

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

1905-1909

compiled by Bill Page

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The sunflower contest is becoming interesting indeed. On yesterday an Eagle reporter was called upon to witness the measurement of one growing in the yard of a gentleman living in front of the court house, and the plant was found to be 13 feet and nine inches high. There appears to be no limit to the altitude to which Brazos County soil can raise the flaming disc of the *Helianthus annuus*. Bryan Morning Eagle, 29 June 1905, p.5

The people of the Thompson Creek and Parker School House communities will hold a union revival meeting at Jones' Spring, under a large brush arbor, beginning Wednesday, July 27. Dr. Geo. B. Butler and Rev. S.R. McClung will do the preaching. Bryan Morning Eagle, 29 June 1904 p.5, col.2.

S.H. Allphin, J.W. Brogdon, Jeff Cole, L.B. Kern, Dave Kern and H.H. Brogdon left yesterday for a hunt on the Navasota River. Bryan Morning Eagle, 13 July 1904, p.3

W.H. McVey of Wellborn was in town yesterday trying to get a lot of his town friends to break their record and take a drink of pure water. He had a demijohn of the famous pure Minter Springs water. This place, Minter Springs, will yet be famous for its abundance of pure, cold spring water, and the surroundings of cool, shady groves. McVey had three fine Poland China pigs with him, of the famous Sims strain of prize winners. They are beauties, and were sold to Jno. K. Parker for \$10.00 each. Bryan Morning Eagle, 16 July 1904, p.3

While John Curtis and Jerry Brown, two Negro boys about twenty years old, were out hunting in the Brazos bottom Tuesday afternoon, a shotgun was accidentally discharged the load taking effect in the heart of Curtis and killing him instantly. Bryan Morning Eagle, 20 July 1904, p.3

I.M. Cook of Steep Hollow was in the city yesterday marketing fine peaches from his ten acre orchard. He says he has one tree that will bring him eight dollars this year, and that he is much pleased with his success in growing peaches as a money crop. He expects to enlarge his orchard, believing that Brazos County is in the proven fruit belt. Bryan Morning Eagle, 28 July 1904, p.3

Luther Taylor's famous badger, "Shorty," made his escape a few nights ago and is still at large. Chickens had better roost high while he is out. Bryan Morning Eagle, 10 August 1904, p.3

J.D. Steele of Millican is getting \$4.00 per tree from the sale of some very fine Leconte pears. At the rate at which these trees yield money, an acre of this fruit would yield \$440.00. Mr. Steele brought some of these pears to the *Eagle* office. Major W.R. Cavitt of this city also has some as fine pears as we have seen this season, grown at his home in the southern part of town. Bryan Morning Eagle, 13 August 1904, p.3

The test of the city well in the park was made yesterday, and resulted in assurance of plenty of water for sprinkling purposes. The pump worked nearly an hour, throwing a four-inch stream, and the water was not exhausted. Bryan Morning Eagle, 21 August 1904, p.3

Joe Pletzer has purchased from J.B. Stevenson a 4-horse power mounted Fairbanks, Morse & Co. engine and wood-sawing outfit which he will be ready to run in about a week. He will move from place to place for the accommodation of customers. Bryan Morning Eagle, 27 October 1904, p.3

Prof. H.W. South took a party of twenty Allen Academy students out for a hunt on the Navasota River Friday night. They had a fine time and bagged sixty squirrels. Uncle Joe Hearne gave another one of his famous 'possum suppers last night. The 'possum was cooked to the taste of an epicure and the big crowd present did ample justice to the feast. Bryan Morning Eagle, 30 October 1904, p.3

An alligator gar weighing 137 pounds was caught out of Bundick lake, near the Bundick crossing ... *Madisonville Meteor*. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 May 1905, p.1, col.3

Jerry Crouch, colored, was here from Benchley yesterday, bringing with him an armadillo, which he killed Thursday night near his home. Bryan Morning Eagle, 3 June 1905, p.3.

Two children of Frank Bukoski, living near Wellborn, were bitten by a dog belonging to the family, Monday, one on the hand and the other on the knee. The parents becoming alarmed, Mr. J.K. McGregor took them and their father to Mr. Mark Wilcox's home north of Bryan Tuesday afternoon, and the latter applied his madstone to the wounds, but it would not adhere. The dog had never before manifested any vicious tendency, and it is hoped there will be no serious result from the wounds. Bryan Morning Eagle, 8 June 1905, p.3, col.4

Mr. I.R. Vannoy, who resides near Wellborn, still holds the blue ribbon for the finest peaches marketed in Bryan this season – better than any received from east Texas. It is claimed by competent judges that Mr. Vannoy's land and other land in that vicinity is as fine as any in east Texas for fruit. Bryan Morning Eagle, 8 June 1905, p.3, col.4

I.R. Vannoy, the peach man from near Wellborn, brought to the Eagle office yesterday a box of the finest Mamie Ross peaches we have ever seen. He has a young orchard of seven acres which is heavily fruited this year. Bryan Morning Eagle, 18 June 1905, p.3

C.G. Parsons has about recovered from an illness of some weeks duration and attributes his recuperation to the use of Manganic water. Mr. Parsons says the people have a health resort right here at home in the Manganic Wells, and do not realize it. Bryan Morning Eagle, 6 July 1905, p.3

The new well at the fair grounds has been completed and is ninety feet deep and filled with water to a depth of seventy feet. J.B. Stevenson has placed a gasoline engine at the well to supply an abundance of water for the fair. Bryan Morning Eagle, 13 October 1905, p.3

Mrs. A.H. McCurry and daughters, Misses Allwin and Dora McCurry of the Manganic Wells neighborhood were in the city yesterday. Bryan Morning Eagle, 15 October 1905, p.2

Will Stallings killed a pelican at a tank eight miles north of Bryan Saturday. The bird was a monster, with an 8-foot spread of wings. Bryan Morning Eagle, 7 November 1905, p.5, col.4

A small orange tree, with the ripening fruit on it, and grown by Mrs. M.H. James in a hot house, is attracting no little attention at Mr. James' drugstore. Bryan Morning Eagle, 16 November 1905, p.3

For Rent – Manganic Wells and Farm: 80 acres in cultivation. Good orchard, plenty of pasturage and water. Good houses. Apply to C.G. Parsons. Bryan Morning Eagle, 17 December 1905, p.2

Austin, Tex., Dec. 28 – Dogs, supposed to be the most rabid of all animals when in hydrophobia, can be given hydrophobia and cured, as was demonstrated at the Pasteur Institute of the State of Texas, operated in connection with the State Lunatic Asylum in this city. The Pasteur Institute turned out today as cured nine fine registered fox hounds from Bryan, which had been bitten by another hound in the kennels at Bryan, which went mad and traveled eighty miles in one day and was killed. The other dogs, which are very valuable, were rushed here in crates in charge of a Negro attendant at the kennels. They have been inoculated with the poison from animals which died with hydrophobia, and successfully withstood the treatment. They will not go mad as a result of the bite of their kennel mate which had the rabies. It has been a remarkable case and said to have been the first of its kind in this section of the United States. It keeps the record clean at the Pasteur Institute. With the nine dogs cured, the institute has treated 140 patients and none was lost, but all saved from the dread hydrophobia. There are now twelve patients in the institute taking the treatment. Dallas Morning News, 29 December 1905, p.10

College Station, Tex., Feb.13 – This section was visited by a very heavy rainstorm yesterday afternoon and last night. The rain will be of value in in preparing the soil for spring planting. Dallas Morning News, 15 February 1906, p.9

Mr. J.T. Hanway, who is in Austin 'phoned to Mrs. Hanway last night requesting that his friends and patrons be notified that he will be absent about two weeks longer. He is at the Pasteur Institute taking precautionary treatment, for the reason that a week or ten days ago he doctored a dog that subsequently died and was believed to be affected with rabies. He reports that he is feeling fine and getting along nicely. Bryan Morning Eagle, 25 February 1906, p.3

Manager Tom Preston of the Bryan Water and Light Company informs the *Eagle* that he will shortly sink a new well at the water works plant to secure a more abundant water supply. His purpose is to put down a new well 3 ½ feet in diameter and of suitable depth. A large pumping apparatus will be used in the new well which is expected to furnish 140 gallons of water per minute. It is believed by Mr. Preston that with a well of this capacity and the two wells he now has the water supply will be quite sufficient. Bryan Morning Eagle, 2 March 1906, p.3

Reports from the different parts of the county indicate that the rain was general yesterday, and hail and wind were reported in the western part of the county, but no serious damage done. The norther prevalent yesterday grew steadily colder and overcoats were in evidence. Bryan Morning Eagle, 29 March 1906, p.5

Joe Hearne's wolf escaped from the fire station zoo yesterday morning, and rejoicing in the frolicsome ecstasy of unexpected freedom, raced down Main Street, creating consternation among the assorted aggregation of canines loitering on the thoroughfare. His wolfship was finally rounded up by Joe Hearne and taken back to captivity. Bryan Morning Eagle, 6 April 1906, p.5

Bryan, Tex., April 13 – A destructive storm visited the Wheelock, Robertson County, and Edge, Brazoria [Brazos] County, neighborhoods last night. One end of a church was blown off at Wheelock. The residence of Dr. Gilstrap was blown from the blocks and the Dave Wheelock old home was destroyed. Timber was also damaged. The home of John Henry, near Edge, was totally wrecked, his household effects scattered about and his barn blown away. Mr. Henry was away from home, but his family miraculously escaped injury. No reports of fatalities or personal injuries have been received. Dallas Morning News, 14 April 1906, p.8

The boys planned a wolf chase yesterday afternoon south of town, but the wolf, which was hauled out in a box from town, took French leave of the party after being liberated and given a start, and returned to the fire station zoo. Bryan Morning Eagle, 28 April 1906, p.5

Some of the boys took the wolf out for another chase yesterday afternoon and got what they wanted. His wolfship gave them a clean run for their money, and like Mark Twain's cayote, left them "solitary and alone in the midst of a vast solitude." Bryan Morning Eagle, 1 May 1906, p.3

B.H. Knowles brought in from the Brazos bottom yesterday a large pelican, measuring about eight feet from tip to tip of wings, and killed in the Brazos bottom. Bryan Morning Eagle, 8 May 1906, p.5

T.R. Batte lost a couple of cows, killed by lightning, in the Brazos bottom during the rainstorm. Bryan Morning Eagle, 16 May 1906, p.5

College Station, Tex., May 26 – This vicinity was visited last night by a heavy wind and electrical storm. Fences, telephone wires and ornamental trees were blown down, but no more serious damage was done. The rain that accompanied the storm was not heavy and was gladly received. Dallas Morning News, 28 May 1906, p.2

A good sized chicken snake was found in a clock regularly used at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Levy yesterday morning. The clock sat on the mantel and got so it would not run. It was brought down to the Levy store and on examination revealed the snake snugly coiled on top of the works inside the case and very much alive. How it got there is a mystery. The snake was transferred to a glass jar and placed on exhibition. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 May 1906, p.2, col.3.

Bryan, Tex., June 25 – A splendid rain, which appears to have been general throughout this section, fell tonight and broke a month's drouth. Dallas Morning News, 26 June 1906, p.3

Rufe Vaughn, colored, was taken to Austin Saturday night for treatment at the Pasteur institute. He was bitten by a dog believed to be mad. The animal has since been killed. Bryan Morning Eagle, 10 July 1906, p.3, col.4

"Struck by Lightning," Brazos Pilot, 9 August 1906, p.4. "During the rain just before noon today, lightning struck the Italian Catholic church, tearing it up pretty badly. It struck the tall steeple first, tearing off the shingles with which it was covered, and otherwise bursting it up, then passed on down doing considerable damage to the front end of the building. Some slight damage was done to the interior of the church. The priest's horse, a very fine animal was standing right near the ..."

"Lightning Did Some Damage," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 23 August 1906, p.1, col.4. To the residence of Rev. J.M. Bullock.

... My cousin is with us now for the first time in two years. He and my brother went hunting yesterday and my brother found a little civet cat, which he is trying to pet ... [signed] Matilda Williams, Stone City, Houston Post, 26 August 1906, page 39

Mr. W.H. McVey of the Minter Springs community called on the *Eagle* one day this week and left with us for a few days a fine geological specimen. It is a block of red sandstone split through the middle and disclosing a slender leaf petrified and showing every stem and outline perfectly. The rock was used in a chimney for probably thirty years and recently while Mr. McVey was building a furnace he accidentally split the rock

open revealing the beautiful leaf formation which shows on both halves of the rock. The specimen would be a valuable addition to any geological collection, and Mr. McVey intends to present it to the A. and M. College authorities. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 January 1907, p.6, col.3

“Arbor Day Exercises,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 January 1907, p.8. Held by Texas Woman’s College in Bryan; planted 5 trees – live oak, cedar, oak, hackberry and elm.

Our attention was yesterday called to the fact that some party or parties were destroying shade trees that have been set out around the walks in the southern part of town. The last raid of this nature was made on the trees surrounding the vacant lots owned by Mr. Clarence Vick. In conversation with Mr. D.C. Vick we were informed that this is getting to be an old trick and that neighbors have suffered from the same treatment before. The property referred to is joining the home of Mr. Vick and contained twenty trees recently planted which if unmolested would make a beautiful shade in a short time. Out of twenty trees eighteen were pulled up completely and the two other were pushed out of position. The trees were large and handsome and planted at considerable expense to the owner and something should be done to suppress such depredation. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 February 1907, p.1.

A dog belonging to Dr. Henry Fountain went mad Friday morning and created quite a disturbance on Main Street by biting several other dogs and scaring the public generally. The dog was finally run down and killed beneath the servant’s house at the Fountain home. News comes from many places over the county of the prevalence of mad dogs and it is well to take all proper precaution against suspicious actions of the canine species. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 28 February 1907, p.4, col.4

There never was such an epidemic of rabies known in Bryan and Brazos County before. The situation is serious and demands prompt and vigorous action. A mad dog was killed yesterday at the home of Mr. J.T. Hines that was just wandering around town and of course biting every dog it came across, and the wonder is some little child, or even grown person has not been bitten. Today the fine cow of Capt. A.F. Wilson developed hydrophobia in its most violent form, and had to be killed. The greatest caution is necessary and every useless cur should be killed at once. People who have dogs that have been bitten by strange or suspicious dogs, should have them killed, or confine them at once. Desperate diseases require desperate measures. Brazos Pilot, 7 March 1907, p.1

A cow belonging to Capt. A.F. Wilson, and said to have developed a violent case of hydrophobia, was killed at Mr. Wilson’s home in this city yesterday morning. It is stated that the cow was on such a rampage yesterday morning that the colored man who attended to her regularly would not take the risk of going into the pen with her. She was later shot and knocked in the head. Dr. M. Francis of College and Dr. G.W. Emory both stated that the cow had rabies. Capt. Wilson told the reporter that the cow had not been away from his home in this city for several months and that she must have been bitten by a dog prowling around at night, as is the custom with them in the early stages of the disease. A dog with rabies was killed Tuesday afternoon near the home of Mr. J.T.

Hines. There appears to be a considerable amount of hydrophobia scattered around both town and country, a fact which people should bear in mind and be on their guard. Last week, it will be remembered, Dr. H.L. Fountain's dog was killed after having bitten other dogs, one of which belongs to the writer, and was promptly reported to an officer and killed, although a valuable dog which rarely ever left home. Several other dogs have been killed from time to time, but there are manifestly many dogs and cats and possibly other animals that have been bitten and are still at large. It seems that the gravity of the situation is sufficient to demand that all worthless dogs and cats be promptly killed, and all that have been exposed be kept up a reasonable length of time at least. The suggestion has been made to the *Eagle* that the people of the city should hold a meeting or take some other step to ask the city council to pass an ordinance requiring all dogs to be muzzled in order to minimize the growing danger. The further suggestion has been made that the bodies of all animals killed should be burned instead of buried. One thing is certain, something will have to be done and done speedily. It is certainly time to call a halt when the milk cows are contracting the terrible disease. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 March 1907, p.1.

"Water Situation," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 March 1907, p.8, col.4

"Work on City Park Well," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 21 March 1907, p.7, col.1. Water to be used to sprinkle dirt streets in Bryan

College Station – Good rain, first in several weeks. Dallas Morning News, 30 March 1907, p.9

Mr. Jacob Bullock of the Steep Hollow community was in the city yesterday and reports that indications point to a prolific crop of boll weevils this season. He states that all the old cotton stalks which remained through the winter and are putting out, are now covered with weevils. He counted five weevils on one stalk. The wisdom of burning all stalks in the winter time is evidently clearly shown by this case in point. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 11 April 1907, p.2, col.1

Mr. W.C. Wilcox has the thanks of the *Eagle* for a box of the nicest dewberries and blackberries we have seen this season. They were grown at his home in this city, near the Allen Academy. The dewberries were obtained from Austin and the blackberries from Dallas. Both are well grown and fine flavored, and show that every home owner in Bryan, with a little plat of ground, may enjoy these luxuries at the expense of a little labor and attention. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 11 April 1907, p.2, col.1

College Station, Tex., April 17 – This section of the State was visited by a good rain last night. The cloud came from the North, with a flurry of wind and sand and rain began falling about 6 o'clock. The rain fell slowly and all soaked into the ground. The precipitation was not great, but was sufficient for the purposes of growing crops. It was badly needed, as no rain had fallen here since March 29, and growing crops were beginning to suffer. Apparently the rain was general over this section of the State. Dallas Morning News, 19 April 1907, p.14

"For an Artesian Well," Brazos Pilot, 2 May 1907, p.9, col.2

The hydrophobia situation grows more serious and another child was severely bitten this morning. At the home of Eliza Woods, colored, their dog was kept tied and the little girl going too near it this morning was seized and badly bitten. She would perhaps have been killed had not a Negro boy gone to her rescue and pulled her away from the dog. The woman cooks at the Allen Academy and carried the child at once to Prof. H.W. South. He called Dr. Raysor and after attending to the child, they went to see about the dog and found it unmistakably mad. The dog was shot and killed by Dr. Raysor. As soon as the Academy's students learned of it, they took up a collection to have the child treated and raised \$26.00. Prof. South will leave with the child for the Pasteur Institute at Austin tonight. The kindness of the faculty and students of the Academy is highly commendable. Brazos Pilot, 2 May 1907, p.6, col.3.

An epidemic of hydrophobia has broke out near Millican, and as a result Sidney Barker, 12 years old was badly bitten by a mad horse yesterday morning. The horse was in a pasture and the boy observing that it was biting and tearing its flesh with its teeth went out to see about it, and looking at the places where it had bitten itself, the horse seized him by the hip and severely bit him. The horse was later killed by Mr. Jim Barker. The boy was brought here yesterday and examined by Dr. Oliver and upon his advice, the boy's brother left at once with him for Austin to be treated at the Pasteur Institute. There is no question about the horse being mad as it had been bitten by a dog that had acted suspiciously and was afterward killed in Navasota. The dog also bit a cat and a chicken, both of which developed hydrophobia and were killed. Dr. Oliver advises that where any one is bitten by a mad animal, not to kill the animal if it can possibly be confined. When the animal is killed the only evidence to determine whether or not it was mad, has been destroyed. Brazos Pilot, 2 May 1907, p.1

Sidney Barker, a 12-year-old boy who was bitten by a horse with hydrophobia, at Millican, was brought here Friday by his brother, Jim Barker, and upon advice of Dr. Oliver, was taken to the Pasteur Institute at Austin for treatment. The boy was bitten on the hip. From the vicious manner in which the horse, which was killed later, tore its own flesh, the animal was evidently mad. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 2 May 1907, p.1, col.6.

"City Park Well Brought In," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 2 May 1907, p.4, col.3

"Negro Girl Bitten by Dog," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 2 May 1907, p.6

Emmett Rohde caught a large wild cat after an hour's chase near town yesterday morning. The animal fought viciously and cut up one of Mr. Rohde's dogs considerably. The pelt, feet and head have been preserved for mounting. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 16 May 1907, p.2, col.2

“Typhoid at College; Total Twenty-Five Cases,” Dallas Morning News, 25 May 1907, p.9. The semester was ended early because of the outbreak; “it is believed that the source of infection is the water of an underground cistern, probably contaminated during the recent heavy rains ... distilled water is now being used at the barracks and boiled water at the mess hall”

Bob Woolf, a Negro boy 17 years old, living on E.H. Astin’s farm near Mumford, was drowned Thursday afternoon while he and some other Negroes were seining in the Brazos River. The body was recovered in a short time, but life was extinct. Brazos Pilot, 11 July 1907, p.6

J.W. Hamilton has a couple of live alligators, caught on the Navasota River and at Hall’s Lake, in captivity in the rear of his saloon. Both are comparatively small. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 July 1907, p.5, col.1

“Work to Begin on College Well,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 25 July 1907, p.1, col.5

Harry Marwill’s fine row of banana trees along the south side of his saloon has long been a source of admiration, and yesterday he had the pleasure of taking home with him the first bunch of the ripened tropical fruit which the trees have produced. There are several other bunches, some of which will likely mature. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 29 August 1907, p.5, col.3

Mr. J.F. Mitchell brought to the *Eagle* office yesterday three lemons grown at his home in Bryan, each of which is 14 inches in circumference and weighs 22 ounces. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 October 1907, p.3.

“Prospectors at Wellborn,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 24 October 1907, p.7, col.4. Looking for lignite.

Yesterday about noon a large flock of gulls was hovering over the middle of the city. They were headed thouthward [sic]. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 31 October 1907, p.3.

“A. and M. College of Texas,” Houston Daily Post, 10 November 1907, p.35. “The authorities of the college have taken time by the forelock and are now preparing to obviate the necessity of fighting mosquitoes next spring. All possible breeding places have been done away with and the outlet of the sewer is now being made perfectly sanitary ...”

College Station, Tex., Nov. 11 – A flurry of snow fell here this afternoon at 5 o’clock. It is sleeting heavily. Dallas Morning News, 12 November 1907, p.2.

A gentleman of this city stated to the *Eagle* that a remarkable sight greeted him yesterday morning when he looked out into the yard at his home. There was sleet and snow on the ground, roses blooming and oranges of a small variety on trees in his yard. That is Texas. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 14 November 1907, p.3, col.4

“College Station Events,” Dallas Morning News, 17 November 1907, p.3. “A 10,000 gallon cistern has been removed from the mess hall and placed near the new well. The water from this cistern is pumped from the flow well and is distributed to the barracks for drinking purposes by a special system of pipes.”

“College Station Affairs,” Dallas Morning News, 24 November 1907, p.32. “President Harrington announces that the new well for the college has been completed. It is 350 feet deep. For 178 feet it is cased with six-inch casing, the remaining distance with four inch casing. The water is of a good quality and the amount much greater than is necessary for drinking purposes.”

“A. & M. Concert,” Houston Daily Post, 24 November 1907, p.18. New water well for campus

“Rain Fall Report,” Bryan Morning Eagle, 6 February 1908, p.3, col.2. Kept by Julia Wipprecht.

For sale on or before April 1, 1908, the Collier Manning gin, grist mill and saw mill, located twenty-three miles north of Bryan at crossing of the Bryan and Franklin road and old San Antonio road. Apply to J.F. B. Manning, Temporary Administrator, Wheelock or Edge, Texas. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 5 March 1908, p.6, col.1

Mr. H.G. Crossen of the Crossen Badge Co. of Springfield, Mo., has been in Bryan for the past three days in conference with Mr. Jno. C. Vick in regard to a location for his company in Texas in the Clay manufacturing business. Mr. Crossen has spent the past four months in Texas looking into this business and has visited all the larger plants of Texas and says that notwithstanding the hard times the Texas plants are running to their full capacity and turning down orders and that the price of brick has advanced as much as \$1.00 per 1000 in the past twelve months. He has looked into the clay beds here and considers the prospect for material and locations the best that he had seen in Texas and expressed himself as well pleased. Mr. Crossen believes this Bryan material will make excellent drain tile, sewer pipe, roofing, etc., and has arranged for a complete test. There will in a short be a great demand for farm drain tile in Texas especially in the river bottoms and coast country, and Mr. Crossen said his company realized that in a short time drain tile would do for Texas what it has done for Illinois, Iowa and the other Northern states. Clay products with modern methods are gradually replacing wood owing to the high price of timber and their uses will continue to grow as the price of lumber advances. Mr. Crossen and Mr. Vick have not entered into any definite contract yet pending the tests for tiling. There is but little question but that Mr. Vick would have gotten this plant started this past season with local capital were it not for the money stringency, for there is no question but what this is one of the best and safest manufacturing propositions ever offered local capital. The Eagle learns Mr. Crossen represents ample capital. Bryan Morning Eagle, 2 April 1908, p.2, col.4

A mineral lease was filed for record yesterday in the county clerk's office yesterday covering land near Bryan belonging to Mr. Walter Higgs and designed to control the development of the lignite in that locality. Stratas of lignite said to run from 7 to 15 feet thick have been disclosed by prospecting, Mr. Moseley having been at work on the project for some time, and experts from other points regard the results favorably. If the field warrants the outlay a vast industry, such has contributed much to Rockdale, will be development there. The lease has a ten year tenure and provides that work must begin on or before January 1. The *Eagle* has previously mentioned prospecting which has been going on in the vicinity of Wellborn, and believes it is but a question of time until the lignite fields of Brazos County will be productive. Bryan Morning Eagle, 8 April 1908, p.2, col.3

Cadet Lomanitz of the A. and M. College has received a shipment of 800 olive tree rooted cuttings, direct from Italy, and has sold hundreds of them for planting in this section and to other parts of the state. Cadet Roseborough of this city was in town yesterday afternoon with some of them and called at the *Eagle* office. Bryan Morning Eagle, 9 April 1908, p.2, col.3.

On last Monday was a week ago, April 13th, Gabe Evans, one of the best Negroes in the community, left his home to go fishing. He did not return that night nor the next day and a search was made, but no trace of him was found. Not a word had been heard from him until this morning when his dead body was found in a drift in Bee Creek. It was supposed he fell in the creek and was drowned, but Dr. Hill said an inquest was to be held this afternoon. Brazos Pilot, 30 April 1908, p.3

"The Cold Snap," Bryan Morning Eagle, 1 May 1908 p.2, col.2. Included frost and a little ice.

A colored man named J.W. Williams was in the city yesterday exhibiting an armadillo which he captured on Still Creek near Bryan. Many saw the curious animal at J.L. Hearne's. Bryan Daily Eagle, 6 May 1908, p.3, col.2

The home of Prof. Fermier of College was struck by lightning during the storm Wednesday night. The chimneys were knocked off, stoves in the house disturbed, and other slight damage. But fortunately, no one was injured. Bryan Morning Eagle, 15 May 1908, p.3, col.2.

Surry Smith, a well known colored farmer of the Brazos bottom, has gone to Austin to take treatment at the Pasteur Institute, having been bitten by a mad dog a few days since. Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 June 1908, p.3, col.3

Surry Smith, Jr., colored of the Brazos Bottom, was bitten by a mad dog on last Saturday and has gone to the Pasteur Institute at Austin for treatment. Brazos Pilot, 4 June 1908, p.8

"Reaching for Flood Record of 1899," (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 June 1908, p.1, col.4

“Infected Shade Trees,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 25 June 1908, p.5, col.4. Bryan trees had scale insects.

“Plans for A.& M. College,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 16 July 1908, p.2, col.1. “Directors Green, McInnes, Milner and Poteet in counsel with President Harrington decided today to provide a huge pool for water sports at the A. and M. College. They will throw a dam across a ravine that runs past the college, distant a half mile, and will impound water enough to make a pool half a mile long, straight away, 50 to 100 feet wide and from 10 to 20 feet deep. They ordered a survey today and expect a report at the August meeting of the board orpus Christi. It is their purpose to have the pool ready for use late this year. They will stock it with fish and afford the college boys a new and healthy outlet for some of that surplus physical energy that has heretofore been worked off in melodramatic rebellion.”

Striking and shattering a large shade tree in the yard, passing through the sitting room and dining apartment and slightly stunning Mr. Lee, who was asleep, lightning further marked its course through the F.M. Lee home five blocks west of the First National Bank yesterday during the slight electric storm by searing and burning the wall paper along its path and severing the telephone wires in twice. Mr. Lee’s shock was barely felt and the damage inflicted about the place was insignificant, but the reports of the current as it came in contact with objects were pistol-like in their sharpness. Mr. T.J. Caywood, who was passing within 75 yards at the time, was also slightly shocked. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 July 1908, p.3, col.6

At a meeting held Friday afternoon in the office of W.C. Davis, permanent organization of a new fishing club was effected and plans were formulated for the establishment at an early date of an extensive piscatorial resort. Regular formation of the club was constituted with the election of the following officers: E.J. Jenkins, president; H.W. South, vice president; S.H. Dunlap, secretary; T.J. Preston, treasurer. An executive board composed of the foregoing officers and W.C. Davis, J.H. Allen and J.V. Brogdon was created. Definite plans for the sinking of an artificial lake to be well stocked with various and the gamest species of the tinny tribe were made, although the site has possibly not been agreed on. The meeting was behind closed doors and the proceedings in default were not given out. No name has yet been assigned to the organization, this being deferred until a later date when the members will again assemble. The membership of the club was limited to seventy-five and forty of this number were enrolled Friday. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 30 July 1908, p.3, col.6.

“A.& M. College Trees Told of in Bulletin,” Dallas Morning News, 23 August 1908, p.15. Prof. Ness describes the current status of trees planted on campus in 1890.

A snake story with material evidence to convince the incredulous was developed last evening, when Mr. Hugo Jahn discovered on his premises a reptile’s nest containing eleven eggs. While the small, strange objects were being curiously viewed one emitted a wiggling little reptile about ten inches in length. The scaly and infantile reptile was of

the Chicken snake species. The eggs will be kept by Mr. Jahn as a curiosity until hatched, when the product will beyond doubt go the way of all good snakes. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 27 August 1908, p.1, col.6

Three trout weighing an average of nearly 5 pounds each is a pretty good record and not often made. Mr. J.E. Covey, however, pulled three of the speckled beauties from the sparkling waters of Fin Feather Lake yesterday, whose combined weight totaled 14 ½ pounds. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 10 September 1908, p.1, col.4.

“Texas Clay Deposits of Considerable Value,” Dallas Morning News, 22 November 1908, p.23. “Brazos County does not afford any deposits of great economic value. The clays are chiefly brick clays, and are widely distributed. Along the northeastern border much better clays are to be looked for, as it is this formation which appears to carry the stoneware clays in other counties.”

“A. & M. College News,” Dallas Morning News, 24 January 1909, p.12. “Prof. C.H. Alvord of the Agricultural Department is now using a herd of goats to clean up the college lands. There is much of the 2,416 acres of college land in Brazos County that has had timber on it. Gradually this timber has been cleared off, but there is a growth of grass of various kinds, small shrubs, etc., and the goats are grazing on this land to clean it thoroughly ... The goats eat clean. Where they graze there is not a sprig or a growth left.”

“Blew Down Wall,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 February 1909, p.7, col.5. Windstorm at Bryan.

“Rain and Blizzard,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 18 February 1909, p.3, col.4

Mrs. G.B. Abercrombie of the Central Hotel, had the misfortune yesterday morning of being bitten by a cat that was supposed to be mad. About two weeks ago a small dog came to the hotel and jumped on the cat and tore it up so badly that they thought it was dead. It lived however and has been about the hotel ever since. Yesterday morning it was attacked with something like rabies and tried to bite the Negro cook. She fought it off, however, but failed to tell any of the family. A little later Mrs. Abercrombie was in the back yard and the cat attacked her and bit her on the ankle. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 25 February 1909, p.1, col.4. [Filmed before issue of February 4.]

“Sinking a New Well,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 4 March 1909, p.6, col.2

“Harbingers of Spring,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 25 March 1909, p.5, col.3. The first “honk” of the wild goose was heard.

“The Storm and Rain,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 1 April 1909, p.2, col.4

“Good Well Brought In,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 22 April 1909, p.2, col.3. On Fountain Brothers property in the Brazos bottom.

“Long Drouth Broken in Central Texas,” Dallas Morning News, 28 April 1909, p.1.
“College Station ... The drouth is broken in this vicinity and the long looked for rain has come. In this vicinity the rainfall has been a blessing. It has been dry here all winter this much of the spring. There has been an occasional shower, but it has not been heavy enough to do good ... The rain struck College Station about 11 o'clock Monday night, and it was hard for hours. It was accompanied by thunder and lightning. This morning it is raining again ... “

“Sinking Well Deeper,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 13 May 1909, p.2, col.5

“Bryan, Tex., May 25 – The severest hail, rain and windstorm in the history of Bryan came this afternoon. Skylights were smashed, awnings and trees blown down and many stores flooded and stocks badly damaged. The fire bell tower, water and light plant smokestack and three Negro houses were demolished. No one was hurt. The storm was two miles wide and eight miles long, in which all crops and gardens were practically destroyed. Dallas Morning News, 26 May 1909, p.1

“More Hail Yesterday,” (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 June 1909, p.2, col.4

A mad dog in the residence district on the west side this morning caused quite a commotion for a time. It was discovered in the yard of Joe Kosh and its peculiar actions alarmed the family who took refuge in the house. Deputy Marshal Dickson was notified and he went at once to the house but it was some time before he could get a shot at it. He finally succeeded however, in killing it. There are hundreds of worthless dogs in town and the people should use every precaution to protect themselves. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 17 June 1909, p.1, col.4.

At an early hour this morning quite a little excitement was had in the eastern part of town, when a large white dog, with every evidence of madness made an onslaught on everything in sight. Several dogs belonging to parties in that section of town were bitten and the furious beast did not stop until he had been shot down by Constable C.L. Baker. Some of the parties whose dogs were bitten shot them including some fine bird dogs. Lets muzzle our dogs. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 15 July 1909, p.7, col.6

F.D. Kuykendall of the Leonard school house community, was in the city today and stated to the *Eagle* reporter that the protracted drouth has completely ruined his cotton. A bale to ten acres is the estimate he places upon his crop. (weekly) Bryan Eagle, 3 August 1909, p.5, col.3

“Rain Report,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 9 October 1909, p.1, col.2. Long drouth was broken.

“A.& M. College News,” Dallas Morning News, 28 November 1909, p.21. “It is declared that there is no hookworm at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas ...”

“A Glorious ‘Possum Feast,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 3 December 1909, p.3

Bryan, Texas, December 18 – Bryan and Brazos County are in the grip of the fiercest weather of the winter. A cold rain fell all last night and this morning it was freezing. At 1 o’clock this afternoon it began sleeting and at this hour, 3 p.m., it is still sleeting and the ground is white. Houston Post, 19 December 1909, p.8

“Rain Knocked Them Out,” Bryan Daily Eagle, 23 December 1909, p.6, col.4

College Station, Tex., Dec.19 – A severe norther, accompanied by rain, struck College Station Friday night, but the rain did not continue with the cold. Saturday morning was cold and clear, but about noon it began drizzling and continued disagreeable, and the cold becoming more noticeable. The boys are very comfortable. To quiet the apprehension of those mothers whose boys are living in tents at the college, it may be stated that the boys in the tents say they are getting along fine, they are suffering none and are well satisfied. In fact, some of the boys in tents say they prefer that life to the other in the dormitory. Life in a tent is not compulsory. The boys select it by choice. Dallas Morning News, 20 December 1909, p.12