

Harris County Builds Country Home for Aged



Above—Splendid new country home for aged soon to be opened by Harris county.

Below—T. W. Harrell, superintendent.

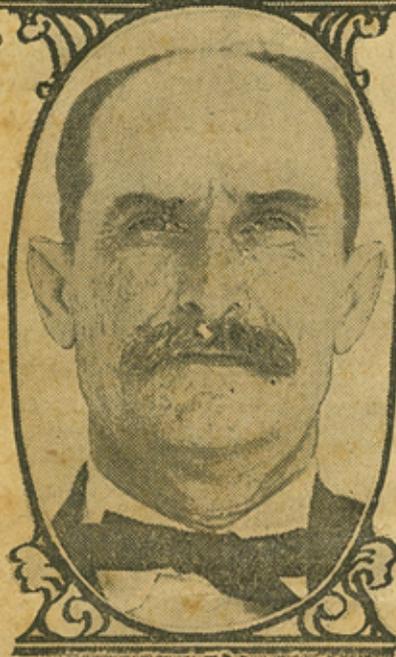
A real comfortable home, surrounded by many acres of ground, shaded by sturdy trees, cooled by summer breezes and warmed by steam heat, located near a stream famed for its fish, fern banks and spreading trees and a garden with chickens and cows, is the dream of every man and woman.

Those aged people in the Harris County home, who live in the past, never hoped to realize their dream. Yet that is what they are to do in the very near future, for the new \$80,000 county home on the Crosby road near Greens Station will be ready by the middle of March.

County Judge Chester H. Bryan and the commissioners, who are getting almost as much joy out of the new home as the aged folks, are rushing it to completion. T. W. Harrel, superintendent, who has a heart as big as the world, has been devoting every minute of his time toward rushing that great moment when some 65 aged folks will realize their dream. They have all been looking forward to moving day with the same joy with which the little boy looks forward to getting a new suit or a new toy, Mr. Harrel states.

Credit to County.

The home in itself is a credit to Harris county. It is a spacious stucco building sitting in the midst of 100 acres of ground, and the contractors have been especially careful in their construction so as to leave as many trees as possible. The home faces the Crosby road. The grounds are entered through a large gate opening on a shell driveway, which will be made to circle the building before the entire home is pronounced a finished product. Blue blinds at the windows add to the appearance of the white stucco building and make it look more like a fashionable country estate than a county home. The front door opens into a large



living room which, with the dining room, extends all the way across the front. There is a large fireplace, which will add cheer in the winter, although the home is steam heated.

The kitchen is complete in every detail, and the engine room is fully equipped for service. There are four rooms downstairs which will be used as bed rooms for women, those who are cripple and can not climb the stairs, and also a dormitory on the other end downstairs for the men. Both upstairs and downstairs at the rear are large screened-in porches extending all the way across the building. In summer these porches will be as cool as the sea shore.

Mr. Harrel says he will have comfortable chairs and benches on these porches for the old folks.

The second story includes dormitories,

hospital with accommodations for 20 and rooms for men and women. One of the convenient features of the home is the many pantries and closets and the baths and lavatories. Probably the best feature, however, is the stairway. This has a very slight incline, and can be mounted with almost as little exertion as is required to take a step. It was constructed in this way in order to make it easy for the old folks. The most aged residents will be able to climb them without tiring themselves out.

Mr. Harrel's own home is located to the rear of the building. It is a convenient little stucco cottage. A frame cottage has been constructed in the back for the negroes. It is not a permanent building, however, and later will give way for a stucco house.

Garden, Hogs and Cows.

The home has its own power plant. It will have a fine garden and hogs will be raised. Mr. Harrel said the home churns 2000 pounds of butter a year and has all the eggs and milk needed.

Mr. Harrel picked out five of the strongest men and brought them with him last week to the new home to help straighten things out and do what little work they could. They returned to the old home and their fellow men with vivid descriptions of the new home, and great anticipations in regard to the fishing in Greens bayou, which runs below the home. Mr. Harrel selected the location mainly because of proximity to the stream. Magnolia trees and fern are abundant, and already 200 pecan trees and 100 camphor trees have been set out.

Judge Bryan had set March 2 for the opening, but owing to the bad weather work has been delayed, and it is impossible to decide upon a date. It is expected, however, the home will be ready by the middle of March.

The \$80,000 Harris county home has not cost the taxpayers anything, it is pointed out by Judge Bryan and the commissioners, as the entire expense has been paid through the judgments for excess fees, which the county has been awarded recently in court.