

CHESTER TIMES – February 20, 1908

OLD MOUNTAIN HOUSE MADE NEW AT ROCKDALE – Extensive Repairs and Improvements That Places it Among the Best Hotels in the County

This week, it is expected, will mark the finish of the present extensive repairs and alterations at the old Mountain House Hotel, Rockdale, of which Hubert J. Riley is the proprietor. Mr. Riley has practically made a new place of the old hostelry, and it is now thoroughly modern and up-to-date. The bar room is now being deepened, enlarged and rejuvenated, a concrete floor being laid therein. The entire first floor has been laid with concrete, twenty inches deep and is absolutely rat proof. The floor of the stables has also been cemented. The winding stairs have been straightened and the hotel office, a snug cozy corner, has been established at the head of the stairs on the second floor. The office overlooks the lower floors, the dining room, kitchen, parlor and drawing rooms.

The hotel now contains twenty-one rooms and is one of the most comfortable and home-like hotels to be seen anywhere. On the ground floor there is a new wine room, a grotto and quick lunch café, all connected by a new stairway with the office. At the head of the rear stairway is a dining hall for banquets, with accommodations for fifty guests. The cuisine, in charge of Frank Jarice for 28 years chef at the Charter House, Media, and under Mr. Riley's personal supervision, is the best that can be had. The upstairs rooms are neatly furnished, nicely appointed and cozy. It is a hobby with Mr. Riley to entertain guests, cater to their wants and make them feel at home, and in his long experience as a hotel man his best efforts have been in that direction. At the upper end of the building foundation walls have been built for the erection of sixteen additional rooms, which can be completed in three weeks, and will be built very soon.

From the rear of the hotel there is a magnificent panoramic view from a high elevation. It is the proprietor's intention to conduct a modern summer resort here, the success of which is already assured. No expense has been spared in making the alterations and they are permanent. Rockdale is to be congratulated upon the acquisition of a modern hotel and the institution will bring many new people and added fame to this town.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION