

The Hood River Glacier.

VOL. XVII.

HOOD RIVER, OREGON, JULY 27, 1905.

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WHITE SALMON VALLEY

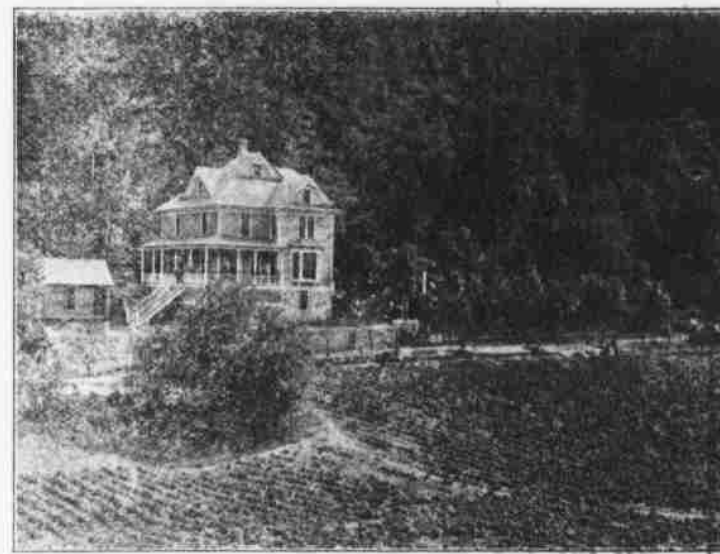
Famed for Early Fruits, Big Timber and rich Dairy Lands—Thriving Towns of White Salmon, Bingen, Underwood, Lyle, Pine Flat, Husum and Trout Lake.



The Beautiful White Salmon Falls, at Husum.

THE WHITE SALMON VALLEY is the western part of Klickitat county lying between the Klickitat and White Salmon rivers. It has an average width of 12 miles, and in length is 24 miles. The distinguishing topographical feature is a range of hills crossing it in a southeasterly direction whose elevation is from 1300 to 3000 feet above sea level. The west slope of these hills, as a rule, is too steep for cultivation, but affords good pasture for horses and cattle. The top is practically level, with but a gradual slope toward the Klickitat river. It is covered with a growth of willow, wild cherry, hazel, maple, oak brush, and with splendid fir and pine saw timber. This brush and timber grow on a rich, deep, well-watered soil. Some of the finest orchard and grain farms in the valley are those which have been cleared of the timber and brush. It produces rich crops of oats, barley, wheat, rye, timothy and clover, but is proving itself especially adapted for high grade apples, such as Yellow Newtown Pippins, Spitzenburgs, Jonathans, Hen Davids, Northern Spies and other kinds. It also raises fine late strawberries. A number of prosperous small sawmills are at work, where sawlogs find a ready sale. Often the value of the sawlogs pay for the clearing of the land. This land can be bought cheap, and the day is coming when all this vast area will be dotted with fine farms and orchards.

The White Salmon valley proper lies between the above range of hills on the east and a parallel range on the west in Skamania county. These hills at one time formed the banks between which an immense glacier flow-



Residence of S. C. Zeigler, along the Columbia River.

ed from the snow top of Adams, 40 miles distant, and which gave it a gradual southern slope. Let us follow this valley from the Mount Rainier river to its north boundary.

As one steps off the boat at the White Salmon landing the prospects are not at first encouraging. About a quarter of a mile from the river is seen a rocky bluff rising to a height of 400 feet sloping in places and others making steep cliffs. Between the river and the bluff are some very fine berry, fruit and early vegetable ranches. The soil along the bottom has a large percentage of sand, and needs to be irrigated. The water for irrigation is secured from the numberless springs that gush out from the hillsides. While the acreage is comparatively small, yet their productiveness is great and very early. Strawberries are ready for market by the first week of May. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, English walnuts, almonds and all other tropical fruits grow to perfection. To illustrate, S. C. Zeigler, from one acre of strawberries, gathered 200 crates, which netted him \$2.31 per crate, or \$462 clear of all expenses. From less than one acre of early tomatoes he cleared \$460. Taking his average income for the past five years, Mr. Zeigler's books will show that from four acres in strawberries and tomatoes he has cleared \$1200 per year.

The town of White Salmon is situated on a plateau above this bluff, and has been called the "West Point" of Washington. The ride up from the river is beautiful. To the right the winding Columbia may be seen for miles, while on the left the hillsides

sudden changes from heat to cold, dry to wet, so conducive in the eastern states to sickness, never occur here, and the death rate is about one-third that of New York or Massachusetts. Rarely does the temperature go to 100 degrees Fahrenheit in summer or to zero in winter. Only once in the past three years. The mean temperature for the month of January last was 30 degrees, and for July, 1904, 78 degrees. A case of sunstroke or prostration by heat to man or beast has never been known, even when busy in the harvest fields of July and August. Usually the heat is tempered with a cool breeze from the hills, and the nights are comfortable for rest. There is but little dew gathers at night, and camping or sleeping in the open is attended with no danger. Thunder and lightning are rare, and severe storms, earthquakes, cyclones, blizzards, drought and floods are entirely unknown. The mountain air blows from the forests of fir and pine, and is a specific for malaria, asthma and bronchial affections. Many settlers who come to this valley with asthma and catarrh have gotten entirely well without the use of medicine.

Abundance of pure water is a great blessing. There are numberless springs throughout the valley. The writer has counted five on one 20-acre tract. These springs have their origin in the snow-clad tops of the Cascades and Mount Adams, and after filtering through a volcanic and gravel formation come forth pure, soft, cool and entirely free of all alkali and harmful mineral substances.

Our valley is singularly free from harmful spring frosts. A. H. Jewett, who has lived here for 30 years, says that he has not known in all that time where spring frosts injured the berries or fruit. Even this year, when Walla Walla lost from 40 to 60 per cent of their fruit, berry and vegetable crop, White Salmon did not lose a blossom.

It is generally known that the great productivity of the soil of Washington is due to its volcanic origin. The wear and tear of the elements for centuries, the glacial action and other causes have disintegrated and ground into the finest soil what at one time were forbidden beds of lava. This soil is so rich in the chemical elements needed for plant fruit and grain growth that it is practically inexhaustible.

The White Salmon valley, having at one time been a glacier bed, has a rich, deep soil. The prevailing soil is a loam mixed with a large percentage of volcanic ash. This is the best combination for fruit and berries. The loam gives it body and the volcanic ash productivity and durability.

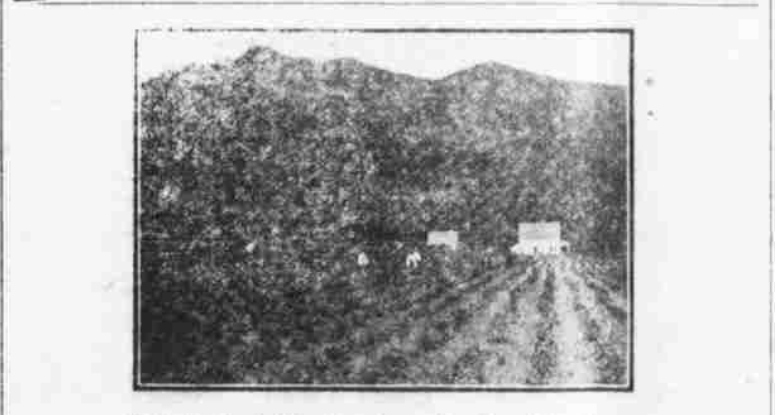
The depth varies from 10 to 40 feet, with a sub-soil of clay or gravel. The capacity of the soil for moisture is so great that nearly all the rainfall penetrates immediately into it. The precipitation of winter and early spring permeates the soil to a depth of 5 or 6 feet, holding it as a vast reservoir. During the drier season this moisture gradually works to the surface, so that the roots of the trees and plants are always moist. If in the middle of August one scratches up the "dust blanket" within two inches of the surface, moist soil is found. The presence of the volcanic ash makes it friable and easy to work, and prevents lumping or baking. This soil also becomes richer the more it is worked. Land that has been in cultivation for 20 years produces larger crops than when first planted. Very few ranches ever use manure or fertilizer. Clover, rye, wheat, barley, potatoes and all kinds of garden yield large crops.



J. F. Stranahan's Picturesque Mountain Home.

"Southern Klickitat county has a number of very productive fruit belts, the oldest and best developed being the White Salmon valley. The conditions here are also at their best. Owing to their proximity to the great snow peaks of Mt. Adams and the Cascade range, there is an abundance of rainfall. The Hood River berry started here, and is known as the best shipping berry in existence."

Lovers of beautiful fruit will find in the White Salmon valley the ideal soil and climate, added to these the topographical features are such that one can select the proper slope for either early or late apples. It is well known that fruit trees, generally speaking, prefer an undulating surface such as here. If one asks the grower what kind of trees do best, he invariably replies that it is hard to tell, as all kinds do equally well; but the favorites are Yellow Newtown Pippins, Spitzenburgs, Jonathans, Winesaps and Northern Spies. While the industry of growing commercial apples is still in its infancy, yet there are enough bearing orchards to prove



F. A. Bradley's Fine Strawberry Ranch and Residence.

Some gather a crop of berries and a crop of tomatoes from the same piece of land, planting the tomatoes between the rows of strawberry plants, thus greatly increasing their returns. All this can be done without adding fertilizer. All the soil needs is careful cultivation.

This valley lies between the excessive rains of the coast and the drought of the North Yakima region. The annual precipitation is between 40 and 45 inches, thus making irrigation unnecessary. This amount of moisture falls during ten months of the year, there being little or no rainfall during the harvest months of July and



Department Store of C. M. Wolfard & Co.—Photo by Deitz.

absolutely the superiority of the White Salmon valley for the culture of apples and other fruits. Captain H. C. Cook has a bearing orchard one mile west of White Salmon, in which one 8-year-old tree yielded 27 boxes of Spitzenburgs. Mordecai Jones, nine miles north, has 30 acres in high grade apples. R. M. Clemens, seven miles northeast, has 12 acres in bearing orchard. William Olson, William Lock, N. M. Woods, and many others have flourishing orchards. Thousands of young trees are set out annually. In a few years the White Salmon valley will be as justly famous as Hood River for its big red apples. These apples are grown on non-irrigated land, and have that delicate flavor characteristic of hill or mountain fruit so popular with consumers. The apples are large, of a high color, and splendid keepers. The trees, too, are singularly free from many of the fruit pests that afflict orchards.

An article from the Portland Journal of recent date will give testimony to this fact.

"In Klickitat county, just across the Columbia from Hood River, but in an altitude 1000 feet higher, Washington farmers have discovered that Red-checked Pippins, Ben Davis and other varieties of apples can be grown locally. The trees are small, and with the additional advantage that spraying is unnecessary. One of these farmers is in Portland with 50 boxes of apples for exhibition at the Lewis and Clark fair. He refused \$2 per box from local dealers. The apples are large, of fine flavor and highly colored, and without sign of worm or pest of any kind. The hills are preferred for fruit raising, where the requisite depth of soil is found. This land is offered to home seekers at from \$10 to \$50 per acre in its virgin state."

Peaches, pears and cherries are successfully grown. The favorite commercial peach is the Yellow Crawford. The trees are prolific yielders and the fruit of a first class flavor and size. Cherries seen to have found a natural home in this valley, so thrifty are they, so abundant the yield. Royal Ann, Bing and Lambert bring their fruit to perfection. Unlike the Willamette valley, the fruit does not "split." From one Royal Ann tree Mr. Waldo cleared \$20 last fall, and Mr. Maine, from a 12-year-old tree, gathered \$25 worth of cherries. The Bartlett, Winter Nellies and other pears yield big returns for care invested. All these fruits are successfully grown.



C. S. Hancock's Provision House.

Soil that produces such magnificent strawberries could not fail to make a good showing with other berries. Raspberries, blackberries, dewberries and Logan berries often turn off from 250 to \$300 worth per year on the acre. An experiment is being made with English walnuts and clearing thereof to give an accurate opinion, still from every indication the English walnut will prove a successful grower in this valley.

There is a horticultural society that meets twice a month for the study of fruit culture in this valley. This society is of great help to the individual growers. The members guard with care not only their own but their neighbor's orchard. The object is to suppress every indication of fruit pests. The industry of fruit growing is carried out with the most intelligence, and a campaign of progress is kept up. Heretofore all fruits and berries have been shipped from Hood River or Hood River fruit, but the horticultural society has taken up the question of shipping and marketing its own products. The organization has been perfected, and now ships its products.

There are hundreds of acres of the finest of fruit and berry land. It is now covered with a growth of wild cherry, oak, hazel, willow, maple, and other brush and some scattering fir trees. This land can be cleared for from \$20 to \$40 per acre. After clearing, the land is put into potatoes or strawberries, and the young orchard starts. The soil has stored up in it the strength and fertility of ages. No worn out land, no expense for fertilizers.

Often the first crop after clearing pays for the land and clearing thereof. Small fruit and vegetables are planted between the rows of growing trees until the trees begin to bear, which is usually four years. Thus in a short time one has earned for himself a beautiful home, a good income and



Among the New Comers.

EARLY PIONEER AND LEADING CITIZEN

The history of White Salmon, as well as the history of Klickitat county, would not be complete if the name of A. H. Jewett was not mentioned. For thirty years he has been a resident and he has worked hard for the success of the town, locality and the county. He owns the most beautiful home along the Columbia river. Over a quarter of a century ago he purchased 600 acres of land and commenced at once to make White Salmon what it is. Mr. Jewett has met with obstacles, but he has always overcome them. Full of push and enterprise, he has gone ahead and endeavored to make a city. It was he who inaugurated and installed the water system, and laid out the city and offered money to all. He still has 900 acres of excellent land, and there is no visitor who makes White Salmon, but what goes into estates over the beautiful surroundings of his home.

Just to turn back the pages of history we find that he at the age of 16 years shouldered a musket during the troublesome days of '61, and left his Illinois home with Company B, One Hundred and Thirty Second Volunteers. At the close of the unpleasantness he entered business and later in life followed the lot of a traveling salesman. It was in '74, following the year of financial disaster remembered by many of the older ones, that he set foot on Washington soil. He engaged in the nursery business, and with the aid of his wife and sons, who then were living, commenced to mark out the beautiful spot that they call home. At this time when the city and the valley of White Salmon is attracting attention, and many are buying land, Mr. Jewett is not in the rear, but on the other hand is in the lead and has commenced to plot out on the hill overlooking the river and when completed will have large boulevards. He will construct a number of villas and get ready to take care of all who seek to locate in the prettiest spot of the Washington side. Five hundred feet above the sea level with the view of the Columbia for twenty miles, the

products of the White Salmon valley are shipped both by boat and by rail. All steamers on the Columbia river plying between Portland and The Dalles stop at White Salmon. There is a commodious dock, and the



The New Public School Building—Photo by Deitz.

returners show that more freight and passengers are taken on at White Salmon than at any other dock between Portland and The Dalles. Directly across the river is the O. R. & N. R., a trans-continental line. Fruit and berries are taken across the river and shipped at the Hood River station. White Salmon has its own agent, who devotes his entire time to the care and shipping of the White Salmon products.

The Northern Pacific has a road surveyed up the north bank of the Columbia river. This will give direct connections east and west on this side of the river. This road is completed as far as Vancouver, the right of way bought as far as Pasco, and it is confidently predicted that before a year the connection will be made. With transportation direct from White Salmon the products of this rich valley will become justly famous.

New Contracting Firm.

A. D. Maine & Co. is one of the new firms of White Salmon, and by the way at the present time is one of the busiest. Associated with Mr. Maine are a number of first-class mechanics, and now at this time most of them are very busy indeed. Mr. Maine has had a great deal of experience in contracting, and now is demonstrating how much he knows about it.

As a horticulturist there is none better known than Mr. Jewett, and both he and Mrs. Jewett take an active part in Grange matters.

G. A. Thomas, living at the edge of the city, has one of the very finest homes in the city. It was but recently completed and has been thoroughly furnished throughout. It is 30x32 feet on the ground and cost about \$25,000. Mr. Thomas was in the mercantile business for 12 years and it is his in-



"The Little Church on the Hill."—Photo by Deitz.

Intention to enter it again if a railroad goes through the city. He is the owner of some of the finest land in the White Salmon valley and has twelve acres in strawberries and a large commercial orchard.

R. W. Clemens, who makes his home with his parents, has 40 acres nearby, and has seven acres cleared. He has nearly an acre in berries and over a hundred bearing fruit trees. He also has a 100 acres in the Snowden country.