

A Trip Over the County by a Times Man

3-22-12

By W. G. Burchard.

Just a few months ago W. D. Ballard arrived in Sweeny from Tupelo, Miss. He bought a farm just outside the town limits and is developing it as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile he conducts the town hostelry and is cultivating some land this year that already has the timber cleared from it. Mr. Ballard informed us that he would plant several acres of cantaloupes this season. He also said that at least forty acres of the yellow juicy fruit would be planted in the neighborhood. They expect to plant enough to be able to ship a car every day. Mr. and Mrs. Ballard are delighted in their new home.

W. P. Jones of Jones Mercantile Co. came to Sweeny one year ago from Barry County, Mo., and all his family like the country fine. Business is good, "extremely good", he said for the age of the town and number of people in the community. These are some of the finest people whom we have had the pleasure of meeting with for a long time.

Last August R. Fenner came down from Alliance, Neb. He has a nice little home in town and gives his time to gardening. They like the country fine. Mr. Fenner told us that the past winter was just fine. If Old Winter had treated us with just half as much consideration as he usually does we wonder what he would have thought of it.

Missouri furnished another one of her best citizens to help in the development of Brazoria County when W. H. Woodrum of Barry County decided to come here to make his home. He has a nice home just out of town, and one that was to a great extent under cultivation, so he can get right down to farming. Mr. Woodrum came here last October, and both he and his good wife are well pleased with the change they have made.

T. M. Hobson arrived in Sweeny but a few months ago from Greely, Colo., the great potato country of that state. He tells us that he intends to make that same occupation a specialty here. Knowing the business of potato growing, Mr. Hobson is certain to make it a success. He is well pleased so far.

Another of Colorado's former citizens is F. W. Jobe who was formerly a citizen of Moffitt, that state. He came here last September and now owns fifty acres of land which he is gradually getting under cultivation while he farms other land this year. General farming, truck and potatoes

will each be given considerable attention. All his folks are well satisfied with their move.

After five years of absolute failure of crops in Southwest Nebraska John D. Bagley decided to come South. This decision after investigation led him to Brazoria County where he now lives on his farm near Sweeny. We found Mr. Bagley in the field planting corn, and "in March, too", something he never did before. He is better pleased every day he is here.

K. L. Semones came here from Denver, Colo., about the first of this year and bought 90 acres of land about one mile north of Sweeny. When we asked Mr. Semones how he liked the country he replied: "fine! Fine! FINE!" He will give most of his attention to potatoes and other truck crops.

Last October L. A. Riley moved from San Antonio to Sweeny and both he and his wife are rejoicing that they made the move. Mr. Riley is a singing master and is now conducting a singing school at the Sweeny school house with a fine attendance. These good people have a neat little home in town and tell us they expect to soon make other investments somewhere near town.

That Brazoria County is attracting attention from other parts of Texas as well as from other states is again illustrated when E. R. Clark of Collin County came here just a few months ago. Mr. Clark has a neat home in town and a farm just outside. He informed us that he expects to do general farming with some attention to truck crops. He is a carpenter by profession and is now kept busy at work in town. He likes the country just as well as he could like anywhere.

John Kellerman came from Illinois about one year ago. He is a carpenter but hereafter expects to do general farming. He now has eight acres of potatoes, and two acres of cabbage and will plant four acres of cantaloupes. If you could have seen his broad smile you would have never thought of asking him how he liked the country.

From far-away Wisconsin Hermann Wichmann came last November. He says it is too cold up there and we surely think so, too. When he left there the thermometer stood at 57 degrees below zero. He is a carpenter and truck farmer. This year's crop will be about 20 acres potatoes, 15 of

(See other side.)

One year ago A. A. Moon came here from Tennessee. He is enthusiastic about his prospects. He is a carpenter but will devote most of his time to trucking. He has several acres of potatoes planted and will plant one acre of cantaloupes and a half acre of sweet pepper. From what he has seen of the country he says he is confident that a man can make a success of potatoes and other truck crops if he will use good management in marketing his crops.

G. E. Jones is a native of this country. He lived many years in Manvel and came here from Bay City. He is just now building a nice home in town. Mr. Jones is a carpenter, but will hereafter devote his time to general farming and trucking. He is well pleased with his prospects.

H. C. Garrison, another of Sweeny's new citizens, will grow principally truck crops. He is well satisfied here and wishes he had come long ago. Mr. Garrison came here from Norton, Kans., last June.

N. E. Wilson came to Texas two years ago. He owns some nice lots in Sweeny and will develop and improve them in a short time. At present Mr. Wilson is giving his time to work for the First Texas State Insurance Co. He likes our country the best kind.

Two years ago Emmett Rimmer came from Richmond, Mo. He bought 400 acres of land one mile east of Sweeny, all in the woods. He now has one of the finest homes in the county and about two hundred acres of his land cleared and in cultivation.

But few men could accomplish so much in so short a time as Mr. Rimmer has done. He has a large family and all are perfectly satisfied and in the finest health. This year Mr. Rimmer will plant about 115 acres in corn. Fine cattle and hogs are something that he delights in having around him.

Fred Churtz came from Indiana two years ago and lives about one mile east of Sweeny. He is engaged in general farming. He and his family are well pleased and enjoy the best of health.

While on our trip over the Sweeny section of the country we met no more hospitable people than Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brockman who came here but a short time ago from Ray County Mo. Mr. Brockman has 100 acres of fine peach ridge land and is rapidly getting it under cultivation. Every foot of it was covered with the typical growth of the Bernard bottoms, and required much labor to bring it under cultivation. Just at dark we reached their hospitable home. Here we spent the night, and greatly regretted to see the time come for our leaving the next morning. These good people are deserving of all and more than any country can give them.

M. J. Parson is another of Missouri's best farmers, he having come from Ray County about 11 months ago. He bought 200 acres of land, all timber, about a mile east of Sweeny and now has much of it under cultivation. He likes the country.

While in Sweeny it was our great pleasure to make the acquaintance of Francis S. Rice, who lives on a farm just east of town. Mr. Rice came here from Webster Groves, near St. Louis one year ago. He is doing general farming. For several years Mr. Rice has been a civil engineer—a bridge builder. He constructed the bridge across the Mississippi at Memphis, one of the finest and one of the largest in the United States. Some idea of the size of this bridge may be had when we say that Mr. Rice told us that it had just been painted and the

idea of the importance of this big bridge will be given when we are told its weekly earnings are nearly \$70,000. Mr. Rice is the civil engineer connected with the construction of our two bridges across the Brazos, at Columbia and Brazoria. He told us that all the material for the completion of these bridges was now ready or on the way and that he expected the work to go forward now without a hitch unless the June floods caused some delay, which he does not anticipate. Everything is now moving along at both Brazoria and Columbia.

Work will soon begin on the building of the piers. They are to be so constructed that they will be practically one solid rock, and as nearly indestructible as it is possible for anything to be made. Though there has been much delay in beginning the work on account of inability to get the materials on the ground, Mr. Rice says they expect to complete the work on both bridges by the time the contract limit expires—September 1.

(Brazoria Section.)

J. E. Kent came from Hoyt, Kans., three years ago. He bought twenty acres a short distance east of Brazoria, and has carved a nice home out of the wilderness. He is a farmer-carpenter and is well content in his new home.

Oscar G. Olsen came from Horton, Kans., three years ago. From out of the dense jungle just east of Brazoria he has cleared one of the nicest little homes, situated on twenty-three acres that we have seen but a few times in this country. His broad smile told how well pleased with his home and the success he has so far had. He has just finished planting his entire farm in potatoes. Mr. Olsen also owns a large tract of land a few miles east of Angleton which is some of the finest hay land in the county.

J. L. Patton of Kansas, just arrived here last December. He lives a mile or so east of Brazoria where he expects to do general farming. All his family are well pleased so far and think this is an ideal country.