

EVENING STAR

C. L. Bittinger and R. R. Carroll,
Editors and Publishers.
C. L. BITTINGER, Editor
R. R. CARROLL, Business Manager

RIVERSIDE AND SURROUNDINGS

Grand Junction, Calif., Aug. 12.—If we were to attempt to write of everything we saw in the beautiful and wonderful town of Riverside, Calif., we would simply exhaust ourselves and the columns of the Star, and as the object of these letters is to give a mere glimpse and passing impression of the places we saw, we shall proceed in a matter of fact way.

Riverside is not an old city as time is reckoned, say 30 years since it first began to grow. It moved steadily, but got up a genuine boom in 1890, which lasted up to the panic of 1893, when it received serious set back in a cold snap that wrecked its orange crop and this was followed by big bank failure that sent prices tumbling. Then the town boasted of a population of 7,000. It has long since recovered from its misfortunes and since has had a steady and substantial growth, its population now numbering 15,000 and its improvements along all lines have kept pace with the growth of the town.

Riverside has a splendid sewerage and water system, paved streets, beautiful homes, lovely lawns, avenues lined with palms and pepper trees and a cultivated and refined people who love their homes and know how to make them attractive.

The town has no citizens of great wealth, but all are public spirited and cooperative and get together and do things for the public good. It is a highly moral and religious place. No saloons are permitted, either in the town or county, and the people are delighted with the conditions.

The town has the mission spirit and all the public buildings are built on this plan of architecture. It has a magnificent courthouse, costing way into the hundred thousands of dollars, which occupies two blocks, beautifully grased and bedecked with flowers. It is only one story high. It has a fine Masonic temple and woman's club, **the public library building** to which Mr. Carnegie donated \$25,000, and the town the rest, and a \$15,000 addition to this building is being added to meet the demands of the fast growing population. We were surprised to find so many readers in its well kept rooms. The lot on which this model building stands cost \$7,000.

Riverside has a very creditable Y. M. C. A., but this building, too, has become too small and a new building is under roof that when completed will cost \$150,000. Its public school buildings and parks are in keeping with all the other public utilities of the place, the white park containing one of the finest collections of capital in the country, while at the large park, which is thrown open to everybody and is a great pleasure ground for the people, visitors come to enjoy its attractions and split a little wood, boil their coffee or tea, cook their food and enjoy their outing.

One of the most unique buildings in the town is the Glenwood Inn, built after the manner of the old mission buildings. It is entirely different from the usual hotel style of architecture, and it leaves an impress on those who tarry within its large and rambling court, vines, flowers, plants and bells and comforts of furniture to match that is never forgotten, always remembered and spoken of to others, until it is the most noted hostelry in all the golden state of California.

It remained for the manager, Mr. Frank Miller, to dream out the design, put it on paper and build it. It is run by a corporation, run right and has been a phenomenal success and while the building covers an entire square, its patronage has outrun its capacity and a large addition is to be added. The Glenwood is conducted by Mr. Miller, has been one of the big assets of the town and has added scores of well to do residents to the place, who, charmed by the quaintness and restfulness of the place, fell in love with the community, purchased homes there and now live in beautiful Riverside.

One of the show places of Riverside is its Mount Rubidoux. Huntington drive, so named after the great railroad magnate, who became so impressed with the magnificent amphitheater of rugged hills and mountains that surround the beautiful and fertile valley in which the town is a brilliant setting, that he contributed \$35,000 towards building five miles of the finest mountain roads on earth to the apex of this glorious lookout, where the eye can drink in a scene that is difficult to duplicate anywhere. No one has seen Riverside who has not taken a walk or drive to the pinnacle of Mount Rubidoux and at the foot of the cross which marks its highest elevation and is thankful a Huntington lived to assist the people of Riverside to create this inspiring driveway. The town contributed about an equal sum to complete this mountain drive and

thousands of visitors during the season seek its heights to drink in the inspiration that comes from its warm sunlight and scenic beauty.

We had a good opportunity to inspect its thousands of acres of orange groves, said to be some 20,000 of them, and note their perfect system of irrigation and the beauty of its trees, many of them gilded with the golden fruit that still illuminates the olive foliage of the setting. These oranges are now ripe for market and generally bring remunerative prices.

The Sherman Indian school, located at Arlington, a suburb of Riverside, was shown us with its dozen or more of magnificent buildings, which house some 800 Indian boys and girls, representing 45 tribes.

Not must we forget to mention the magnificent orange grove of the secretary of the National Biscuit Co., whose home is in Pittsburg, Pa., but who never fails to spend his winters in this charming spot. It is a thing of beauty, for not only has he leveled the apex of a mountain to which he constructed a fine auto road, but lined miles of driveways over his domain with lovely roses and beautiful flowering plants and has a rare collection of Japanese dwarf trees, some of them 3,000 years old and no higher than your knee, to all of which the public is welcome.

We also had a look at a model orange packing establishment, such as was shown the Florida orange growers who visited this place last May to study California fruit exchange methods, that has enabled them to dispose of with a profit six times the amount of oranges Florida grows. The plant was the Alta Cresta Packing House, over which Mr. Erquart is the capable manager, and who remembered Mr. Stant Borland and Mr. Heitman of Ft. Myers as part of that Florida delegation and made inquiries about them.

As most of the readers of the Star are aware, the California system was found so much superior to that of Florida in gathering, packing and distributing the fruit that it was adopted, a Florida fruit exchange organized with headquarters at Tampa. While the writer was in Riverside \$15,000 worth of orange packing machinery was shipped to that city.

For the pleasure of the auto drives, that enabled me to see Riverside and her productiveness, which, of course, includes its vast irrigation system, founded by a Mr. Evans, now dead, and reinforced by a Mr. Gage, I desire to return my sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. John Woodman, whose aim in life is to confer favors and blessings on others. Mr. W. has lived in Riverside for more than 20 years, has seen it develop from a village to a model city, whose ideal charms all who visit it and one of Mr. W.'s pleasures is to take strangers and visitors to his city in his luxurious auto, and show them its pleasing and captivating features. Mr. Woodman, in connection with all of his fellow citizens, believes in publicity and does his share in promoting same.

At this season of the year Riverside is said to be dull, because the winter tourist has flown elsewhere and its own people of means are enjoying the delights of the seashore, only 75 to 80 miles away, but as we had the pleasure to witness a presentation of the "Merry Widow" at the splendid opera house, with a grand stage and gorgeous scenery, the brilliant audience of 1,500 people, which packed every nook and corner of the building, leads us to believe the word dull has no application to Riverside and its people, even at this season of the year.

A word about vineyards, one of the big Riverside valley industries, and this letter must come to a close. In coming to Riverside from Los Angeles, 75 miles distant, who should we meet on the train but O. H. Kelsey, a former Marion county boy, son of the Veteran R. A. Kelsey of Stanton, who, of course, made us promise to drop in and see him and he would show us a thing or two. He did. He and his interesting family, wife and four children, live at Pedley, eight miles from Riverside. He is a grove overseer for the Sparr Fruit Co., 50 acres in lemons, and 50 cars of fruit was shipped to market this season at a good price. The grove is one recently purchased and rehabilitated and promises great things for the owners. Mr. Kelsey is an expert at the business, making it his business in Florida, with four years in Cuba, but says of the last named country the United States has nothing to fear in orange culture.

Mr. Kelsey took us to the Charles Stearns & Son's vineyard, consisting

THE AIR DOME**Moving Pictures and Music.**

The Best of Entertainment Furnished by Home People

NEW PICTURES EVERY DAY**THREE FULL REELS EACH NIGHT****Program for this Evening****DICK MAY THE DUTCHMAN****A PAIR OF WHITE GLOVES**

(Full Reel)

THE AUTOMATIC MONKEY**BEFORE AND AFTER****HOW THEY PROPOSE****CALLING DAY****NICK CARTER'S DOUBLE****Admission, 10 and 20 cents.****Doors Open at 7:30 p. m.****H. W. TUCKER, PROPRIETOR**

of 5,000 acres of vines and covering seven acres of ground and from which two million gallons of wine and brandy was made last season. It's a sight to see the vast plant with its hundreds of vats, one row of 32 holding 10,000 gallons each, and another row of 14 vats holding 25,000 gallons each and so on with smaller ones. The vines at the close of the season are cut off near the ground, the new growth of wood bearing the juicy grape. An acre produces four tons of grapes, which in the field are worth \$9.50 a ton and the cost of harvesting them for the presses is \$2.50 a ton. The bunches of grapes are cut and placed in baskets and in turn thrown into water-tight wagon beds, drawn to the crusher, where big pronged forks are used in throwing them into the crushers, where the pulp is pumped into other vats and the skin and seeds separated, the juice drawn off and left to settle and put through numerous other processes before it is clarified and ready for the casks.

Adjoining the Stearns vineyard is another, similar in size and known as the Italian. Through these vines tram roads are constructed, over which iron hopper cars are operated to gather the crop. One of the things to marvel at is the immense and ponderous machinery and boilers used in these factories to distil brandy. In our travels that day behind Mr. Kelsey's spanking team, we passed a tract of a thousand acres being planted in orange trees by some big syndicate, also saw another 700-acre orchard not yet bearing, all showing the people of Riverside valley have faith in growing the golden fruit. In our drive that day we saw immense fields of barley and alfalfa, a great crop in many parts of California.

As a matter of interest to our readers, will say that Mr. Will Sparr, a former Marion county orange grower at Sparr, which place was named after his father, is now at the head of a corporation that owns and operates over a thousand acres of oranges and lemons and do a tremendous business in handling other fruits, fresh and in a dried state. They are succeeding splendidly. Mr. Will Sparr is the general manager and one of the leading citizens of Los Angeles, and he stands very high socially, commercially and as a man whose character and citizenship is greatly admired.

In the trip from Riverside to Los Angeles, on the Salt Lake railroad, are many extensive walnut orchards and they are said to be very profitable, to say nothing of thousands of acres of peaches, plums, apricots, prunes and olives. To see the vast acreage and bountiful yield of fruits, one wonders how it all can be utilized, but seemingly it is and more is to follow.

Riverside shipped over 6,000 cars of oranges the past season, but the prices were not as good as the year previous.

C. L. Bittinger.

BABY MORPHINE FIENDS

are made by all soothing syrups and baby medicines that contain opium and narcotics. McGee's Baby Elixir contains no injurious or narcotic drugs of any kind. A sure and safe cure for disordered stomachs, bowels and fretfulness—splendid for teething infants. Sold by all druggists.

FAN BARGAINS

An eight-inch Westinghouse electric fan that is positively guaranteed to burn only three cents worth of electricity in ten hours steady running. See them at once. H. W. Tucker, the electrical supply man.

KENTUCKY HORSES FOR SALE

I will have a car of choice Kentucky bred horses at my place at Evinston, Fla., for sale after Aug. 26th. I have spent two months around my old home at Lexington, Ky., selecting this stock from the farms. This stock has been carefully selected and bought for spot cash direct from the stock raisers. I am in position to save money to purchasers of good horses. Address, L. H. Willis, Jr., Evinston, Fla.

THE AIR DOME**OCALA THE UNEXCELED****New York Packer Man Testifies to the Attractions and Advantages of Our City**

Mr. Walseman, correspondent for the New York Packer, who is now operating in this territory, writes the following interesting letter to his paper:

Ocala, Fla., Aug. 11.—When one enters a county like old Marion for the purpose of writing up its agricultural and horticultural industries and it happens to be the rainy season, one naturally spends more time than is allowed or allotted to natural business duties. However, rain is what makes business possible in Florida, and Marion county is one of the first and finest counties to be benefited and Ocala, "the metropolis," to reside in.

While it is raining, the streets here are fine and when the shower is over one can go out and not get wet feet. The Dr. J. M. Thompson house, where the writer makes his home while here, on Fort King avenue, is one of the best in the city and the room consigned to the Packer man is "paragon."

Among the other subscribers here are some of note in the business, as well as nature world. The John Dozier Co., commission merchants and merchant brokers, are doing much to benefit the farmers of this section by buying all the corn they can produce on the cob, already shucked, and by having its own shelling machine makes clean corn for market purposes. This will save having corn shipped from the west or other northern sections, which has been the practice of Florida farmers for years.

Florida can grow as fine corn and from 25 to 50 bushels to the acre as any state in the Union, but it has just awakened to this fact. There is no county in the state that can do this better than Marion. The writer has been in Florida a little over four years and at the time of his arrival here the average farmer was importing from the North all of his grain and most of his hay for his stock. Today he is growing, as a rule, his beggar weed and crab grass hay and his corn and oats. This is progressive Florida and all within four years.

Florida has always produced the finest of citrus fruits but she has always been weak on self support materials, and as a result the state has bought nearly as much food products as she has sold in her own farm and fruit products. However, as shown above, beautiful Florida has awakened to the fact that there is nothing that she cannot grow, except wheat. Oats is one of the finest productive crops in the state; corn is always a good crop and can be grown after all high priced vegetables for the northern markets have been shipped.

Florida land will produce three or four crops in one year. Northern lands produce one. If Florida land had the same amount of natural fertilizer that New York or New England land gets every year the Florida farmer would not be able to gather his crops.

Why? Climate. Florida climate for the production of that which is necessary to human wants is absolutely perfect.

It rains down here during a few months of the year, but the more it rains the more healthy the people and the larger the next year's production of fruits and vegetables.

Thomas Needham is one of Ocala's

progressive growers in the way of specialties. Mr. Needham is from old England and is one of the mechanical experts of this city, but owing to his nature imbued English disposition he has a country home and lives there by preference, where he can grow fruit, pecans and other farm products.

In covering Marion county one has to drive somewhat, but the drives are generally pleasant. It has been difficult to get the proper kind of driver this season and the result was much delay. Yet the writer at last found one at J. D. McDuffy's livery.

J. D. McDuffy is one of the largest

melon and cantaloupe growers in this section and constantly reads the Packer.

The result of this livery find enabled

the writer to go to Sparr, Fla., some

twelve miles from Ocala and visit one

of the fine farming sections of Marion

county. Sparr is supreme in its land

and some of its producers, who are as

follows:

L. G. Young, who grows cantaloupes

and tomatoes as principal crops, but

will grow squash and lettuce for fall

crops. Mr. Young is one of the lead-

ing growers here. He reads the Pack-

er and always pays for it two or three

months before it is due. Mr. Young

said: "The season as a whole has

been good. Prices were low, but we

did not expect them to be high, con-

sidering conditions."

W. Luffman & Bros. are general

merchants and have the postoffice in

their store. J. W. Luffman is the gen-

eral mercantile and postoffice man-

ager, while W. Luffman is the out-

door manager, and, as a result, the real-

producer. W. Luffman & Bros. have

110 acres in cantaloupes this season.

Of course, this is one crop, other crops

follow on this same land and the

Luffmans are leading in beans, as well

as the production of that which a per-

fect climate can produce.

Florida is supreme, not only on ac-

count of some of its fine lands but

principally on account of its superior

climate. Those who are capable of

seeing these points always succeed in

Florida. The man who comes here

from the North and looks for rich land,