

Signs of Sun City's Past by Ed Allen

WELCOME TO THE PALMBORG COLONY!

One hundred years ago, the Palmborg Colony disappeared from local maps as the land was sold to Goodyear's Southwest Cotton subsidiary. The sugar cane and other crops planned for the small farms gave way to fields of cotton known as the Marinette Ranch.

In 1915, the Palmborg Colonization Company of Los Angeles had taken options on land in Marinette owned by the Southwestern Sugar and Land Company. R.P. Davie was a principal in the company, and founder of the "Orchard Town of Marinette." This map will give you a better idea of the extent of the Palmborg Colony both north and south of Grand Ave.

The colony was divided into small, ten-acre tracts, and the prospectus listed a great number of crops and animals that could be raised on them. The price per parcel was \$1400, which included part ownership in the pumping plant and canal system. An example of how ten acres might be used for multiple crops is shown below right.

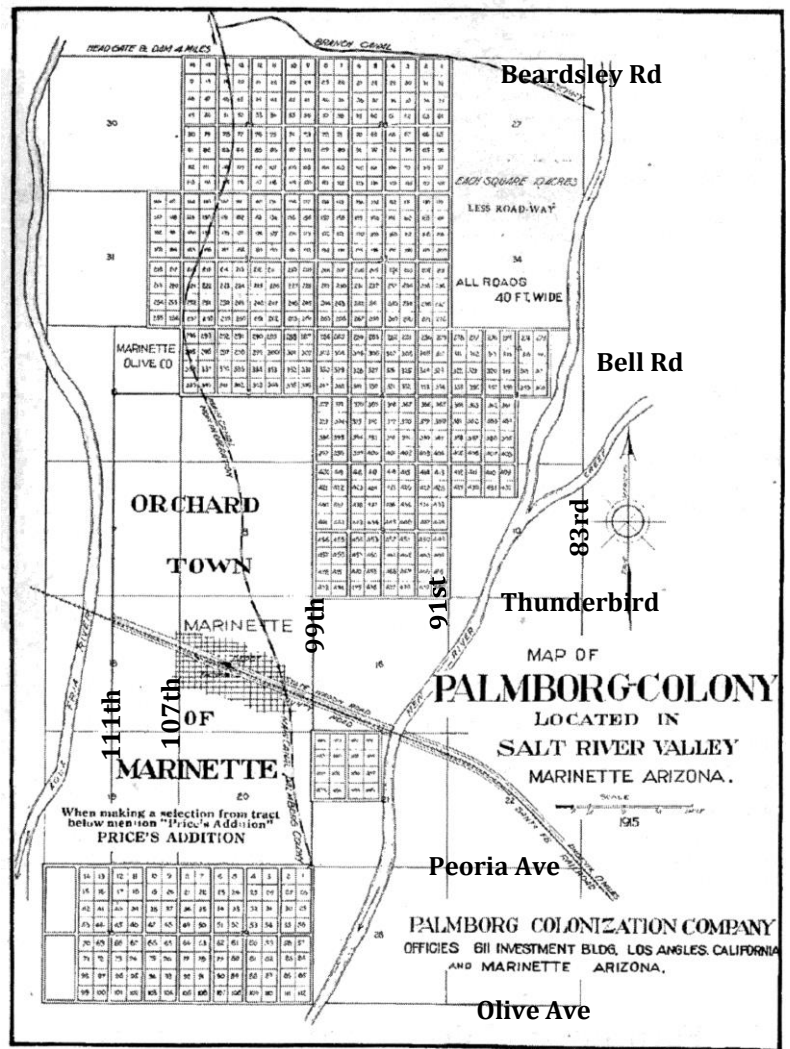
"Come where the climate will help you to be healthy and wealthy" was the developer's lure – along with emphasis on growing crops year 'round! Another promise: "Eat grapefruit and be healthy ... Raise grapefruit and be wealthy!"

At the time, some 3,000 acres of Marinette were planted in sugar cane while most of the small farmers planted sugar beets instead.

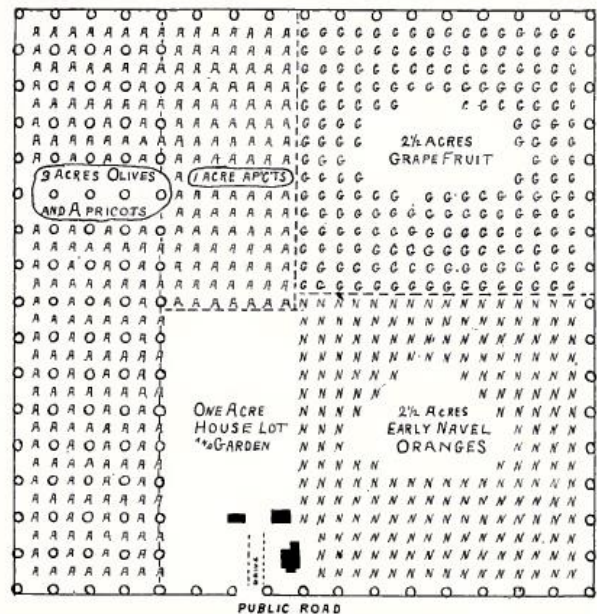
A processing plant had been built in Glendale, and was the only one in the nation built to process both sugar beets and sugar cane. Apparently the mill didn't get enough crops to process profitably, and changed ownership several times. In fact, it has been idle far longer than it was in operation.

The Palmborg Colony lasted barely five years, and any farmers were bought out as Davie sold his Marinette holdings to the Southwest Cotton Company in 1920.

If you'd like to see the detailed promotional brochure distributed by the colonization company, go to: <https://archive.org/details/palmborgcolony00palmrich>



ONE PLAN OF A MODEL COMBINATION FRUIT FARM



O is for Olives with a grove at one side and trees around the border. A is for Apricots, G – Grapefruit. N is for Early Navel Oranges