

"My Experiences in the Salt River Valley"

Being a Letter Written by "Josiah Hayfork," the Farmer from the North, to His Old Friend, C. E. Stastny--
A Record of Facts Told in a Readable Way.

Phoenix, Arizona, July 1, 1910.
Dear Friend Stastny:

Well, bust my buttons, I sure undertook a job when I agreed to write up my trip down here so the rest of the folks back home will know something about it, and had I not promised it, I would never have done it, never. I expect you folks will not believe half of this I am writing now, and I am sure I don't blame you, I did not believe it myself, so the only way for you to do is to come and see it, like I did. Now I believed it would be about the same as it was when I was in Bonanza County a year or so ago. All I wrote at that time to the Solon Economy was:

"Mr. Editor: They claim the finest climate on earth, and I have no reason to dispute it. They claim of having the best soil in America, now I don't know about that but I know they are very charitable, they all want to sell out to our people so as to give them a chance to get rich." Now the Bonanza folks also claimed that they can grow everything there, but strange to say, I found that they don't grow much of anything.

JOSIAH IS SKEPTICAL

But here in the Salt River Valley it is different; if I have to describe everything they do grow, not what they can grow, I sure have a job on my hands. Of course, I did read some time ago in some magazine that this valley had the best climate in the country, that the soil is as rich as can be and that Uncle Sam is building the largest reservoir in the world, caused by the Roosevelt Dam that is costing eight million dollars, but I did not take much stock in this magazine story. Every since I read in this same magazine a few years ago that Bryan would sure be elected to the White House and lost a two dollar hat on the strength of this statement with my neighbor and a two gallon jar of apple butter with his wife, I certainly have no faith in any stories in those dog blasted magazines. But having visited many so-called Bonanza localities in the West in the past ten years, where every man was willing to sell his farm at a fancy price and the real estate men booked the country, I was surprised to find things so different here. And I found that the majority of people did not care to sell out, and some of them acted to

me like a person that has a good thing, and is dead willing to keep it.

A FINE TRIP

Well, I certainly had a swell trip down here anyway. You see, I come on the Santa Fe railroad, the one that gives you those fine Harvey meals. The Santa Fe folks ain't got any land to sell, but they treat everybody just so they was a rich relation. I stopped off at the Grand Canyon, the most wonderful hole in the ground the Lord ever made. It sure was the biggest sight I ever see and I never missed our county fair in 40 years. You can change cars at Ash Fork, Arizona, to go down to Phoenix, and there certain is a fine hotel, the "Escalante," there. They have fair prices, too, and any land seeker will enjoy that hotel. There sure is a lot of fine scenery on the Santa Fe. Twice a month you can buy twenty-five day round trip home-seekers' tickets at low rates from all places in the middle West, and every spring and fall there are regular settlers' or colonists' tickets to this valley still cheaper.

A POOR RECEPTION

So when we left the Santa Fe train in Phoenix, a fine city of about twenty thousand people located in the heart of the valley, there was no reception committee with the band to meet us, and no real estate men lined up with their auto wagons and carriages to give us a free ride and enlarge on the beauties of the country. Outside from a few hackmen and hotel runners nobody paid any attention at all to us what ever. And my surprise was still greater than when we registered in a nearby hotel no real estate man or his agent approached us with the invitation to visit the nearby real estate office just around the corner, and to inspect some great snaps in real estate. Was it possible that I found at last a new locality in the west where land sold on its merit? Afterwards I found out that this was actually the case here, and the people realized that the present price of their land according to what it produced was a very conservative one, and that no boom price existed here yet. Next day I spoke to a man who has been living on a small piece of land near this city for the past nine years. During our talk I impressed to him the fact that in all my travels I never found a place where so little in-

ducements and bait was thrown out to outsiders as here. The real estate men don't seem to besiege us as in other localities, and even the settlers here and the owners of larger tracts act as if they did not care a cent whether they sell or not. Now this man looked me over for a minute or so and said: "Mister, if you only knew it, we offer the best inducements on earth here, to new settlers, but probably not such as you expected to find here. We have the most productive soil in the whole country, an almost perfect climate, and now that Uncle Sam has given plenty of water to irrigate our valley, we can grow everything that you can grow up north, that people grow south, east or west. And I am here to tell you that no country on earth can offer better inducements to the new settler."

HE SAYS, "SHOW ME."

Well, I looked at him like a man from Missouri, but after investigating things carefully here I had to come to the conclusion that he was right, dead right. He told me that for himself he did not care to sell, and really he did not know any of his neighbors that did care to sell. Howsomever I had met a fellow by the name of Lloyd C. Thomas who had been spending several months in Phoenix and who is now helping a company by the name of the Bartlett-Heard Land & Cattle Company settle up a tract about three miles from Phoenix. He had told me about this Company and has asked me to see them in Phoenix. In fact to tell the truth I hadn't known much about this Salt River Valley until that Thomas fellow got to tellin' me about the alfalfa and the grain and the fruit and other things. That's what got me interested. So next day I went to hunt the office of that company here, but I tell you, they have as nice a lot of buildings here as we have back in Des Moines. Of course, not as many of them. And they have beautiful public buildings scattered through town surrounded by stately palms and blooming flowers—and this in the middle of December! I finally found their office on the southeast corner of Center and Adams streets.

IN THE BARTLETT-HEARD OFFICE

The head manager of Bartlett-Heard company was out, but Thomas had told me that they was mighty fine fellows and that there was several very

nice fellows working with this Company who would be pleased to show me the country. One of them got hold of me, told me to sit down and make myself easy, and began to tell me about this land. But honestly, here I found a man that was a cross between our old auctioneer Johnson and Bevens our Sunday school teacher. He was as enthusiastic and demonstrative as Johnson when he described my worn out old bay team at last fall's sale, but at the same time as dignified and gentlemanly as Bevens with his class on Sunday. Now what he told me he started to put on a piece of paper so I could partly remember it, and to tell the truth I did not believe one-half of what he did tell me, but I did not tell him that, because he was a bigger man than I. But when he told me that he would take me out next day and show me the ranch, I just thanked him, but resolved there and then to get a rig and see those things in my own way. But here is what he said: Alfalfa, wheat, barley, oats, sorghum and corn, can be grown with success. Alfalfa is now selling from 12 to 14 dollars per ton, wheat for \$3.25 per hundred pounds, and barley a dollar and a half. You can grow oranges, lemons, grape fruit, figs, apples, peaches, pears, and all sorts of small fruit. All kinds of vegetables are grown here, winter and summer, and bring good returns. They get from \$100 to \$200 from an acre of cantaloupes or melons, and sugar beets make from 15 to 20 tons to the acre. Horses, cattle and sheep do well here through the whole year without being housed up and bring good money to the farmer. Hogs get fat on alfalfa and everything always brings good prices here. Your wife now would get 40 cents a pound for her butter and 50 cents a dozen for eggs. But here I stopped putting down the rest of the good things he told me, because I just thought this way: You wait until you have more than about a dozen farms in this here country, and you won't get those fancy prices, and your market will not be as good as it is now.

HE GOES INVESTIGATING

But next day I did hire a team and with a driver drove in the surrounding country for eight or ten miles to see things myself. I also bought a half pint of Kentucky snake medicine, as a person never knows what may happen.

Well, we drove, and drove, and drove; beautiful cultivated fields and gardens as far as your eye could reach. Thomas had told me that it was the finest country he'd ever seen and he's been over quite a little of the west. But I wasn't expectin' to see things as grand as they are. Yes, sir, it was a grand sight. I stopped several farmers coming to town, asked them questions about the country and the crops, but strange to say, they all told me about the same as the man in the office. Now this was either one of the best countries on earth, or the whole tribe of the ancient Ananias has settled in this valley. But the next day I was going to know the truth—yes, sir, I intended to go to the Court House and find out from the books.

PRODUCTS OF AFRICA, TOO

That afternoon while driving along the road I sighted a flock of chickens, good Lord, every one of them was as big as my three year old colts. First, I laid these all to my snake medicine; but no, I had not even touched it. So I stopped the driver and asked him if he sees any giant chickens in that there pasture. He looked, smiled, and said, "No, but I see a flock of ostriches, but that is nothing uncommon here. They started a few years ago with one pair of birds. It pays to raise them; they are worth at four years old, from 500 dollars up to 1000 dollars a pair, depending on the quality of the feathers. They pick them every eight months, and the feathers from each bird bring about 20 to 30 dollars a year. Those birds live to be 60 years old and more." Now this was news to me. I have been told repeatedly that every thing that grows in America can be grown here—but even the products of Africa! Good Lord, that stumped me.

JOSIAH AT THE COURT HOUSE

So the next day I visited the county court house and I found out this from the county officials. The actual value of property in this county is about 48 million dollars. There is now near here one hundred and twenty five thousand acres of rich land in a high state of cultivation, and when the Roosevelt dam is completed they will be able to irrigate about two hundred thousand acres of land. They have several flour mills in this valley that grind up the wheat they grow here. And they get from 35 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. They have now

twelve thousand milch cows in this valley, and 8 creameries make ten thousand pounds of butter a day from the farmers, besides a lot of cheese. They have a large million dollar beet sugar factory here that works up their sugar beets; they have several fruit packing houses that pack oranges, grape fruit, and other fruit grown here.

JOSIAH IS CONVINCED

Now to make the story short, I have decided to buy a forty acre patch three miles from Phoenix from the Bartlett-Heard people, and here I shall spend the rest of my days. You see, I am getting sort of rheumatic back in Iowa every winter and my old woman, she always suffers from a sore throat every winter, more or less, so here I will settle for better or worse for the rest of my life. I can enjoy the 330 sunny days here in a year, and even if it does get hot here three months in a year, it won't bother me as much as the long winters up north with its snow, and raw changeable weather. But let me tell you, there may be some half sick folks here that come from all parts of the United States to get well here, or to escape from the undertaker there, but there are lots more people that come here well and hearty and they are making on the average as much money on 40 acres of good irrigated land as they would on 80 or 100 acres back up north. This here thing is no new experiment, but a settled fact and if some of you people don't realize it now, while you can get good land in 3 miles of this here city for \$150 an acre, you will probably realize it later on when this same land will sell for \$500 an acre or more, the same as land of the same character sells for now in California. Now I close my letter and hope that some of you people will profit by my experience. Remember, I came here like the man from Missouri, but they did show me here, sure enough, yes sir, and I am not sorry for it either.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW

More about the Valley and the "B-H." ranch just west to Lloyd C. Thomas at Alliance, Nebraska. He will write you all about it. They do not sell more than 40 acres to anyone, and to no one but people will actually settle on the land. Remember this land has been cultivated for many years and is all in crop now. Course if you want to buy something, say 20, 40, 80 or 160 acres for investment why Thomas will tell you just where you can get it and the Bartlett-Heard people will show it to you.
Yours truly,
JOSIAH HAYFORK.

Brennan's Corner

DRUGS AND JEWELRY

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Jewelry and Watch Work

This department is in charge of an expert
and all work guaranteed

Our Prescription Department

is kept up in the best manner possible, our drugs are
always pure, and all prescriptions
are carefully compounded

Don't Forget the Place

**BRENNAN'S CORNER
DRUG AND JEWELRY STORE**

Homesteader Suicides

Another poor misguided individual in the person of C. F. Booth, living on a Kinkaid homestead near Chadron, has left this world by the work of his own hand. The body was discovered last Saturday evening hanging in his claim shanty by Charley Wagner, who said that the body had been hanging there for at least twenty-four hours. Coroner McDowell left Sunday morning for the scene of the suicide and the body was brought to Chadron and taken in charge of by the county authorities of Sheridan county. It was reported at first that Mr. Booth had been lynched but there were absolutely no traces of any violence and no reason for such an act. He had been brooding for a long time on the hard life he had to lead and as his disposition was a morbid one the reason for an act of this kind.

Fire at Crawford

About two o'clock Monday morning the fire alarm was sounded and a goodly number of citizens responded to the call, although it was generally supposed that our fire fighters had all departed for Alliance to celebrate. The fire was in the rear of the Little Palace barber shop, and it is supposed to have been caused by neglecting to give proper attention to the stove used in heating water for the bath room. The flames were conveyed to the upper portion of the Barber saloon in the adjoining room and before the fire was extinguished considerable damage resulted to the interior of the barber shop and the saloon.—Crawford Tribune.

Speedomaniacs.

(Fremont Herald)

Now that one of Omaha's most prominent citizens suffered death at the hands of a speedomaniac, we may look for more drastic action by the police regarding the manner in which autoists speed within the city limits. Few people have been able to go along without at some time being shocked by the nearness of death from one of these careless or reckless drivers. At the present time it is only possible to avoid getting hurt on streets or highways by keeping off the streets or highways. There are many careful, sensible drivers of cars, but every now and then some one of them is reported as being reckless and apparently indifferent to consideration of the question of danger in driving. It will be the duty of the police to watch such men closely. Where there is occasion to doubt their ability to handle the cars within the speed limit—pull 'em.

Strayed—From my place three miles northeast of Alliance, one iron mare mare four years old, branded with . . . on left shoulder. Wire cut on left hind leg. Will give reward for information leading to her return.—Jos. McGinn.

H. D. MUNGER OF THE Munger Optical Co. OF DENVER, COLO.,

Sole Manufacturers of the Peerless Lenses, is equipped with the latest instruments for testing the Eyes, and has the machinery here in Alliance,

Opposite Postoffice,
for grinding lens to fit each individual eye.

We solicit the most difficult cases and guarantee satisfaction with the Peerless Lens where all others fail.

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You can make an eastern trip any day at very low rates—lower than ever before. There is such a variety of rate tours embracing so many sections of the East that it is impossible to describe them here. Consult with us.

If the East does not appeal to you, try a Pacific Coast tour or a vacation in Yellowstone Park or in Colorado.

The Wyoming Dry Farming Convention is held at Cheyenne July 20th, and special rates have been authorized from Wyoming.

The Wyoming extension has been completed to Thermopolis, where 18,000,000 gallons of water at a temperature of 130 degrees flow daily. This beautiful resort is destined to become one of the most attractive and effective health restoring localities in the country.

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