

Green River--The Fruitgrowers' Paradise

In the eastern part of Utah, 105 miles west of Grand Junction, Colorado, and 185 miles southwest of Salt Lake City on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, lies Green River, one of the most promising as well as one of the newest of the fruit growing districts of the west. The valley, five miles wide and 15 miles long is sheltered from the elements by the stately Palisades on the north and east, and on the west by the towering heights of the San Rafael mountains.

The story of Green River, Utah, is a wonderful story of the magic wrought by reclamation. Ten years ago this town on the banks of Green river, at the crossing point of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, was a solitary outpost of civilization in the midst of a desert that stretched for almost an hundred miles in all directions. The nearest town was Price, the county seat of Carbon county. Now it is the recognized center of a great fruit belt as may be found in the country anywhere.

Prior to the coming of the men who saw wealth in the burning sands of the desert, the residents of Green River town had confined their efforts in irrigation to getting a limited supply of water from the Green river by means of miniature water wheels. This water was used only in irrigating small tracts of land lying along the lowest portions of the river banks. No attempt was made at all to get the water on the higher ground. The Green river, like all streams in southeastern Utah, has cut a deep channel course through the ages that it has poured its waters into the Colorado, and the first residents of the town of Green River thought that it was practically a matter of impossibility to get the water from the river level to the desert lands.

Ten years ago there were perhaps 200 people in the town. Most of the houses, if such they may be called, were constructed of logs, with mud-covered roofs. At that time the place was a rendezvous for members of the Robbers' Roost and the Hole-in-the-Wall gangs. Isolated as it was, these bandits of the west, whose names were bogies to even the grown-ups, had little fear that their presence in the place would be "tipped off" to the authorities. The residents of the town thought that it was the best policy to allow these bandits to go their way in peace. They were fearful if they gave any information concerning them that some fine morning at the usual breakfast hour they would be unable to appear. Sudden and apparently unaccountable deaths had been known to occur in this region.

FERRY ACROSS RIVER.

One reason why the "Robber Roosters," as they were generally known thereabouts, always made Green River a stopping place and an outfitting point, was that the ferry across the river was situated at that point. At no other point for miles was there a place where they could get across the river.

Because of its isolation, Green River has been the scene of many cold-blooded murders, called in early days by coroners' juries "Justifiable homicides." Over 20 years ago, when this town was made a division point for the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, it enjoyed its wildest carnival of crime. The local officers were unable to cope with the lawless element. Many unmarked graves are pointed out to this day as the result of wild nights of debauchery.

The transformation has been complete. The Green River of today is a modern town of about 1,500 inhabitants. The mud-roof shacks have been replaced by handsome cottages, and in place of the riotous, lawless rule of many years ago, the city is now as orderly as any other well-regulated place of its size in the state.

ALTITUDE.

The altitude of Green River is 4,030 feet, and experience proves that this elevation produces the best peaches, potatoes, peaches, cantaloupes, prunes, winter apples, and the finest small fruits. There are no excessively hot days and the winters are mild. Spring opens in February, and there is an average of about 350 days of sunshine in the year.

CLIMATE.

Continuous sunshine means dry land; it means that only 35 days out of the 365 you may expect showers.

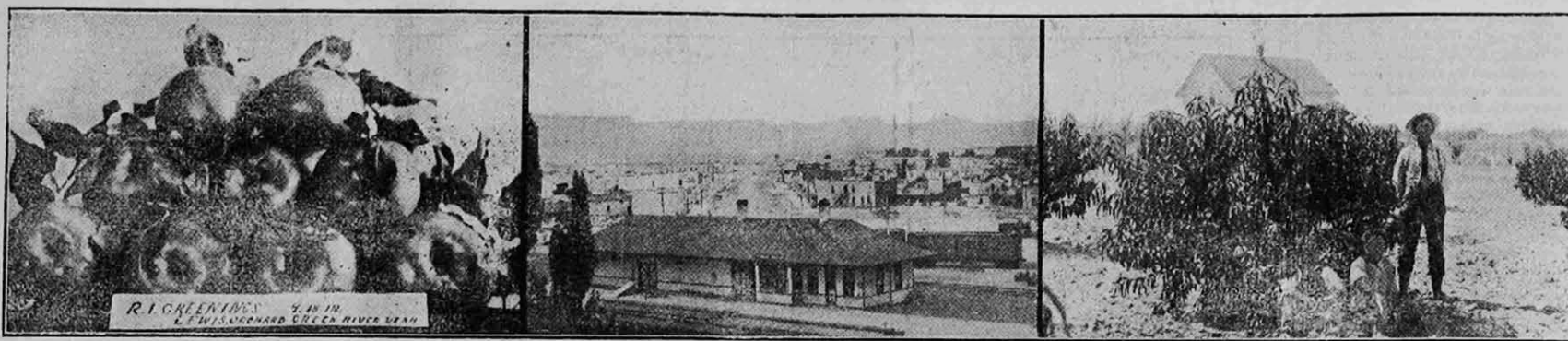
The winters are soft and balmy, spring opens in February, and by the latter part of that month most of the gardens are planted. Indeed, climate is a wonderful asset that would make the valley famous, even if there were not so many other irresistible attractions.

The dry climate is exhilarating and unsurpassed anywhere in the United States. Very few deaths occur in this section, as disease is incited to lower altitudes and damp climates are unknown. Nervousness experienced by residents of the extremely high, mountainous sections, is also avoided by those who locate in this valley; in fact, the altitude seems to be just right to benefit persons in most any condition of health.

It is a coughless, coldless, non-asthmatic, anti-rheumatic, bronchitis-less and consumption-less land. The wind blows in the spring and early summer, at intervals, but very infrequent as compared with the states between the Missouri river and the Rocky mountains. There is no wind during the fall and winter.

Owing to the protection afforded by the massive walls surrounding the valley frost never injures the peaches; and, usually where other districts are depleted it is necessary to thin the peaches at Green River.

When the Palisade peach orchards at Grand Junction, Colorado, were brought into bearing and brought such large returns to the owners that the land began to sell at hitherto unheard-of prices, bearing orchards from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per acre and paying 20 per cent to 40 per cent, or from \$100 to \$2,000 per acre annually, there was conceived a new respect for peach growing, but before this day of prosperity dawned upon the



Photos by E. P. Sherman.

A BUNCH OF GREEN RIVER BEAUTIES.

VIEW OF GREEN RIVER.

PEACH TREE--ONE YEAR'S GROWTH.

GREEN RIVER, A CITY OF PROMISE AND PROSPERITY.

LOCATED at the south end of the valley, and until three years ago containing only a population of 100 people, the city of Green River has undergone a transformation that has brought it out of a desert into a paradise, where 1,500 cultured intelligent people, the very cream of the eastern and middle states, are now living in the absolute certainty that within five years more the city will contain 5,000 bright, wide-awake people, who will have been attracted to it by the proven assurance of its wealth and resources.

The town now contains good schools, handsome churches, bright, modern stores, supplying every want of man, woman or child, and such modern institutions as newspapers, Commercial club, opera house, from which after the play one can step into a thoroughly up-to-date pharmacy and have refreshments as daintily served as one would expect in a town of 10,000 in the older settled states.

"Strongly enchanting, bewildering in its allurements, abundant in its promise, this desert waste of only yesterday, now blossoming like a rose, has drawn to its bosom farmers, business men, professional men, from their rich fields and substantial homes of the middle and eastern states, and has made them happy to know that the Rio Grande, in its western march, reached through the Green River Valley."

And the resources of this adjective-compelling valley are practically illimitable--great mountains of gypsum, veins of coal, a world's supply. And while the predominating industry is fruit raising, because of this wonderful soil and climate and its accompanying quick and fabulous profits, there are other fields for investment also.

Within six miles of Green River may be found immense deposits of the best quality of fuel, and a mutual coal company will soon be organized by the residents of the valley and they will be enabled thereby to secure at the actual cost of mining it, about \$1 per ton.

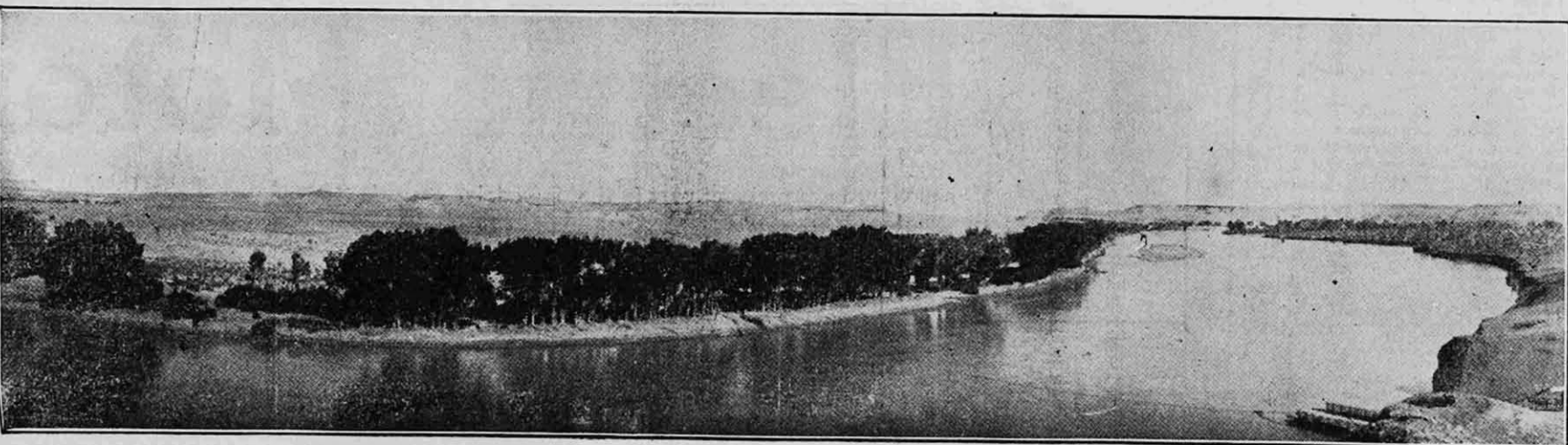
Aside from this, however, the great coal fields in operation as Castle Gate, Helper, Sunnyside, on the D. & R. G. railroad, in the adjoining country on the north, insures cheap fuel at any time and creates a home market for farm products.

Constant, high-priced, easily accessible markets and perfect climate would be enough to enhance the value of any land, but when the soil is not merely good, but superb, its value is far beyond that to which similar good land less favorably located could attain.

It possesses a soil (found only in a few places in America) capable of producing extraordinarily large and valuable peaches that are easily marketed at superior prices a few miles away;--this is a factor that makes a ten-acre purchase in this orchard a solid and profitable investment. This land is really virgin soil of the highest grade, unspoiled in any way. Owing to the constant sunshine of this region, there is no rain to wash away its fertilizing salts that have fallen on it for tens of thousands, possibly millions, of years. For the same reason no rank vegetation has ever exhausted it with innumerable crops of weeds.

The lands consist of what is known as a fine sandy loam about 50 feet deep. Because of its depth and uniformly friable nature, this loam is pre-eminently adapted to the growing of fruit trees. The ground is easy and light to handle, and any ordinary man can take care of his ten acres and easily do all the work by hand. And, what is more, he can cultivate every square inch, for there is no waste, alkali or sour land in the entire tract, as is proven by the fact that sweet drinking water can be secured anywhere by means of a shallow well.

In fact the valley seems to have been designed especially by nature for the planting of peaches. It has ideal fruit climate, the ideal fruit soil, and last, but not least, ideal surface conditions. The lay of the land is ideal for irrigation purposes, all gently sloping downward to the river, which provides perfect drainage. Add to this the most plentiful supply of water ever afforded by the navigable Green River, with thirty-five miles of canals carrying its precious life-giving waters, with a climate milder and more even than that found at any other point in the intermountain region with an absolute freedom from frosts during the peach-growing season, with an absence of rainfall that would destroy the bloom of the luscious fruit during the growing season and the Green River Valley affords a veritable peachland or garden spot.



GREEN RIVER, UTAH, NOW ENJOYING A FRUIT GROWING BOOM.

Palisade district, there were years of costly experimenting, of planting trees and digging them up again so that other trees better suited to the soil and the climate could be tried. Men grew gray with worry before the fruit growers of the Palisade district learned all they know.

This they learned: that the Elberta peach is unquestionably the most profitable peach that can be grown in this or any other district. What these men have learned at the cost of many thousands of dollars, we now know without paying the fearsome price they had to pay.

The Elberta peach, by reason of its great size, exceptional flavor, beauty of color and exceptional shipping qualities, added to the fact that it can be raised to perfection in such a limited area that there can never be an over-supply, is justly termed the "King of Peaches."

These peaches run on an average of from 64 to 72 peaches to the case, and all Elbertas raised in the district are classed as extra A. For instance, there were raised at Green River by Mike Walsh ten peaches which would, when laid side by side measure 37 inches; some of them as large as 1 1/2 inches in circumference, and no matter what the supply elsewhere, Green River peaches will always bring a fancy price on account of their exceptional size and quality.

Elberta peaches begin bearing the third year, and the fourth year approach maturity, when they bear on an average of four to six boxes per tree, steadily increasing about two boxes per year until the eighth year, when the average yield is from twelve to fourteen boxes per tree. These are

absolutely proven facts, which we will prove to you.

With a five or ten-acre Elberta peach orchard, such as this, which will return you from \$3,500 to \$15,000 a year, all your worries for your future are over, and you can rest assured that no matter what panic comes, your financial future is certain.

The fact that in the Green River valley during the year 1908 over 2,000 acres of peaches were planted and that were under contract to be planted during the year 1909, 5,000 acres more, will in five years make this the greatest shipping point for fancy peaches in America.

The Rio Grande is now on the eve of building the great Salina cut-off, which will make Green River a division point of no small prominence. This is now assured.

To tie the cars in which melons and fruit are shipped from Green River, an ice plant has been built with a capacity of 20 tons per day.

IRRIGATION.

All of the crops at Green River are raised by irrigation. The four essential conditions for a successful irrigation proposition are soil, climate, water and markets. Green River has all of these.

The city takes its name from the river on which it is situated, a main-moist stream 800 feet wide, which heads in the Yellowstone, is fed by mountain streams whose sources are in the highest mountains of Wyoming, Colorado and Utah and is emptied eventually into the awful gorge of the Colorado.

It is estimated that the water supply will irrigate over a million acres. The gravity system waters about 2,000 acres. The 42-foot lift waters about 2,500 acres. The 90-foot lift waters 1,500 acres under the present ditches. On the east side of the river, 1,000 acres are being watered and additional ditches are being surveyed

which will reclaim a much greater acreage. To the south 1,000 acres are already under irrigation, and other valleys nearby are being developed.

Water rights are paid on land under the gravity ditch. Under the other ditches the cost is \$40 per acre. In addition there is a small yearly maintenance tax.

It is necessary to irrigate about once every six weeks, depending to a certain extent upon the crop, soil, and weather conditions.

FRUITS.

The following fruits are raised: Peaches, pears and apples largely, although many plums, cherries, apricots and prunes, and a large acreage in grapes. Small fruits and strawberries are being planted.

Any vegetables that grow in the United States can be grown here successfully--sweet potatoes and every kind of melon are especially productive and of the highest quality.

PRICE OF LAND.

The land is selling at from \$200 per acre upward. Comparing this with irrigated land in other parts of the United States, one finds that irrigated land in the Yakima valley sells for \$500 to \$2,500 per acre--in California the prices are higher. In the Grand Valley of the Colorado, which approaches more nearly in general the Green River valley, lands sell as high as \$3,000 per acre, sales having been made as high as \$5,000 per acre, and even at these prices pay a much greater per cent on the investment than lands in the Mississippi valley at present prices.

Recently Mr. E. P. Merritt said concerning this locality: "I went to Green River about six years ago, on the recommendation of C. J. Miller, who was at one time a station agent there. My object in leaving the east for this section was to prospect for oil and minerals. There had been some excitement in the oil line on account of the presence in various places along the river of oil seeps, where the oil came up from the ground and flowed in tiny streams

down to the river. After ascertaining that the oil could not be found in paying quantities, I became aware of the great possibilities of the section as a fruit raising country.

"In company with my brother, I bought up about 8,000 acres of land at from \$150 to \$250 per acre. Soon after this purchase we installed a water plant six miles above Green River station. This plant had a capacity of 2,000 acres. Shortly after this the Elgin Irrigation company put in a steam plant on the east side of the river to water about 1,000 acres of land. There were also two gravity ditches taken out at the same point to irrigate about 1,500 acres of land.

"The land that my brother and I purchased was divided up into five, ten, twenty, forty, sixty and eighty-acre tracts and sold as small fruit farms to eastern people. Before the end of the first year this land was sold at from \$15 to \$150 an acre. At the present time the unimproved lands are selling at from \$200 to \$500 an acre, and the orchards are selling at from \$200 to \$1,500 an acre. Next year will be the first year that the commercial fruit orchards will be in bearing, and the prospects are now for a very fine crop. Almost all the orchards are planted to Elberta peaches. Owing to the even climate, and the rich soil in this little valley, these peaches grow to perfection, not only as to size and beauty, but also as to flavor and shipping quality. Peaches may be shipped even as far as Europe in good condition.

"VALLEY TRANSFORMED. "This valley has been transformed from a desert on which were homes built of railroad ties, with mud-covered roofs, to a valley of beautiful orchards and fine homes costing from \$1,500 to \$7,000, in three years' time.

"When we started selling lots the railroad earnings for the Green River peaches were about \$400 per month, and were increased to \$10,000 per month. The first division point of the Denver & Rio Grande, which was maintained there many years ago, was done away

with a good ice plant, cement block factory, two large lumber yards, two brick yards, several small hotels and apartment houses, a fine bank building, and churches and schools. The district is contemplating the erection of a large high school building this winter. The population of the place is now about 1,500."

BEEES AND POULTRY.

There are other industries in this region besides the raising of fruit. For instance, three carloads of honey were shipped from the county this season. Poultry is especially profitable, free from pests, it being fed upon residue of orchards, melon and garden crops. High prices of meat and eggs make the industry a valuable offset to grocery bills.

As it takes about three years for a fruit orchard to bring any returns, the prospective settler may be curious to know what are the means of livelihood in the meantime. The answer is easy: By growing melons, vegetables and raising poultry. Green River cantaloupes bring highest prices paid in eastern markets and are sold exclusively by the D. R. G. dining car and eating house service, being recognized in all market centers as the best quality produced anywhere. From 100 to 200 crates per acre is the yield. Potatoes also are nowhere produced at greater net profit and in better quality and quantity than in this valley. Full crops can be grown conveniently between orchard rows without injury to trees. Notwithstanding the alluring profits from above crops, the enormous earnings of the fruit industry so greatly exceed general farming that exclusive attention is given to orcharding as soon as trees commence to bear.

DIVERSIONS.

One would think a new country to be devoid of amusement and diversion, but antelopes, deer, bear, wolves, foxes, coyotes are found, especially in the near by mountains. Close at hand are rabbits, duck, geese, quail and doves. A number of the residents of Green River travel southward from Green River through the most beautiful scenic canyon in the world, to the ancient homes of the Cliff dwellers, and to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. In the city are Masonic, Modern Woodmen, and Knights of Pythias lodges, all of the highest condition. Being on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande, Green River also receives some of the best smaller theatricals in the country.

There are now in Green River five general stores, two drug stores, two barber shops, one blacksmith shop, two hotels, boarding houses, butcher shop,ivery stable, cabinet, hardware store, lumber yard, bakery, newspaper, artificial ice plant, telephone system, feed store, cement block factory, jeweler, a state land office, granted for an electric plant, opera house, finest depot between Grand Junction and Salt Lake.

Already parties are considering the construction of a fine hotel as people are flocking to the city with the intention of buying lands or homes.

A bridge is about to be built over the river at the city by the two counties interested. Early this fall the McQuinn Bridge company of Kansas City has been awarded the contract for \$25,000.

This wonderful country is a veritable oasis, a stretch of fertility, midst a broad expanse of geologic grandeur. The region about it partakes largely of the characteristics of that marvelous country just below, the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

At one time over this whole region rested a series of lakes connected by narrow waterways. Our lakes are in the Great lakes region.

In a trip up one of the rivers of this region one comes upon great towers, cliffs, rocks and banks each having part and parcel at times all of the following marvelous succession of strata and variety of color: red sandstone; yellow and white sandstones; variegated red, yellow, and bluish marls; sandstone and shales; bluish and black argillaceous beds; brownish red sandstone; soft greenish argillaceous shales; green sandstone shales; massive sandstones in pinkish white and yellow layers with interbedded greenish shales; series of soft variegated beds, yellow, reddish and black; gray sandstone, greenish gray sandstone; red shales passing into green; red and greenish gray shales rounded at the top; massive coarse grained yellow sandstone with angular fractures breaking into large square blocks; greenish argillaceous and sandy shales; red and yellow sandy kysiferous beds; micaceous sandstones and shales, fossiliferous, containing fragments of bones; red and yellow mottled massive sandstone weathering into rounded masses; yellow sandstones with bones imbedded and greenish gray sandstones, laminated, some of the layers having mud marks on the surface.

Whether for farmer, fruit raiser, coal miner or scientist, it is novel, surprising. The mayor, Thos. Turner, and the council, consisting of George Saltkaver, E. J. Cook and J. M. French, will all willingly direct the inquirer toward further information on this glorious land of opportunity.

C. A. GIBBONS.

In April, 1909, Mr. C. A. Gibbons bought the business of McCarty & Pace, put in a new stock, remodeled the premises, put in additions and in many ways prepared himself for the enviable position he now occupies as the leading merchant of Green River. He came to Green River from Hanksville, Wayne county, where he is still interested in a growing quartz and placer mines in the Henry mountains. These properties are 80 miles from Green River and well deserve the attention of the investor.

Mr. Gibbons' store is one of the newest in the state, being equipped with all the modern appliances. A general stock of merchandise is carried, and all deliveries promptly made. F. M. Gunnerson is clerk. In every way Mr. Gibbons' store is one of the most praiseworthy institutions in the city.

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The Birrell-Shipp Realty Company

"The Real Estate People."

Are the Salt Lake Representatives of the

Green River Fruit and Land Co.

Mr. E. T. Merritt, mentioned on this page, has associated himself with the Birrell-Shipp Realty company, and the office of that company also becomes the Salt Lake City headquarters for the Green River Land and Townsite company, of which Mr. Merritt is general manager and general emigration agent. They will be pleased to give any one detailed information concerning this wonderful country.

In the offices of the Birrell-Shipp Realty company may be seen an exhibition of the fruits and vegetables which are grown in the Green River country. The public is cordially invited to come and inspect these products. If you cannot come, write us for literature.

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3333--Both Phones--3333