

Beginning Here For Boysenberry

Only a few vines now remain of the big patch of berries where the first boysenberries ever tickled the palates of kids and grownups. That patch was out in the Coombsville area on what is now the land of Joe Forman.

It was in 1920 that Rudolph Boysen lived there, in a house now torn down, and first began to tell his neighbors about his new berry.

BOYSEN NEIGHBORS

Mrs. Carrie Smith, 1037 Shady Brook Lane, was a friend of the Boysen's neighbors, the George Lubens and was often treated to a helping of the new and delicious berries when she visited there.

Boysen was a veteran of World War I and had been badly burned in the fighting at Vladivostok. While he was living here he slowly regained his health and it was during this period he began to sing the praises of the new berry.

MOVED TO ANAHEIM

In 1924 Boysen and his wife moved to Anaheim, where he managed an orange grove a few years and then became the superintendent of the Anaheim city parks department.

He broke his back in a fall in 1930. Somewhat crippled the rest of his life, he lived until 1950. During these years the berry plant taken from Napa with him was maintained at the orange grove.

KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

Cuttings from it came to the attention of the Knott Berry Farm and it was there that the berry began to be famous. A nursery house spread the berry to a wide clientele, and gave it the name of boysenberry.

Mrs. Margaret Boysen, widow of the developer of the luscious berry, last week visited the home of her husband's brother at Merced, where the original Coombsville vine is still growing and producing berries.

Her brother-in-law had moved the vine there in 1955.