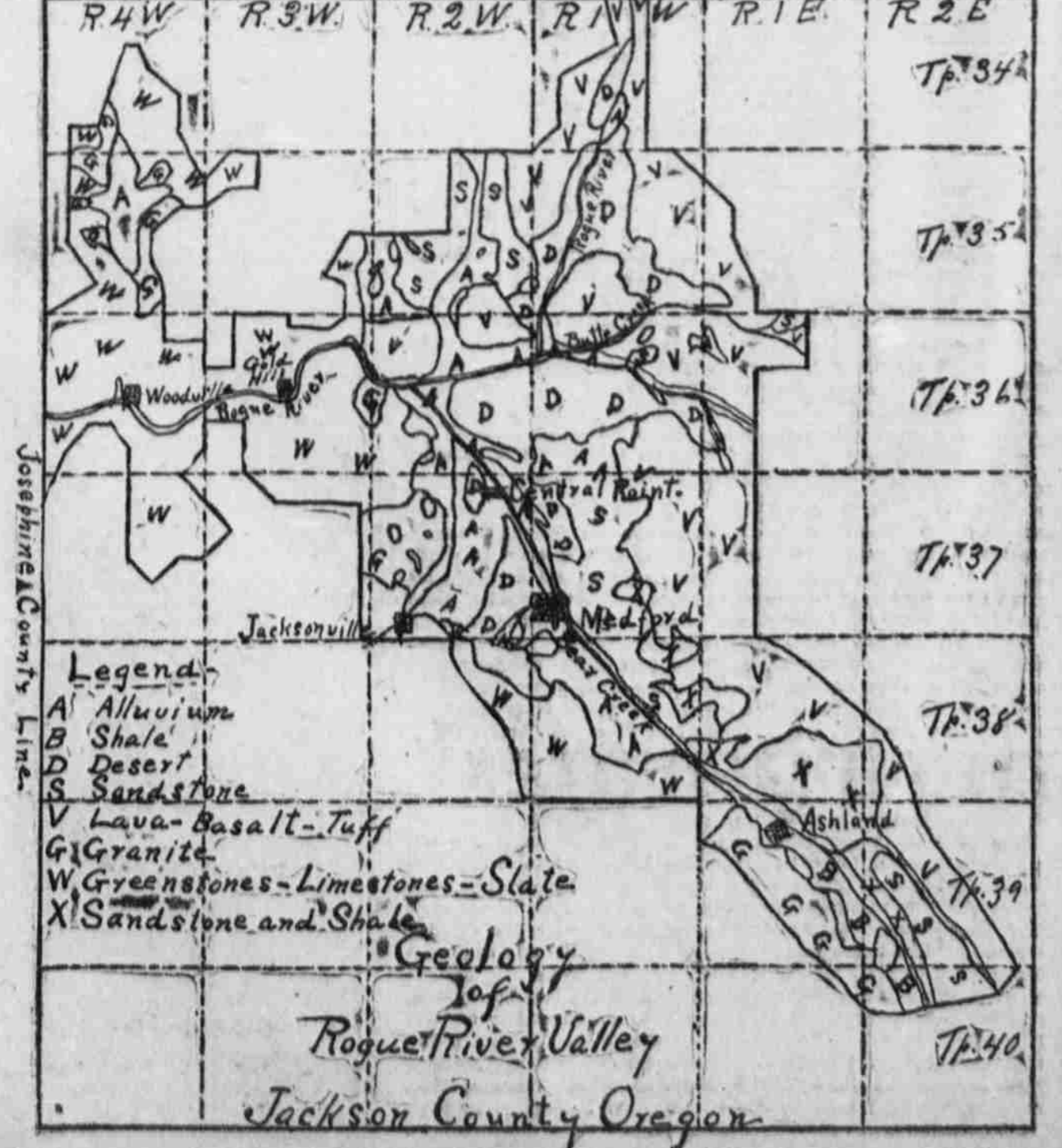
dication that the upper part of the sandstone series has one or more tuff beds and possibly some lava sheets interbedded, but this was not definitely determined. From the soil standpoint, however, it is relatively unimportant, however important it may be from the geological standpoint.

A very small proportion of the tillable soil of the valley lies on the basaltic rocks, because they outcrop high above the valley floor. In the northeastern portion of the valley a number of ovens extend eastward into the basalt regions when the soil is residual on the basaltic rock. The basalt material is an important modifier of the soils along the eastern slope of the valley, especially; and a great deal, in fact, the predominant part of the material of the valley filling on the eastern side is basaltic.

Geology—Geological History.

The first or oldest event, or series of events, seems to have been the formation and metamorphosing of the series of metamorphic rocks lying along the western flank of the mountains. So far as my observation goes, it seems to have been mainly eruptive in origin. How far west it extends, or what change in character takes place in that direction, is unknown to me.

The next important event seems to have been the intrusion into these metamorphic rocks of the granites which occur along the west side of the valley and in the higher hills west of it.



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