

19 June 1935

Wonderful Fruit At Broughton's Dominguez Ranch

G. P. Broughton of Olathe was in town Thursday with a load of sweet cherries. Mr. Broughton operates a most wonderful fruit ranch near Olathe and is developing another at Dominguez, half way between Delta and Grand Junction in the river bottom.

Mr. Broughton has had a most wonderful experience in farming. In midlife ill health overtook him and he quit his big ranch at Uncompahgre for a time and then started in all over again on Ash mesa where he set out all kinds of fruit trees and berries and these are now bearing heavily. Then he made a third venture. When most men are thinking of retiring he went to the isolated Dominguez region and set out 40 to 45 acres of fruit trees and berries. It is very hot in Dominguez and trees make phenomenal growth bearing at one year of age. Last year one-year-old peach trees produced peaches that actually measured a foot in circumference and weighed a pound. This year those trees, now two-year-olds, are great big trees and loaded with several bushels of fruit. A Palisade fruit man visiting the orchard said he never saw such phenomenal growth in trees anywhere, that the Grand Valley trees couldn't anywhere near approach such growth and early fruiting.

Mr. Broughton has ten acres of cherries, ten of apples set with peaches in between, an acreage of peaches, pears, grapes, apricots, California grapes, berries of all kinds, almond trees, etc., etc. He has about everything that grows anywhere except citrus trees. Two-year-old almond trees are full of nuts this year. The soil is wonderful, being 10 to 12 feet deep, composed of silt, no rocks and the canyon walls retain heat which is radiated at night so that the trees make a phenomenal growth.

Fruit of all kinds matures there 10 days to two weeks ahead of any other part of the state. Mr. Broughton can gather and ship fruit to Den-

ver beating shipments from any other part of the state by ten days.

The sad feature of the whole story is Mr. Broughton's health. For years he has suffered from heart disease but has worked hard and today said that the disease was getting such an inroad that he just had to quit. He says it looks as if he would have to dispose of both fruit ranches and take it easy. It is sad when a man of mid-life has worked so hard and developed such wonderful fruit ranches to have to quit and let some one else reap the benefits.

The Dominguez ranch never has a frost loss. Fruit is produced there every year and in years when apricots and such early fruits are killed elsewhere the Dominguez crop brings a fancy price. Land is limited there as water is scarce and Mr. Broughton has the only fruit ranch there and there isn't any way of developing another right away. The climate is such at Dominguez that semi-tropical fruits and vegetables can be raised.