

1908

## The Land of Plenty: Kittitas County

Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce

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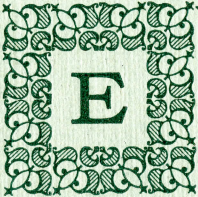
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# The Land of Plenty



ISSUED BY  
ELLENSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON

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VERY strong, normal man loves the land, the forest and the stream. Even though the lure of the city has held him tightly bound for years, in moments of reminiscence he lives again the joyous days of his earlier life in the country, near to nature.


¶ Every right man takes a just pride in producing something, in viewing the results of his own ingenuity and labor; and every man enjoys taking part in the development of big things, in bettering conditions for the benefit of his sons and future generations.

¶ Why not respond to the call of the land?

¶ Why not come to the beautiful Kittitas Valley?

¶ Why not live in a favored spot where Nature has been prodigal in bestowing her blessings; where inspiring, snow-capped mountains always are within sight; where beautiful lakes and rivers and woods always are within easy traveling distance; where land with little encouragement will produce not only a bounteous living but a competency over against old age; where children laugh and live and grow strong physically, mentally and morally, and where, withal, one is not required to give up the advantages of a city, such as good churches, good schools, good books, good plays, and good society?





**K**ITTITAS COUNTY is located in the geographical center of Washington. It is bounded on the west by the Cascade mountains; on the east by the Columbia river; on the north by the Wenatchee mountains, and on the south by an imaginary line separating it from Yakima county. Its principal stream is the Yakima river, which rises in mountain lakes and flows southeast fifty miles until it enters Yakima county.

¶ Kittitas valley is the central and agricultural portion of the county. It is oval in shape, its greatest dimensions being twenty-five and twenty miles. The valley contains approximately 175,000 acres of irrigated and irrigable land, more than one-third of which is under cultivation.

¶ Ellensburg, the county seat and largest city in the county, is in the Kittitas valley. It has a rapidly increasing population of 5,500 people. Ellensburg is 120 miles from Seattle and Tacoma, and 272 miles from Spokane on the Northern Pacific. The distance over the Milwaukee road to Seattle will be less than over the Northern Pacific, and the new road will clip ninety miles from the Hill railway's running distance between Ellensburg and Spokane.

¶ Ellensburg has all the modern advantages which the enterprise of hustling western men can give it.

¶ The city has three banks, a live daily newspaper, good schools, numerous churches, a new Carnegie library, reading rooms, hotels, theatres, municipal lighting system, pure water supply, excellent sewerage, telephone service and free mail delivery. The Northern Pacific and Milwaukee have announced that they will build new depots.

## KITTITAS VALLEY—

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Ellensburg's public schools rank with the best in the state, and the city is the home of one of the three state normal colleges. The streets are broad, well graded and shaded by long rows of trees, and scores of comfortable residences give evidence that the city is prosperous.

¶ Ranchers living in the valley enjoy all the advantages of their city brothers. They have telephones, electric lights and free mail delivery, and many have private water and sewerage systems and house-heating plants. The out-of-town homes are as good generally as those in the city, and the highways which lead to every part of the valley outclass the rural roads in every other irrigated district of the state. Some of the country schools are graded, and all have efficient teaching forces, supplied, for the most part, from the normal school graduating classes.

¶ Ellensburg is a division point on the Northern Pacific, the local payroll of which averages about \$25,000 a month. The road transacts an annual business of \$500,000. The receipts at the express office last year were \$26,936, and the last reports of the local postoffice showed receipts of \$13,340, a gain over the preceeding year of 28.6 per cent. The three city banks carry deposits of more than \$1,000,000. The panic of 1907 failed to shake the prosperity of Ellensburg's business houses.

¶ The people of Kittitas are characteristically western,—intelligent, enterprising and hospitable. While ever in the race for the elusive dollar, they find time to give to their city those things which make for better conditions physically, mentally and morally. Taken all in all the little city of Ellensburg offers an environment which is healthful and invigorating in every way.



PEARL STREET, ELLENSBURG

**T**HE LAND of Plenty," a part of the famous Yakima river fruit belt of Washington, is destined to become one of the greatest winter apple producing sections of the United States. Until a few years ago satisfied ranchers declined to cut up their big holdings into 5- and 10-acre tracts suitable for the fruit-grower, and the result was that the orchard industry was not developed to such an extent as is the case in other sections of the state. Ranchers owned small orchards wherein they grew fruits of the finest flavor and color for their own uses without even thinking of giving their trees care and attention.

¶The day of commercial orcharding has arrived, however, and in the past three years large tracts have been set to trees. About 50,000 trees were planted in 1907; 60,000 or more were set this year (1908), and, according to the fruit inspector and fruit-tree salesmen, at least 100,000 trees will be put out next spring. At the present time more than 2,000 acres in the Kittitas valley are devoted to the culture of the winter apple and other hardy fruits.



A KITTITAS ORCHARD SCENE

**A** COMBINATION of almost ideal climatic conditions, irrigation and fertile soil explains the Kittitas apple and pear. Winter apples grown in this valley equal the famous products of other parts of the state in size, symmetry and coloring, and surpass any fruit produced in the Northwest for keeping qualities and flavor. The Rome Beauty, Northern Spy, Jonathan, and Yellow Bellflower, classed in the east as fall varieties, are good winter keepers when grown here. The Spitzenburg, Winesap and Yellow Newtown Pippin are some of the choice winter varieties which grow to perfection in the Kittitas valley.

¶According to experimental station experts, the soil of Kittitas is particularly adapted to the culture of pears. Not a tree in the valley is affected by blight, and a pear crop failure never has been known. Trees yield heavily and the fruit is of exceptional quality.

¶While Kittitas is not noted as a peach producing section, peaches of the finest quality are grown in some parts of the valley. Cherries, plums and prunes produce prolifically, and the smaller vine and bush fruits are grown with great success.

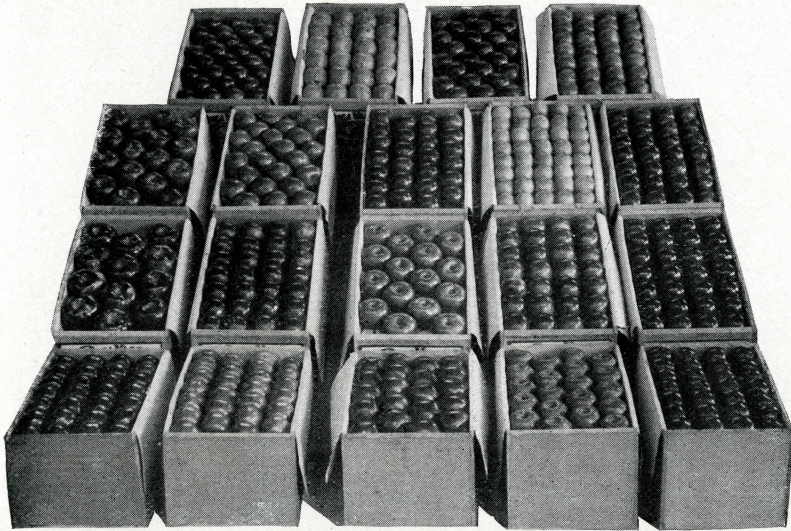


KITTITAS APPLES

**O**RCHARD pests, the most deadly enemies to the fruit-grower's prosperity, are almost unknown in the Kittitas valley. The absence of these small foes to fruit and fruit trees is the result of a peculiarly advantageous combination of weather conditions,—cool nights and winds during the spring season. Some orchardists have reported finding the green aphid on young trees, but a little spraying has invariably prevented any damage. The codlin moth, which cannot live through cool nights, dies before it can bore under the skin of the fruit. A wormy apple is so rare that when a Kittitas orchardist discovers one, he regards it as a curiosity.

¶ An active fruit-growers' association and a rigid inspection of trees and nursery stock by an accredited official, keep Kittitas orchards above the standard of health demanded by the state. Young trees shipped in from other localities must be free from disease, and whenever old trees become infected, they are scientifically cured or destroyed. It is seldom, however, that a tree is uprooted because of disease or pests. Some ranchers in the valley own thirty-year-old trees which never have been sprayed and which are still bearing excellent yields of fruit every season.

**F**ROM a dollars and cents standpoint Kittitas valley fruit farms offer to the investor or home-seeker one of the most alluring opportunities in Washington. Land has not been boosted to such prices as is the case in other irrigated sections of the state. The best orchard property in the valley can be purchased at from \$100 to \$200 an acre, and in most cases the owner will permit deferred payments covering a period of five years, and sometimes longer. If a person desiring a home has sufficient funds to make the first payment on a 10- or 20-acre fruit ranch, which will make him independent for life, he can live and meet his deferred payments and interest by raising vegetables and truck between his trees, while his orchard is growing to maturity.



KITTITAS APPLE PACK

**A**LITTLE computation along conservative lines will convince even the skeptical that a 10-acre orchard in full bearing will net the owner as much in money returns as a 160-acre wheat ranch. An irrigated apple or pear orchard yields a crop valued at \$500 to \$2,000 an acre annually. Taking the lower figures as a basis of computation, the returns from a 10-acre tract of trees would be valued at \$5,000. A wheat rancher who realizes \$32 an acre for his crop is getting a good return. At this rate his yield on 160 acres would be valued at \$5,120. Thus, it will be seen that the orchardist raises a crop on 10 acres worth practically as much as the wheat rancher's yield from 160 acres of land.

Then, too, the orchardist can accomplish his results with less laborious work, fewer pieces of heavy machinery and fewer employes. In fact, one man can do all the necessary work in a 10-acre orchard up to picking and packing time.

**D**AIRYING, now one of the most profitable industries in the valley, is destined to become one of the greatest. All the conditions necessary to success—pure water, cheap forage, an equable climate and fertile soil—are to be found in Kittitas. The cost of production, therefore, is reduced to the minimum, and dairy products bring the highest prices. Not half enough butter is manufactured in Washington to supply the demand in the three larger cities of the state. The success of Adam M. Stevens, a Kittitas rancher, exemplifies the profit-making opportunities offered by the dairy industry. In six years and ten months Mr. Stevens made a net profit of more than \$10,000 from a herd of thirteen to fifteen A. J. C. U. Jersey cattle. A table showing the pounds of milk and butter and the cash received during the period of the record follows:



KITTITAS VALLEY—



KITTITAS STRAWBERRIES

	<i>Lbs. Milk.</i>	<i>Lbs. Butter.</i>	<i>Cash.</i>
Sept. 1, 1901, to Aug. 31, 1902.....	82,574	5,132	\$1,155.89
Sept. 1, 1902, to Aug. 31, 1903.....	84,172	5,704	1,358.61
Sept. 1, 1903, to Aug. 31, 1904.....	87,951	6,100	1,353.46
Sept. 1, 1904, to Aug. 31, 1905.....	95,573	6,605	1,490.72
Sept. 1, 1905, to Aug. 31, 1906.....	89,910	6,988.3	1,556.78
Sept. 1, 1906, to Aug. 31, 1907.....	.....	6,440.4	1,751.43
Sept. 1, 1907, to June 30, 1908.....	.....	4,965.4	1,364.55
		41,935.1	\$10,031.44

¶ In keeping his record, Mr. Stevens figures that the calves and skim milk paid expenses all but feeding, the cost of which he puts at \$35 a cow each year. His cows produce a yearly average of \$105 worth of butter each. Each cow, therefore, gave him a profit of \$70 a year.

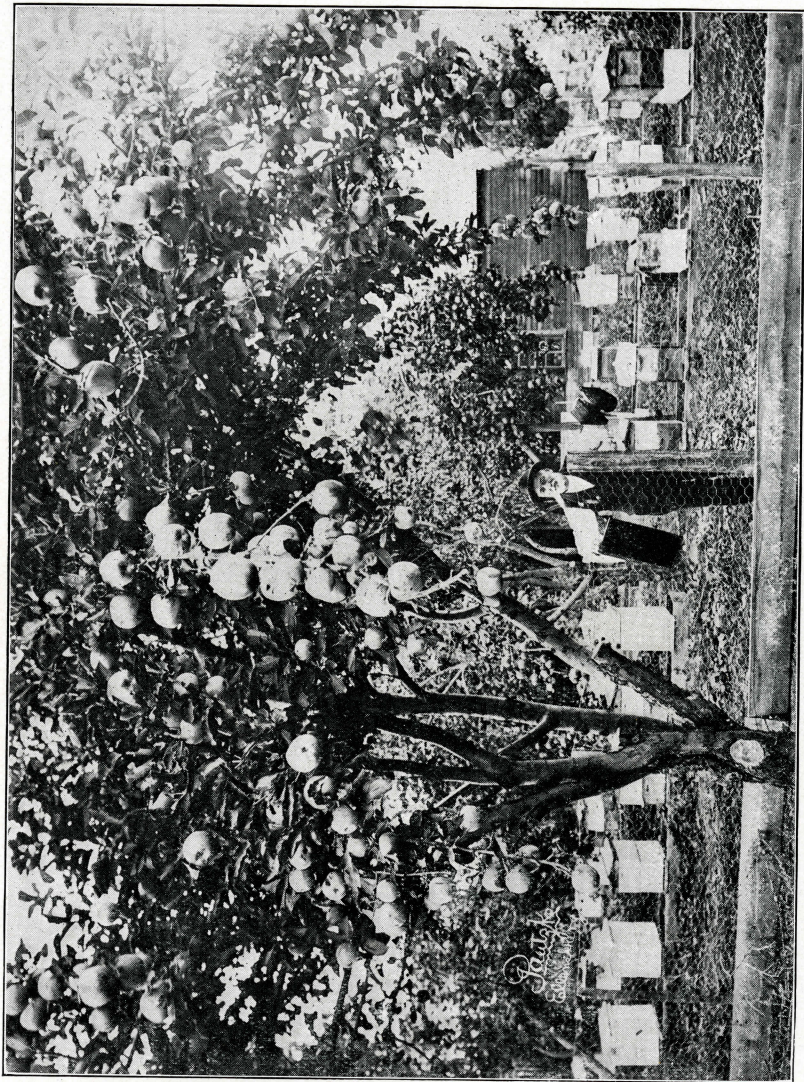
**T**RUCK gardening as a profitable pursuit is made possible in the Kittitas valley by reason of the fact that two trans-continental railways furnish the best of transportation facilities to the best market in the United States—Seattle, Tacoma and the other coast cities. Produce shipped from Ellensburg over the Northern Pacific reaches Seattle or Tacoma in about six hours. The running time of trains between Ellensburg and the Coast on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway will be less. Shipments from the Kittitas valley leaving at night, reach the Sound markets early the next morning; the fruits and vegetables are fresh and consequently bring the highest prices.

¶ W. W. McMickle, a successful market gardener, last year sold \$1,450 worth of vegetables from three acres of land. He raised 20 tons of parsnips on an acre for which he received \$35 a ton; he raised 15 tons of carrots on an acre for which he received



*SWEET CHERRIES*

\$30 a ton; he raised 10 tons of cabbages on an acre for which he received \$30 a ton. Mr. McMickle raised also early onions, radishes, spinach and other vegetables, and while he kept no accurate account, he estimates that he marketed \$2,000 worth of vegetables from five acres.



HONEY AND FRUIT IN KITTITAS

**I**N THE early days, before the cattle- and sheep-men gave way to the agriculturalist, Kittitas county was considered one of the finest range countries in the state. Now that all the range except the hills, on which grow nutritive grasses, has been closed in, the stock business is of less relative importance. Comparatively few range horses and cattle are left, and although large bands of sheep are still owned by Ellensburg men, the industry is not conducted on as large a scale as in former years. The assessor's books give the following figures, based on a 60 per cent valuation:



A KITTITAS TREE

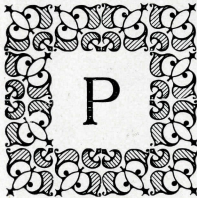
5,573 horses, valued at \$269,895; 133 mules, valued at \$4,995; 10,672 cattle, valued at \$162,535; 43,775 sheep, valued at \$105,755; 1,914 hogs, valued at \$7,430.

☐ Sheep growing has been a very profitable branch of the stock business in Kittitas. The bands graze during the winter in the lower parts of the county, and in the summer they are moved to the mountains, where they find abundant nourishment until cold weather necessitates moving them back to the lower ranges.

☐ Stockmen and ranchers are now interested in the improvement of breeds, and Kittitas Valley boasts of many registered cattle and blue-ribbon draft horses.



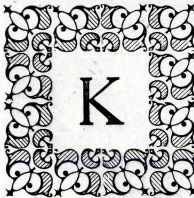
BALING HAY



POULTRY raising is one of the most profitable of the smaller industries of the valley. As a result of the mild climate and little rainfall, fowls are free from disease and young chicks are raised easily. Comparative egg production is high, and the Northwest is the best market in the world for poultry products. Eggs sell for  $17\frac{1}{2}$  to 40 cents a dozen, according to the season, and dressed chickens bring from 18 to 25 cents a pound. Not enough eggs are produced in the Kittitas valley to satisfy the home demand.



DRY LAND farming in the Kittitas valley has come into prominence in the past few years, and each year sees more of the hillside land grubbed and cultivated. Ranchers have been unusually successful in growing wheat on land heretofore considered valueless except for grazing purposes. Benjamin F. Hicks this year harvested a yield of fifty bushels to the acre, Bluestem, No. 1 hard wheat, from land far above the irrigating ditches.



KITTITAS VALLEY is the first body of open agricultural and horticultural land east of Seattle and Tacoma, and, therefore, its products find a ready market in the big Sound cities and for the Alaska export trade. Seattle, a city of 260,000 people, and Tacoma with a population of 100,000, are only 120 miles from Ellensburg, the chief shipping point of the valley. A great amount of the produce sent to Seattle finds its way to the mining camps and cities of Alaska. Fruits, vegetables and dairy and poultry products marketed in the Sound cities bring higher prices than anywhere else in the United States. Kittitas does not depend upon a local market for the fruit crop. Kittitas apples and pears are shipped to every part of the United States, and some of the best boxes of winter apples are sent to foreign countries.



DELIGHTFUL, healthful, equable, are the adjectives which aptly describe the climate of Kittitas. It is seldom too hot or too cold, and the valley is blessed with more sunny days than any other section of the state. Blizzards, earthquakes, electrical storms and floods are unknown, and no one ever suffers from either of the extremes of temperature. According to statistics compiled by the United States weather bureau, Kittitas has an average of only four stormy days a month. The mean annual temperature, based on reports covering the last ten years, has been 46.9 degrees. The mean average temperature during the three winter months, has been 29 degrees. The annual precipitation, both snow and rain, has averaged 9.91 inches annually during the same period. While barely enough snow falls in the valley to make good sleighing, the precipitation in the mountains, where originate the Yakima river and other streams, is sufficient to insure an abundance of water for irrigation purposes.

¶ The winters are short and mild, the atmosphere being tempered with just enough frost to give one a feeling of exhilaration. The thermometer rarely registers temperature below the zero mark, and there never is wind during the cold season.

¶ Spring comes with March. Although the temperature in summer is high enough to properly round out and color the famous Kittitas apple, the days are never oppressive because of the utter lack of humidity in the air. Night brings a cool and refreshing change and seldom can a person sleep without blankets. Autumn is but one long Indian summer of delightful days and refreshing nights.

¶ Below is a table showing the average mean temperature by months:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
26.6	30.7	39.7	47.6	54.8	59.9	67.1	65.3	57.1	47.6	37.2	29.7



TROUT FISHING IN KITTITAS

## KITTITAS VALLEY—



KACHEES LAKE, KITTITAS COUNTY

TO THE lover of Nature there is perhaps no more attractive locality than the western portion of Kittitas county. There is contained in it some of the most sublime scenery to be found in the United States. Mountains whose tops are covered with perpetual snow and whose sides are clothed with magnificent forests; gorges and canons through which go tumbling and roaring streams of purest water; lakes on whose bosoms is reflected the grandeur of the forests and mountains which encircle them. Especially is this true of Kachees, Keechelus and Cle Elum, a trinity of beauty the like of which



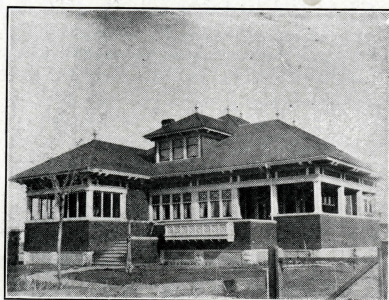
ROARING CREEK FALLS, KITTITAS COUNTY



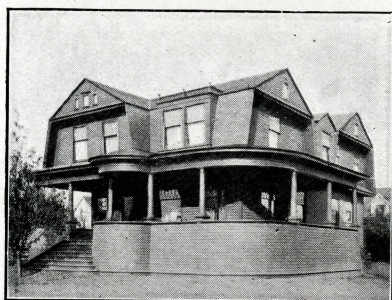
FALLS NEAR SWAUK, KITTITAS COUNTY

is scarcely to be seen upon this continent. ¶ These lakes and mountain streams teem with fish, affording the rarest sport to the angler, and the forests about them are filled with game to tempt the rifle of the enthusiastic sportsman. The lover of nature in her more peaceful moods can be gratified by the view of Kittitas valley from the foothills or from the heights in the eastern part of Ellensburg. Spread out before him is a panorama of field, orchard and meadow dotted with comfortable farm houses and through the midst of the valley the beautiful Yakima flowing onward in its course to the sea, a cultivated landscape incomparable for beauty and grandeur.

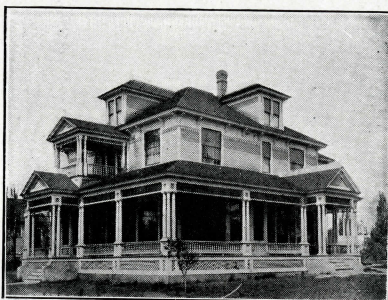
SOME  
REPRESENTATIVE  
RESIDENCES OF  
ELLENSBURG



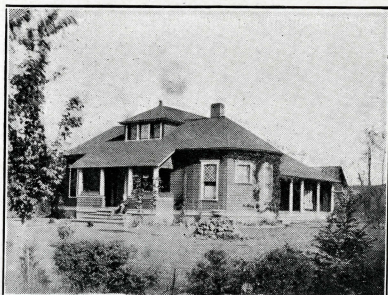
*Residence of Mr. David Ramsay*



*Residence of Mrs. Agnes H. Gray*



*Residence of Mr. G. E. Dickson*



*Residence of Mr. James Ramsay*



*Residence of Mr. H. C. Ackley*

**W**ITHIN the boundaries of Kittitas county are 2,414 square miles of land, or 1,544,960 acres. Not more than one-fourth of this, however, is adapted to agriculture, the remainder being either mountainous, covered by timber or suitable only for grazing purposes. According to government reports the unappropriated lands of the county total 395,418 acres, a considerable portion of which is embraced within national forest reserves, or has been withdrawn from entry in accordance with the government's plans for the Kittitas irrigation project. Railroads own a great share of the remainder. Nearly 75,000 acres of the Kittitas valley, the agricultural portion of the county, is irrigated, and 100,000 acres more require only the magic of water to become the richest lands in Washington.

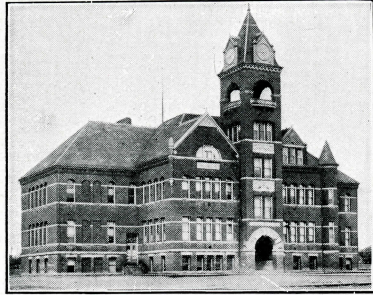


## KITTITAS VALLEY—

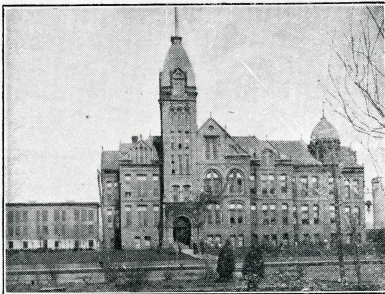
Improved land now sells for \$100 to \$200 an acre. The development of the fruit-growing industry, and the opening of the Coast extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, however, is sure to increase the value of property. Now is the time for the investor to buy land, and for the home-builder to secure ten or twenty acres.



*Washington State Bank, Ellensburg*



*High School, Ellensburg*



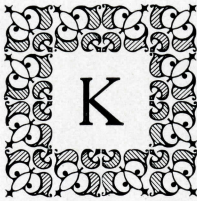
*State Normal School Buildings*



*Lourdes Academy*

**T**HE vast natural wealth of Kittitas county can hardly be estimated. The development of its coal, oil, mineral, timber, and agricultural resources will require centuries. Fortunes now within Nature's treasuries beckon the man of ingenuity and energy. It is estimated that 1,500,000,000 tons of coal, worth more than \$7,500,000,000, are available. About 4,500,000,000 feet of timber remain uncut; its value will exceed \$4,500,000. One billion five hundred and seventeen thousand feet of this is owned by private interests or remains unappropriated, while the remainder is within the Rainier and Washington national forest reserves.

Land under water, at present prices, is worth more than \$6,000,000, and other irrigable lands are valued at \$1,000,000 or more. Oil and mineral resources of the county cannot be estimated, but it is believed that each will give forth millions to the people of Kittitas.



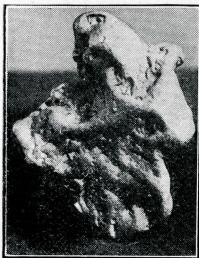
KITTITAS as a wealth producing section is not equalled by any similar area in the state of Washington, famed for its natural productiveness. In round numbers the value of the county's products annually reaches the marvelous sum of \$13,000,000. Mining, agriculture, horticulture, stock raising and dairying are among the pursuits which swell the figures to such a wonderful total. The following table, showing the value of various products annually, is based upon estimates by men intimately familiar with the amount of business transacted in their respective lines of endeavor:

Coal .....	\$10,000,000
Hay .....	1,190,000
Wheat .....	75,000
Oats .....	160,000
Barley .....	48,000
Mutton Sheep .....	750,000
Wool .....	100,000
Horses .....	50,000
Dairy products .....	150,000
Fruit .....	25,000

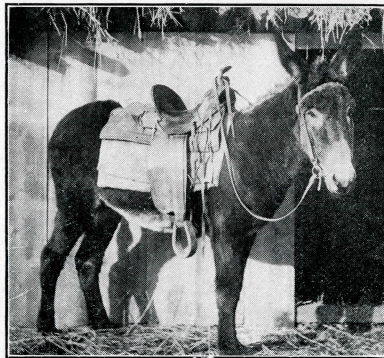
¶ The table does not take into consideration the value of mining products other than coal, because it is next to impossible to get a reliable estimate. If experiments in oil-well drilling, which are now being carried on, result successfully, thousands of dollars will be added to Kittitas' annual productive wealth.

¶ A mineral belt, as yet practically undeveloped, but rich in ores, extends across the northern and western part of the county. Seven districts in which prospectors have worked, show the presence of gold, iron, copper, cinnabar, nickel and galena. The Swauk placers have yielded quantities of native gold, some of the nuggets being valued at \$1100 and \$1200 each, and many of the old diggings are paying producers.

¶ The mountainous section of the county is rich in mineral deposits, and according to miners and mining engineers, the development of mineral resources in Kittitas will surpass in importance development along all other lines of industry.



\$1200 Nugget from Swauk Placers



Awarded at Portland Exposition

## KITTITAS VALLEY—

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### IN ELLENSBURG

#### *We Have—*

Healthful Climate  
Enjoyable Climate  
Pure Air  
Pure Water  
Good Schools  
Good Churches  
Good Homes  
Good City Government  
Good County Government  
Good Stores  
Good People  
Good Sewerage System  
Good Municipal Lighting Plant

#### *We Don't Have—*

Blizzards, Tornadoes, Earthquakes  
Electric Storms  
Impure Drinking Water  
Stagnant, Germ-breeding Pools  
Municipal Crafters  
Malaria or Consumption  
Paupers  
Insect Pests

### IN KITTITAS VALLEY

#### *We Have—*

Good Soil  
Abundant Water  
Scientific Farmers  
Excellent Orchards

#### *We Don't Have—*

Worn-out Land  
Crop Failures  
Mortgaged Ranches  
Fruit Tree Pests

### WHAT ONE HAS DONE ANOTHER CAN DO

¶ Benjamin F. Hicks raised 50 bushels to the acre of No. 1 hard Bluestem wheat on dry land.

¶ Adam M. Stevens raised 120 tons of timothy hay on 30 acres of irrigated land. He received \$2,310 for his crop.

¶ James Stevenson picked gooseberries for which he received \$3.20— from one bush.

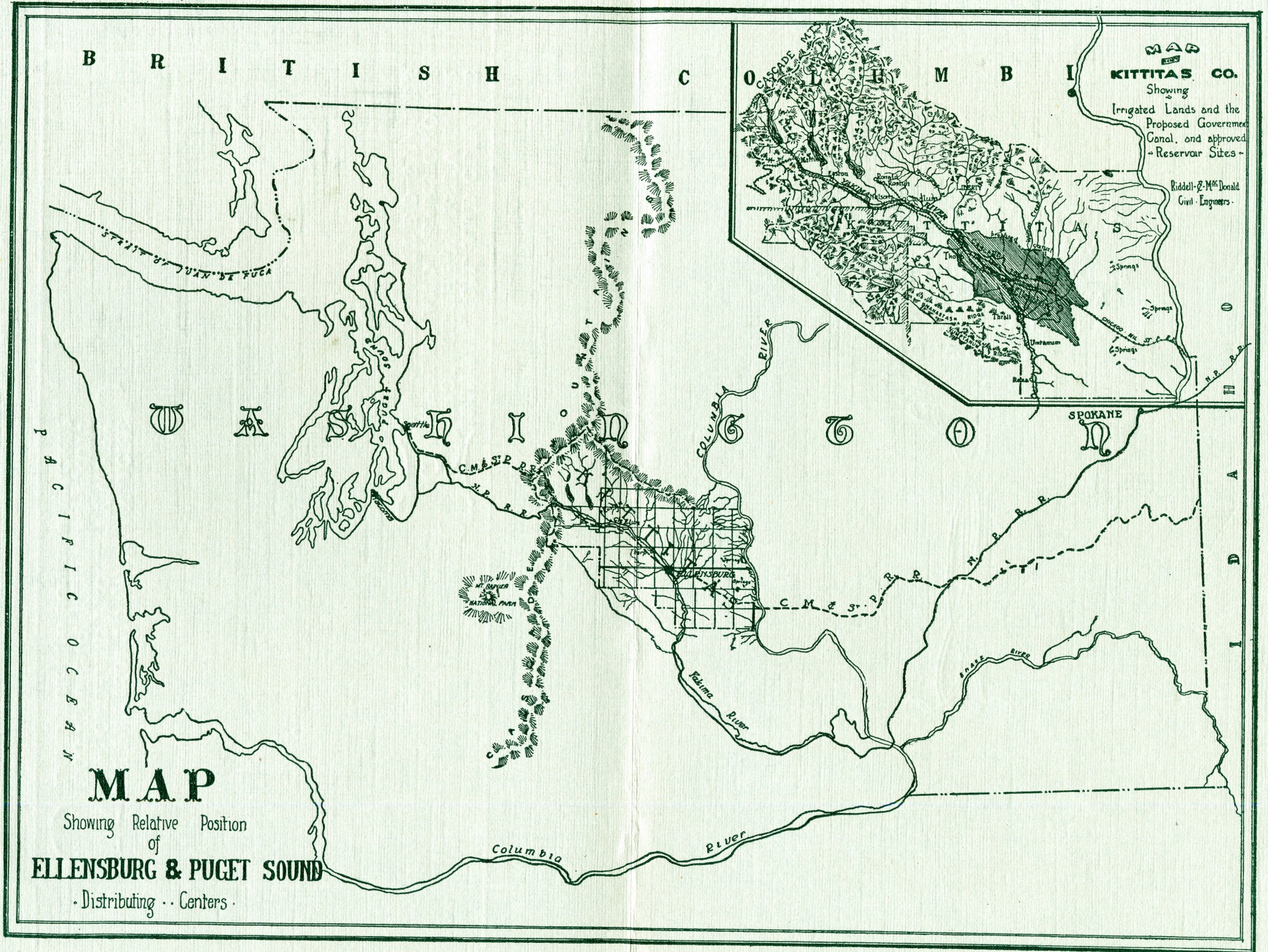
¶ W. C. Hayward gathered 125 boxes of peaches from five trees.

¶ George Miniely gathered \$90 worth of Royal Ann cherries from two trees.

¶ W. W. McMickle grew 20 tons of parsnips on one acre of Kittitas ground. He sold the crop for \$35 a ton.

¶ W. W. McMickle grew 15 tons of carrots on one acre. He sold the crop for \$30 a ton.

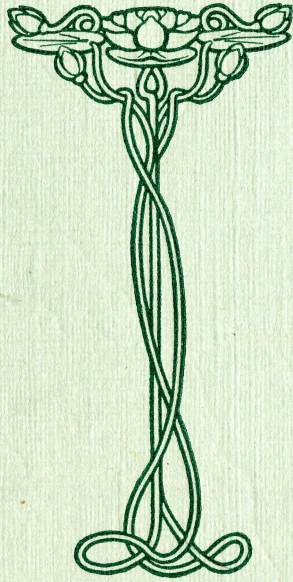
¶ E. G. Grinrod's currant bushes produced at the rate of \$4,000 worth of fruit to the acre.



**MAP**  
 Showing Relative Position  
 of  
**ELLENSBURG & PUGET SOUND**  
 - Distributing - Centers -

731123  
3/1/23

KITTITAS COUNTY  
WAS AWARDED GOLD  
MEDAL FOR FRUITS, GRAINS  
AND GRASSES AT LEWIS  
AND CLARK EXPOSITION  
~ PORTLAND ~



MAIR & PRALL  
IRRIGATED LANDS  
CITY REAL ESTATE,  
Room 2 Lumbermans Bldg  
PORTLAND, ORE.

KITTITAS SOIL AND CLIMATE  
PRODUCE THE FINEST WINTER  
APPLES AND PEARS GROWN  
IN THE UNITED STATES

WHY PAY \$500 TO \$1,000 AN ACRE  
FOR ORCHARD PROPERTY WHEN  
YOU CAN BUY KITTITAS FRUIT  
LAND FOR \$100 TO \$200 AN ACRE?