
Hallandale — Premier Vegetable Section

RESIDENTS OF COMMUNITY BELIEVE THAT NOWHERE ELSE CAN BE FOUND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE HAD IN THE HALLANDALE DISTRICT WITH ITS DIVERSITY OF SOILS SUITABLE TO EVERY SORT OF BUSINESS WHICH MAN MIGHT CARE TO ENTER.

by Myrtle English

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Hub of a district which includes 2,500 acres of marl prairie, believed by many to be unequalled for the growth of vegetables; hundreds of acres of hammock land already developed into fine citrus fruit groves; and thousands of acres of pine land almost untouched and which will prove a gold mine of possibilities, Hallandale, twenty miles [sic.] north of Miami, is considered by many to be one of the most fortunately located towns of Dade county. Without fuss or feathers, the town has been quietly growing and developing. There has been no boom—no great advertising scheme has been promulgated to draw settlers—it is simply a substantial, solid community of people who own their own land, for the most part, and patiently and modestly carve their own way in the world. Many of them have worked to good purpose, for some neat fortunes have been realized in this busy community, which is the largest shipping point for vegetables in the county, north of Miami.

Hallandale has fifteen packing houses, from which, in a normal season at least 400,000 crates of tomatoes are shipped out. The town also has three churches, the Union, Swedish Lutheran, and Methodist Episcopal; a school which supports three teachers; three stores, one general and two grocery; dozens of nice homes equipped with every possible modern convenience and rivaling those of a city; a brass band of twelve pieces which practices every Tuesday night; a social club which keeps the place lively during the winter time and fully 500 enthusiastic citizens who are firmly convinced that

Hallandale is, without a doubt, just about the best place on earth.

NAMING THE TOWN

In 1897, a colony of Swedish immigrants, honest, God-fearing people who are famous for the good type of citizens they make, settled on the prairies in this district. From this fact there arises a little dispute as to the exact derivation of the name "Hallandale," for some say that it was called thus from the county "Halland" in Sweden, while others declare that it was named for Luther Halland, an agent of the railroad land company, who first supervised the selling of the land. Fearing that confusion might arise because of the similarity of the name "Halland" with that of "Holland" on the west coast the post office authorities refused to let the first stand, so the suffix was added and it has been Hallandale since. However the name was derived, it has come to stand for progress and prosperity, happiness and health.

TOMATOES BIG CROP

How does \$7,000 net profit in two years from nine acres of land sound? Pretty good, eh?

Well, that was the nice little sum cleared by West Yeagle during the two seasons preceding the one just closed. Tomatoes did it, and tomatoes in past years have brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community, and will probably in the future do the same, although the farmers have come to realize that it is not a good thing to

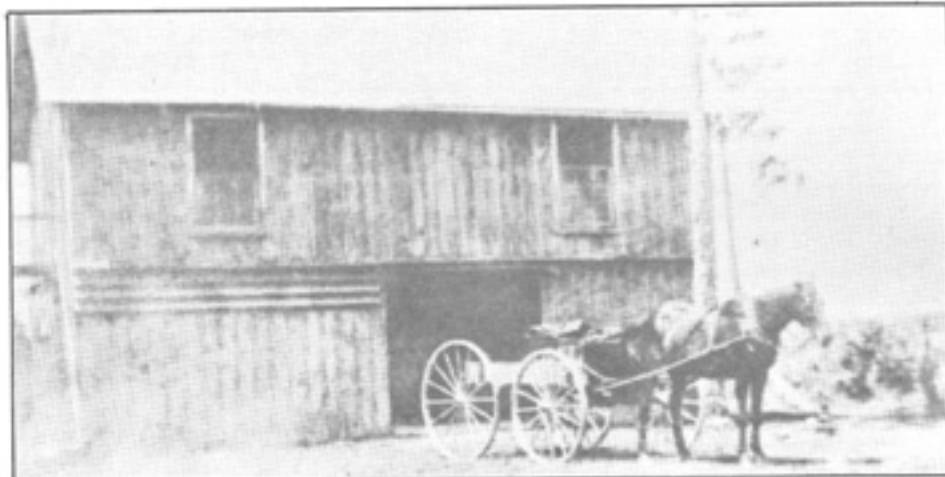
put all of their eggs in one basket, Andrew Carnegie's advice to the contrary. Carnegie says to put all one's eggs in one basket and then watch the basket. Mr. Yeagle, by the way, invested much of his money in Miami.

This year cannot be taken as a standard, however, for the abnormal cold spell worked havoc among the tender tomato vines. At least 1,000 acres were planted to tomatoes and before March only 75,000 crates had been shipped, as the bulk of the harvest was yet to come. However, many of the plants have come up again, and probably 100,000 more crates will be sent out, for the pickers are now busy in the fields. Shipments of 400,000 crates in a season are considered normal, however. This year the farmers have received around \$2.25 per crate for their produce.

Along the railroad tracks and extending through the town are the packing houses where the tomatoes are prepared for shipment. There are three owned by the North American Fruit Co., and others are operated by J. B. Wofert & Co., H. A. Barnett, Wigby, Geiges Bros., W. H. Strickland, C. Curci, Ed. Johnson, Wilkins & Yeagle, Tatem Wofford, E. Somers, W. Engers, L. Schomburger & Burks.

THOSE WHO GROW TOMATOES

Of the 2,500 acres of marl prairie, only about 1,400 acres are under cultivation at present, and with few exceptions this has been used exclusively for tomatoes. The district is divided in two by the railroad, that on the east being known as the "front" or "east prairie"



Scandinavian-style farmhouse, with living quarters above the barn, in early twentieth century Hallandale.

and that on the west as the "west prairie."

On the east side, one of the largest growers is the North American Fruit Co., of which L. H. O. Sjostrom, a Hallandale pioneer, is manager, which has over 300 acres in tomatoes. J. B. Moffitt has about 100 acres in that crop; Howard Wilkins has ten acres; E. V. Palmquist has twenty-one acres; C. V. Palmquist has a field also and altogether this season had 60 acres of tomato land; while others who grow in that section are Ed. Johnson, Mr. Larson, and Mr. Wigby, as well as several who have small fields of two or three acres.

West Yeagle's famous field is also on that side of the track.

THE WEST PRAIRIE

There is less danger of damage to crops by flooding on the west prairie, it is said; and in consequence many farmers have preferred to settle there, although those on the east side stand up staunchly for their section of the district. The marl land on the west seems to be of about the same quality, perhaps a little darker in color. All of it is filled with tiny shells, and crossed with strips of pine land, or dotted with the higher hammocks.

E. Anderson's place is one of the first reached on the west prairie and he farmed fifty acres this year, all in tomatoes. H. Barnett put in eighty acres to that crop and his brother, Bob Barnett, had a small patch also. N. A. Carlson put in between fifteen and twenty acres to tomatoes and H. E. Rojero [Rogero] had the same amount. The father of the latter also had a field which produced exceedingly well.

William Swaverly farmed twenty acres of prairie land this year; Mr. Hedrick also put in some truck. Charles

Ericson planted between twenty and twenty-five acres this season.

Henry and George Geiges are among the large growers of the district and own considerable acreage scattered about through the prairie as well as some fine grape-fruit land. L. Schomburger has forty-five acres of land which was first planted in tomatoes. E. Somers is another of the larger farmers for he has fifty acres, while David Krumm farmed twenty-three acres this season.

Ford Thompson, W. E. Williams, and many others have farmed smaller pieces of land, which swell the total acreage to fourteen hundred.

BEANS AND CUCUMBERS

For the first time in the history of Hallandale, a solid carload of cucumbers was shipped from that station today. This crop had scarcely been considered, but when many of the growers decided not to try for tomatoes again this season, after March, cucumbers and beans were planted as a last resort. How those cucumbers did grow! They simply jumped out of that marl soil and the delighted farmers could almost see the runners reach out as they started down the rows. The yield has been from 150 to 200 hampers to the acre, and about twenty-five acres have been grown to that crop.

E. E. Somers planted thirteen acres to cucumbers; David Krumm had two and one half; L. Schomburger, seven; the North American Fruit Co., five; and the others one or two acres each to make up the total. The vegetables are picked two or three times a week, and it keeps the growers hurrying to catch up with them. Nice, firm, crisp cucumbers they are, too, just right for salads, and of delicious flavor. The price was good.

As for beans, they, too, have done well somewhat as an afterthought, and probably 150 acres have been planted to the crop. The average yield has been between 100 and 125 hampers to the acre, which has come in mighty handy late in the season. Egg plants and peppers have been grown this season, only on a small scale, perhaps fifty acres altogether, scattered in tiny spots all over the prairie, and grown only as a side line.

DIVERSIFIED CROPS

Farmers of the Hallandale district, however, are beginning to realize the necessity for diversified crops. Tomatoes are on the whole a paying proposition, but they realize that nature sometimes interferes with the watch kept on the one basket, and that there must be some protection assured the grower in case of disaster to the tomatoes.

The excursions into the realms of cucumbers, beans, etc., made this spring, have, it is believed, opened the eyes of many of the growers to the advantages to be obtained by growing various products instead of only one, and indications are that from now on the majority of the substantial farmers will divide their farms and go in for more intensive cultivation, which means trucking. One of the pioneers in this line is David Krumm, who is conducting a sort of educational campaign among the farmers and who has a convincing object lesson on his little farm out on the west prairie.

MR. KRUMM'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are few men who can make \$100 from a strip of land four feet wide and 216 feet long. Also there are few men who can grow three crops on the same piece of ground in one year, and who, in the little section not much larger than a third of an acre can have about twenty vegetables growing all at the same time. This is just what David Krumm is doing, however. Before he came here five years ago, from Philadelphia, Mr. Krumm was in the trucking business and studied it as a science. He came down here and grew tomatoes, just as every one else has done. He was successful, too, but was not satisfied with the one-crop theory, and believed that this marl soil could grow just about everything in the vegetable line, so this year he started out. In his tomato field was a little "Pot hole" which had never been cultivated. He dug some ditches in it, drained it off, and went to work.

Celery he decided would be something new here, so the strip four feet

wide and 216 feet long was set out to celery. On November 15 the seed was sown, and in April the crop began to come off. The varieties planted were Golden Self Blanching, White Plume, and Green. They took to the soil like a duck to water, and in consequence the celery has become famous all over the northern part of the county. It is believed to be the first celery grown here for commercial purposes, and it is from this crop that Mr. Krumm will get his \$100. Next year, Mr. Krumm will plant the seed in August and have celery ready for the Christmas market. He is delighted with his success and is interesting other farmers in the same plan.

20 VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES

In the little garden spot Mr. Krumm this year grew cauliflower, cabbage, onions, potatoes, peas, wax beans, six varieties of beets, carrots, parsley, turnips, Brussell's sprouts, head lettuce, corn, rutabagas, and many other vegetables. He believes that one may rotate tomatoes, cucumbers and corn on the same piece of ground in one year, and keep up a steady income in that way, or other crops also may rotate according to the length of time required for ripening.

After his first crop of tomatoes was cleared away, Mr. Krumm put in two and one-half acres of cucumbers. He cleared the ground off so that not a weed is in sight, and then placed the vines as they grew so as to leave space for the pickers. This has been found a great convenience, and adds to the appearance of the field. On March 5, just for an experiment, Mr. Krumm planted five acres of tomatoes, and today they are settling down fruit, are large healthy vines and give every indication of a crop which, though late, will be good. At Mr. Krumm's private packing house were seen cucumbers, wax beans and celery being shipped to a firm in Miami. He says that he can pick the produce from the field in the morning and have it in Miami by noon, insuring absolute freshness. Hallandale is destined to become a great garden spot, he thinks, and none is more enthusiastic over it than he.

Painstaking care in growing the plants is his theory, and no weeds are permitted to cut off the light or air. Mr. Krumm is opposed to the theory of planting tomatoes between rows of grass as is practiced in many places. He says that it cuts off the air supply and that it causes the sun's rays to concentrate so that the plants get exceedingly hot. He prefers to give the leaves and stalks all of the sunshine and air they can get.

Five acres of land are being planted

to beggar grass and sorghum, for forage, by Mr. Krumm. This is also in the nature of an experiment.

FRUIT THERE, TOO

Not alone in the vegetable line does the Hallandale district shine, for throughout it are some splendid groves, many of them already yielding handsome returns to their owners, while others have just been set out and are not yet bearing. Until the last year or so, the hammocks have been used almost exclusively for the groves. This soil, it is claimed, produced superior fruit, with trees of unusual health and freedom from pests.

Recently a number of owners of the front prairie land have started to put that in grapefruit, believing that it will prove successful, and the experiment is being awaited with keen interest. To the west, the pine land is in the process of clearing, and in a few years, the prediction is made, there will be thousands of acres in grove.

C. R. Ferguson, formerly chief of police of Miami, has a twelve acre grove from which this season he harvested about 3,000 boxes of fruit. Reed Bryan of Fort Lauderdale also has a fine grove in the Hallandale district. There are eight acres in his piece, and the trees bore well this season. Three groves of grapefruit and oranges, comprising forty acres in all, are owned by the North American Fruit Co., while others who have tracts of land in either bearing or non-bearing trees are L. Toms, who just sold his place for \$6,000; William Enger; William Swaverly, whose ten-acre grove has just been set out; J. W. Johnson; the Hedricks; Nipe Brothers and others. The Nipe brothers are from Frederickstown, N.Y.

Many of these groves are in the district surrounding the Pembroke [Pembroke] saw mill, about two and one-half miles west of Hallandale. Close by here is the grove owned by Carl P. Weidling, consisting of twelve acres and including a variety of fruit. A. K. Smith of Miami also owns six acres set to trees near there. George Galloway has three acres which are bearing well, and the Padgetts (Henry, Guy and Roland) are also successful in the growth of citrus fruits. Mr. Galloway has some limes and lemons and also mangoes, avocados, cherries and other fruit for variety. Emmett Patrick has as nice a little place of some two and one-half acres, all cleared, as one could find. J. R. Charlton, one of the oldtimers, has eight acres in fine trees. The total output of citrus fruit this year was between 8,000 and 10,000 boxes.

The saw mill at Pembroke is in charge of J. T. Hutto, and from 4,000 to

5,000 feet of lumber are put out every day. There is also a school house at the tiny settlement, and it is believed that in time a nice town may build up there.

The citrus fruit industry is practically in its infancy, but this year a large acreage is to be set out to trees. There seems to be little difficulty in persuading the seedlings to grow and flourish and the agitation against the one-crop theory is probably responsible for the added interest in fruit. Mr. Krumm has just bought ten acres for a grove, and he says that many others are planning on doing the same thing.

POTATOES, TOO

Seven miles west of Hallandale, right on the edge of the 'Glades, where the sand and muck soil is found, N. C. Bryan, one of the pioneers, has a potato farm. From fifteen acres he harvested 1,600 hampers or four carloads of beautiful Murphies, and is growing the second crop for this season, which will probably do about as well as the first. Sixteen years ago, Mr. Bryan came to the country. He likes to grow potatoes, and the plants thrive under his care. His second crop was planted in March and will soon be ready for the harvest.

C. M. Howell is another one out in that vicinity who is growing potatoes. He has also planted tomatoes and beans and has done well.

Corn is coming in for its share of attention this season, and has grown with unusual rapidity.

PINEAPPLES COMING ON

Within the next six weeks the tomato crop will be out of the way in the packing houses and then will come the pineapples. Perhaps the largest grower of this crop in the Hallandale district is the North American Fruit Co., which has 100 acres of fine fruit. There are a few other smaller patches about, but the industry has not been followed extensively. Here, it is pointed out, is another opportunity.

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Nowhere else in Dade county, say the Hallandale enthusiasts, is there the opportunity to be found in that section, combining such a diversity of soils, suitable for every sort of business into which a man may care to go. In sixteen years the community has been developing slowly, and the surface has only been scratched, it is believed, and in the marl prairie, the rich hammock, or the strong pine land, there is a golden store of wealth which will in a few years make the Hallandale district one of the best known along the east coast.