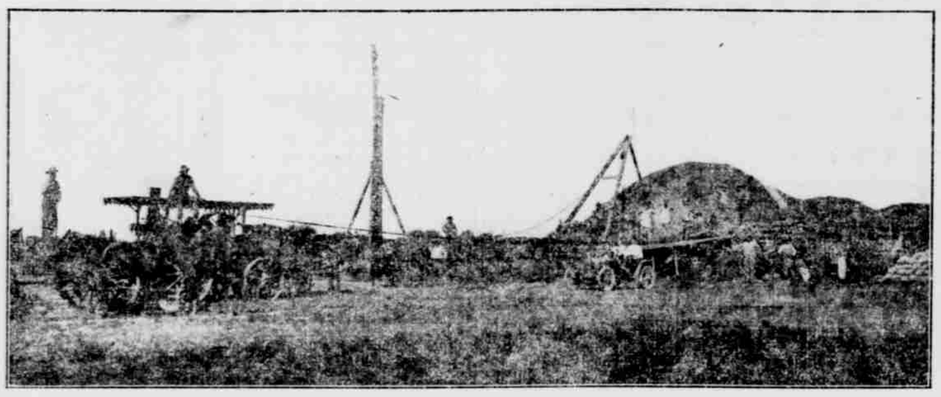
THE BUCKEYE VALLEY



Threshing Grain in Buckeye

BUCKEYE VALLEY

Some distance west of Phoenix and below the junction of the Salt and Gila rivers is the Buckeye and Arlington country. While this section of country is not, properly speaking, within the Salt River Valley, yet as it is a continuation of this great valley, with similar soil and products, something must be said here concerning this prosperous country with its great fields of grain and alfalfa.

This section is noted for its fat cattle, hay, grain and alfalfa seed. The farmers are growing very prosperous here, for in addition to two crops of hay from their alfalfa fields, they are harvesting from 350 to 500 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre, for which they receive from 12½ to 13 cents per pound. As alfalfa seed can not be successfully raised everywhere, and as alfalfa hay is becoming more general throughout the West, this gives this section a great advantage over other places where the alfalfa is grown. All the lands about Buckeye and Arlington are irrigted from water from the Gila River. The farmers own their canals, and although they have no reservoir to draw from, they have an abundant supply of water at all seasons of the year. The great amount of irrigation above throughout the Salt River Valley, seems to increase the water supply below rather than to diminish it, so that the farmers here can depend upon a constant flow of water for irrigation. Lands in the neighborhood of Buckeye, although thirty-five miles from Phoenix, are selling from $75 to $100 per acre. There are about 20,000 acres in cultivation in this section of country.

The Buckeye country is connected with Phoenix by rail, as a new road has been recently built by the Southern Pacific and is now in full operation.

A narrow strip of country lying on the north side of the Gila river, beginning a few miles west of the land under the Salt River reclamation project and extending westward some thirty miles, comprises what is known as the Buckeye Valley. This irrigable section varies in width from one to three miles and is some 16,000 acres in area.

Though this valley has been settled some twenty-five years, it was but little known until 1910, attention being then drawn to it by the building of a branch line of the Arizona Eastern Railway system from Phoenix to the Hassayampa River.

Water for irrigation is obtained from the Gila by means of the Buckeye canal, which has its head a mile below the mouth of Salt River. The supply is abundant, times when the canal is not running to its fullest capacity being very rare.

While the Buckeye Valley is not under the Roosevelt project, the building of the great dam and checking of the flood water has been of great benefit to that country, the principal drawback of which has been a superabundance of water in the Gila. The increased amount of water used in the Salt River Valley has also resulted in an increased seepage flow from the Salt into the Gila, giving a larger amount of low water flow during the dry season.

Justly are the people of the Buckeye Valley proud of their canal system, and it is safe to say that they could not be inducted to part with it for half a million dollars. Its management and service now have almost reached the ideal.

The soil irrigated from the canal is a rich sandy loam, very fertile and highly productive. A noticeable feature is the absence of "hardpan" or "adobe" deposits so often found in the Southwest. An important and valuable feature of the soil is its deep, sandy nature. The nearness of underground water causes it to require much less irrigation than most land. The alloted amount is 80 miners inches for 48 hours to each 160 acres, while the standard amount in other localities is 300 inches for 24 hours to the quarter section at the same intervals.

As in the Salt River Valley, the chief product of the land is alfalfa, though in this valley not so much effort is devoted to the production of hay. Alfalfa is grown mainly for seed. The amount of seed that can be produced on an acre as well as the quality, is remarkable.

The high price of seed lead the farmers to turn their attention to the growing of alfalfa seed. A load of seed weighing from two to three tons could be taken to Phoenix by one man with four horses, and was worth from fourteen to sixteen cents a pound. Alfalfa seed was the cheapest and easiest crop to market that could be grown. It was found to be of high quality and the yield per acre exceeded that of any other section of the United States.

All this led the ranchers to make the growing of alfalfa seed a study. The best methods of irrigation and cultivation were observed and followed, until the Buckeye Valley has gained a reputation for its alfalfa seed almost equal to that of the Salt River Valley for its oranges.

Some of the crops of seed are almost phenomenal. The average yield for the valley is about 200 pounds an acre, though a yield of 300 or even 550 pounds is not uncommon. Yields of 550 pounds have been harvested in a single season.

Last year George Day, living two miles west of Buckeye, produced an average of 350 pounds. E. B. Collins capped the climax by producing from 65 acres, on a farm adjoining that of Mr. Day alfalfa seed to the value of $5,250.50.

Of the crop of 1910, there was received at the railroad station of Buckeye 960,125 pounds, while the amount shipped from the other points in the valley was 106,962 pounds, making a total of 1,067,087 pounds shipped last season. This brought from fourteen to sixteen cents a pound f. o. b. Buckeye.

It is estimated that 8,000 acres will be harvested for seed in the valley this season. At 200 pounds an acre this will amount to 1,600,000 pounds.

Cotton has also been tried in the Buckeye Valley, but it has not come into favor as a staple crop, owing to the fact that alfalfa seed is more profitable and can be produced with less labor.

This valley will undoubtedly always be a great stock and dairy country. Its chances are vastly improved by the coming of the railroad, which is almost certain to be extended to connect with the coast line.

With its large income from alfalfa seed and stock, the Buckeye Valley is bound to become one of the richest communities in the United States.

INGLESIDE THE BEAUTIFUL

Ingleside Club House

Ingleside is a suburban town, picturesquely located nine miles northeast of Phoenix, and one mile south of Camelback Mountain.

The town is situated in the midst of the well-known Ingleside Orange Groves, the oldest and largest groves in the territory. Its streets are shaded with large pepper, olive and ash trees. The altitude of Ingleside is 1300 feet, being 200 feet higher than Phoenix.

Immediately north of the town runs the Arizona Canal, one of the very largest irrigation streams in America along its south bank U. S. Reclamation Service is constructing a magnificent bouvelard, which will parallel the canal for a distance of forty miles.

Plans now being carried out are making Ingleside a resident suburb of the very highest class. Sanitoriums, stables and unsightly structures of all kinds are prohibited.

EQUIPMENTS

Ingleside is equipped with first-class water works, which furnish an abundant supply of pure, sofe water, piped to all lots. Fire protection is adequate.

Electricity will be obtained from nearby power plants operated by the U. S. Reclamation Service.

Ingleside has its own private telephone system, and in addition has telephone connection with the Phoenix system.

A trolley line to Phoenix is projected. It is hoped that the line will be completed shortly. At present, stages run to and from Phoenix twice a day.

CLIMATE

The unique charm of the climate of Southern Arizona must be experienced to be appreciated. Tastes as to weather differ. To him who loves snow storms, zero weather, slush, sleet and blizzards, we have nothing to offer. Our advice to such an one is for him to stay "Back East" and enjoy himself. But if there is pleasure and health for you in blue skies, in sunshine, in air so clear that mountains sixty miles away seem within walking distance—if you really enjoy days where the thermometer lingers at seventy, and the nights are just cool enough for light blankets and good sleeping—come out and learn just how genial a winter climate may be if it tries.

Green vegetables grow in Ingleside gardens every month in the year. Oranges ripen in November and December, roses bloom at Christmas; narcissus, tulips and hyacinths blossom in February; violets charm the eye all winter through, and it is a very backward garden that cannot furnish green peas for the Easter lamb.

INGLESIDE CLUB

Social life at Ingleside centers at the Ingleside Club. Resident membership includes people whose permanent homes are at Ingleside, Phoenix and vicinity. Non-resident membership, for the most part, is composed of people living in the North and East, (New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicoga and Detroit, are among the cities represented,) who spend their winters at Ingleside.

The organization is, first of all a family club, and is designed to give home comforts to those disinclined to undertake housekeeping; it also offers relief from the annoyances of hotel life. Club membership includes the entire family.

Many of the members occupy rooms in the club building, a graceful, two-story cement-finished structure, some 150 feet in length; other members, especially those whose families include children, live in adjacent bungalows and take their meals in the club dinning room.

THINGS TO DO

First there is golf. The links lie immediately north of the Arizona Canal, and almost within the shadow of Camelback Mountain. The view is magnificent. To the east are the Superstition Mountains, northward of them lie red Mt. McDowell, and in the distance can be seen the blue-tinted Four Peaks, which rise some 10,000 feet above sea-level.

The possibilities of picnics deserve special mention. This form of pastime opens up inexhaustable resources to the sojourner in the "Sun-kissed Valley." Throughout the entire winter vehicles of every description may be seen traveling desertward. Here it may be stated parenthetically, while the irrigated district surrounding Ingleside abounds in green sward and umbrageous trees, it is the desert that most insistently beckons the picknicker.

The desert, however, is not, as most people imagine, a dreary waste of sand, but is covered with grease wood, sagebrush, the crucifixion thorn, squawberry bushes, and dotted here and there with mesquite, palo verde and ironwood trees.

Often the picnic will be held on a clear, level stretch of ground parked about with cholla, visanga and giant cactus, the latter frequently rising to the height of thirty feet or more. Again, camp will be pitched on a narrow ledge of rock, like "Robbers' Roost," (a famous rendezvous in Camelback Mountain,) or in some cave-like hollow in a rocky butte like the Hole-in-the-Rock.

Drives may be taken over well kept roads, past miles of green alfalfa fields, visits paid to the interesting ostrich farms, (the largest in the world outside of South Africa,) to the Indian Schools and reservation, and to the vineyards, orchards, olive and orange groves of local horticulturists.

Camelback Mountain to the north, and Victoria Buttes to the south of Ingleside offer exercise to those who like to take their mountain climbing in homeopathic doses.

Hunters can find quail within half a mile of the Club House, and there are, in season, ducks on Salt River, (a fine river of sweet mountain water, in spite of the name)' which runs some three miles south of Ingleside.

The trip from Phoenix consumes a half hour by automobile, or one and one-half hours by stage.

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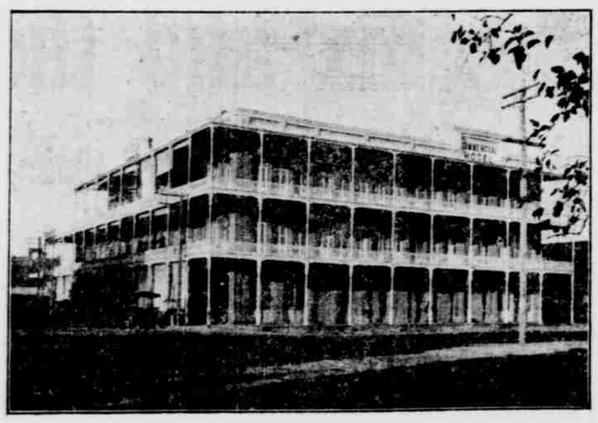

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