

## **HORTICULTURE**

Horticulture was one of the profitable enterprises of the first settlers. A long growing season, combined with ample water and fertile soil made production of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables easy.

William S. Frazier planted a large part of his acreage to tree fruits and berries. All the land lying between Mill Street and the river, north to 9<sup>th</sup> Street was at one time in orchard. From the beginning, the product found a ready and profitable market.

Since that time, fruit growing has been greatly expanded and is one of the leading industries in the valley. To support that statement, an article appearing in 1905, is here appended:

### **The Pacific Homestead, Salem, Oregon**

Thursday, October 19, 1905.

The three fruit packing houses at Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon, will finish this season's business this week and no more produce will be shipped from that point until the strawberry season opens next year.

While the fruit crop generally has been light this year, the prices have been better and both the grower and shipper have probably done as well as in any previous year. During the packing season, about 150 people were employed and \$5,000 paid out for labor by the three houses. The amount distributed among the growers this year will reach nearly \$65,000, the Walla Walla Produce Company alone paying out about \$40,000.

Taken in their order, according to the season's output, there were shipped from Freewater this year 15,000 crates of strawberries, 2,000 crates of cherries, and 5,000 crates of dewberries, blackberries and raspberries. There were also shipped during the berry season, hundreds of boxes of asparagus and several 1,000 pounds of beans, peas and new potatoes. Peddlers took out hundreds of crates of berries and a number of growers shipped their own produce. 10 cars of mixed fruit were shipped, 30 cars of prunes and also 25 cars of apples. In addition there were several cars of local shipments.

About 15 cars of watermelons were shipped by the three packing houses and probably 20 car loads were hauled out in wagons. Some

growers also shipped a few cars. About 20 cars of onions were shipped from this point within the past couple of weeks and there are more to follow.

The peach crop was very short this season, but about 5,000 boxes of peaches and grapes were shipped, all being of fair quality, says the Tribune.

**Early History of the Milton-Freewater Area**

Published by the Valley Herald, Inc.

Milton-Freewater, Oregon

1962