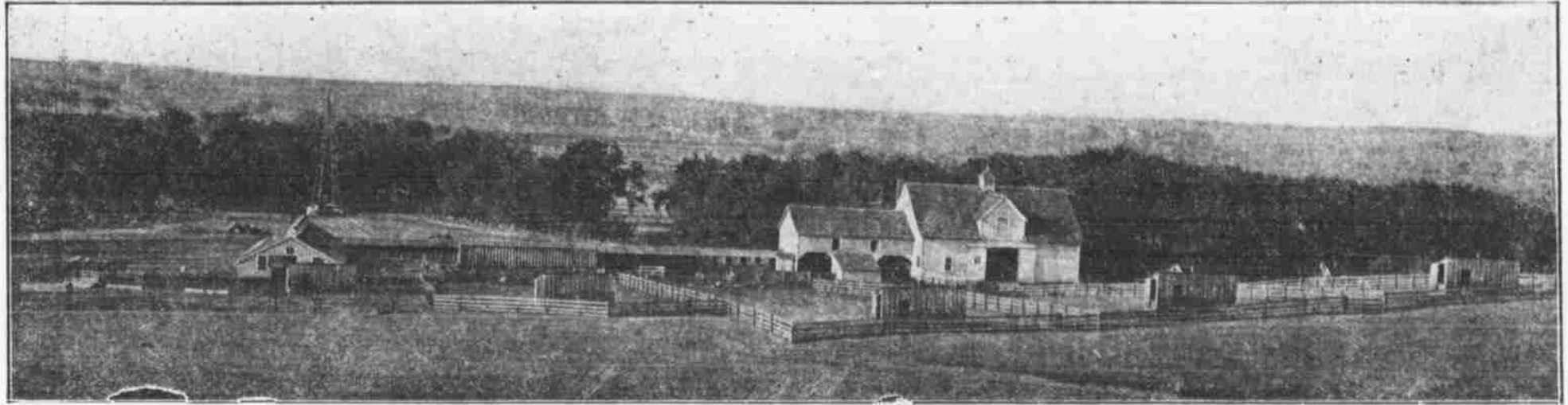


Walnut Hill--Guy C. Barton's Breeding Ranch



BREEDING BARN AND YARDS—Photo by a Staff Artist



IT IS doubtful that there are many who know that at Gilmore, Neb., there is one of the most extensive Berkshire breeding establishments in America. This breeding farm is Walnut Lodge and is owned by Guy C. Barton of Omaha, who has extensive interests with different smelting and paving concerns of that place.

Walnut Lodge is truly a beautiful place, and I should say a most ideal farm. It consists of 65 acres that lies beautifully around the Little Union Pacific station, which is the only evidence of the place called Gilmore. In reality Gilmore consists of this little depot and the buildings belonging to the Walnut Lodge farm. There are many larger farms than this, but there are few where over 1,000 head of purebred Berkshire hogs are raised and fed out each year, and there are few of such pretentious improvements and that are so perfectly kept. I should have called this the "ideal farm" had I named it, for I have never visited a farm that is so neatly kept and so well managed.

I do not know what moved Mr. Barton to establish this breeding farm. Probably he bought the land in an early day and as the true value of it became known he determined to develop it into a beautiful farm home, where he, with his family and friends, might go to spend the warm summer months.

The views here given will serve in part to convey a vague idea of the beauty of the farm, but the real serenity and quietude of the place cannot be appreciated until one would see the large modern home located at the top of the little knoll, which, as it gently inclines, serves as a home for the rich blue grass under the large, spreading elms, and at the foot is the little lake, with the weeping willow o'er stretched and seemingly anxious to suggest a sad, sweet story. The clean, graveled walks and drives add to the beauty of the scene, and there is a green house of the sweetest flowers that ever grew. During the summer months these flowers are planted along the drives, in the lawns and around the lake, anywhere that they may enhance the beauty of the home and serve the kindly purpose for which they were intended.

I suppose it was in accordance with Mr. Barton's business ideas that have won for him the smiles of fortune, that he put Berkshire hogs, good cattle and fancy chickens here to pay sustenance for such a home.

For the man who thinks that purebred hogs cannot be raised on a large scale with success, he should visit this Berkshire farm. One hundred and twenty-five sows are bred each year and are given individual attention from the time they farrow.

The farm is divided into two breeding and feeding establishments. On the "South farm" the sows and pigs are kept until the pigs are about three months old and are then transferred to the other farm, where they are fed out and hauled to the South Omaha market, which is about four miles distant.

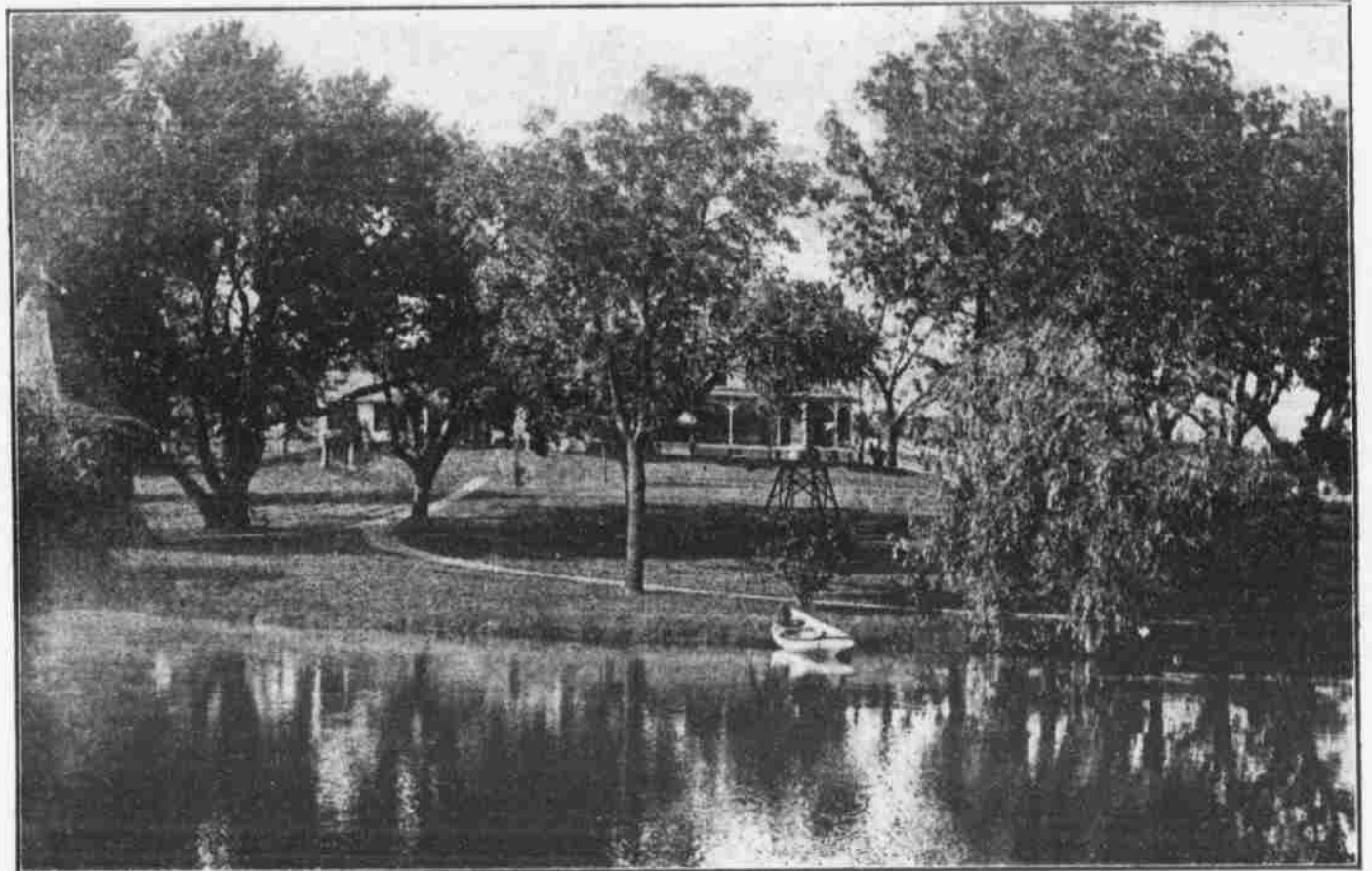
A word about the farrowing barns: There

are two of these on the "South farm," one is 26x90 feet with thirty-two pens 5x10 feet, while the other is 24x60 feet, with twenty-four pens 5x8 feet. In each of these individual pens is a false floor half the size of the pen that serves to keep the pigs up out of the wet and the beds are always dry. The floors have a four-inch drop to the back. Outside of the barns are individual lots thirty-two feet long and the same width as the pens inside, that afford exercise for the sows and pigs until the little fellows are old enough to be put

are about 150 head that are registered or are eligible to registry. Last fall Mr. Barton made a trip to the Biltmore farms and bought three or four head, some of which are imported animals, at prices that would put to shame any prices that have ever been heretofore paid for hogs in this state, and considered extravagant by ones of more narrow ideas of the hog business. But the animals procured are certainly good ones, and well worth every cent paid for them.

herd there are eight head from the Biltmore farms, all good ones and extra well bred.

For the success that has been made with this farm the greater portion is due W. G. Davis, who has been manager for several years, and is a man of good judgment and steady purpose. Indeed the development of the farm and stock has been managed most efficiently and Mr. Davis deserves the credit, for he has managed it all. There are many who would say that



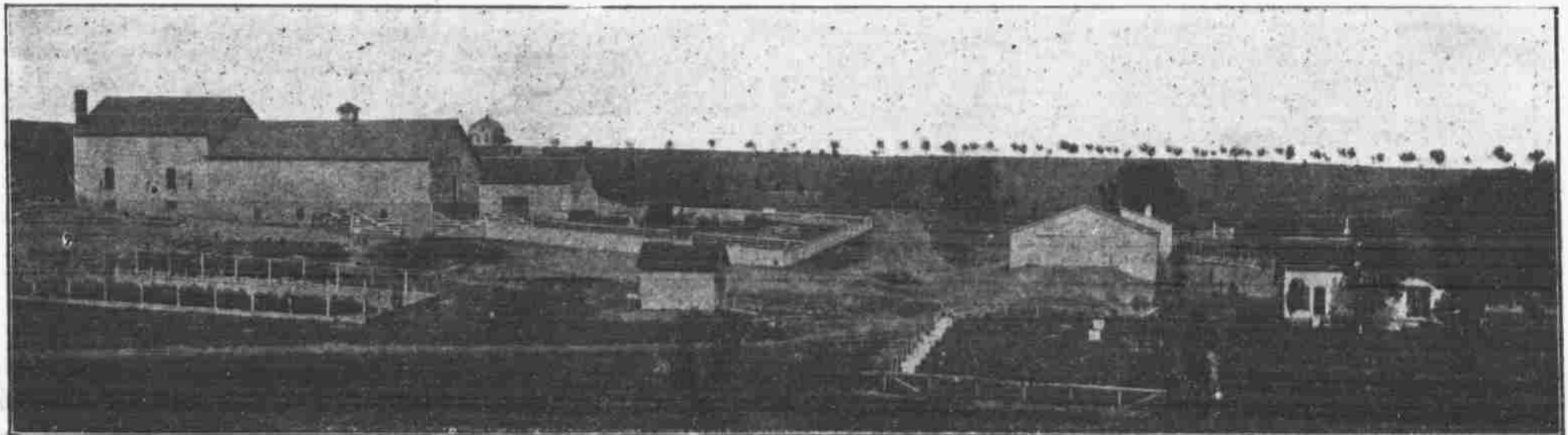
BEAUTIFUL FARM HOME OF GUY C. BARTON, PROPRIETOR WALNUT HILL, BERKSHIRE FARM, GILMORE, Neb. —Photo by a Staff Artist.

out onto the pastures with their dams. The pigs are taught to eat at the earliest possible age and are never allowed to stop growing. When they are large enough to be taken away from the dams they are removed to the feeding farm and are placed about ninety head in each of several lots, where they have access to alfalfa and other kinds of pasture, and are fed soaked corn twice per day, with slop once per day. It can readily be seen that with such care as this they would grow very rapidly and go onto the market weighing 350 to 400 pounds at from 9 to 12 months old.

The Berkshires on this farm have always been kept pure, but it was not until recent years that Mr. Barton conceived the idea of keeping them registered. Now there

Of the twenty-eight registered brood sows in the herd three are imported. The boar, Luster's Topper 2d 54925, now at the head of the herd, I believe to be one of the best individuals of the breed. His sire is Imp. Highclove Topper B617, and his dam is Imp. Luster 2d A51625. This is a boar of strong breeding character, plenty of quality, fine head and ear, the best of feet and legs, a great, strong, broad back and loin and perfect in heart girth. In breeding condition he will weigh right at 700 pounds, and is as active as a pig. This is a show boar of the truest type. A young boar has just been procured from the Biltmore farms that is a fine, smooth fellow, with good bone and good feet and legs, and will develop into a large, useful boar. In the

the methods here employed are not practical, and, although it is a great expense to keep so much help for keeping lawns mowed, buildings painted, walks and drives clean and neat, a green house that takes the entire time of one man and other things in the same proportion, I cannot keep from thinking that it will pay in every instance. At least I would say that the hogs here are raised in more cleanly quarters and with greater care and more successfully than in three-fourths of the herds of purebred stock throughout the states, that number not over 150 head. It all goes to show that it pays to take the very best of care of purebred stock, even at an extra expense, for it is economy in the end.



FEEDING YARDS AND BARN WHERE HOGS ARE FINISHED FOR MARKET—Photo by a Staff Artist.