

# -----A Century Ago In Double O -----

By Gary Knehans

The theme of war and peace preoccupied the thinking of several newspaper editors in the Ozarks at the beginning of 1900. Some hometown editors expressed the longing for a sustained period of peace while recognizing the "necessities" of war. The United States was still basking in the glow of having wrested Cuba and the Philippines from Spain in 1898 and of extending colonial powers over Hawaii the same year. But, despite the victory over the Spaniards in the Philippines, fighting was still being waged against indigenous forces there as 1900 got underway.

The ebb and flow of everyday life, demanding as it was in a mostly rural society, left little time for such lofty contemplations among the local citizenry in Pulaski County. Many of them were more than likely discussing common concerns and uncommon happenings as discoursing on the conduct of worldly matters. In fact, a particular local event that occurred in the closing days of '99 was probably still a topic of

discussion in the opening days of '00.

On Saturday morning as the west bound passenger train on the Frisco pulled into Crocker, it was discovered that the express car was on fire. The car was uncoupled from the train and pulled 100 feet from the depot, the engine and tender cut off and the car and its valuable contents abandoned to the blaze. Everything was lost, including the remains of the man that was being taken to Kansas for burial. A son of the deceased left the train at this point, returning to St. Louis. One man claimed to have lost a trunk containing \$23,000, principally in drafts, which he hopes to prove and recover through the issuance of duplicates. The west bound train had orders to await the arrival of the east bound express at Crocker. The burning car was pulled by log chains to the side track and after a delay of two hours, the east bound train passed it. A box car at Crocker was fitted up with a stove and table and attached to the west bound train in place of the burned express car.



James Larkin Johnson. Courtesy of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation.

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The delayed train reached this city about 5:30 a.m.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Jan. 5th

A Pulaski County man was alleged to have perpetrated a serious crime a few days later.

Constable Hickey, of Nebo, on Sunday brought a man named Wilson, residing in Pulaski Co., charged with rape on a young girl living in Gasconade township. There was strong talk of lynching Wilson at Nebo, as it is considered a very brutal affair. He was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Jan. 12th

Back in the county seat a couple weeks later, a few local boys got their comeuppance when they let their lips do their thinking.

A stranger, presumably the same man who visited Rolla two weeks ago, drove into Waynesville Monday with a pony, blind in both eyes and a very ordinary looking animal, hitched to a primitive road cart with a pine box for a body and the wheels patched, braced and wired in every conceivable manner. The harness consisted of wooden hames with ropes for tugs and lines and the balance of the make up

was in proportion.

The boys guyed him considerably, making much sport of his horse and rig, but when the proper time came, the stranger sprung what the crowd considered a bluff by offering to run his blind pony against any of the ordinary stock of the town. A race was soon made with a horse belonging to a colored man, and after all the bets the boys wanted on even money had been taken the stranger took what he could get at two for one. The result can be easily guessed, as the blind pony was an easy winner. After several hours spent in enjoying the chagrin of the boys who had ridiculed him in the morning, he hitched up to his dilapidated vehicle and went on in search of more suckers.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Feb. 9th

Another much-traveled denizen, however, did not escape the long arm of the law.

Ben Archer, the mail carrier on the Lebanon and Waynesville route, was arrested at noon on Wednesday, charged with stealing a bunch of furs from Clark Brothers Produce.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Feb. 9th

Romance bloomed well before the spring flowers for one Pulaski County man.

A salesman in one of the mercantile houses in Richland is in receipt of a letter from a St. Louis lady, crouched in such ardent adoration that the stamp would scarcely adhere to the envelope. He wrote his name, with the statement that he was open to matrimonial offers, on an egg. The egg was among others shipped, and the letter is the result. He wears it in the upper left vest pocket, and the heavings of his heart cause the garment to keep up a continual and perceptible pit-a-pat.

-Richland Cyclone, Feb. 16th

A Richland woman continued to nurse a grieving heart over the death two and a half years earlier of her 17-year-old son. On October 8, 1897, the boy, Robert Ellis, fell from a flatcar of a moving Frisco freight train in Lebanon. Before dying, he stated that he was pushed from the car by a brakeman. An eyewitness supported the victim's statement, stating that he had seen a brakeman push the boy from the car. Mrs. Ellis promptly filed a suit against the company, but still was awaiting her day in court in early 1900.

The \$5000 damage suit brought against the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company for the killing of her son, Robin (sic) Ellis, by Mrs. Mariah J. Ellis, of this city, was again called in the Laclede county circuit court at Lebanon a few days ago. It was again continued.

-Richland Cyclone article, reprinted in the Lebanon Republican on Feb. 23rd

Political discussions and disputes, as in every election year, began early in 1900.

Two years ago, a Democratic Legislature enacted a very unpopular school book law; while at the late session of a Democratic Legislature an equally unpopular road law was passed. The Cyclone merely suggests to our Democratic brethren to take their medicine like heroes, and hereafter when they want good, sensible legislation, see that Republican law makers are sent to Jefferson City.

-Richland Cyclone article, reprinted in the Lebanon Republican on Feb. 23rd

Despite the lingering gloom of winter, Pulaski Countians continued to brave the elements to conduct the routine events of their lives.

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W. E. Wilson, of Richland, stopped here Thursday on his way home from Warrensburg, where he had been attending the teachers' normal school.

The recent query of the Richland Cyclone, concerning the present whereabouts of the individual whose yearly mission it is to predict the freezing of the peach buds, was answered last week, when a calamityite on our street was overheard to remark: "If the cold weather don't kill the peaches, I miss my guess!"

-Lebanon Record, Mar. 2nd

Census enumerators began stirring in early March, organizing for a canvassing of the county and country later in the year. Meanwhile, a prominent Pulaski County politico announced for state office.

(Richland, Mo., March 19)--Another contestant for the Democratic senatorial nomination in this district has entered the field, and each county in the district now has a candidate. The latest accession to the place-seekers is

Larkin Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney of Pulaski County. It was reported here to-night that Hohenschild, of Phelps, the present Senator, will not be before the convention, having been defeated in his home county by Meriwether.

-Rolla Herald, Mar. 22nd

Tragedy struck in late April when an unfortunate combination of events caused the death of a young Pulaski County farmer. Thomas Bates rode a horse into a pond at his home near Waynesville to allow the thirsty animal to drink some water. While the horse was slurping up the cool liquid, Bates suffered an epileptic seizure and fell into the water and drowned.

From a neighboring county came news of another unfortunate event.

(Dixon, Mo., Apr. 20)--The boiler used to operate a sawmill on the farm of Reuben Short, near Iberia, Miller County, blew up yesterday with fatal results. Short with his two sons Charles and Fred were in the mill at the time of the explosion. One of the boys received injuries from which he can not recover, and the other was badly

hurt. Mr. Short was scalded about the head and may lose his sight. A portion of the boiler was blown 350 yards. The Mill was completely demolished. Mr. Short was a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney of Miller County.

-Rolla Herald, Apr. 26th

Meanwhile, a daring robbery made history in Pulaski County, and enraged the citizenry so much that officials felt compelled to put a legendary lawman on the case.

Dixon, Mo., April 24--The citizens are aroused to an unusual extent over the robbery of Miss Nettie Vaughn, a school teacher, on the Richland and Waynesville road, Saturday, by masked highway men. It was the first hold-up of a woman to occur in Pulaski County. A reward of \$200 has been subscribed for the capture of the bandit. Detective T. V. Imboden was summoned from Dixon to-day to work on the case. Imboden is a noted criminal hunter, having captured Wils Howard and other notorious Kentucky feudists.

-Rolla Herald, Apr. 26th

A young lady school teacher in

Pulaski County was held up and robbed by a highwayman Saturday afternoon of last week. She was on her way home from Waynesville, where she had been to draw her month's wage. The robber secured \$28.

-Laclede County Sentinel, May 4th

In early May, official census takers began to fan out throughout the county. Enumerators included F. C. Kerr and Thomas R. Cox of Waynesville; Preston J. Bailey and John McGowan, Jr., of Crocker; James F. Rhea and Theo V. Wilson of Dixon; Ellis A. Burres of Richland, and John E. Estagsta (sic) of Swedeborg.

Early risers on May 28th noticed that the rays of the sun were dimmer than usual for that time of day. The long shadows created by the morning sun appeared noticeably fuzzier. Even the color of the grass and the trees seemed to be strangely affected. The cause of these unusual effects was a partial eclipse of the sun, which approached seventy percent of totality in the Ozarks. Those people who lived in a swath of the U. S. from Louisiana through northwestern Georgia to the coast of North Carolina got to



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experience a total eclipse of the sun on that date.

A few days later, "the railroad as the sickle of death," as an editor of the Pulaski County Democrat once wrote, swung and claimed another victim.

(Dixon, Mo., June 1—Another chapter was added to-day to the long record of fatalities on Dixon Hill. Early this morning east-bound Frisco passenger, No. 8, ran down two men at milestone 126. James Holt, 24 years old, of St. Louis was instantly killed. The other, a young man thought to live at Springfield, MO., sustained a fractured skull and internal injuries from which he will probably die. The men were tramping and were supposed to have fallen asleep on the track.

—Rolla Herald, Jun. 7th

June was the month for weddings, even back in 1900.

Last Wednesday our esteemed friend, Everett Emory, of St. James, and Miss Florence Holman, of Dixon, Missouri were united in marriage. Everett hardly treated us fair, not giving us an inklin of such an eventful step in his career, but it is alright. We glory in his spunk, and extend our congratulations all the same. We are informed that his home town

turned out in mass to welcome him and his bride home. St. James hospitality has an air that makes one feel glad that he has come and we predict for the young couple happiness and peace.

—Rolla Herald, Jun. 28th

A deluge of rain caused considerable crop damage in early July, but losses were limited mostly to the Richland area.

Officials had to organize a local posse in Waynesville a short time later to track down a suspected horse thief.

(Richland, Mo., July 16—News has just reached here of the killing of a man named Baker near Waynesville last night by a posse under command of Constable George Rayl. Baker was supposed to be a horse thief, and was suspected of having stolen a horse from a man named Bartlett. The officers got a tip that Baker would be found in an outhouse awaiting the arrival of a boy with a couple of horses. They secreted themselves, and when Baker put in an appearance demanded his surrender. He started to run and was fired upon and killed. Baker's home is in Dent County.

—Rolla Herald, Jul. 19th

Actually, Baker may not have

been killed as reported. Another news dispatch stated that he had only been wounded.

About 10 days ago a man named Frank Baker stole a horse from a man named James Bartlett, living near Waynesville, took it to Salem and traded it to a local horse trader. A few days afterward, Baker returned to Pulaski County and an attempt was made to place him under arrest. He started to run and the constable and posse opened fire with their revolvers, wounding him seriously.

—Laclede County Sentinel, Jul. 27th

Pulaski County was selected to host the nominating convention to select a Democrat party candidate for 27th District State Senator. Because of that, local hopes ran high that favorite son candidate Larkin Johnson would be the pick of the conventioners.

The convention to nominate a candidate on the democratic ticket for State Senator of this, the twenty-seventh district, convened at Richland last Wednesday, and on the nine hundred and first ballot nominated Judge E. M. Zevely of Osage county.

Pulaski was the last on the roll and Judge Wright came forward and told the convention that he

did not intend to make a speech, but that he wanted to have a plain talk with the delegates. He told how Pulaski had helped nominate every candidate since the war for the office of State Senator and had not even asked for it for herself. He told of the splendid financial condition of the county and that politically it had never been known to be other than Democratic. He said that Larkin Johnson was Pulaski's favorite son, and that according to all political precedents of the past Pulaski should be recognized. He made a strong plea for Mr. Johnson, which was ably seconded by Joe McGregor, attorney from Waynesville, who insisted that J. L. Johnson should be and would be the choice of the convention.

—Rolla Herald, Jul. 19th

Pulaski County law officials in July received information that a prisoner who escaped from the county jail some three years earlier had been sighted in the area. Former county sheriff Tom Imboden again was called upon to try to recapture the fugitive.

A telegram sent from Richland announcing that Gov. Stephens has offered a reward of \$100 for the arrest of Alf Kilman, a fugitive from Pulaski county, which is double the sum previously offered for his



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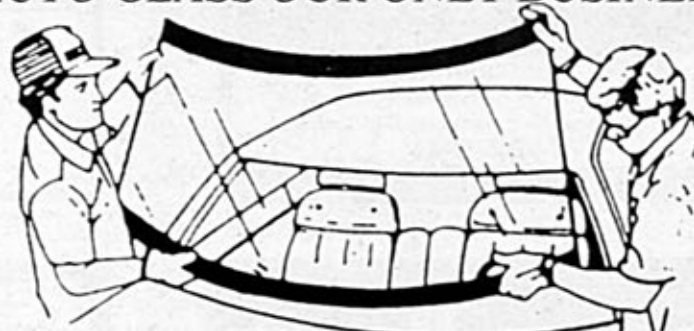
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apprehension, recalls that case here. The telegram giving notice of the reward states that he escaped from the sheriff while being prepared for the trip to the penitentiary.

There was nothing so commonplace as that about his escape. He was in the circuit court room while his attorney was making an appeal for a new hearing--Kilman having been convicted of grand larceny--and during the course of the argument in his behalf walked out of the court room and away. His absence was not discovered until the lawyer's address had been completed. This was some three years ago. Recently, accompanied by a woman, Kilman returned to his old haunts, taking possession of an abandoned hut. Both were armed with Winchester rifles, and when a posse under Tom Imboden, an intrepid officer, undertook to dislodge him, there was a hard fight, a hundred or more shots being exchanged, but the fugitive and his companion escaped. A week or two later another bloodless battle was fought between Kilman and the officers. This was only a few weeks ago, and again Kilman eluded the authorities.

-Lebanon Republican, Jul. 27th

Word was received in Waynesville that a prominent resident was doing well in the nation's capital as a federal employee.

The many friends of W. J. Barrows will be glad to know that he has entered upon his job in Washington, D. C., and is well pleased with his situation. He passed examination on the 28th of June with excellent grades, and is now employed in the Agricultural department of the Census Bureau. During his absence, Miss Lela Davis will look after and have charge of the business of his office.

-Waynesville Democrat article, reprinted in the Laclede County Sentinel on Aug. 3rd

Meanwhile, a local divorce case took an interesting twist late in August.

A Pulaski County woman who is a defendant in a divorce suit has brought suit for damages against her husband's parents for alienating her husband's affections, on which she sets the exalted price of \$3,400. He was valuable property.

-Lebanon Republican, Aug. 31st

A thunderstorm on September 7th produced a lightning bolt that severely injured Monroe Ray, a

farmer who lived a few miles south of Dixon. The electrical charge ran down his right side and leg causing severe burns and leaving an arm and a leg partially paralyzed. Family members were hopeful that he would fully recover.

A former Pulaski Countian, however, proved not to be so fortunate.

James M. Craddock, for many years a resident of Crocker, but more recently of Monett, was run down by one of the rough riders in the street parade during the street fair at Springfield Wednesday. Mr. Craddock had been a citizen of Springfield but a few months, and with his wife and daughters was living over Knell's meat market where they rented rooms. He was struck by the horse of the rough rider and thrown to the pavement, his head striking a street car rail. He lived until Thursday, but was unconscious. His remains were brought to Crocker, where his funeral took place last Friday. Mr. Craddock lived in this county for many years and was an old soldier.

-Pulaski County Democrat article, reprinted in the Sept. 20th Rolla Herald

1900 proved to be a good year

for "railroad prosperity" in parts of the county, benefitting the growing communities of Dixon, Hancock, Crocker, Swedeborg and Richland.

The Republican editor was in Richland a short time on Sunday last, and enjoyed an hour or two's chat with an old newspaper friend, Judge W. T. Wright, formerly editor of the Waynesville Democrat, now connected with the Bank of Richland.

Richland, already a splendid town, is improving steadily, the building of new residences aggregating some \$15,000 this year. This town is favorably situated to grow and there is every prospect that its healthy increase will continue. An enterprising lot of merchants do business there, and the citizens all take pride in the town's welfare.

The Cyclone, under the management of Sam Kellar, does its full share at all times toward keeping Richland to the front.

-Lebanon Republican, Sept. 21st

With the fall election campaign in full swing, a Republican candidate bravely announced that he would venture into the Democrat stronghold of Waynesville to search for votes. Honorable James T. Moore, of Lebanon, the Republican

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nominee for Congress in this district, will speak at Waynesville at 1 o'clock this afternoon and at Crocker at 7 o'clock this evening. Everybody in Pulaski County knows "Jim" Moore, and everybody likes him. He presents the issues of the campaign in an interesting, entertaining way and should have good audiences at both points.

-Richland Cyclone article, reprinted in the Lebanon Republican on Sept. 21st

A few days later, another bold (and overly presumptive) proclamation was made about competition of another sort.

For the championship of Phelps and Pulaski Co's, a game of ball will be played near Relfe on Saturday next between the Spring Creek Sluggers and the Dry Creek Hobo's. Report will be given later, although as in every instance, Phelps will have an easy walk over, for the Spring Creek boys are no cinch.

-Correspondent "Flag" in the "Pansy Ridge Blossoms" feature in the Sept. 27th Rolla Herald

The "sickle of death" struck again in late September.

While attempting to alight from a moving train at Dixon, a young

man, giving his name as William Hammond, fell between the cars. The train passed over him, cutting off one foot and one hand and otherwise injuring him. He died at six o'clock. The young man and his brother were beating their way on the train. His father, D. H. Hammond, Billings, Mo., was notified.

John Murphy, a well known Frisco engineer, by his prompt and heroic action, prevented a wreck Friday night near Dixon, just as the train was about to plunge down a dizzy embankment. On both sides of the track there was a fall of more than 100 feet. The rails spread and the engine jumped the track. Then tender, baggage coach and several express cars followed. Murphy reversed the lever and applied the air brakes. Within less than five feet of the edge of the embankment, the engine came to a standstill. Most of the passengers were severely shaken up, but none were seriously injured.

-Lebanon Republican, Sept. 28th

Republican Jim Moore's appearance in Waynesville must have been successful

enough to prompt grudging acknowledgment from the Democrat editor of the hometown Pulaski County Democrat, who wrote, "Honorable James T. Moore, Republican nominee for Congressman from the Eighth district, spoke here yesterday afternoon to a fair-sized crowd. Mr. Moore is a pleasant gentleman and a good talker."

The aforementioned championship baseball game was played as scheduled, but things did not go as predicted.

It seems that "Flag" was greatly mistaken in regard to the ability of the Pulaski County Nine to play ball. At the match game last Saturday at Spring Creek for the championship of Phelps and Pulaski counties, the Phelps county players were beaten by a score of 6 to 8 instead of experiencing the walk over predicted by our esteemed friend "Flag."

-Rolla Herald, Oct. 4th

The Rolla Herald happily reported the marriage on Sept. 27th of George F. Shultz of Big Piney to Mary E. Whitaker of Relfe. The wedding took place at the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Whitaker, at Relfe, with Reverend J. J. Watts officiating.

"A nice wedding dinner was set by the bride's parents for a few invited guests, and all went merry with the young folks until late in the afternoon," the paper reported.

The couple's happiness unfortunately could not be shared by all. A young Pulaski County woman received an unpleasant surprise while another prominent citizen faced legal problems.

Wednesday Miss Bessie Carter, of Dixon, on going to get a bucket of water at the well, which is in the kitchen of the residence where her father lives, found a large spotted snake coiled up on the floor near the well, and which raised a dispute with her as to who had the best right to the floor. But she quickly came to the conclusion that as Mr. Snake already had the floor, she was perfectly willing that he should keep it, at least for the time being. But Lloyd, her brother, appeared upon the scene with a gun and quickly dispatched his snakeship. The reptile measured five feet in length, and had double rows of long teeth on either side of the upper jaw, and was a venomous looking reptile.

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Pulaski Co., was before the commissioner at Springfield Friday last on the charge of selling whiskey without a government license. He waived examination and was held on \$300 bond to await the action of the federal grand jury, which convenes on next Monday.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Oct. 5th

There was another railroad death later in the month. Like so many others before it, this mishap was especially gruesome in details.

A Frisco passenger brakeman by the name of Ambrose was killed at Crocker Wednesday morning of last week about 2 o'clock by being caught between the engine and a freight car. The train was going in on the siding and he was standing on the cow catcher holding up the heavy bar in order to couple on to a freight car in order to push it ahead, when he accidentally dropped it or missed connection and was so badly crushed that death put an end to his suffering in about an hour afterward. The remains of the unfortunate brakeman was placed in the baggage car and taken to Springfield.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Oct. 26th

The general election brought the re-election of William McKinley as president, although both Pulaski County and Missouri cast a majority of their votes for his Democrat opponent, William Jennings Bryan. Pulaski County favored Bryan 1282 to 782 and Dockery, a Democrat, 1282 to 781. The only majority Republican precinct in both instances was Last Hill.

A precinct-by-precinct and race-by-race analysis of 1900's general election results shows that ballot splitting was an extremely rare occurrence in Pulaski County at that time. Vote counts were exactly the same in Big Piney, Crocker, Hancock, Last Hill, Richland and Waynesville in the presidential and gubernatorial balloting. The other precincts produced just a one or two vote variance.

Republicans were disappointed that James T. Moore, their candidate for Congressman, failed to make the cut of the voters.

County election winners were George S. Scott, presiding commissioner; Levi L. Cobb,

eastern district commissioner; Jonahan Crews for western district commissioner; George W. Gan, circuit clerk; William D. Johnson, prosecuting attorney; E. G. Williams, county clerk; Robert S. Anderson, sheriff; John W. Wheeler, collector; George W. Hendricks, assessor; John L. Mitchell, treasurer; George W. Bryant, coroner; George W. Lane, Sr., surveyor; and William H. Locker, state representative.

Later that month, an area man found himself anxiously awaiting the arrival of a Frisco train in Pulaski County.

Dixon, Mo., Nov. 20.-If everything turns out according to schedule, the arrival of the Frisco passenger from St. Louis to-night will witness the happy end of a romance of the matrimonial bureau sort. James Shaneer, a prosperous young farmer of Iberia, Miller County, arrived here to-night to greet his intended bride, Miss Jennie Doyle, of Pittsburgh, Pa., whom he has never seen. Shaneer has the marriage license in his pocket and Miss Doyle has notified him that she will surely be here on time.

About six months ago, Shaneer

answered an ad in a matrimonial paper. Miss Doyle replied and a lover's correspondence followed, with the result that they became engaged by mail. Miss Doyle promised to be here ten days ago, and Shaneer came in to meet her, but the bride failed to come. Instead, she wrote requesting another remittance in addition to the lump sum Shaneer had already sent. This was forwarded, a new date was agreed upon and to-night the prospective groom is anxiously awaiting the coming of his intended. He knows nothing of Miss Doyle except by letters, but he is confident that she will keep her promise.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Nov. 23rd

A terrible tragedy, meanwhile, took the life of a young Pulaski County boy.

The little eight-year-old son of Napoleon and Katherine Roff, who live just across the line of this county in Pulaski, sucked a peanut kernel down his windpipe last Thursday morning and died after terrible suffering at 7 a.m. Friday morning. Medical aid was summoned and remained with the

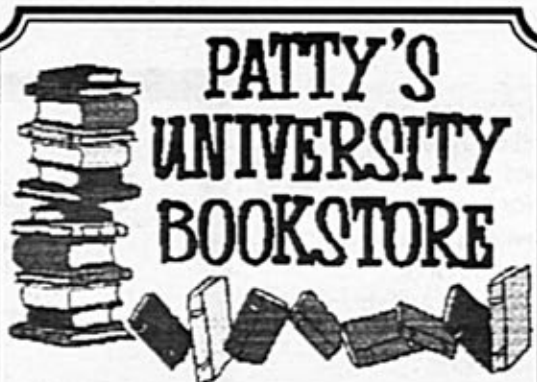


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child during the time but nothing could be done to save his life. He was buried Saturday afternoon at the Smith Cemetery in this county.

-Rolla Herald article, reprinted Nov. 29th in the Houston Herald

Former Missouri Governor Joseph W. McClurg died on December 2nd. He was fondly remembered by many in Pulaski County and Richland city officials eventually named one of the main streets in town in his memory.

Work began a few days later to speed up train traffic on the Frisco line running through Pulaski County and to prevent future delays due to high water.

Dixon, Mo., Dec. 9--A part of the construction and improvement contract recently let to a Topeka (Kan.) Company by the Frisco company materialized here this week, when a crew of men began work on the raising of the railroad bridges across the Gasconade River. The bridge will be raised 4 feet above its present level. This is in order to get the approaches out of danger from high water. In January 1898, during the "big rise" in the Gasconade, the track adjoining the bridge was partially submerged. The Frisco also contemplates expending a big sum on cutting down the Dixon and Hancock hills. This is said to be part of a plan to put the roadbed in shape for fast passenger service. The work will take at least six months.

Advertising Agent Beckley, of the Frisco, was here a few days ago, and stated that the Frisco would probably be in operation by February 1, 1901. This train will leave St. Louis about 2:30 a.m. and make an average speed of forty-five miles an hour between St. Louis and Monett, Mo. The train will be a light one, but in order to maintain the speed, it will be double-headed from Newburg to Lebanon, Mo., which section includes the ten miles of Dixon hill. The fast mail will carry the St. Louis morning papers to all of Southwest Missouri ten to twelve hours earlier than at present.

The fastest time made by a schedule train on the Frisco at present is thirty-five miles an hour, between Monett and St. Louis. The time record for the road is held by the special which carried W. J. Bryan from Carthage to Lebanon, Mo., to attend the funeral of the late Richard P. Bland, in June 1899. This train averaged better than a mile a minute between Monett and Lebanon.

-Rolla Herald, Dec. 13th

The community of Dixon lost one of its well-known residents, who fell victim to mental disease.

William Halley has been sent to the insane asylum at St. Joseph. Halley was with Quantrell at the burning and sacking of Lawrence, Ka., having been once the noted guerilla's chief lieutenant. For many years he had been a member of the Dixon police force.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Dec. 21st

The pace of life slowed down for many with the arrival of Christmas. And, while most residents were involved in giving gifts in the spirit of the holiday, there were a few others more intent on receiving rather than giving.

E. T. Morrow, a school teacher well known in Miller County, went to Dixon to celebrate Christmas. Unfortunately he fell into the hands of local thieves who relieved him of a year's savings, a pistol, jewelry and other valuables. James Taylor, of Dixon, is in jail under suspicion of the robbery. Morrow identified the pocketbook found on the individual.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Jan. 4th, 1901

The festiveness of the holiday finally faded and allowed for moments of quiet contemplation for residents of the area. At the dawning of a new century, the thoughts of a Lebanon editor may have struck a responsive chord with many of Pulaski County's citizens.

The last Christmas of the 19th century has come and gone and we are about to step over the threshold into the new 20th. Probably not over one person in a million is now living who saw light before Washington did one hundred years ago. These closing days of the most wonderful period of our world's history call us to reflection as to what has been accomplished during the ten decades. I think I may safely say greater progress has been made in science and invention during all previous time of our history. Wonder advancement has also been made along civil and educational lines, but as to the latter I hardly think it has kept up in the race.

When this century opened, every nation of importance on earth except France held to

human slavery, and France had freed her slaves less than ten years before that time. Slavery was common in the American colonies both north and south, and five of our first six presidents owned slaves. Now not a human being in Europe or America is enslaved because of color. In population our own country has increased at a rate never before equaled, nearly fifteen hundred per cent in one hundred years. As to invention, had Washington predicted one-half that has been done in that time he would have been called a lunatic. Our first president never saw a railroad, and his wife had to prepare for receptions without a pin for her clothing. A half dozen of our presidents had to reach the capitol by wagon road and the third was in office when the first steamboat scared the Dutch people along the banks of the Hudson.

Jas. K. Polk was the first presidential candidate who could hear of his election by electric telegraph and many congressmen were defeated that fall because they had voted the magnificent sum of thirty thousand dollars to aid Morse towards his invention.

Hayes and Tilden in 1876 could not confer with their political

managers by telephone and during Hayes' term the mechanical parrot, this machine that talks back, was invented.

Cleveland was the first president to stroll about the Capitol under the glow of the electric light and during the probation of McKinley the system of talking through miles of space without the connecting wire has come into use. The first lady of the White House to have her inauguration dress made on a sewing machine was Mrs. Pierce and the first to ride on an electric car was Mrs. Cleveland.

-Laclede County Sentinel, Jan. 4, 1901



President Cleveland

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