

LITTLE DAMP OVER AT ST. PETERSBURG

RESIDENTS TELL MIRACULOUS
TALES OF RAINFALL

One Man Loses Several Valuable Barges
When Rain Forces Itself
Through Bung Hole

(Special to the Tribune.)

ST. PETERSBURG, July 3.—Since the recent heavy rain, St. Petersburg and vicinity resembles that part of the usual large farm called the duck pond. The actual amount of rainfall was something between 9 and 12 inches, though there are some who insist that it was about ten feet. A standing offer was made that the sixth person who called at a well known real estate office down town and made an affidavit that no rain had entered his house either by way of the roof or sides, would receive a check for \$5. Up to the present time only three persons have had the nerve to perjure themselves and say that their homes were perfectly dry. V. N. Ridgely of the Eureka Stone and Paving company, a firm that also puts on rubberoid and tarred paper roofs, states that they had to hire a man to do nothing but answer telephone calls about leaky roofs, Wednesday. The answer invariably was, "Will we up and fix it when it stops raining."

Brooker Creek, that follows the city limits on the south side of town, has changed from a small six inch brook to a creek, in all senses of the word, having overrun its banks in places and flooded the surrounding yards and gardens. The water is from three to six feet deep and rushes with the speed of a mill race. Salt Lake, that large body of water that had gone dry within the last few months, caused the deaths of myriads of fish, has filled up again. The water in the city, on which the water works situated has risen about three feet and presents a pretty respectable appearance also.

From this city to Largo we could almost navigate the waters in a small boat. All of the small ponds that have been dry for the past few months are filled up again and the ditches along the Coast Line's right of way are running like small rivers. In several places the abatement of the rain has been the only cause for the road not sustaining several washouts. As it was, one was found near Cross Bayou, Wednesday morning, by the Tarpon Springs Short delaying that train for one hour. The rain has caused the barge owners to miss the boat connection

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