

fine apple trees, three years old, for sale."

Ten years later we find the following in the handy tips column in the Clay County Tribune in 1877:

"Those who have emptied their fruit cans of their first contents and are fortunate enough to have green apples, may now fill them with applesauce for future use. Flavored with lemon or black raspberries and put up hot like other fruit, this sauce is preferable to good dried apples."

In the 1884, Clay County History Book, it stated more and more citizens have been giving their attention to fruit culture. Many farmers had come to believe that no crop paid any better than orchards at that time.

The apple crop for 1884, had been of such proportions as to become one of the principal resources to Clay County farmers.

Statistics for that year were very impressive. It is estimated that Wayne and Clay Counties together shipped over 50,000 barrels of apples, translating to about 137,000 bushel. Shippers paid as high as \$1 per bushel for Apples selected for picking and 60 to 80 cents a bushel for apples already in bulk in the warehouses.

Near the end of the season, it was reported, prices would often drop down to 50¢ a bushel.

A book written in 1900, entitled FLORA ILLUSTRATED: BUSINESS, HOMES AND PEOPLE, described Clay county as follows: One quarter of the surface is timber and the other three quarters of its surface is prairie. Everywhere the landscape is dotted over with trees that afford luxuriant shade. Add to this the natural shade of thousands of acres of Apple Trees and the beauty of the landscape is complete.

Statistics filed in Washington show that there were more apple trees within a radius of 20 miles of Flora than any other section of like area in the World.

Clay County was a natural habitat for growing apples, and grow they did. Between 1900 and 1930, millions of bushels of apples were shipped or hauled out of this county. The better quality apples were packed in barrels with baskets used for those of lesser grade.

Thousands and thousands of acres were set in regular rows and the beauty and symmetry of the trees excite the admiration of all newcomers. Land then occupied by many of these orchards was brought ten or twelve years previously for \$7 to \$20 per acre, while in 1900, set with fruit bearing trees, this same land commanded prices ranging from \$100 to \$500 per acre. Oh, the power of a lucrative crop and the difference it made in the value of the land.

Apple growing provided many jobs, from caring for the trees in summertime to the harvest of the fruit in the fall. When apple harvest time came, most everyone worked in the apples. The men and boys did the picking and hauling; the women did a lot