

FLORISSANT.

Florissant is situated on the great trans-continental railway, the Colorado Midland, now a part of the gigantic Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe system. It is distant from Denver just 100 miles, and thirty-six west of Colorado Springs. Leadville is about seventy-five miles to the west of Florissant. Cripple Creek, the greatest gold camp in the entire world to-day, is situated but eighteen miles south of Florissant, and, in fact, was brought to the notice of the public through the efforts of some of the enterprising citizens of the latter town. Many citizens of Florissant have become wealthy through lucky strikes made at the great gold camp. They were the very first on the ground, and did considerable prospecting before it was generally known that gold in paying quantities existed.

Some prospecting has been carried on at various times, and some very good strikes in gold and other ores have been made. Along the Platte river, some four miles below Florissant, there are now some very rich placer mines. Recently a miner working a lode claim struck a lead which assayed as high as \$80 per ton in gold. Good finds in silver and copper ores have been made in the vicinity, and there are many who predict that some day some very rich mines will be worked very close to Florissant.

Within a mile of Florissant is the world-famed Petrified Forest, which undoubtedly most of our readers have heard of, and possibly a few have viewed with their own eyes this greatest of all of nature's great wonders. Great stumps and roots, just as natural as real wood, are numerous. One, which is probably the largest petrified stump in the world, was visited by the writer and a few specimens as souvenirs taken from it. This stump is about twelve feet in height and forty-six feet in circumference by actual measurement.

Crystal peak, a peak noted for so many fine crystals as clear as the best diamonds, is three miles distant. Pike's peak is plainly visible from the town, as is also Mount Pisgah. From Florissant to the summit of either of these famous mountains it is about fifteen miles. Florissant canon possesses a great many scenic attractions, and is immediately adjoining the town on the east. Granite canon is to the westward, and contains many attractions. Fortification hill, adjoining the town on the southeast, deserves a page in history. About ninety years ago a fierce war was waged between two tribes of Indians, the Cheyennes and Utes. The latter took refuge on this noted hill, and for a long time stood their enemies off, but were eventually starved out

and captured by the Cheyennes. The breastworks, which may still be seen, gave the hill its name.

All classes of business are carried on at Florissant. It is a supply point for a radius of twenty-five miles. The town has a good city government, Hon. Frank F. Castello being the mayor at present, assisted by six trustees or aldermen.

A great deal of hay from the South Park country is shipped here, and there is a daily line of stages to Cripple Creek.

Two railroads have surveyed through the town, and it is thought will be built at no distant day. However, the railroad connection is very good as it is at present.

The population of Florissant is at present about 500, which figure does not include the transient or floating population who spend the summer months here on account of the many climatic advantages. The town is growing right along. It is not an old town—it was originally laid out with the appearance of the Colorado Midland railway in the valley in 1885-86.

HIGHLAND GROVE.

Highland Grove is a most admirably located addition to Florissant, and adjoins the town on the south. That portion which has been platted consists of forty-eight acres or 216 town lots, averaging in size about 50x125 feet each. A single pair of these lots would make a plat of ground 100 feet front and 125 feet deep. A charming size for a home, you will say.

As far back as 1886, previous to the completion of the Colorado Midland through Florissant, Thomas Donnell, the venerable attorney, came to Colorado from his home in Coffey county, Kansas, in search of health and a desirable location to settle permanently.

In 1889 Highland Grove was platted and a great many lots were disposed of to various persons, some of whom have since erected residences for homes or for summer residence. The finest and best of water is abundant anywhere on Highland Grove. The average height of Highland Grove above the depot in Florissant is about fifty feet, and it is a gentle slope upward. The greater portion of the grove is covered with stately young pines, varying in height from ten to seventy-five feet, evergreen and ever casting out their health-giving and invigorating fragrance.

That portion of Highland Grove which remained unsold up to a short time ago is now owned jointly by Thomas Donnell and W. C. Calhoun.