

promotion for Saturday night and Monday morning

~~Transit~~ A copy of the Commencement Issue of the Visalia High School News, dated June 4, 1915, today was given the Visalia Times-Delta and the Morning Delta by Mrs. Earl Switzer, wife of the Main street druggist whose store has been undergoing repairs. The old copy of the high school sheet was found behind an old shelf by one of the workers engaged in the work of renovation and was offered in connection with the forthcoming Anniversaries Edition of the Visalia paper. On Page 1 of the issue is a photograph of the graduates, many of the names still being well known in Visalia after 24 years.

Following is the list of graduates included with Principal A.M. Simons in the photo:

Fred Uhl, Bertha L. vedock, Ernest Sparks, Phyllis White, Gerald Blankenship, Ellna Reyburn, ~~HeratexBlankenship~~, Ed Thomas, Clara DeVall, Percy Lucas, Julia Byrd, Al Weishar, Donald McFadzean, Florence Savoie, Pierce Gannon, Anna May Fisher, Geary Anderson, Nanna Alexander, Charles Kinkler, Grace White, Orlof Rush, Deva Fisher, Kenneth Uhl, Nell Edwards, Horace Hayes, Helen Hayes, Charles Steinman, Alice Steuben, Ewen Dalton, Ruth Frates (president of the class), Ray Pritchard, Ruth Wilson, William Small and May Carter.

Another photo shows the 15 members of the faculty, the complete organization of the school of 24 years ago.

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ad one promotion for Saturday night and Monday morning

The Senior Class Poem which in fact was a class prophecy contained some remarkably good guesses. This article was by Ray Pritchard. Athletic activities are well reviewed in another article.

There is a by line article by Kenneth Uhl who is editing the forthcoming edition of the Visalia newspapers and who ~~has~~ worked on newspapers throughout the United States and the Orient before rejoining the local staff about a year an a half ago.

The Anniversaries Edition which will be issued on the before Homecoming Day which precedes the opening of the Visalia Rodeo in the latter part of May will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Visalia newspapers, the 65th anniversary of the chartering of the city of Visalia, the 87th anniversary of the chartering of Tulare county and the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce which, in early days, was known as the Board of Trade.



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Many present residents of Visalia recall Goshen merely as the ~~s~~ spot where they passed weary and uncomfortable hours waiting for main line trains which didn't touch at Visalia and some have been heard to complain that they passed more time waiting for the train than they did traveling on it.

Goshen, however, is not without its touch of interesting history. The town dates its history from the completion of the railroad to that point in May, 1872. Here, the contemplated branch of the Southern Pacific from San Francisco, by way of Gilroy, Tres Pinos and Huron was to join the line of the Central Pacific, proceeding from Stockton south. A passenger and freight depot was built, numbers of lots were sold and it was believed that Goshen would become a city of importance.

The construction, in 1874, of the Visalia-Goshen railway inspired new hopes in the future of the town as a great railway center.

In 1876, work was started on the westerly branch, running through the Mussel Slough country, and supposed to make connections at Tres Pinos. This road got as far as Alcalde only. However, Goshen did become the ~~main~~ railroad center of the county and of the San Joaquin valley. Geographically, it is admirably situated, being midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles and within touching distance of Visalia and Exeter on the one hand, and with Hanford and Calinga on the other.

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ad one Goshen

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~~Surrounding~~ Goshen are extensive tracts of land suitable for fruit, vines and alfalfa. . Notwithstanding these apparent advantages, Goshen has remained a small village. The cause of this failure probably is the fact that the soil immediately surrounding the depot is alkaline in character and failed to impress early home seekers who had their first glimpse of the area from the windows of railroad coaches.

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edition deciduous fruit

by W.E. Gilfillan,

Tulare county farm ~~agent~~ Adviser

1540

( Few counties in California have as large a diversified deciduous fruit industry as has Tulare county. The total of 32,000 acres devoted to production of deciduous fruits and nuts is made up of major plantings of peaches, prunes, walnuts, figs and plums and smaller plantings of apricots, apples, nectarines, almonds and pomegranates.

( There also are commercial plantings of smaller size in pears, persimmons and pecans. Compared with other leading fruit counties of California, Tulare county ranks second in freestone peaches and nectarines; third in plums, figs and clingstone peaches and fifth in prunes. It is first with pomegranates, with 60 per cent of the state's acreage.

( Planting of deciduous fruits began in a small way about half a century ago with prunes, pears and apples. Good fertile bottom land was selected in the Visalia area. Pears were grown and shipped extensively from Traver until trouble from blight made this unprofitable. Some of these old pear trees are still standing but today pears are one of the minor fruit crops with less than 50 acres in commercial orchards.

*Prunes profitable*

( Prune planting, however, had no set back in the early days of fruit development and for 30 years were considered the most profitable type of farming. The very best sub-irrigated lands around Visalia and Farmersville were used for the first prune plantings.

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ad one deciduous fruit

The Mineral King ranch east of Visalia was one of the most famous prune ranches. With high yield, three to five tons per acre and low producing costs, this Visalia prune orchard was widely known the country over in dried fruit circles.

Production spread to the area west of Porterville and over toward Tulare although the heart of the industry always centered around Visalia. The peak was reached in the period from 1920 to 1924 when more than 10,000 acres were in bearing.

After that period, export markets dropped off heavily, surplus tonnage became a frequent worry and prices averaged lower. The year 1929, because of frost damage in most producing areas of the ~~stazze~~ Pacific coast, showed real profits ~~and~~ again for Tulare county prune producers but since then in spite of co-operative marketing efforts, sales campaigns and recent pro rate and federal marketing agreements, returns have been very unsatisfactory. As a result, few new plantings have been made and old orchards being pulled have decreased to county acreage to 5500 acres.

Another of the early fruit developments was the peach. As early as 1909 there were almost 8000 acres planted to peaches. ~~These~~ These also were planted most heavily in the deep fertile subirrigated lands near Visalia. Two of the large plantings of those days were made by the California Packing Corporation on their holdings south of Farmersville and just north of Visalia.

Heaviest early plantings were of free stone varieties for fresh market, canning and drying. This free stone acreage was widely distributed from Porterville to Dinuba and Kingsburg where the bulk of the dried tonnage was grown. Most of the free stone acreage was made up of muir, lovell and elberta varieties, all of which are still used extensively.

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ad two deciduous fruit

In about 1916, the use of cling stone ~~variet~~ varieties for canning began to develop and by 1920 a real boom in cling stone peaches was under way. The peak of this development was reached in 1928 when production in California appeared too great for future market outlets. Since then, cling stone peach acreage has remained stationary at about 4500 acres. The once large planting known most widely is the Tagus ranch north of Tulare.

Canneries early were established by the California Packing Corporation and a local grower co-operative. This latter is the plant now operated here by the Visalia Canning company. Other canneries are at Tulare, <sup>P</sup>urterville and Kingsburg.

A large tonnage of peaches also is shipped to Lemoore and to southern California canneries. While the tuscan and phillip varieties first made up the bulk of the canning peach crop, new varieties have been planted in the past 10 years, consisting of pelora, peak, halford, libbee, sims and others.

Lighter pruning, heavier fertilization and more attention to thinning the fruit are among the factors that have led to gradual improvement in yields and grades so that today good orchards produce from 12 to 18 tons of No. 1 fruit per acre. Cost of production on this class of property runs to about \$20 a ton. Prices have varied enormously in ~~the~~ recent years. In 1929, most growers received \$80 a ton but prices, notably last year, have been as low as \$7.50 and even \$5. Control of marketing in 1937 brought prices of about \$42 to most growers.

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ad three deciduous fruit

Next to peaches and prunes, the most extensive deciduous fruit acreage in Tulare county is figs, there being 3066 acres of all varieties. This industry also is an old one although the big development came between 1918 and 1924 with the planting of Calmyrna for shipping and drying and Kadota for canning. Most of the fig acreage is in the northern part of the county although the Kadota fig area centers around Ivanhoe and Exeter.

Earliest plantings of figs were the White Adriatic and the Black Mission for drying. These are still used. The Calmyrna, a superior quality for drying, held great promise but during the past 10 years has been discontinued because of disease problems.

Kadota figs produced here of excellent quality are canned at Lemoore, D. nuba and Merced. Production at present is in excess of market demands and a pro rate is in effect.

Tulare county now is the most important early shipping plum district although third in the state in plum acreage. There are now 2264 acres bearing and 202 acres non bearing. The most important early variety is the Santa Rosa, with slightly more than 1000 acres in bearing although the Beauty is a little earlier. Shipments of these start about May 15 and are the first deciduous fruits to reach eastern markets. In most years, the Tulare County Beauties and the Santa Rosas are a few days to a week earlier than the other main producing districts in northern California.

Another important variety is the Tragedy plum. This is a different type but is also fairly early and does well on the deep delta soil. It has been produced here for many years. Other varieties of importance are Climax, Kelsey, ~~Wax~~ Wickson and Burbank.

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ad four deciduous fruit

Income from the production of plums runs between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year, last year returning \$215,000 or about \$150 gross per acre. The thinning, ~~pruning~~ picking and packing of plums gives employment to many local workers early in April, May and June when other farm work is light. The packing and shipping are centered at Exeter, Ivanhoe, Visalia and Dinuba.

Walnut production is relatively new to Visalia although the first commercial plantings near Visalia were started in about 1905. The first variety planted did not do well here and in about 1915 the planting of ~~Pamlico~~ *Franquette* and ~~Mayette~~ *Mayette* was found satisfactory and by 1936 almost 2000 acres were in bearing with another 800 acres of young trees planted. Today there are 2822 acres, 80 per cent of which is within a 5-mile radius of Visalia.

For walnuts, the very best alluvial soils are desired. Trees grow exceptionally large here and good mature plantings produce 2500 pounds of nuts per acre. For some years when the industry was starting the nuts were shipped to southern California plants and to San Joaquin county for processing but about six years ago, local growers formed the Sequoia Walnut Growers' Association, a local of the California Walnut Growers Association, built a modern plant at Visalia and now handles 95 per cent of the crop. Value of the crop runs ~~from~~ to about \$300,000 a year, gradually increasing as the groves mature.

Apricots also are an important Tulare county crop although not in a class with peaches, prunes, plums and walnuts.

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ad five deciduous fruit

Apricot production is pretty well scattered over the county. There are 993 acres with only a small amount of new planting. Back in 1929, there were 1433 acres. ~~Considerable of this former acreage was an intercrop with olives when the planting became crowded. The crop is sold mainly for canning with a considerable tonnage shipped fresh.~~ *but the trees were removed*

Drying is used chiefly as an outlet when the other outlets are not profitable. Gross income runs about \$100,000 per year.

During the past 10 years, there has been a revival of apple production for the very early market. The White ~~Athsakan~~ Athsakan variety does well here and goes on the Los Angeles and San Francisco markets before apples from the larger producing districts of the state. Plantings center about Visalia and Exeter. There are today 400 acres of apples of which about one-third are the newly planted ~~Athsakan~~ Athsakan. The older district at Three Rivers produces several varieties with Winesaps predominant.

Commercial production of nectarines for fresh shipment started on a major scale in about 1908. Today there are 350 acres and the largest block is on the Tagus ranch.

Almonds are produced on 340 acres. We rank very low as an almond producing county. This probably is ~~due~~ because when large development was being made in deciduous fruit about 1920 to 1928, peaches plums and grapes were more profitable. Lately some interest in planting almonds has developed.

Other minor deciduous fruits produced in Tulare county include 415 acres of pomegranates, 86 acres of pecans mostly not yet in heavy bearing; 85 acres of persimmons; 18 acres of quince and eight acres of cherries in very small lots. The pecan is a new crop still to be tried out on a commercial basis. Persimmons do well but are limited by profitable market outlets. Cherries cannot be produced successfully because of the dry hot climate.



edition grain production

by W.E. Gilfillan,

Tulare county Farm ~~agent~~ *adviser*

1100

Grain production in Tulare county is still one of the major lines of farming despite the vast acreage planted to more specialized fruit crops in recent years. Back in 1900, the agriculture of the county was ~~predominately~~ grain production and old timers still tell of the long lines of wagons drawn by four and six horse teams carrying wheat to warehouses and railroad sidings.

In those days, all farming and most town hauling was done with horses and mules. Much of the grain and grain hay was used locally to feed such work stock. Wheat was the chief cash crop of the county farmers. Most of the grain land was dry farmed then as it is today.

The development of irrigation usually brought a change from wheat or barley to some fruit crop. However, after 40 years of fruit, alfalfa and cotton development there still remains some 100,000 acres planted each year to wheat, barley, oats and milo. This compares quite favorably to ~~120,000~~ 120,000 acres of fruit, 85,000 acres of cotton and 60,000 acres of alfalfa and ladino clover.

The fruit and cotton crops with their marketing and production problems have tended in the past 20 years to cause most of us to feel that grain production always was and still is one of our major agricultural enterprises.

Today, Tulare county is producing 65,000 of wheat and 6000 of barley for grain plus 15,000 acres of oats, barley and wheat for hay and 7000 acres of grain sorghum. The 1938 crops had a total value of \$1,093,000 even with the low prices. In 1919, when war time prices still prevailed, the income from the grain crop amounted to \$2,500,000 the highest income in the history of grain production in Tulare county.



ad one grain production

Wheat always has been the chief grain crop of Tulare county. Forty years ago much of the land now in fruit and vines was used for wheat. In those days, there was three times the present acreage. In fact, half of our crop land was used for wheat.

Today, most of the wheat is produced on non-irrigated land adjacent to Ducor and Terra Bella with a smaller planting near Orange Cove. About the only change in wheat production has been the use of tractors in place of mules and horses and in the varieties of wheat seeded.

Both these changes have done much to improve production. Although rainfall is a deciding factor in wheat yields, the acreage yield has been increased so that the last three years show an average of 18 bushels an acre.

Wheat ranches are large, running from 160 to three or four thousand acres. Much of the land is rented by local ranchers from absentee land lords some of whom live in eastern states and some in Europe. Rent usually is one-fourth of the crop. While profits have not been spectacular since the war era, wheat farming is a reasonably stable industry. At present, wheat is limited by the AAA program because of the surplus in the United States and the world markets. However, payments of 27 cents a bushel are made to ranchers who do not overplant. These payments offset, to a considerable degree, the loss from reduced acreage.

Barley for grain always has been a less important crop than wheat in Tulare county. The <sup>acreage</sup> ~~average~~ has fluctuated greatly. From about 9000 acres in 1899, it increased to 31,000 acres in 1919 and has since declined until in recent years ~~there are~~ less than 8000 acres has been harvested for grain.

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ad two grain production

Barley as contrasted to dry farmed wheat frequently is grown on irrigated land. Much of the barley is in small planting scattered through the dairy and hog producing areas near Porterville, Tulare and Visalia. However, large dry farmed plantings are also noted. Much of the barley harvested for grain is fed to live stock on hog and dairy farms here. Large amounts are also shipped into the county for this purpose.

It is the basic live stock feed here, taking the place that corn holds in the middle west. Although not a major crop, barley as grain last year had a total value of \$67,000.

Oats which normally is a feed for work stock is no longer of importance as a grain crop although about 2000 acres are harvested each year. The use of tractors in place of mules and horses has made the use of oats as a grain of minor importance.

Grain sorghum, chiefly milo, is a crop that is growing in importance in Tulare county. From about 2000 acres back in 1899, acreage has expanded to about 8000 acres with a value of \$150,000. Most of the milo is fed locally to live stock. It ranks next to barley as a source of live stock feed. ~~with the increasing~~  
~~and the increasing~~

Milo is primarily an irrigated crop, rarely being tried on non-irrigated lands. It is produced in small tracts of 10 to 50 acres and in all parts of the county, often as a second crop on land from which barley or oat hay crops have been harvested.

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ad three grain production

Improvement in quality of the seed both for heavy production and uniform height has been a big factor in the increase in acreage. Double dwarf milo is the standard strain used here and much of it is harvested by the combine when formerly it was cut by hand. Planted on good land in May and given three irrigations, this crop can be expected to produce between 3000 and 4000 pounds of grain per acre.

Grain hay from wheat, barley or oats has for many years been a most important part of the grain farming system in Tulare county. At one time, back in 1919, over 40,000 acres of small grains was cut for hay. Since grain hay was an important work stock feed its production has dropped off with the replacement of work stock by tractors.

Last year about 15,000 acres were cut for hay. While much of this is used locally, a considerable tonnage is shipped out as baled hay. While barley and oat hay are preferred, some wheat is cut for this purpose each year and large acreages of wheat are so harvested when lack of spring rains makes ~~it~~ grain production ~~unprofitable~~ unprofitable. Today most grain hay is baled at harvest time. Yields run from one to three tons an acre.

In addition to use of small grains for grain or hay crops, recent years have seen increased use of barley and oats for winter and spring pasture. The use of green pastures in profitable meat and dairy production is now generally recognized. Barley planted in September or October makes excellent pasture from the middle of winter until late spring.

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ad four grain production

Oats and wheat also are satisfactory for winter and spring feeds. Under the present AAA program, such pasturing is not restricted. Consequently, farmers have expanded materially the acreage of grains used for pasture.

These three uses--grain, hay and pasture, make small grain production a very basic part of the agriculture of Tulare county. The fact that this county is known widely as a fruit and cotton section is likely to cause many persons to overlook the importance of our small grain farming.

Such farming always has been fundamental to Tulare county's agriculture. This condition is likely to continue.

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