PALO VERDE VALLEY

Opening Opportunities for Young Agriculturists.

This valley is located one hundred and fifty miles north of Yuma, Ariz., on the California side of the Colorado River. It is a new valley and has just been opened up to the public for settlement both by the Government and by the Palo Verde Land and Water Company, of Oxnard, Ventura County, Cal. The latter of these has 40,000 acres of land on sale at suitable prices and located in some of the richest parts of the valley. Moreover, they furnish the valley with water and have canals, netting the valley from one end to the other.

Land can be obtained from the Government under the “Homestead Act,” which entitles every American citizen, over twenty years of age, to take up 160 acres of Government land. Smaller pieces of land can be had under the same act. A fee is charged by the Government for the application and you have to swear that you will make that place your home for five years. After this time you go again before the office from which you received your application and before witnesses swear that you have lived upon the land for five years and made some improvements. Then you get what is called your patent or title to the land.

Palo Verde is a very rich valley, consisting of 100,000 acres of level land, bounded on the east by the Colorado River, on the west by a low mesa, while at the north and south, ranges of low mountains of bare rock hem it in and give a picturesque effect. On the Arizona side are the Castle Dome Mountains, which have all kinds of shapes and complete the scenery for the valley. At this point of the course of the Colorado River it spreads out and its banks are not very high, thus allowing the lands in the months of May, June and July to become flooded. The sediment carried in the water settles to the bottom and remains as a very rich deposit each year. The soil of the valley is from 10 to 50 feet deep, composed of sandy loam, clay and silt, enriched by the leaf mold and decaying vegetable matter, and it has been said that this soil is surpassed by no other except that of the River Nile of Egypt. It is even better than that of the Imperial Valley, and all it needs is the people to try it. Already people are flocking to the valley, and before long it will be one of the places marked in Southern California for its early crops and the productiveness of its soil.

Another important phase is the supply of fuel and water. The land of the valley is heavily wooded with mesquite and screw-bean trees, and good water at eight feet is in abundance.

The products of the valley that are now known to grow and produce valuable crops are all kinds of grains, veg-
etables and melons; as yet little has been done in the fruit line, but date palms are being planted extensively.

There also is an opening for all kinds of business, both in manufactures and farming. Dairying will be one of the leading industries of the valley on account of the intensive farming. But the most important is the raising of early crops for inside or city markets. Grapes, melons and small fruits will ripen there in the month of May and all that holds the valley back now is the lack of transportation facilities.

The gradual growth of the population and the improvement of the country will soon bring a railroad to the valley. As it is now, though, the nearest railroad is the Southern Pacific. Getting off at Gaviros, you put up at a small lodging house near by and wait for an early start the next morning for the valley. Either stage or auto will be there to take you on your journey out across the mountain ranges above the river, and will reach the valley by nightfall. Early next morning you rise to see the mirage, which is one of the features of nature in those parts. Social and religious attractions are carried on in the valley, so you cannot say that people there are altogether away from civilization. This is the time for great expansion, and those that are up and doing are the ones that will make a place in the world's history.

H. L. H., '09.

THE ENCHANTED TREASURE

Many, many years ago, Senor, when all the country round about was not as it is now, when it was all a low, green plain, an old miser lived in a beautiful palace surrounded by fine gardens and walks. He had seven beautiful daughters, whom he loved very much. The miser had already large sums of money, but wished more if he could get it in a fair way.

One day, as he sat beneath the shade of an olive in his garden, deeply thinking, he saw an old man walking up and down the road. He was dressed in Moorish garments and held an open book in his hands.

"Madre dios," exclaimed the miser. "If my eyes do not fool me I can see before me a learned astrologer. He can doubtless help me if he is in any way like his Moorish ancestors," and he walked up to the old man and laid his hand on his shoulder, saying: "Senor Padre, you are older and wiser than I am. Perhaps you can tell me how to increase my wealth."

"Increase your wealth?" the stranger replied, "How much do you want?"

The old Moor scratched his head thoughtfully and turned to the miser saying: "If you will consent to give me one of your daughters, I will tell you the secrets that are written in the Book of Solomon."

The old miser agreed, and he ordered his daughters to appear before him so the Moor might take his choice. They came and stood like seven beautiful flowers, each having her face covered with a veil of silver gauze, and blushingly lifted them.

"Senor Padre," he said to the father, "I cannot choose now. I need not, for I will get all if I can only get them to sleep, then they will dance and sing
for me," he said to himself. He turned to the miser and said: "Load all your gold on mules and come to yonder cave. There I will tell you from the Book of Solomon that trees bearing gold nuts will spring from planted treasures."

Late in the afternoon the miser, the Moor and seven mules, laden with gold, were seen traveling across the level plain. Stopping a short distance from the garden, they planted some of the gold. Seven times they stopped and seven times they planted gold.

"Now, Senor," said the Moor, "you must send a daughter to each place where you planted gold to remain there as guards, or devils will appear."

At night the seven sisters were sent to guard the buried treasure for six nights, but on the seventh night they closed their eyes and fell asleep. They had hardly closed their eyes when a low rumbling was heard, and the ground beneath the treasure cracked and a large tree sprung toward the sky. When the trees were tall the large nuts that grew on the branches in place of leaves, burst open and a shower of earth fell on the sleeping maids, covering them, never to be seen.

A. R. C., '09.

THE OLD HOME

My mind often wanders back to the old home in Southern Kansas, where I spent my early boyhood days, to the old farm where I learned, as all boys under similar surroundings learn, to love an outdoor life and to see and appreciate nature as God intended we should.

The farm was situated in one of those fertile river bottoms where the soil influences the growth of anything that will grow in that climate.

When I think of the large, rambling house, with its green shuttered windows, numerous chimneys, and the stately cottonwoods surrounding it, I think of mother, because it was there she could be found at any time during the day, cheerfully toiling for the comfort and welfare of her family.

The large red barn which stood upon a little knoll just back of the house, brings to me the fondest memories of all, because it was there, in its multitude of bins, alleyways and hidden nooks that were the best places for "hide and seek." Its high rafters made an ideal place from which to attach a swing, and the long haymow, with its fragrant contents, was a better gymnasium than any college dare boast of.

The orchard, with its joys and its aches and pains, stood on the left side of the house; the trees were straggling, some dead, some large and some small. It was there where the apples grew, where the cider was made and where the birds and yellow-jackets made their nests.

On the other side of the house was the large pasture, where the cows and horses leisurely picked at the grass or stood in the shade of the scattering trees.

And lastly, the grain fields surrounding all, completes one of memories' pictures.

J. L. M., '09.
The boys were sitting around the table in silence.

"I'll tell you fellows," said Sam White at last, "if old Prof. Wigard won't let us play that game with St. Timothy tomorrow, we'll get that old barge and sneak down on the river and play anyway." There was another silence.

"Well," said Carl Stokes, "when you get the best of Professor, you have to go some."

"That's what we mean to do," said Sam. "We mean to go play St. Timothy's."

"Why, fellows," said another, "it's as easy as eating the wind pudding the cook makes. The Trustees are going to meet tomorrow, and we'll be back from the game before he knows it."

"That's right, old sport; that's right!" they all rejoined. "We'll go."

"But how will we get the barge back?" said Earl.

"That's easy," said Sam. "We'll swipe those oars out of the boat house. Be ready to start at half-past nine. Say, Bill, you sneak our pennants down to the shore, and the rest of us will put on our suits and make out we're just going to have a practice game before dinner, and when Professor goes out we'll make a break for the river."

"Yes," said Harold, "we'll get to St. Timothy in time for dinner, too."

"Eat is all you think about," said Bill. "You'll probably swim ashore after watermelons on the way down."

"Now, fellows," called Sam, "we've got to be mighty mum, for if Professor gets wind of anything, it's all up. Don't you fellows get to going around like a cat on three legs in the morning. Just take your time like nothing was doing. There goes the study period bell, so good-night."

An anxious lot of boys were up Saturday morning.

"Say, I'll bet those St. Timothy fellows will be sore when they find out we're not coming," said Carl at breakfast.

They all smiled.

"We can't help it because we can't go," joined in Charlie.

"Come on, fellows, put on your suits and come down to the field and we'll play ball awhile. Bill, be sure and bring the bats down."

"Sure I will."

Bill successfully reached the river with the pennants and had to wait. "Wish those guys would hurry up. Ah, there they come."

"Ha! Ha! Professor was dead easy. Blind as a bat. Couldn't see a thing in the middle of the road. Ha! Ha! Pile in, and we'll ride down the river in our little bark canoe."

"Hold on, boys! Where are you going?" and Professor Wigard came out of the trees.

"Just going to take a little ride, that's all. We're not going anywhere."

"Well, boys, I hate to spoil your fun, but I'll have to have the campus cleaned before the Trustees come," was his reply.

Some of the boys declared that they saw an amused twinkle in his eye.
The Polytechnic Journal

EDITORIAL STAFF
Ernest W. Curtis—Editor-in-Chief.
Ruth Gould,
E. Earl Campbell,—Associate Editors.
Hertha Schultz—Exchanges.
George A. Tilton—Staff Artist.
Hazel Griffith—Social Editor.
George Hopkins—Athletics.
Lee McDowell—Joshes.
J. Roy Smith—Business Manager.
Edw. J. Berringer—Faculty Advisor.

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Polytechnic should be proud of her track team after the showing made at Santa Barbara. In going to Santa Barbara we were going up against teams which were an unknown quantity to us. Considering our experience, we did exceedingly well, and surprised the teams from the other schools. Much credit for the success of our track team is due to the persistent efforts of Mr. F. E. Edwards. Mr. Edwards has been untiring in his efforts, and we have received many valuable pointers from him.

The second-year class in English composition is giving a number of short talks on current topics in the morning assembly. These talks are interesting and instructive, both for the audience and the speaker.

A few days ago a small book was presented to the Journal with the compliments of Hon. Myron Angel. The book is entitled "A History of the Polytechnic School," and contains a complete history of the school, illustrated with numerous cuts. The Journal is glad to receive the gift and takes the opportunity of thanking Mr. Angel through its pages.
Friday night, April 24, the Juniors gave a masquerade ball to the student body and faculty. A few outsiders were invited also. A most pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. Those present represented all classes, from the highest in life to the very lowest. Among those especially noticeable were:

Oswald Judd—“Domino.”
Franc Turney—“Gypsy Woman.”
Helen Briggs—“Martha Washington.”
Ray Whitmore—“Chinaman.”
W. Wickenden—“Cowboy Girl.”
Jimmy Willoughby—“Chinaman.”
Harvey Hall — “An Overgrown Baby.”
Irene Tognazzini—“Sailor Girl.”
Diana Kendall—“Bohemian Girl.”
George Tilton—“Spaniard.”
Alma Miossi—“Flower Girl.”
Irene Righetti—“Flower Girl.”
Levia Storni—“Cowboy Girl.”
Laura Righetti—“Morning.”
Avery Kennedy—“School Boy.”
Rachael Ramage—“America.”
Lee McDowell—“Fisherman.”
Rachael Gould—“Newspaper Girl.”
Roy Smith—“Turk.”
Edwin Pearce—“Baseball Pitcher.”
Miss Gillete—“Two-Faced Lady.”

J. Methvin—“Baker.”
May Brew—“Society Belle.”
Elizabeth Holloway—“School Girl.”
Clara Pavia—“Red Riding Hood.”
Dave Vietch—“Coon.”
Eugene Fiedler—“Chinaman.”
Emma Root—“Southern Girl.”
Ernest Curtis—“As Lee McDowell.”

There were others who presented just as striking appearances as those mentioned.

Dancing prevailed, the music being furnished by Alice Throop. The usual refreshments were served. Dancing broke up at 11:30, all wishing for such another event.

May 8 the Seniors gave a grand ball to the faculty and student body in the assembly hall. The hall was beautifully decorated in ferns and white roses, green and white being the class colors. A large green and white velvet pennant was a feature of the decorations. All the students turned out in full number, also a few outsiders were present. Dancing was indulged in throughout the evening, St. Clair’s orchestra furnishing the music. At 11 o’clock the lights were turned out and everyone went home regretting that it was the last reception to be given by the class of 1908.
The first interscholastic field meet at Santa Barbara was held at the Athletic Park April 28. Five schools—Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula, California Polytechnic and Santa Barbara were entered. Although all the other schools are old and have participated in many other meets, while this is only our second year, we made a fine showing.

All of the fellows did good work, especially Cox, Smith and Curtis. Cox ran the 100 yards in perfect style and although he got a poor start he finished in the lead. Smith ran the mile in such fine style that everyone was asking who he was, and would he ever finish. He finished with an easy 100 yards lead. Curtis jumped 5 feet 6 inches in the high—6 inches better than he had ever done before. Drougard was another who did fine. He came in first in the half mile. With the practice Tilton had had in the hurdles he surprised us all by qualifying for the finals and winning second place. The events and winners of places are as follows:

1. 220-Yard Hurdles—C. A. Steele (S. P.), 29 4-5; Tilton (C. P. S.), Shay (S. P.).
2. 100-Yard Dash—Cox (C. P. S.), 10 2-5; Earl Steele (S. P.), Edwards (S. B.).
3. High Jump—Argebrite (V.), 5 feet 7 inches; Curtis (C. P. S.), 5 feet 6 inches; Richdale (S. B.).
4. 440-Yard Dash—D. Stone (S. B.), 55 seconds; Pressey (S. P.), Neel (V.).
5. Hammer Throw—Hollister (S. B.), 165 feet 8 inches; Crinklaw (O.), 158 feet 2½ inches; Gabbert (O.), 153 feet 3 inches.
6. 220-Yard Dash—Earle Steele (S. P.), 24 4-5 seconds; Cox (C. P. S.), Hernandez (O.).
7. 880-Yard Dash—Drougard (C. P. S.), 2 minutes 15 2-6 seconds; Bliss (S. B.), Davis (C. P. S.).
8. Shot Put—Earle Steele (S. P.), 43 feet 5¾ inches; Rafferty (S. P.), Hollister (S. B.).
9. Mile Run—Smith (C. P. S.), 5 minutes 6 seconds; Varner (S. P.), Crinklan (O.).
10. Broad Jump—Hollister (S. B.), 20 feet 2 inches; Barr (O.), 19 feet 7¾ inches; Curtis (C. P. S.), 19 feet 8 inches.
11. Pole Vault—Gibson (V.), 10 feet 6 inches; Foss (S. P.), Bond (S. P.).

The final scores were: Ventura, 11; Oxnard, 10; Santa Paula, 36; California Polytechnic, 26; Santa Barbara, 26.

May 16 the Santa Maria High and the "Poly" held their dual meet on the "Poly" track. The events started at 1.30 p.m. and were carried through with
smoothness. The track was in the best of condition and was lined into lanes, so that there could be no dispute of anyone cutting in ahead of another runner.

Some fine work was done, as is shown by the results. Every record, except the hammer throw and shot put, of the S. L. B. A. A. was broken. They were broken by Poly men, except the 880-yard run.

Cox did all that was expected of him in the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes by winning both and making a new record. He also ran his lap in the relay in first-class style. Drougard lost out in the 880, but made up for that by winning the mile.

Curtis certainly did his duty by winning first place in the shot put, hammer throw, high jump, broad jump, and third place in the 440-yard dash. He ran his lap in the relay in fine style and gained about 20 yards on his man.

Beck, Davis, Tilton, Knudsen, and Hopkins also did their duty in winning points. Last, but not least, are the men that ran and jumped but did not win a place. They should be encouraged, because they have had some experience and with another season’s training they will be able to do as well as the fellows who won places this year.

The events and winners of places are as follows:

1. 50-Yard Dash—MacFadden (S. M.), Tunnell (S. M.), Cox (C. P. S).
2. 880-Yard Run—James (S. M.), 2 minutes 18 seconds; Drougard (C. P. S.), Davis (C. P. S).
3. 100-Yard Dash—Cox (C. P. S.), 10 2-5 seconds; Bryant (S. M.), MacFadden (S. M).
4. Shot Put—Curtis (C. P. S.), 37 feet 10½ inches; Pezzoni (C. P. S.), 37 feet 2 inches; Stonier (S. M.), 34 feet 6 inches.
5. 440-Yard Dash—Beck (C. P. S.), 57 2-5 seconds; MacFadden (S. M.), Curtis (C. P. S).
6. Pole Vault—Hopkins (C. P. S.), 9 feet 9 inches; Tunnel (S. M.), Tilton (C. P. S).
7. Hammer Throw—Curtis (C. P. S.), 120 feet 7 inches; Stonier (S. M.), MacFadden, (S. M).
8. 220-Yard Dash—Cox (C. P. S.), 24 4-5 seconds; Beck (C. P. S.), Bryant (S. M).
9. High Jump—Curtis (C. P. S.), 5 feet 4 inches; Bryant (S. M.), 5 feet 2 inches; Hopkins (C. P. S.), 5 feet 2 inches.
10. Mile Run—Drougard (C. P. S.), 5 minutes 18 seconds; Knudsen (C. P. S.), Davis (C. P. S).
11. 120-Yard Hurdles—Beck (C. P. S.), 15 1-5 seconds; Tilton (C. P. S.), Tunnel (S. M).
12. Broad Jump—Curtis (C. P. S.), 19 feet 6 inches; Bryant (S. M.), Tunnel (S. M).
13. Mile Relay—(C. P. S. team), Tilton, Manning, Curtis, Beck and Cox; time, 3 minutes 41 4-5 seconds. (S. M. team), Bryant, Tunnel, MacFadden, James and Gray.

The final score was: Polytechnic, 76; Santa Maria, 37. Ribbons were awarded to the winners. Blue for the first place, red for second, and orange for third.

This meet closes the season for athletics for this year. The Polytechnic was unable to secure any games in football last fall, therefore we have nothing to say, only that we hope to secure a schedule of games next fall. We came out champions in basketball by defeating all the teams we played. In baseball we lost two of our games, but expect to do better next year.
Exchanges

As usual, this month we have received a large number of good papers from other schools. Among them all the Tocsin, from Santa Clara, seems to be the best, yet there might be some changes for the better in it. For instance, the type ought to be larger, as it is hard to read such print.

Four numbers of the Tempe Normal Student have been received since last month, as it is a weekly paper. We congratulate you upon the large amount of material which you always seem to have on hand. It hardly seems possible that such an amount could be collected together week after week for a school paper. It is not necessary to put "Please exchange" on every paper, as it is generally understood that, after having exchanged with a paper for a year or so, we will continue to do so as long as it is sent to us.

The Oriole, from Campbell Union High School, is a "good" paper, with a "good" cover and a "good" amount of "good" reading matter. Your exchange editor is a good one, and we agree with her when she says: "Don't put ads in the front." It is a bad policy, and we hope a good many other papers will follow the Oriole's example and advice.

Another well written exchange is the Sacramento High School Review. The article under the title of "Jabber-splatter" is interesting and should put new inspiration into your students, but it seems as though they don't need it by the number of well-written stories and other material in their school paper.

The Orestimba has come to us again from Newman, Cal. Your article in the exchange column certainly does rub us exchange editors pretty hard, but what are we going to do? If we criticize a paper they either can't or won't try to do better, so we commend what is good and let the bad go if we have criticized it until we are tired.

The Nuntius, from Lenmoore, is good as far as reading matter goes, but the print is small and ads in the front of the book certainly does not add to its appearance. We notice, also, that you have an eighth-grade department. If you are a High School paper, why not keep it strictly High School, or at least you might make it a High School and Grammar School paper combined, and have some of the pupils from the Grammar School on your staff.

Other papers received this month are the O. A. C. Barometer, from Corvallis, Or.; The Cormus, from Zanesville, O.; Dictum Est, Red Bluff, Cal.; The Herald, Holyoke, Mass.; The Skirmisher, Burlingame, Cal.; Feltonian, N. Y. H. S.; The Porcupine and the Penn State Farmer.
Student (applying at sewing-room door): “Is Hertha Schultze here?”
Miss Fordyce: “Yes; but you can’t see her. She is having a fit.”

Mary C.: “How many brothers have you, Sherman?”
Sherman: “Two sisters and three brothers.”
Hazel: “Give me a brother.”

Oswald Judd says the girls need support all the time, and he ought to know.

Doc Pierce (at the Senior dance to a partner): “I would like to dance until 3 in the morning. I just begin to get fresh about that time.”

That is a strange remark for one so sedate as the Doctor.

E. E. C. (Senior in Agr.): “While passing a potato patch in Santa Maria I inquired what kind of berries they were.”
G. H. (a mechanic): “Why, those are potatoes.”
E. E. C.: “I thought they were raspberries.”

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(Mr. Condit.)

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