

**Brazos County Natural History:
Plants, Animals, Weather, Geology and Related Topics**

1900-1904

compiled by Bill Page

22 March 2010

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 20 – Mr. Henry Conway was in the city today and related the narrow escape of himself and his wife from death by lightning at his home, on Thompson's Creek, one night the past week. The lightning struck and tore open the roof and ceiling, knocked down part of the chimney and left Mr. and Mrs. Conway, who were sitting before the fire, unconscious for an hour. Dallas Morning News, 21 January 1900, p.9.

*lightning's fearful work ... Bryan Daily Eagle, 21 January 1900, p.2, col.1

"Holligan School House," (weekly Bryan Eagle, 1 February 1900, page 3. Describes a fox hunt.

*fox hunting at Bethel and Steep Hollow. Bryan Daily Eagle, 2 February 1900, p.3, col.2

"Fossil Remains of Mammoth and Mastadon Found in the Brazos River," Farm and Ranch, 19(11): 3, 8 (March 17, 1900).

Bryan, Brazos Co., Tex., May 7 – A heavy rain and windstorm visited this place shortly after daylight this morning. Trees and fences were in many instances blown down and the streets were badly washed in some places. Dallas Morning News, 8 May 1900, p.2

Bryan, Tex., May 18 – A terrific rain and electric storm visited this place tonight and the indications are that a tornado passed north and east of here. Wires are down to the north and the damage can not be ascertained. Dallas Morning News, 19 May 1900, p.1

"Commencement at A. and M.," Dallas Morning News, 11 June 1900, p.4. "The campus is beautiful with the luxuriant verdure of trees, grass and shrubbery, while the growing crops, recovering under the dry weather from too much rain, are taking on form and color rapidly."

News was received here yesterday morning that a Negro was killed by lightning below College Monday afternoon. The Negro and a white man were near a stove which was struck by lightning, the Negro being killed and the white man badly shocked. Another Negro was rendered insensible on Jim Dunn's place from a strike of lightning. He subsequently recovered. Bryan Morning Eagle, 11 July 1900, p.3, col.2

Bryan, Tex., July 10 – News was received here today that a Negro was killed by lightning below College Station yesterday afternoon. He and a white man were near a stove which was struck; the Negro being killed and the white man badly shocked. Another Negro was left unconscious for a time by the lightning near Wheelock. Dallas Morning News, 11 July 1900, page 2

Navasota ... The building where convicts are kept on Steele's State convict farm near here began to rock and creak during the heavy gale Saturday night. The prisoners began to beg for mercy, saying if allowed their freedom until the storm ceased they would surely return. Mr. Steele said that there would be no chance for this house to withstand the wind and concluded to give them their liberty on each one's word of honor that he would return after the storm passed over. This was done, and it was not many minutes after until the building collapsed. There were forty-seven of them turned loose. Next morning they all showed up but four. Dallas Morning News, 11 September 1900, p.6.

Navasota ... Word was received here this morning from Allen Farm near here, that every house on the State's convict farm was blown down by Sunday morning's wind. There were nine in all. No casualties. Dallas Morning News, 12 September 1900, p.6.

Mr. Fritz Plagens, who resides two miles north of Kurten, which is ten miles from Bryan, came to the city yesterday with samples of lignite which he had discovered on his 320 acre tract of land. Mr. Plagens found the lignite in the banks of Sandy Creek. The vein is exposed for a distance of 100 yards, is from ten to fifteen feet under the surface and one to two feet thick. It extends back from the bank of the creek under Mr. Plagen's field. He says it burns well and parties who saw it here yesterday pronounce it equal to or better than the lignite which is mined in different parts of Central Texas. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 20 September 1900, p.6, col.3

Bryan, Tex., Sept.21 – Fritz Plagues [Plagens], a farmer residing near Kurten, in this county, thinks he has discovered good lignite in paying quantities on his 320 acres of land ten miles from Bryan and two miles north of Kurten. He discovered the vein in the bank of Sandy Creek, where it is exposed for 100 yards ten to fifteen feet under the surface and from one to two feet thick. He brought samples to town, and says it burns well. Dallas Morning News, 22 September 1900, p.8

Millican, Tex., May 19 – A very heavy rain fell here this evening. Telephone messages from all of the farms tell of heavy rains and strong winds. Dallas Morning News, 20 May 1901, p.6

Millican, Texas, May 20 – The drought is broken and unless it rains more there is a fine prospect for the future. There is some talk of oil here. Two prospectors have been up making investigations but we have not learned their decisions. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 May 1901, p.3, col.1

Rosprim, Texas, May 19 – A good rain fell here last Sunday which was much needed. The boll weevil is the topic of the day, and we learn that many have quit their cotton already as it was being destroyed by them. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 May 1901, p.3, col.3

J.H. Dowling was in town yesterday exhibiting a bottle of boll weevils caught near Bryan. Every effort should be made this year to head off these ravenous pests. We learn that some farmers will pick up and burn all fallen squares and fight the weevils to a finish. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 May 1901, p.6, col.1

Millican, Brazos Co., June 3 – Mr. George Hempfling, one of our substantial citizens, has in his yard a well which has developed into one of Nature's phenomena. He has been using the water for many years, and until last Monday evening never noticed anything strange about it. Late in the evening of that day it began to hiss and fog like escaping steam from a locomotive, and has continued to do so up to this date. Nearly every citizen in town has been up to listen to its strange hissing noise. Sometimes when the bucket is let down to get water it begins to pop like a small pistol. The well is 80 feet deep and the water seems to be filled with sulphur gas. Sometimes it makes such a strange mumbling noise the family get uneasy and call in the neighbors to hear it. Mr. O.J. Scrimshire of the firm of Scrimshire & Player was to see the well several times, and in conversation with *The News* man this evening said it was one of the strangest freaks of nature he had ever heard of – *Galveston News*. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 6 June 1901, p.2, col.1.

Mr. T.E. Wade of Wellborn reports to *The Eagle* that he has tried the poisoning process on the boll weevils and knows by experience that it will not do, and advises every farmer to use the pans and lamps and keep the squares picked up and burned, and he guarantees that to be a success. Mr. Wade says use about one lamp to the acre. Use a flat pan, about one-half full of water, with a half pint of oil poured on the water, and let the lamp be up about level with the top of the cotton. He guarantees this to catch sharp-shooters, boll weevils and all kinds of injurious insects. Mr. Wade says he caught a thousand sharpshooters to each lamp he had out last Friday night. He thinks the sharpshooter is causing as many bolls and squares to fall as anything else. *The Eagle* publishes the foregoing without endorsement further than to say that Mr. Wade is an intelligent man and a close observer, whose opinion should not be ignored. His advise about picking up and burning the squares we know is good; and about the use of lamps; but we cannot agree that poisoning is a failure. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 20 June 1901, p.3, col.6

Harvey, Texas, August 5 – The weather is very warm here and we are needing rain ... The seigning at Cole Springs last Thursday was largely attended and about 400 pounds of fish were caught. I never saw a crowd enjoy a dinner any better in my life. Bryan Morning Eagle, 7 August 1901, p.3, col.4.

Twenty-four Mexicans from Laredo and San Antonio passed through the city yesterday en route to Millican to work at the quarries. Bryan Daily Eagle, 20 September 1901, p.3, col.2.

Mr. Geo. Dunlap of Millican was in Bryan Monday and in conversation with a *Pilot* reporter said that he was making an effort to have the I. & G.N. railroad put a depot at the rock quarry near Millican. He pointed out how it would be a help to Bryan to have a depot there and said that he was prepared to state positively that Bryan would get a large part of the cotton and a big trade from that section if they could get a depot. He also says

the laborers at the quarry would come to Bryan to trade, and to give an idea of the amount of money that will be paid out there for labor in the next two years, he stated they had a contract to furnish 125,000 tons of rock for the rebuilding of the forts at Galveston, which would make about 6,000 car loads. The labor for blasting and loading a car costs from \$5 to \$10, and if that amount of money, or even half of it, were spent in Bryan, it would be a big thing – *Brazos Pilot*. Bryan Morning Eagle, 29 December 1901, p.3

Mr. Charlie Simpson is building a nice two story blacksmith and wood shop three miles north of town at the intersection of the Macy and Wheelock roads, near McDuff Simpson's truck farm. Mr. Simpson has named his location Sipewater (?), on account of the spring near the shop which never goes dry. Bryan Morning Eagle, 8 January 1902, p.3

The I. & G.N. has purchased additional land from Capt. Polk south town and adjoining the fair grounds for making a big tank for water supply. The land is favorably situated for the purpose in a ravine and has a large natural drainage. Engineers F.Z. Lee and W.P. McCutcheon began work yesterday morning establishing grade lines for the excavation and dam, and a grading outfit was on the ground to begin work immediately. The tank will cover 21 acres and holds approximately 50,000,000 gallons of water. Bryan Morning Eagle, 24 January 1902, p.3

The heaviest sleet known in this section for years, perhaps, fell Sunday night, and, together with a biting blizzard, has effectively checked the early spring-like tendencies of vegetation. Bryan Morning Eagle, 28 January 1902, p.3

Many people of Bryan have had trees planted about their premises recently, and others will follow their example. In a few years, with continued enforcement of the stock law, Bryan's streets will present altogether a different appearance. Let the good work go on. Bryan Morning Eagle, 28 January 1902, p.3

The great tank, constructed by the I. & G.N. railroad adjoining its track south of town and near the fair grounds, has been completed, and the grading outfit left yesterday to work on the Fort Worth extension. Thirty teams and scrapers were employed six weeks on the dam and tank, which covers twenty-one acres and will, it is said, hold 50,000,000 gallons of water. The dam is 324 feet long, 34 (feet?) high, 120 feet wide at the base and (22?) feet wide at the top. It will be one of the most magnificent artificial lakes in the state. Bryan Morning Eagle, 26 February 1902, p.3

Tabor, Texas – Dear Happyhammers: Will you admit a new Hap into your happy circle? I have not any pets except a crow; his name is Steve, and he is very funny. I live on the farm, and like it very much. I am going to school now. [signed] Emma Zimmerman
Houston Post, 2 March 1902, p.31

George Echols was in the city yesterday and said the wind and sand storm Tuesday was the worst he ever saw in this country, and he has been here since 1865. Bryan Morning Eagle, 6 March 1902, p.3

Jim Jones, an old Negro living in the Brazos bottom, was the victim of an unusual accident last Tuesday while the heavy windstorm was at its height. He was working in timber when a tree blew down upon him, breaking his hip bone and collar bone. He was unconscious for several hours and is still in a critical condition. Bryan Morning Eagle, 9 March 1902, p.3

Mr. W.H. Dean showed the *Eagle* reporter a brick burned from clay that he got right here in Bryan, which seems to be everything that is wanted for the purpose – in fact, a very superior clay for brick. Mr. Deans says there is an unlimited quantity of this clay right here, and that it is a veritable gold mine for profitable exploiting, if a company can be organized to go into it. Mr. Dean is a good judge of such things, and if we have such a valuable clay, it is to be hoped it can be utilized. Bryan Morning Eagle, 30 March 1902, p.3

Mr. John Thompson of Millican recently sent to the *Eagle* fifty-seven pounds as fine strained honey as the writer ever saw. Mr. Thompson is evidently an experienced bee keeper. Bryan Morning Eagle, 1 April 1902, p.3

Uncle Mark Wilcox called at *The Eagle* office yesterday, to ask *The Eagle* to print a request. It is an important one too, and we hope it will be complied with. His request is that the sportsmen desist from shooting the plover. The plover has been found upon repeated examinations this spring to have its gizzard full of boll weevils. The farmers need the help of the birds in destroying all these insects possible, for they are going to be bad enough at best. Bryan Morning Eagle, 13 April 1902, p.3

L.A. Gueringer, engineer for the I. & G.N. railroad company, has surveyed a route for a spur from the main line of the road near Fountain to a very fine gravel pit about eight miles from Bryan. The company will use the gravel for ballasting the new road. Right-of-way for the spur to the gravel pit was condemned by proceedings in the county court today. Bryan Morning Eagle, 18 April 1902, p.3

Bryan, Tex., April 20 – George Jenkins of this city, who was taken to Atlanta, Ga., Thursday night for treatment for hydrophobia, died in that city this morning at 6:40. Mr. Jenkins was bitten by his pet dog recently. He was thirty-eight years of age and a native of England, but had lived in Bryan nearly twenty years. He was a leading architect and builder of this section of the State, and such buildings as the new Ursuline Convent of this city and the new agricultural building at the A. and M. College, both of which were erected by him in the recent past, are monuments to his genius and skill. His parents, five brothers, one sister and his wife survive him. His wife is now en route home from England. Dallas Morning News, 21 April 1902, p.2

Lum Benson of Kurten was in the city yesterday and reports that the high winds the past few days have greatly damaged young cotton in some localities, causing many farmers to have to replant. Bryan Morning Eagle, 26 April 1902, p.3

The first water spout to fall in Brazos County of which the *Pilot* editor has any recollection, fell last Saturday evening near Tabor. It all fell at once and in one place, making little short branches rise in a solid body of water two feet high. Mr. C.W. Covington was in the city Monday and reported it and said that within a mile of where it fell it did not rain a drop – *Brazos Pilot*. Bryan Morning Eagle, 2 May 1902, p.3

Mr. Taylor Wilson who lives north of town, brought to the *Eagle* office the fossil remains of some kind of animal that is rare in this section. Mr. Wilson wants it named, but so far no one has attempted to do so. Bryan Morning Eagle, 11 May 1902, p.3

Bryan, Tex., June 27 – A heavy windstorm has prevailed in this section all day. The rain was badly needed and breaks a drouth of five or six weeks. The corn crop, which was almost ruined by the drouth, has sustained further damage by being blown down. The rain is too late to be of much benefit to corn. The rain has saved the cotton crop. Dallas Morning News, 28 June 1902, p.3

“Two Days of Successful Fishing,” Bryan Morning Eagle, 29 June 1902, p.2

Navasota, Tex., July 14 – Ira Steptoe, a Negro living about six miles north of here in Brazos County, was killed by lightning during a shower yesterday afternoon. He was out in the field eating a watermelon when a shower came up and he took the melon and ran under a pecan tree for shelter and was eating the melon when the stroke came and ended his life. Other Negroes who saw the accident rushed to the scene and found Steptoe dead with a piece of melon still in his mouth and the slice which he had been eating firmly grasped in his hand. Dallas Morning News, 15 July 1902, p.2

P.H. Arrington was here from Millican yesterday with a bottle of what appeared to be illuminating oil, taken from the well of Mr. O.J. Scrimshire at Millican. There is so much of the oil in the well at times as to render it unfit for use, and efforts to bail out the well have shown an increase in the amount of the oil. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 31 July 1902, p.6, col.1

The *Eagle* reporter has recently seen some very fine peaches grown in Brazos County, for sale on the streets here. They compare favorably in size, color and flavor with those shipped in from other points and we confidently believe that within a few years this industry will increase greatly and become highly profitable. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 31 July 1902, p.6, col.3

Two small sons of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Weeden of Bethel, Elmo and Hardy, were bitten by a water moccasin while in swimming on Brushy Creek several days ago. Both have experienced a great deal of suffering and neither has been able to walk yet, but it is thought they will recover. Bryan Morning Eagle, 1 August 1902, p.3

J.H. Weeden, of Steep Hollow, was in the city yesterday and stated that his little sons, who were recently bitten by a water moccasin, are now all right. Bryan Morning Eagle, 4 August 1902, p.3

“Fish Tank and Pleasure Resort,” Bryan Morning Eagle, 6 August 1902, p.3. “A number of the citizens of Bryan have secured from Mr. Leroy Trice, general manager of the I. & G.N. railroad, a lease of the railroad tank south of the city for a period of fifteen years. They intend stocking the tank with fine fish ...”

Claude Boyett, son of Mr. W.C. Boyett, of College Station, was bitten on the arm at the wrist by a ground rattlesnake Tuesday night. He was attended by Dr. Raysor and reported getting along all right yesterday. Bryan Morning Eagle, 14 August 1902, p.3

The Fin-Feather club put 500 bass, crappie and rock bass in the lake south of town Monday night. The club will shortly begin the improvement of the property by the erection of a club house and boat house. Bryan Morning Eagle, 27 August 1902, p.3

Yesterday morning the A. and M. College excursion train to San Antonio, on the H. & T.C. , was delayed several hours by a slight wreck just below College. There was a collision with a freight engine due to the fog prevailing at the time, but no one was hurt and the damage was slight. Bryan Morning Eagle, 25 October 1902, p.3

The big rain yesterday prevented the football game that was to have been played at the fair grounds, between the Trinity University and the A. & M. College. The game will be played at some early date not yet fixed. Bryan Daily Eagle, 4 November 1902, p.3

Charlie Depoma offers his services to the public for grafting any kind of fruit trees at 15 cents for two trees. Guaranteed. 10 cents per tree. Address, Bryan, Texas. Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 November 1902, p.3

Thousands of ducks passed over this vicinity early yesterday morning. Some few of them lit at the tanks and were bagged by lucky sportsmen. Duck shooting promises to be good this season. Bryan Daily Eagle, 11 November 1902, p.3

During the past year the Ursuline ladies have made every effort to improve the general appearance of St. Ursula's hill, but owing to the extensive grounds time will be required to make it the place of beauty and the pride of the city as they so earnestly desire. For this purpose they have set aside Saturday, the 29th inst., as Arbor day, and any contribution in the way of trees or shrubs will be gratefully received. With the co-operation of the members of St. Ursula's Literary club and St. Cecelia's Musical club, the Sisters hope to make it an Arbor day long to be remembered. Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 November 1902, p.3

The big lake made by the I. & G.N. south of town is very full and threatens to run over, in which case the Fin-Feather club may lose some valuable fish. Bryan Daily Eagle, 25 November 1902, p.3

The Arbor Day exercises will be held at the Ursuline Academy tomorrow. The program will appear tomorrow morning. The ladies of the Academy have received numerous donations of trees, shrubbery and flowers, and for these, as well as for others that may be received, they are deeply grateful. Bryan Daily Eagle, 28 November 1902, p.3

“Arbor Day Celebration,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 29 November 1902, p.3. At the Ursuline Academy.

People from the Navasota River country say there are more ducks on the river and lakes this year than usual – immense droves of them. There is so much water, however, it is hard to get them after shooting them. Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 November 1902, p.3

A good many people are planting trees about their homes – a most creditable thing to do and the proper time to do it. Bryan Daily Eagle, 30 November 1902, p.3

Capt. A.F. Wilson returned yesterday from his plantation where he had been duck shooting and bagged 87 fine birds. His friends at Hearne got most of them as he came through that place. Bryan Daily Eagle, 6 December 1902, p.3

Large numbers of fruit trees are now being received every week in Bryan and distributed throughout the surrounding country. There is evidently a determination on the part of many people to go into fruit growing to make it pay. Bryan Daily Eagle, 14 December 1902, p.7

“Walks,” (Texas A&M) Long Horn, 1903, pp.131-133. “... This is a monotonous rolling prairie country, with post-oak barrens to vary it ... The Campus itself is as pretty a bit of ‘flower prairie’ as you will find anywhere about. We all know how gorgeous it is from February until June or later, with its carpet of changing colors – red, yellow, white, violet, and rose. Nowhere will you find more plentiful or in richer color, anemones, buttercups, gromwells, “Indian blankets,” and primroses. But you must go to the woods for violets and saxifrage, and to sandy woods and fields for ‘blue bonnets,’ and to the ‘bottoms’ for ferns and cardinal flowers ... The walk down the other railroad is more varied, because it cuts newly across fields and woods, and is filled in with gravel brought from the bottom, full of pebbles, fossil shells, and seeds of weeds that do not naturally grow here – prickly poppies and verenas and a host of spreading, lace-like things that make beautiful patterns on the bare clay. Turning off from the railroad just this side of the first trestle, you find a footpath through the woods, skirting the College pasture for about a mile; and here are wild violets and lichens and fungi in quantities. The path goes to the head of the ravine called White’s Creek, and on, past several Negro cabins, to the Fish-Tank. This is a fairly large pond, by comparison with the ordinary pasture tanks about here. It is kept up by a club of sportsmen in Bryan, who usually have a boat or two on it. It is a good swimming pool, for the water is not dangerously deep, though very cold below the surface. The bottom is a stiff white clay. Reeds at one end and youquapin lilies, with their large bowl-shaped leaves, give it some picturesqueness. There are trees enough for shade in case we care to picnic here, and the tank water is cool and fresh, for it is fed by springs. In the woods below the Tank White’s Creek runs into deep canyons, wild

enough, especially at night, on a coon hunt when you may see them by the light of a tall moss-covered tree, aflame to its tip ... Should you leave the campus by either of the side gates opening onto the Long-Lane-That-Has-No-Turning, north of the College grounds you will find that a short walk across one of the fields behind the butcher's cottage, will bring you to a very pretty bit of woods, with large oaks and elms, mossy banks of a small stream, tangles of vines, and open glades. Here is the place for wood-violets – two kinds of them. Follow the little stream and you will come out on the Sulphur Springs road, which bounds College property on the east. From this road there leads off to Carter's Creek several lanes. We follow them between fields and through post-oak woods for a good two miles to reach at last the prettiest woods we shall find about here – tall cottonwoods, elms and oaks, moss-hung and vine-clad; a tangle of stretch-briar and deer-vine, casino and youpon and holly, making walking rather hard; but we don't mind, for these woods are worth exploring. The professor of botany will tell you that he finds their flora quite different from that of the Brazos Valley, and far more interesting. Here, in midsummer, the cardinal flower blooms; here are ferns and mosses, and sassafras. You may follow the creek for miles, coming at last on Boyle's Lake, an old fishing ground. If, again, you leave the campus by the south-side gate, from the Professor's pasture, you find yourself in Vannay's Lane. Crossing that, where the big pecan tree stands, carved all over its trunk with cadets' names, some of them of ten or fifteen years back, you walk through a pasture and emerge on another lane, on the other side of which stands the Bohemian Dance Hall. This walk is a favorite one, on Saturday nights after taps. But 'that's another story'."

Plant a Tree," Bryan Daily Eagle, 22 February 1903, p.2. Letter from McDuff Simpson.

Parties in town from College yesterday reported a heavy wind struck that place about 5 o'clock yesterday morning and made things exceedingly lively for a few seconds. The big wareroom near the standpipe was demolished, tin roofs injured, chimneys and flues blown down. The house occupied by Agent Donaldson of the I.& G.N. was blown off the blocks. The loss will aggregate several thousand dollars. Bryan Daily Eagle, 27 February 1903, p.3

"College Building Damaged," Galveston Daily News, 27 February 1903, p.1. Wind damaged roofs, chimneys, trees.

College Station, Tex., Feb.26 – After carefully investigating the damage done to the buildings of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, it has been found that the damage is considerably more than at first thought. Several roofs have been ruined and the sheet iron storehouse was torn to pieces. The local damage will amount to something like \$7,000, if the property is repaired. Dallas Morning News, 27 February 1903, p.9.

A report from College places the damage of the storm Thursday morning at \$7000. The wind was very heavy for a short time and occasioned much alarm. Bryan Daily Eagle, 28 February 1903, p.3

College Station, Texas – Dear Happyhammers: Here I come to chat a while with you all. It is wet here now. A mad dog came into the yard last week and papa went out to kill him, but the gun snapped. There was not a load in it, so the dog got away. I got my seed on January 19 and was glad to get them. [signed] A true Hap, Abney Garrison. Houston Post, 1 March 1903, p.39

“Clay Not Much Wet,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 March 1903, p.2

A. Worley has suffered the loss of his young shade trees on his property fronting on College road in the southern part of town. They were evidently removed by some one bent on malicious mischief. It is a peculiar case of theft to say the least. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 March 1903, p.3

Major W.R. Cavitt says spring has come to stay, he thinks, and we are not likely to have any more frost. He says that for a number of years he has noticed there has been no frost after the arrival of the scissortails or birds of paradise. Bryan Daily Eagle, 26 March 1903, p.3

The new well now being bored at the water and light plant is down to a depth of 55 feet. It is just south of the well now in use and Manager Preston says if it will flow as good a stream under the pump as the old well now does without diminishing the old well he will have all the water he wants for the town and probably enough to sprinkle the streets. The well now in use is 175-feet deep. A large pump has been purchased for the new well. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 16 April 1903, p.7

Messrs. A.M. and H.G. Rhodes, J.W. Batts, B. Sbisa, W.C. Burel, C.G. Parsons, John B. Mike, G.B. Abercrombie, V.B. Hudson, Sam R. Henderson, W.K. Symms, W.G. Taliaferro, M. Nagle, S.H. Franklin, J.A. Chew, J.W. Doremus, J.N. Cole, J.D. Daly, R.J. Deens, G.W. McMichael and H.O. Boatwright have purchased 800 acres of land on which is situated the “Adkins Mound.” The land is located in the S.D. Smith league of Brazos County, one and a half miles south of Sulphur Springs, and three miles west of Lamb Springs, Grimes County, on the Navasota River. The foot of the mound forms an embankment of the Navasota River, and the mound rises to a commanding elevation of sixty feet. The land has been purchased for the purpose of developing its oil resources, which will be done as early as practical. The purchasers will visit the locality and have the land surveyed during the coming week. The plan was inaugurated and successfully carried out by Messrs. Sam R. Henderson and V.B. Hudson. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 April 1903, p.1, col.1

A gentleman told the *Eagle* reporter yesterday that coming in from the Brazos bottom Monday he saw a lot of boys catching catfish, some of them fully eight inches long, from the shallow pools of water standing along the roadside in the Rant Smith lane where the road has been graded up heretofore and the water has been standing since last fall. As no creek or river overflows that locality, just where the fish came from is a mystery, unless they rained down. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 April 1903, p.6

The rain was just fine, but the cold snap was a little more than was expected at this late date. The idea of wearing overcoats in this locality on the 1st of May ! (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 7 May 1903, p.5

The death of Frank Richards, colored, from lightning during the hail, rain and electric storm, was mentioned in the Eagle yesterday morning. Richards was driving a wagon loaded with feedstuff from Bryan to Howell Bros.' stock farm. He was overtaken by the storm and killed one mile east of town in the Howell pasture. One of the mules was also killed and was turned completely around, with head towards the wagon. Richards was found on the wagon seat with his head thrown back and fell over the dashboard. His body and clothing were burned and his shoes ripped open. His collar was found fifty yards away and the rim of his hat 100 yards away. The bolt appears to have struck him in the head and run down the body. One of the mules was uninjured and stood in the harness by the side of the dead one until found by Clint Soles an hour later. The body of Richards was viewed by Justice Mitchell. The fire was evidently extinguished by the rain, otherwise the wagon and all would probably have been burned. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 May 1903, p.2, col.2

Bryan, Tex., June 13 – A fine slow rain has been falling all morning and is just what was needed, except that it is much too cold for cotton. Winter coats and overcoats are in evidence. Dallas Morning News, 14 June 1903, p.8

Joe Lloyd and Berpo Smith killed a large rattlesnake on the Navasota River the past week. It had eleven rattles and a button. There are said to be a good many of them in the bottom. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 June 1903, p.3, col.1

Quite a heavy windstorm visited the Kurten community Sunday afternoon a good many trees were blown down, some of them obstructing the roads ... Mr. C.W. Elliott of Macy reports that a storm raged at Edge and Macy last Sunday, the 21st. Lots of fine timber was blown down, and much corn leveled flat to the ground. They had a rain Saturday and another Sunday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 25 June 1903, p.5

Bryan, Tex., July 4 – The “belled buzzard,” or a belled buzzard, has been seen around here recently and has attracted no little attention. Dallas Morning News, 5 July 1903, p.3

Brazos County. College Station ... Boll weevil reported to be quite numerous on the earlier cotton. Farmers are picking the weevil and also picking up and burning infested forms of “squares” ... Wellborn ... Boll weevil very numerous and little hopes of any cotton at all, unless it should turn and remain very dry and hot during July and August ... Bryan ... The [cotton] crop is four weeks late, stand bad and boll weevils reported pretty generally distributed over the county in spots and doing considerable damage ... General rains have fallen in the county during the past few weeks ... Millican ... It is looking up some, but the [cotton] plant is small, and boll weevil are doing considerable damage except in the Brazos bottom, where they seem not to have appeared to any extent ... Dallas Morning News, 10 July 1903, p.10

Colored Policeman Bailey Bowen killed a dog thought to have rabies yesterday. The hot weather is upon us and it is high time to get rid of all vagrant canines. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 11 July 1903, p.7, col.2

One thousand black bass were received yesterday from the government fish hatchery at San Marcos and placed in the Fin-Feather lake. This makes close to three thousand young fish in the lake. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 July 1903, p.13

The recent rains have raised the big railroad tank, south of town, about ten or twelve inches. The Fin-Feather club people report immense numbers of young fish in the lake. Fishing will not be allowed until next year. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 6 August 1903, p.5

A fine picnic was enjoyed by a large crowd Tuesday at South Springs near Allenfarm. A splendid dinner was one of the features. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 20 August 1903, p.5

“Commercial Orchards,” Dallas Morning News, 26 September 1903, p.12. “The principal feature on the program was an address by Prof. Fred W. Mally of Garrison, ‘On the Proper Way to Develop the Fruit Industry in Brazos County’ ... Prof. Mally went out with a committee yesterday afternoon to examine lands contiguous to Bryan, and like Sam H. Dixon, he believes they are fine for fruit ...”

Bryan, Tex., Oct. 6 – John T. Hanway of this city, who has gone to St. Louis to have his son treated at the Pasteur Institute for the bite of a mad cat, has wired home that the cat, which he expressed to the institute, died on the way, and an examination of its body showed it had rabies. He also says the boy’s wounds are severe and he is being given urgent treatment three times a day. Dallas Morning News, 7 October 1903, p.11

Bryan, Tex. – Several parties out driving yesterday had a lively chase after a wolf. The animal was finally brought to bay against a fence in the south part of town and captured by means of a rope. The wolf escaped from a show Saturday night. Dallas Morning News, 20 October 1903, p.3

A crowd of Bryanites, who were out driving Sunday afternoon had a lively chase after a wolf which escaped from the Forepaugh and Sells Bros. show Saturday night. They rounded it up and captured it in the southern part of town. The animal was brought to bay against a fence and roped. It had a collar on and was handled by the use of two hitch reins. The wolf has been given to Luther Taylor and will hereafter be company for “Shorty” the badger. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 22 October 1903, p.2, col.3

Bryan, Tex., Oct. 28 – Mrs. John T. Hanway and little son have returned from St. Louis, where the lad has been under treatment for several weeks at the Pasteur Institute. He was severely bitten by a cat with rabies. The cat was also sent to the institute. Dallas Morning News, 29 October 1903, p.4

Bryan, Tx., Oct.31 – Wilson Reed, Jr. was knocked down and rendered insensible for a short time this morning near Bryan by lightning. He was standing in the door of a house. The screen door was closed and was wrecked by the bolt. A young man with Reed was shocked, but escaped without injury. He thought Reed was dead, but securing assistance the man was revived. Dallas Morning News, 1 November 1903, p.8

Bryan, Tex., Oct.31 – A horse belonging to W.B. Grice of this city developed a violent case of hydrophobia. He dashed into a wire fence and lacerated himself terribly, and becoming entirely unmanageable, had to be killed. He fought desperately at every one who went near him. Dallas Morning News, 1 November 1903, p.8

Mr. Albert Schultz was bitten through one finger by Luther Taylor's pet badger about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The wound made him very ill for a time and fears were entertained that he might have lockjaw, but he was better and resting well when heard from last night. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 5 November 1903, p.2.

L.B. Mendola was exhibiting a banana stalk with a bloom and unripe fruit at Dansbys & Dansby's yesterday. It was grown at his home in this city. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 5 November 1903, p.8, col.4

Bryan, Tex., Nov.5 – A heavy rain, hail, wind and electric storm visited this section late yesterday afternoon. Little damage was reported in town, but in some localities in the county the hail was severe, breaking out window glass, beating down the crops and pelting animals and travelers severely. The hail was two to six inches deep in places, and banked against fences a foot deep. In town an electric wire burned in two during the storm and fell upon a buggy horse. The animal was knocked down and was unable to get up until the current was shut off. Dallas Morning News, 6 November 1903, p.12

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 20 – C.A. Harris has on exhibition at his place of business a fine bunch of bananas and a large lemon, crown in his yard in Bryan. The latter measures fifteen inches in circumference and is as large as a cocoanut. Dallas Morning News, 21 November 1903, p.9

Bryan, Tex., Nov. 21 – What appears to be smoke, emanating from some unknown locality, and brought by the east wind, has enveloped this section like a fog for three or four days. It not only excludes the sun and renders invisible objects a short distance away but has also filled the houses, and gets into everybody's eyes, inflaming them and making them smart. Rumors of pine woods fires east of here are current. The smoke is denser this afternoon than at any time yet. Dallas Morning News, 22 November 1903, p.4

Most everybody has finally agreed that it was smoke yesterday. It came up gradually two or three days ago, on the east wind, and enveloped the earth like a fog, excluding the sunlight and obscuring objects a short distance away. Finally it filled the houses and made red and watery the eyes of the people. And still there were some who went about with rubbers and rain coats expecting it to rain, but finally most everybody agreed that

rain or shine, hot or cold, wet or dry, it was smoke and plenty of it – permeating, aggravating, almost suffocating smoke. There were many rumors of forest fires and of atmospheric conditions, and much blinking and rubbing of the eyes, and it was still smokey when this scribe on last night closed his smokfull eyes. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 26 November 1903, p.2, col.2

Much complaint is being heard about the pigeon nuisance in some parts of town, and the *Eagle* has been asked to direct the attention of the authorities to the matter with the view of having them thinned out. Bryan Daily Eagle, 20 December 1903, p.4, col.2

“Brazos County,” Texas Almanac, 1904, pp.219-221. “It is splendidly adapted to general farming and live stock raising, being about equally divided between prairie and timbered land ... Fine water is obtained at depths from 15 to 45 feet. Of the timbers, post oak, hickory and blackjack predominate, but there are considerable quantities of cedar, elm, pin oak, pecan, ash, locust, black walnut, water oak, cottonwood, hackberry, sycamore and box elder ... Many kinds of wild grapes, including mustang, fox, muscadine, winter and post oak, grow in abundance ... The gulf breezes make the climate delightful ... The winters are short and mild, the temperature rarely falling below the freezing point ...”

While out squirrel hunting six miles from Bryan yesterday on the Dillashaw tap road, Vic Chmelsky, 18 years old, was accidentally shot and killed with a shotgun in the hands of Aubrey Cruse, 12 years old. Chmelsky was shot about 2:30 p.m., and died two hours later. His brother, 14 or 15, witnessed the tragic accident. The fathers of the boys, Mr. Joe Cruse and Mr. Sim Chmelsky, were in the city last night after a coffin and reported the deplorable accident. Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 January 1904, p.3

J.H. White of Wixon called on the *Eagle* yesterday. He reported the hail storm very heavy in his locality, but no damage of consequence. Bryan Daily Eagle, 23 January 1904, p.3.

Mr. J.D. Phillips, superintendent of Isaac Hefferon’s new rock quarry at Roan’s Prairie, Grimes County, was in the city yesterday in search of men to work in the quarry. Mr. Phillips says he is working seventy five men at present and shipping ten to twelve carloads of rock per day to Houston, Galveston and other points. He says by Feb. 1, he will be getting out twenty carloads per day. Mr. Phillips has recently moved his outfit from Millican, Brazos County, where he was in charge of the quarry for two years. He has not yet moved his family to Roan’s Prairie. He says the quarry there is a magnificent one situated one mile from the Madisonville branch of the I.& G.N. and reached by a spur. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 January 1904, p.3

Bryan, Tex., Jan. 28 – A two days’ blizzard was followed by a snow storm last night. Snow covered the ground and was the heaviest for several years. Today the weather is fair, having moderated some, and the snow has melted. Dallas Morning News, 29 January 1904, p.7

The snow, which was the heaviest for several years and fairly covered the ground,

disappeared rapidly under the influence of fair weather and sunshine. There was some “snowballing” here but not as much as usual. At College the boys made it lively for anybody appearing on the grounds. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 February 1904, p.5, col.1

Bryan, Tex., Feb.3 – The Texas World’s Fair Commission has made application to Major W.R. Cavitt of Bryan for an exhibition of the soils of Brazos County, and Major Cavitt has gone to work to supply the demand. He is collecting from a peck to a half a bushel of various kinds of soils from poor as well as from rich lands. Brazos County’s splendid agricultural and horticultural exhibit has already been forwarded and with an exhibit of soils, the county will be splendidly represented at the World’s Fair. Dallas Morning News, 4 February 1904, p.2

Bryan, Tex., Feb.10 – The U.M.C. Southern squad of crack shots gave an exhibition here this afternoon while a blizzard was raging, making the following score: Marshall 90, Heikes 90, Hubby 88, Budd 92, Heer 95. Dallas Morning News, 11 February 1904, p.10

A disastrous fire was narrowly averted at Luther Taylor’s saloon Wednesday night. Some person or persons either accidentally or maliciously set fire to the straw in the cage of “Shorty,” Mr. Taylor’s pet badger, kept under a shed at the rear of the saloon. The animal’s cries attracted the attention of Mr. Taylor and others and they found the cage enveloped in a strong blaze and “Shorty” doing a fire dance that would have laid “Lotta” in the shade. He was hastily liberated and while the flames were being extinguished made his escape in the darkness. A search failed to locate him, but Mr. Taylor got him back yesterday, with a bill for a dozen chickens he killed while at large Wednesday night. “Shorty’s” beautiful fur coat was badly scorched by the fire and he came very near being killed for his marauding before his identity was established. Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 February 1904, p.3, col.2

The *Eagle* learns from Dr. Oliver that a gentleman named Brock was bitten by a mad-dog in the country Tuesday and left last night for Pasteur Institute. Bryan Daily Eagle, 13 February 1904, p.3

Bryan, Tex., Feb. 13 – J.C. Chaney, a noted cattleman of this section, has recently inclosed with a hog-proof fence 2,000 acres of land in the Navasota River bottom, adjacent to Bryan, and is preparing to engage in the hog business on a larger scale than has heretofore been attempted in this locality. The acorn mast in this bottom is always of the very best and enough remains on the ground at present to keep his hogs in fine condition until summer. He is now getting ready to ship a car load of fat porkers to market, fattened on last fall’s acorn crop. Dallas Morning News, 14 February 1904, p.11

Henry George and Geo. Willman went up to Capt. Wilson’s farm on the Brazos for a duck hunt yesterday. Bryan Daily Eagle, 17 February 1904, p.3

F.E. Fickey called upon the *Eagle* while in the city yesterday and left a sack of soil to be sent to the World’s Fair at St. Louis. This makes the third sack received at this office, and we highly appreciate the efforts put forth in this direction for the advancement of

Brazos County. Bryan Daily Eagle, 24 February 1904, p.3

Bryan, Tex., March 5 – Sam Brock, the Brazos County young man who was bitten by a mad dog on the left hand Feb. 9, has returned from New Orleans, where he took the Pasteur treatment for the prevention of hydrophobia, and is now as well as ever. He was a patient at the Charity Hospital in New Orleans, where free treatment is provided for all who desire it, and the only expense he was at was lodging and meals, which he obtained at the hospital. Mr. Brock was bitten on Feb.9; he reached New Orleans on Feb.14, and was discharged from the hospital on March 1. Dallas Morning News, 6 March 1904, p.2.

Bryan, Tex., March 15 – The 6-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ab Carroll of the Wixon community in Brazos County was bitten by a dog about six weeks ago. Hydrophobia developed Friday and the child died Saturday night after the usual intense suffering. Dallas Morning News, 16 March 1904, p.5

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ab Carroll of the Wixon community are grieved to learn of the death of their little son, 6 years old, which occurred on Saturday night from hydrophobia. The boy was bitten by a dog about six weeks ago, and was attacked by the fearful malady only a short time before. He died in great agony. Bryan Daily Eagle, 16 March 1904, p.3

Bryan, Tex., April 11 – Reports received here today from all parts of the Brazos bottom indicate a damaging frost yesterday morning on all black lands in the bottom, killing both corn and cotton. Some think the corn will come out in places. The loss was quite severe, especially to those who have planted high-priced improved seed. Dallas Morning News, 12 April 1904, p.3

Heavy damage from frost Saturday night is reported from all parts of the Brazos bottom, especially from the black lands where the cotton was killed and the corn also hurt. Some claim the corn was killed and others that it will come out. The loss is especially heavy to those who lost cotton from the improved seed. Bryan Daily Eagle, 12 April 1904, p.5

Wellborn, Tex., May 3 – About twenty inches of rain fell here from 5 to 7 p.m. Traffic will be delayed several hours on account of washouts. Old settlers say nothing like it ever occurred before. Dallas Morning News, 4 May 1904, p.11

Wellborn, Tex., May 3 – All crops on the creeks and lowlands are completely destroyed by the waters. Railroad tracks are washed badly, and it will be fully twenty-four hours before trains can be operated. Telephone wires are down and can not hear from the interior. It is feared that many live stock have been drowned. Thomas Royder has just returned from his plantation in the Brazos bottom and reports having to abandon his horse two miles from here and take to the railroad for safety. He says there is no doubt that crops in the Brazos bottoms are completely destroyed. It is still raining heavily at 11 p.m. Dallas Morning News, 4 May 1904, p.11.

Bryan, Tex., May 4 – D.F. Holland, a prosperous and highly esteemed farmer of the Reliance community, 44 years old, was instantly killed by lightning during a heavy rain storm late yesterday afternoon. Mr. Holland had just walked out in the back gallery, leaving his family inside, when the lightning struck near the chimney, ran down a valley, roe through the gallery roof and struck Mr. Holland on the head blackening and burning his body. One child was knocked insensible in the house and the stock literally torn from a shotgun. The roof was badly torn up and two blocks supporting the house split open. The rain was exceedingly heavy throughout the section and much damage was done. The trains on the Houston and Texas Central were laid out by washouts between Bryan and Wellborn until today. Dallas Morning News, 5 May 1904, p.7.

"Killed by Lightning," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 5 May 1904, p.2, col.3. Mr. D.F. Holland

The heavy rains have caused an overflow of Little River, Little Brazos and the Navasota River and a 25-foot rise on the Brazos, but fears of an overflow of the Brazos are not entertained unless there is more rain. Considerable damage to crops is reported on Carter's Creek, and other small streams in the county got very high, but soon ran down. Bryan Daily Eagle, 7 May 1904, p.3

"P.H. Arrington, who is working with Dr. Knapp in the government boll weevil experimental work...," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 12 May 1904, p.2, col.1

"At College Station," Dallas Morning News, 6 June 1904, p.9. "This, the first day of the Agricultural and Mechanical College commencement, has been one of varied sunshine and shadows. The weather was perfect during the morning, but about 5:30 o'clock a heavy wind and rainstorm came up and cut short the open-air concert being given by the college band."

The dust storm before the rain yesterday afternoon started the talk about street sprinkling but it hasn't started the sprinkler. It was something fierce. Bryan Morning Eagle, 11 June 1904, p.3

The rain yesterday was a gully washer and a ground soaker, and this reminds us that some of the streets are becoming badly washed, especially in the residence parts of town, and should be ditched and graded in a systematic manner without further delay. Bryan Morning Eagle, 21 June 1904, p.3

Blount Andrews is proceeding rapidly with the well in the city park, designed to furnish street sprinkling water. Bryan Morning Eagle, 25 June 1904, p.5