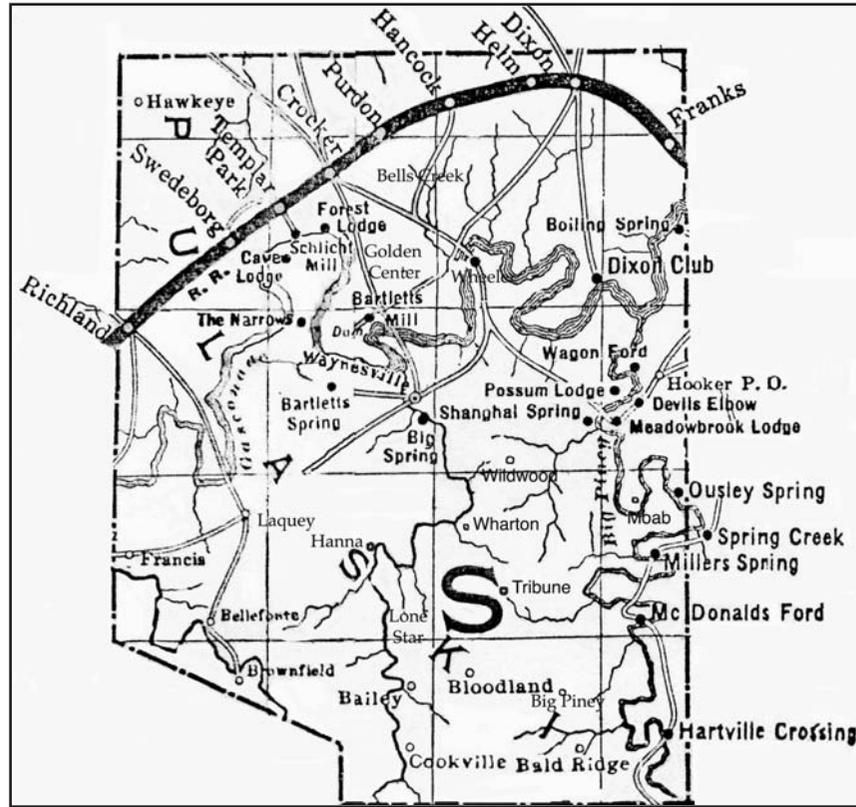


# News of 1905



*Pulaski County Democrat*  
January 6, 1905

**HOOKER**—Mr. Colbert of this place is taking in the ruins of the World's Fair.

**GASCONADE**—A. F. Nickels, with the aid of the Robinson brothers, recently felled the great oak tree on the old farm, making over 400 boards to the cut: How is that for timber in old Pulaski?

**SCHLICHT**—The Dropshot Club met at their regular hall, installing officers. Jack Heberer, Jr. was elected president. The club, after the regular routine of business had been disposed of, took a solemn pledge to abstain from intoxicants during the budding year. It was also resolved that only magnesia springs water shall be used when new members are initiated.

**SWEDEBORG**—We understand that the Frisco is going to build an addition to the depot at this place in the near future. Bert says he will have a bay window where he can sit and "bask in the sunshine" next summer.



Waynesville Bank on the corner of Commercial (Historic Rt. 66) and Benton streets. Courtesy Jan and Terry Primas.

The big news in the first part of the year was the hanging of Elias Smith, convicted of murdering James Smith (no relation) near Dixon. Hangings were still public events in Missouri and citizens thronged the square to get a look.

The news in 1905 was largely about progress. Correspondents from county towns reported almost every week about the progress on the sprouting telephone poles. The talking box was spreading in all directions among the railroad towns in the northern part of the county and excitement with it. However, nary a pole was set in rural southern Pulaski. It would take another three decades, not until the CCC (see Blooming Rose article) brought Bell south.

Progress of another kind and causing a different type of excitement came in the form of game laws. Some citizens of the state thought that unregulated harvesting of wildlife ought to be curbed. This enlightened view was not widespread in Pulaski County. The idea of buying a license to hunt or fish in one's own county was anathema.

An effort to restrict the open range and get pigs and cows off city streets caused a similar concern. Both sides of the stock law controversy were argued in the pages of the newspapers.

Each community correspondent reported who was sick, who visited whom, who sold what, and what was being built. This type of news accounted for about 95 per cent of the ink. We have generally omitted the sick call and the visitation reports. The larger railroad towns (Dixon, Crocker, Swedeborg, and Richland) reported faithfully each week. News from the much smaller communities (e.g. Big Piney, Decker, Bailey, and Hooker) was reported sporadically. Some of these communities have lost their identity today for the general public (see map). A new paper started in Crocker and the established paper in Dixon had difficulties.

Progress, in one form or another, was about to overtake Pulaski County in 1905. We have followed these stories.

as we are today. These memories take us way back in the first person. He published the following 1871 reminiscence of John Green. -Ed.]

## REMINISCENCES OF Thirty-four Years Ago

TOLD BY J. H. GREEN

In my last communication I just named the improvements as they came, the Clark farm considerably the largest. You see they were small, few and far between, and a large majority of the houses were small log structures without windows, and on looking in we see the heating and cook stoves were in the end of the house and made of rock and clay mortar—fire places. The people were not stuckup; the most of them that were here then have passed on somewhere, we don't know where; a very few of the old people remain; hardly ever saw a meadow, just small patches here and there, cut them with a mowing blade and rake the grass up with a wooden fork, not much wheat. Most generally people had a rotation of crops, plant corn one spring, then the next spring plant corn, and still the next and so on, and at odd spells they would take up their guns and hunt, and with a great many those odd spells would come very often. The Smith Hollow country was nicely covered with wild grass; hazel-splitter hogs were the go then and they got their snout started through a thicket or fence crack they did not need any further guarantee—they would sure go, and if they were somewhat wild—which was often the case—and you rallied them, then look out. I heard a truthful young man relate an incident that took place with him and a gang of them. He said they made for him and he ran to a tree to climb for safety and thought he was out of their reach, when a fierce dog came to his relief, and he found himself sitting flat on the ground with his legs and arms hugged around the tree. Cattle and horses were mostly scrubs, the faithful oxen were the leading draft animals, or in the majority. The milling points for the Bloodland country were Pillman's and Coppages and a corn cracker where Dickie Miller now lives, then called the McCoatney [McCortney] mill, an over-shot wheel, run by a spring that proceeded from the hill side; it was intermittent, at time the water would cease to flow—probably for half a day—it was unaccounted for. The saying was that a big bear would get into the channel to wallow and when she would get out the water supply would be sufficient to grind probably one or two bushels an hour. [This Miller Spring today; locate on Ft. Leonard Wood. It is a well-known ebb and flow spring.-Ed.] Mr. Cook at Cookville had a dead match for it, only the bear didn't trouble Mr. Cook's water supply; what work they done was done honestly.

**DIXON**—The citizens of Pisgah are circulating a petition for a public road through that neighborhood so that they may secure a Rural Free Delivery mail route.

### LOCAL RIFF-RAFF

The [Waynesville] bank is now fully installed in its new quarters and is very conveniently located.

Hon. J. L. Johnson went to Jefferson City Sunday to take his place in the House of Representatives.

[We reprint in this issue of the Old Settlers' Gazette Mr. Johnson's letters to the editor during his first session of the legislature in Jefferson City. His reports give us a glimpse of state politics of the era. -Ed.]

A. D. Sutton now has charge of the Sheriff's office and is anxiously awaiting for some bad man to show up that he may display his skill.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
January 13, 1905

[Nathan Wheeler, the editor of the *Pulaski County Democrat*, was interested in the memories that people had of time past, just

They and Wimer Wheeler were three millers that I never heard anything against. Of course, we have others equally as honest, but these three are noted in so much that there were great commendations.

Church interest at that time was at a low ebb. There was a hewn log Baptist church house 24 x 24 at Friendship with a small membership. Tommie Zumwalt, A. Hendrix and Silas Page were the Baptist ministers in this part then and I am informed that a Rev. Hibbs was pastor of Friendship at one time.

The first three named still linger on the shore of time. There was a Baptist church building on Piney northeast of Bloodland called Bayou with a small organization, now located at New Town [Big Piney], then there was a small class of Methodists at the Vaughn school house. You see, us Methodists call our local bodies "Classes" because we are a part or a fraction of a great school—a class of learners (Disciples) with the one common text book (Bible) preparing for the great examination. So with other denominations, but they call their locals "churches". Well, we make no complaint. About this time a revival spirit broke out; these churches I speak of, there were numbers added to them, and during the time a Rev. John David, a Free Will Baptist, held a meeting at

the Vaughn school house and organized a church, then went over near Frank's Switch, held a meeting and organized with about 70 members and captured some of the Pisgah Baptist which swelled the number still larger. Dabner Hudgens assisted in that meeting and became a power. Among those converted near the Switch was Brother Golenor, 70 years of age; he was licensed and ordained to preach shortly afterward. I heard him preach the ordination sermon and assist in ordaining Revs. Jim and K. D. Hudgens under an arbor at Mossy Spring and I think he re-baptized them. I name this incident because it is not common for one to go on in sin until they are that old and then repent. Brother Golenor lived faithful unto death. Now, back to the Smith Hollow and surrounding country. We saw quite an improvement every way. We have a Methodist church at Bloodland with a membership of about fifty or sixty and we pay the pastor from \$60 to \$80, two church buildings at New Town—Baptist and Christian—with a large membership for the Baptist—don't know about the other; Friendship log church replaced with a neat frame building and a fair membership, Baptist Church at Dundas school house and Fairview six miles northwest of Bloodland, St. Anne near Cookville and one at Rolling Heath

five miles north of Bloodland, Baptist also; there is a Sunday School at each point except Friendship, which is a bad indication for any church. Every church should have a school or the children will go wild. Beside churches we have good facilities otherwise. We have a good mill at New Town, one at Bloodland, with two stores, we can hear the click of the mower in any and every direction, the hum and whistle of the thresher and corn shredder, the old worn out land being fenced and brought to life by proper care and proper rotation of crops, improved stock of all kinds, and if we could see the Railroad coming—for which we are straining our eyes to see—we would say that this section is destined to be the leading section of Pulaski; the people are here to make it so. We have the Baileys, the Jaspers, the Christesons, the Houghs, the Bradfords, Pages and too many others to name, and we have the land suitable for fruit of all kinds, grasses and wheat and plenty of non-resident range, provided we don't have a stock law crowded on us [*open range was the rule*]; all this supported by moral and religious influences, for "where the wicked rule, the people mourn."

COOKVILLE—Mr. Norman Barnes and partner Allie Altom killed an otter a short time ago and received seven

dollars for the fur. This is the best pay for hunting we have heard of this season.

#### Letter from Representative Johnson

[J. L. Johnson, a local lawyer, was the newly elected Representative. This is his first report as a legislator.—Ed.]

Jefferson City, MO., January 6th

Editor Pulaski County Democrat:

I am here, but us democrats are like the little boy at a shooting match, don't have much to say, especially in naming the officers of the house. the "rads" [radical Republicans] seem to think they are all of it. I scored some little honor for Pulaski County in the house caucus by securing Sam Ballard's nomination for enrolling clerk, but from some cause the papers failed to make not of it in the report of the proceedings.

The house voted on the permanent officers this morning and of course all the "pubs" [Republicans] were elected. When my time came I arose with all the dignity of a statesman and placed my man in nomination, but he went down with all the rest. Sam has secured a clerkship in the Senate.

You ought to see what hungry mob of republicans that are here, big, little, old, young whites, blacks—both male and female—all without regard to race,

Arrow Mart

Cable America

Tanning Spa

Practically Enchanted

Bo Peep Ceramics

USA Twins

color or previous condition of servitude, all clamoring for a piece of pie, either big or little.

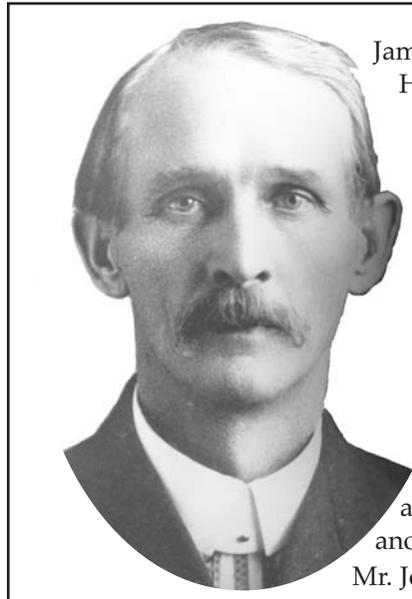
The great interest is in the Senatorial fight and it is hard to tell what the final result will be. The Kerens and anti-Kerens men are fighting each other with vengeance.

I don't write this letter for publication. You can glean such matters as you think would be worth publishing as news. [Apparently Nathan Wheeler, the editor, thought the whole letter newsworthy.] As far as I can see there will not much be fun for a Democrat serving in a republican house when things get settled down to business. The "rads" are making so much noise in trying to catch the Speaker's eye that I can't hear myself write, so will have to say good-bye. J. L. Johnson

FAIRVIEW—The weather is has been dry but we have a big snow now. This snow will spoil our fishing on the ice, as gigging has been fine.

LOCAL RIFF-RAFF

The Dramatic Club [Waynesville] has received the literature for the next production, which is a thrilling high-class temperance drama under the caption of "Dot, the Miner's Daughter or One Glass of Wine." In point of pathos and sparkling humor it is second to none of the former "stunts" while it carries a



James Larkin Johnson was born in 1854 and was a young boy when his mother died in 1862. His father died the following year. He was taken in by Solomon Bartlett, with whom he spent the next seven years. J. L. worked in Bartlett's saw and grist mill and attended the common school during the winter. J. L. was ambitious and wanted to further his education. He attended school in Richland in 1872-73 and the following year attended the Rolla School of Mines. He began reading the law and studied with William Rollins, then the prosecuting attorney for the county. J. L. was admitted to the bar in 1877. In that year, William Rollins died and Johnson was appointed by Governor Phelps to fill his unexpired term of two years, after which he turned to farming. After a short stint as a teacher, J. L. returned to his law practice. In 1888 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney and served two terms until 1892. He was reelected again in 1897 and served as prosecutor until 1900. In that year, he bought the Waynesville House (now known as the Old Stagecoach Stop) and changed its name to the Johnson House, which he sold in 1894 to Lewis and Eliza Black. He then made his bid for higher political office and was elected State Representative to the 43rd General Assembly. J. L. Johnson served another term in the House from 1909-1910.

Mr. Johnson married Mary Bostick in 1877. They had five children. He died in 1917.

soul-stirring demonstration of the fallacy of frail man trying to toy with the "red, red curse" and come out in the end other than second best. It will be ready for production within the next two months, and regular announcement of date and place will be made in due time. [Temperance plays were very popular during this and the next decade, both with community and church drama groups.]

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
January 20

CROCKER—The Crocker bank has failed.

"Crocker is to have a bank! Two of

Richland's young business men have about completed their arrangements to embark in the banking business. They are Sam White and Cecil Harris and well qualified for the business and believe the town to be a good one for the establishing of such a financial institution." From the *Richland Cyclone*.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Sunday morning beat the record for cold weather this winter, being sixteen below zero.

J. M. Long began putting up ice Monday and has a nice lot of fairly good ice stored away for next summer.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
January 27

SCHLICHT—The American Telephone Company has a gang of men at work at Schlicht placing poles and stringing wire. We will soon be able to talk to our girl away from home.

SWEDEBORG—The A. T. & T. Co. has almost completed the job of putting up the posts and wire at this place.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
February 3, 1905

CROCKER—The construction gang of the American Telephone Company is at work at Crocker setting poles and

stringing six wires.

LEGISLATIVE LETTER.

Jefferson City, MO, 1-29-1905

Editor, Democrat—

This is Sunday and a long lonesome day it has been to me. I have been housed up all day and have not been out on the streets any, not even to church. I never experienced such bad weather as we have had since I came here...

Tomorrow I am going to introduce a resolution calling for an investigation of some of the expenditures of the State University. and I expect it will bring down upon my head the wrath of some of the University fellows, but I feel that something of the kind ought to be done when we take into consideration the fact that they are asking this legislature to give them the modest little sum of nearly nine hundred thousand dollars. I don't believe in these extravagant appropriations for the State University and the State Normals and neglect our common schools. In the country and on the farms there are but few parents that are financially able to send their children to any of these state institutions and have to rely on the common schools entirely for the education of their children, and I want to say that it is the boys and girls that come forth from the common schools that are moving the world commercially, financially, politically, etc. If we have money to give away let us put it where the poor man's boy as well as the rich one can share in its benefits. Four years ago the University people prevailed upon the Legislature to give them thirty-five thousand dollars to build a girl's dormitory. This building was to be used as a club room for poor girls who deserved to attend the University but not able to pay board at private or public boarding places. I am told they went to work and built a magnificent building—they ought to with \$35,000—and call it Read Hall; not satisfied they came back two years ago and got an appropriation of eight thousand dollars more to furnish the same; and so after they get it luxuriously furnished, instead of using it for the purpose for which they claimed they wanted it for they converted it into an entertainment hall for the daughters of wealthy parents, and besides put the board so high and expensive that no poor girl could afford to stay there, and I am informed they pay a lady one hundred dollars per month to act as matron and she is furnished a carriage and team, all of this at the expense of the State. My resolution calls specifically for an investigation of these expenditures. I will write you again. With best wishes for all, I remain yours truly,

J. L JOHNSON.

GASCONADE—We understand that

**The Shivaree (or chivaree or charivari)**

The shivaree, with various spellings, is a custom from England, Scotland, Germany, and Russia. The ancient French tradition was for family and friends to serenade the newly wedded couple. The Scotch/Irish practiced the prank of a "bride abduction", where rivaling clans would kidnap the bride on the wedding night. As the immigrants moved westward, they brought this tradition to the Ozarks. On some night soon after the wedding, family and neighbors would stealthily gather outside the couple's cabin with cow bells, pots, pans, and guns. The noise would spontaneously erupt and continue until the couple emerged. It was expected that the couple would then invite the revelers inside and provide treats, usually cigars for the men and cake for women and nonsmokers with a suitable drink. If the couple were unprepared and offered no refreshments, the groom was put on a fence rail, ridden to the nearest creek or pond, and thrown in the water. Treat or not, the groom was usually jokingly threatened with immersion. In the Ozarks, the phrase "get the bells ready" refers to impending marriage and the resulting shivaree. It appears often in newspaper gossip in the early 1900s and lasted into the 1950s in some Ozark neighborhoods.

The modern wedding with its fast automobile getaway and distant honeymoon has left us with a few modern relics of the shivaree. Throwing rice or birdseed with cheers as the couple emerge from the church is the serenading. Decorating the car with signs and affixing cans and pots to the bumper is the noise. The reception provides the treat.

**An Account of a Shivaree at Big Piney in the 1930s**

It was on Thursday night we had the shivaree—or maybe Friday. Anyhow, after the meeting people made as if to go home, but presently we crept back to the schoolhouse where we talked until we were sure the Ashtons [the newlyweds] would be in bed by the time we could make our way by moonlight through the woods.

Just as women afoot carried their Sunday shoes and put them on near the church, leaving the old ones hidden in the brush until afterward, so also had pans and buckets and bells and guns been hidden this evening. The deadened timber stood with fiercely raised arms as we walked through the frosty pasture and up the ridge. There was a lamp going down yonder at the house, but it went out even as we saw it. We crept downward. We were almost there when a dog bayed us. Then we started the noise.

Through the gate we went, and around the house. Our shotguns, streaking orange up into the air, deafened us as we jangled the bells and pans. A steel oil drum, the top cut out, was in the sideyard at the butchering place for scalding hogs. Empty, it made a fearful and unearthly din as it was beaten with sticks.

After about five minutes, in a lull, we heard the Ashtons urging the young couple to come out. The front door opened. We cheered, and as light was struck inside we were invited in. They were ready for us. Cakes, of varieties that would keep for a while, had been baked ahead, and George had laid in two cans of penny stogies. The women gathered in the kitchen and the back bedroom, the men in the two front rooms. In the asphyxiating smoke of the stogies we made talk. The men who had refused the tobacco were given cake, but the platters were not passed to the smokers.

Soon some of the young people were making molasses candy in the kitchen. They boiled it up and buttered their hands and had a pulling, and when the ropy stuff became brittle it was snapped up and passed.

Finally someone near me drawled, 'Well, we better mosey. ..If'n hit were *my* shivaree, I'd sho' be mad if they kep' me out of bed any longer'n this. . ."

We filed by the bride and groom (after having made a few more matter-of-fact references as to the advisability of ducking George in the creek, even though he had provided treat) and shook their hands and everybody said, "I wish you'uns every happiness," or "I wish you'uns a long an' happy life." This was very solemn, and many of the women hugged and kissed Martha.

It was a right good shivaree.

from **Backwoods Teacher**, Joseph Nelson, L. B. Lippincott, 1949. This book, no longer in print, is an account of Nelson's year as a teacher in Big Piney.

More recently (1948) is this account from Norma Chambers Keller of Duke: "...We (Norma and her husband Earl) came back to Big Piney and, yes, you guessed it, we were charivaried. The worse treatment I had ever had. They threw Earl in the creek at his dad's house. Oh yes, we had treat but it didn't stop them. I thought I would hide so while they were dousing Earl I slipped off to the barn. I thought I was safe for sure; no such luck. Pa Keller had a dog that told on me. He had followed me to the barn, so here they came. They took me to the creek and doused me. I got so mad - the only pair of shoes I had and the soles came off.

Alf Traw recently purchased one of the newly invented cream separators and says it is all right—just what the people need.

Gigging seems to be a pleasant occupation for the boys these frozen over times, but without very lucrative results, so far as we can learn. The fish don't want to be hurt.

Our public school closed unexpectedly on account of a shortage of funds.

Married, Thomas J. Case and Miss Alice Decker, two our our most popular young folks, were quietly married at the home of the bride's parents, in the presence of a few intimate friends and relatives Sunday afternoon, January 8th, Squire McDonald officiating. Mr. Case is one of upper Gasconade's most enterprising young farmers and stockmen and is to be con-

gratulated on securing so charming a bride to share life's labor with him. Their home coming was celebrated by a bounteous infair dinner such as only a loving mother and willing sisters could prepare, and the boys, well the boys did not forget Tom, for scarcely had the lamp been lighted [after the guests had gone] until the roar of light artillery announced the charge of Young America. Guns, bells, tin pans, bugles, horn and everything available were used to liven up the music until Tom was compelled to present the bride and stand treat which he did in a most generous manner with candy, cigars and cake. All quietly returned home after wishing the bride and groom many happy returns of the day. [ *This is a brief account of the hill people's*

*shivaree after a wedding. See the sidebar for an explanation of this all but forgotten tradition.]*

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
February 17

DIXON—The American Telegraph and Telephone Company has completed the line past here and now have connection from St. Louis, via Carthage and Joplin, to Galveston, Texas.

HANNA—Grip [pneumonia] has been an unwelcome caller at several homes in this vicinity recently.

The boys are getting their bells and old tin pans ready for a grand parade because James Scott Van Gordon, author of "The Pioneer's Hoard", "Pomeroy's Vengeance" and several other fictional hits has become a regular caller at G. S. Atkinson's. [*Getting*

*the bells ready" refers to the tradition of the shivaree for newlyweds. See sidebar.]*

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
February 24

LAQUEY—Lagrippe seems prevalent in this vicinity at present..

The Laquey telephone line to be operated from Richland to O. A. Nickels place is now an assured fact.

Everything is in readiness to commence setting poles as soon as weather will permit. Most every prominent farmer will have connection, which will be a great convenience.

We understand that the postoffice department is figuring on a change in the mail route. Instead of going to Waynesville from Laquey it would go to Richland, which would be a great convenience to the patrons of all the offices along this route, especially so in time of high water.

#### LEGISLATIVE LETTER.

Jefferson City, Mo., February 21st.  
Editor Pulaski County Democrat

We are still voting for Senator at high noon each day. The end of the contest is not yet in sight and no one knows or has any defined idea what the final result will be. Nearly 700 bills have been introduced in the House but I am sorry to say that but few of them of any material benefit to the people at large.

There is one thing that appears very strange to me, in view of the fact that the republicans have been telling us so long that if they were given the power they would show the people of this state how to run the business of the legislature along economical lines. So far they have passed the house every bill calling for an increase of the salaries of several offices. An old member of the House the other day said that more bills have passed the present house increasing the salary of offices and creating new offices than had passed any previous house in the last 20 years. They started out with a flourish of trumpets by reducing the clerical force of the house to such an extent as to retard the business of legislation.

But instead of continuing this policy of economy, retrenchment and reform they began by increasing the salary of the Attorney General office \$6,000; the Supreme Court expenses \$18,000, Clerk of the Railroad Commission \$500, Physician of the Penitentiary \$800. In fact I cannot now enumerate all the items of additional increase that the taxpayers will be called upon to pay. The bill to change the school text books will be called up in a few days. I don't know whether it will pass or not. I am strenuously opposed to changing our school books so often for the reason that it is done in the interest of the School Book combine. The oftener they can have the books changed the more books they can sell. These repeated changes of school text books works a great hardship on the thousands of

poor people throughout the State who can ill afford to buy a new supply of books every few years.

There are bills pending before the House for the establishment of two more Normal Schools [*teacher colleges*] in this state. It seems to me that it would be better to wipe out and abolish the ones we now have instead of burdening the taxpayers of the state with two more. These Normal Schools are nothing more than private snaps and benefit only to the towns where they are located. I have talked with several members concerning these schools and they agree with me that they are of no benefit to the thousands of poor boys and girls of this state who have to work for a living.

Fearing that I might be taking up too much space I will bring my letter to a close. Respectfully,

J. L. JOHNSON.

LONE STAR—Several in our neighborhood have the grip.

Rev. Zumwalt is holding a protracted meeting at Friendship this week. We hope much and lasting good may be accomplished.

#### LOCAL BRIEFS

Our public school added a lot of new books to the library this week. The board still holds twenty dollars donated to the library fund by the Waynesville Dramatic Club, which will be invested soon. Waynesville will soon have one of the best libraries in the country. [*Last year all of the library's books fit on one shelf.*]

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
March 3

[*Following is a letter from W. D. Johnson about rowdies, the dramshop law, fraudulent doctors, and druggists. You might be tempted to draw parallels to today.*]

#### WOULD ENFORCE THE LAWS

Prosecuting Attorney Johnson Defines the Nature of Some Common Offenses and asks the Co-operation of Pulaski County Citizens in a Policy of Reformation.

Editor Pulaski County Democrat:

Allow me space for a few words to the citizens of Pulaski County. Tell them, Mr. Editor, that they called me to the position of Prosecuting Attorney somewhat unexpectedly to me, but I accepted it gladly and with their aid I hope to be able to make them a good and faithful servant. In the first place, it would be very pleasant for me to draw my pay and not prosecute any one at all. I mean, I would be glad if everybody would be good and not violate the law, then there would be no necessity for prosecuting anyone, no one in jail, no one to pay a fine, and nobody would have to pay any costs. This would be allright and I am glad I can say that a large majority of our citizens live that way, but it seems that there are always some who are unfortunate, either intentionally or other-

wise; anyway they cause more or less trouble.

We hear that there are some who persist in disturbing religious worship and carrying pistols, shooting pistols as they leave church, etc. Of this class of cases I am ready to file information in the Circuit Court against anyone, when the necessary facts are furnished upon which to base the same. I cannot break up this class of offenses alone but with the aid of the people, the court and other officers we can do so. You pay your taxes and you should have protection and have a right to go to church or Sunday School or gather together for any lawful purpose and if you are disturbed, just furnish me the evidence and we will bring them before the Judge and explain it to him and listen for the verdict.

And there is another class of violations of the law of which I ought to say something and that is the sale of intoxicating liquors. The sale of liquors that are intoxicating is illegal to commence with, but the legislature has authorized the County Court, in counties like ours, to grant a license to a law abiding, assessed taxpaying citizen above the age of 21 years, if the proper steps set out in the statute are taken, to sell in any quantity not to exceed ten gallons. The dramshop license, as it is called, legalizes the sale, etc. The legislature also authorized the druggist to sell intoxicants upon the written prescription of a regularly registered and practicing physician, to enable his patients to obtain the same, where in his best judgment it is a necessary remedy. To anyone, who may be interested, see 94, app 151, what Judge Good says.

The druggist law has been abused to a considerable extent in this county and for many years has been violated. At times parties engaged in this business would go so far as to keep a doctor in their place of business for the ostensible purpose of issuing prescriptions for "Spirits Frumenti", intoxicating liquors, and if a fellow wants a quart, so to speak, he goes into one of these device drug stores, (for this is what such a drug store is) and calls for the same. A doctor will give him a wise look, pull a pencil from behind his hear or a clasp in his vest pocket, and say "For medical purposes?" Of course the would-be purchaser knows that he must do his part to evade the law, and smiles, (as much as to say we understand each other) and says yes. Now, who has done the prescribing, the doctor or patient? The truth is, the doctor has only issued a false and fraudulent prescription for the sole purpose of evading the dramshop law and enables the druggist to keep what would actually belong to the taxpayers, if he had complied with the law instead of evading it, and if the law was enforced, the doctor owes the school children of this county not less than \$40.00 and the pretended patient

goes and gets full, perhaps. Some of these device drug stores become so bold that they sell by the drink, or any other way, and permit it drank on the premises. If anything should be said about it, they admit it is wrong, but say as an excuse, that is has been done a long time. They and their friends agree that it is not right, but say they cannot quit, for they have everything they have invested in it, probably, and when they cut out the illegal liquor traffic, the business don't pay; they agree further that the officers of the law have permitted it to go on in this way so long that the business has acquired a good will value, and to quit they lose the value, and that all prosecuting officers in the past have permitted it, myself with the others.

I, for myself, admit that it is true. I permitted it, not that I thought it was right, but because I could not get the encouragement I felt like I ought to have. I tried to stop it about 8 years ago, or possibly 10, made about \$800.00 cost and made little or no progress. The cry that I would break the county up bluffed me and I gave up like all the others.

While it is unfortunate that an illegal business may run until it gets a good will value, if such is the case, but there ought to come a time when it should stop. There ought to come a time when every officer will do his duty, for this business has grown to be a monstrous evil, and seems to have many friends or people who uphold the business; you don't know who they are till you commence to try to enforce the law.

We do not wish to break anyone up or put them in prison, and the only demand the people seem to make is that they quit selling it unless they pay for the privilege and quit trying to evade the law. If a doctor has a patient that in his judgment needs such remedy and it is a necessary remedy, it is perfectly legitimate to issue a prescription, otherwise it is not.

There are other offenses we might speak of, but will not at this time, however, I will say again that I am ready to do my part, where and when I can get the evidence upon which to base an information for any offense that affects the public. I also promise to file and use my best efforts to convict offenses against individuals, but I must be supported by the affidavit of the injured party—the statute requires that.

I ask the good will and help of all good citizens of this county; remember, it is your fight, and if we all join in the chase, the work is done, and these violations of the law will, in my opinion, soon be a thing of the past.

Yours truly,  
W. D. JOHNSON.

#### LOCAL BRIEFS

Mrs. Fallsworth of Des Moines, Iowa, sister of Elias Smith who is confined in jail here charged with murder, has

been here for a week and will remain until after Circuit Court.

G. W. Lane, collector elect, came down from Big Piney Tuesday and is learning the art of collecting taxes. He will take charge of the office week after next.

DIXON—The citizens of Dixon held a meeting Monday night and discussed the proposition of building a new up-to-date stone school house. The majority present expressed themselves earnestly in favor of building a large and commodious school house and we hope before another school term opens such will be done.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
March 10

HANNA—If we have hurt any one's feelings through any writing of ours it was unintentional on our part, and we are willing to make all necessary corrections if the offended ones will only enter their complaint to us. As our items are mostly hearsays we cannot always vouch for the validity of them until we investigate, but are generally able to correct our own mistakes.

*[The news from small communities is supplied by local correspondents. This disclaimer makes you wonder what was previously said by the Hanna correspondent that hurt someone's feelings. It was not apparent to us in previous columns.]*

DIXON—A large delegation of the citizens of Dixon are at Waynesville this week at Circuit Court most of them as witnesses in the Smith murder case.

#### LEGISLATIVE LETTER.

Jefferson City, March 6th  
Editor of the Democrat:

I have nothing new to write except to say that the republican members are holding nightly caucuses trying to devise some plan by which they can elect a Senator..

The appropriations for the penal eleemosynary and educational institutions of the State amount to the grand total of \$3,300,000, being \$900,000 more than was given to these same institutions two years ago. Last week the house passed a bill establishing another Normal School in Southwest Missouri. If they keep on increasing the number of these schools and increasing the appropriations to maintain them it won't be long till taxes will have to be increased in order to meet the increased demands.

There is an attempt now being made to force the Counties to give a part of their revenue to maintain these schools. A friend of these schools introduced a bill the other day to appropriate to the State Sixty Thousand Dollars of the County foreign insurance fund.

We are killing lots of time and doing comparatively nothing. If we don't do

better than we have been doing it will take over a month yet to finish up the business the House now has on hand. Walmsley's Fish and Game bill came back from the Senate last week and was immediately taken up and passed by the House. When this bill first passed the House some three or four weeks ago it prohibited the use of gigs, spears, trot lines, baskets, etc. In fact it prohibited the use of everything in catching fish except the hook and line, but the Senate eliminated these features of the bill and now the boys can use their gigs and trot lines without fear of being prosecuted. *[For more of an explanation of this conservation effort, see sidebar on next page.]*

I will be glad when I can leave this place and a great many of the members are feeling the same as I do. I have always heard it said that Jefferson City is the coldest place in the State, but now I ask no further proof of that fact.

Sam Ballard came back today and told me that the people of Pulaski county were under the impression that I had introduced a bill restraining stock from running at large. This is wrong. I have not introduced any such bill. Mr. Johnson of Chariton county introduced a bill making it a misdemeanor and fixing a penalty for anyone to allow their stock to run at large in counties that have adopted the stock law, so you will see that the law only

covers the counties that have adopted the stock law. *[It was still open range in Pulaski County.]*

J. L. JOHNSON

#### LOCAL BRIEFS

*[Following are some cases disposed of in the first week of the current Circuit Court session. It looks like Prosecutor W. D. Johnson was going after guns and liquor.]*

State vs. T. G. Bohannon, exhibiting deadly weapon, tried by jury and acquitted.

State vs. Dade Ramey, carrying a pistol, plead guilty, fined \$100 and paroled on payment of costs.

State vs. Scott Curtis and Berry Hendrix, selling liquor without license, Curtis pleads guilty and fined \$10, dismissed as to Hendrix.

State vs T. G. Bohannon, selling liquor without license, plead guilty and fined \$10.

State vs G. M. Laquey, selling liquor without license, plead guilty and fined \$10.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
March 17

#### Convicted of Murder

**Elias Smith Found Guilty of Murder in the First Degree and Sentenced to Hang.**

"We, the jury, find the defendant

American Family Insurance

Patty's University Bookstore

Woodin's Body Shop

Roubidoux Vacuum

Laura's Jewelry

Skyline Honda

guilty of murder in the first degree." The foregoing is the verdict in the case of the State vs. Elias Smith, which was returned soon after court convened Tuesday morning.

Elias Smith was placed on trial Saturday for the murder of J. H. Smith near Dixon last November, an account of which was given in these columns at that time. [Also accounted for in the 2004 Old Settlers Gazette. —Ed.] James Smith, who was in no way related to the defendant, had bought a farm in the Pisgah neighborhood and employed Elias Smith to work for him, he boarding with Elias and family. On Monday, November 7th, 1904, James Smith disappeared and Elias told that he had left on Sunday night for Joplin and that he, Elias, had bought all his personal property consisting of a team, wagon, a cow, some hogs and household goods. On Tuesday his dead body was found north of the railroad two miles east of Dixon three or four miles from his home. Smith was arrested on suspicion. His wife told that her husband had told her that he had killed his employer and when confronted with her statement Smith confessed the crime, but at first claimed it was done in self defense. Later he made another confession, stating that he killed James Smith for his property and money and took the sheriff and others to the spot where a pool of blood was found. According to this statement he killed him with a broad axe near their home while in the woods looking for the timber early Monday morning. The body was covered with leaves until night when he placed it on a horse and carried it to the place where it was found. The skull had been crushed from behind and after the murder the features had been terribly mutilated in an effort to destroy identity. At the time there was some talk of lynching at Dixon but cooler heads prevailed and the law was allowed to take its course.

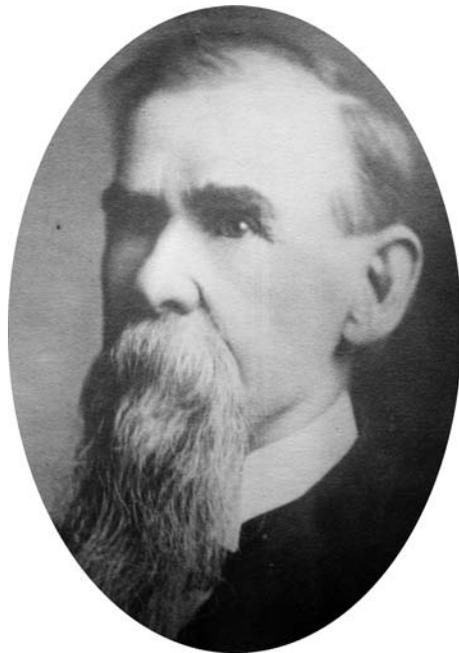
A jury was empaneled last Friday consisting of the following gentlemen: T. S. Barlow, Silas Edwards, U. S. Patterson, C. A. Johnson, C. E. Christeson, J. W. Edwards, J. A. Edwards, Albert Jasper, P. T. Bailey, L. N. Bailey, Ernest Deaton, Mark Hough. A more intelligent jury could not have been found in the county.

The State was represented by Prosecuting Attorney Johnson and Judge Joe McGregor and the Defense by G. M. Reed, who was appointed by the court. The State made a very strong case, the circumstances all bearing out the truthfulness of his last confession, that the crime was committed for his property. The broad axe, with which he said he did the killing, was found hidden near the spot where the pool of blood was located, it was found that his shoes and a part of his clothing had been burned at the house and one ear had been cut off and his nose mashed in, after death, to prevent identifica-

tion. Mr. Reed did all he could for his client but the proof was too overwhelming and the jury was not long in arriving at a verdict.

The deceased was said to be a model young man and during his short residence in that community had made many friends. The convicted man had been raised in that community and is well known.

Judge Woodside immediately passed sentence on Smith and set his execution for Friday, April 21, 1905 at Waynesville. It is supposed if an appeal is not taken that the Governor will probably give a respite of thirty days and his execution will be thus



Circuit Judge Leigh B. Woodside of Salem presided over the trial of Elias Smith and sentenced him to hang by the neck until dead. Courtesy of C. V. Mann Collection, University of Missouri-Rolla Archives.

delayed. He is in jail here where every precaution will be taken to prevent his escape. This is probably the first man ever receiving the death sentence in this county.

Space forbids us printing the evidence in the case.

#### Legislative Letter.

Jefferson City, March 13th  
Editor of the Democrat:

This will in all probability be the last of my communications to your paper, for the reason that this famous 43rd General Assembly of Missouri, to the great relief of the taxpayers of the State, will be a thing of the past. The democrats want to adjourn the 18th, but I expect the republicans will hold us here till the 21st.

The Senatorial question still continues to be a vexed problem for the republicans to solve. It is my candid opinion that this Assembly will adjourn without electing a Senator.

We had an exciting time in the House last Friday night and for awhile it looked as though there would be

"something doing." The row started when Mr. Conklin, the floor leader of the democrats, arose to call up the Senate resolution to adjourn the 18th, but Mr. Nelson of St. Louis, the Speaker Protem, who occupied the chair, refused to put the question before the House. In a moment nearly every democrat was on his feet demanding recognition; at this point the Speaker left the stand declaring the House stood adjourned, then it was that the fun began in earnest. As the Speaker came from the stand and started up the middle aisle the members began climbing over the desks from both sides of the house, all the time whooping and yelling like so many mad Comanche Indians, all trying to get to the Speaker. About this time matters began to look so serious that I concluded that I had a friend outside somewhere who was very anxious to see me and I started immediately to hunt him up, and about the time I got to the door some one was thoughtful enough to turn out the lights and that left the belligerents in the dark; order was then soon restored.

A bill passed the house this morning requiring County Conventions for the selection of delegates to the State Convention to be held on the same day throughout the State. I think this is a good measure.

I believe I wrote you in a former letter that the house passed a bill some time ago appropriating the \$475,000 derived from the United States, to the good roads fund. I am sorry to say that my bill to prohibit persons from going from one county to another for the purpose of hunting and fishing was killed in the house by the small majority of three.

The Senate now approaches for the forty-fifth time to vote for a United States Senator so I will have to suspend letter writing 'till I can vote for Senator Cockrell. The vote has just been announced as follows: Cockrell 30; Niedringhaus 50; Kerens 16; McKinley 4; Barthold 6; Warner 2; Dyer 1; Kiefner 1, 78 necessary for a choice.

There is a road bill pending before the house that will be called up tomorrow night, which I think is vicious in one particular and that is it gives each man in the district as many votes as he has acres of land. At some future time I will explain this matter more fully. The freight rate bill passed both houses and signed by the Governor and is now the law. This bill reduces the freight rates under the old law, average about twenty-five per cent which, by the way, is quite a reduction.

The next bill of interest that comes up is the school text book bill. There are two bills pending, one making the text books uniform throughout the state and the other leaves the question to each county to select their own books. There is talk of passing both bills and leave it to the Governor to say which

#### Wildlife Protection

The Walmsley Fish and Game Bill was a milestone in Missouri wildlife conservation. Named for Representative Harry R. Walmsley of Kansas City, it established open and closed seasons on game species, as well as providing protection for nongame birds. It established the first hunting licenses: \$1 for residents and \$15 for non-residents, good statewide. The most drastic provision eliminated all commercial sale, trade, and transport of wildlife in Missouri. This might have been partly in reaction to the carnage of the previous year for the World's Fair. Market hunters provided a record four million pounds of venison, duck, quail, grouse, turkey, small game, and fish. The Walmsley Law banned gillnetting, fish trapping, and set length limits for fish.

Had it been left alone by subsequent legislatures, the Walmsley Law most likely would have curbed the dramatic decrease in wildlife. However, the market hunters had a much stronger lobby in 1907 and the strongest provisions were deleted. Dynamite, huge seines, and year round hunting was reinstated. Funds for enforcement were drastically reduced, proceeds from county license sales were diverted to road funds, and the sale of fish and wildlife was legalized. It took another thirty years to enact meaningful protection laws. Nonetheless, the original bill sparked the conservation movement.

shall be the law. Nothing more at present.

Respectfully,

J. L. JOHNSON.

P. S. The bill introduced by myself amending the law so as to give the County Court authority to employ some one to re-record deeds in counties where the records have been destroyed, has passed the house and gone to the senate. [This bill is a direct result of the 1903 Pulaski County courthouse fire that destroyed the county's deeds. Johnson had worked on their reconstruction and George Reed carried on the work.]

#### LOCAL BRIEFS

A telephone line is being built from Richland to Laquey. Why not extend it on to Waynesville and thus have connection with Dixon and other points east?

Court closed Tuesday of this week having been in session for eight days. This is the longest term of court held in this county for many years.

Pulaski County Democrat  
March 31

#### LOCAL BRIEFS

Our county jail how has but one inmate, that being Elias Smith, who is awaiting the death sentence on April 21st.

Sheriff Sutton is cleaning up the court house yard by raking the dead

grass and leaves, cutting the sprouts and cleaning off all litter, etc. He expects to soon have one of the neatest court yards in the country. [*Maybe our new sheriff, who is a history buff, should consider this model behavior.*]

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
April 7

CROCKER—Why is the Wells-Fargo Express Company allowed to do a retail liquor business without a license? [*Guess this is being brought to the attention of Prosecutor W. D. Johnson. The implication might be that he plays favorites.*]

DIXON—Dixon is to have a new school house; a loan for \$6,000 and nine month term of school carried in the school elections.

Dixon is to have a new Masonic Hall.  
Dixon is to have a telephone exchange.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
April 14

#### **Only One Short Week.**

The execution of Elias Smith for the murder of James Smith will occur one week from today if not interfered with by the Governor. Smith has but little to say and seems but slightly interested as to his future condition. The crime for which he is to hang was one of the most cruel in the annals of our crimi-

nal record. As the crime was committed last November and he is to hang the 21st of April it shows the speedy manner in which Justice is meted out in this country. There are some facts connected with this murder that probably may never be known, but there is no question as to who committed the crime.

One who is largely responsible for the ferreting out of the mysteries of the case and the bringing of the guilty one to justice is a man who has been but little mentioned in connection with it so far. This is none other than Thos. V. Imboden of Dixon through whose keen penetration of the case the first evidence was found and the first confession secured. And it was largely through his untiring efforts that a chain of evidence was woven around the guilty one that could in no way be shaken. Others, of course, did good work on the case. Prosecuting Attorney W. D. Johnson, Sheriff R. S. Anderson and Coroner G. W. Bryant all did their part well but to Mr. Imboden should be accorded all the honor to which he is entitled, a thing that has hitherto been neglected.

The condemned man eats but little and talks but little and by the day of his execution he will be but a mere shadow of the robust man on trial here in March.

#### **MISSOURI SENDS MAJOR WARN-ER to the SENATE**

After a Long and Bitter Fight Narrowly Evading a Riot the Missouri Legislature Succeeds in Electing a United States Senator.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
April 21

#### **ELIAS SMITH HANGED**

**He Pays the Penalty for the Murder of James H. Smith With His Life on the Scaffold this Morning at 7:40 O'clock—a Large Crowd Present.**

Elias Smith was hanged in a stockade in front of the jail this morning at 7:40 o'clock in the presence of probably one hundred people. The execution was carried out without a mishap of any kind and death was instantaneous, his neck being broken.

Smith walked to the scaffold unassisted and went to his death without a tremor, protesting his innocence to the last, claiming he did the killing in self defense.

He thanked Sheriff Sutton and deputy Lee Baker for their kind treatment and commended them to the people. The body was turned over to his family and will be buried in the Smith grave yard on the river seven miles east of town.

The crime for which Elias Smith was hanged today was committed the 7th

of last November and was probably one of the coolest and most deliberate murders ever committed in this part of the country. James Smith, the murdered man, had bought a farm in the eastern part of this county and Elias Smith, in no way related to Jim, was employed to help him clear up the land. Elias Smith, his wife and two children lived on the place and James Smith, who was a single man, lived with them. That the murder was premeditated was shown by the fact that on Sunday, the day previous to the murder, Elias told several parties that he had bought Jim Smith out and that Jim was going to leave the country. On Monday after the murder he told others that Jim had left Sunday night for Joplin, Mo. The body was accidentally found on Wednesday following in a thicket of brush about four miles from his home.

The body was identified and it was found that the skull on the back of the head had been crushed by a blow from a blunt instrument, probably the pole of an axe. After being arrested Elias confessed to the killing, first claiming it was done in self defense, but afterward stating that it was done solely to obtain possession of what property he had, which consisted of some personal property and money. According to his own statement, which was strongly corroborated by the evidence at the

Realty Executives

Post Pawn Store

Wyatt Excavating

Lowe and Lowe

Lebanon Bible and  
Book Store

Rachelle Beasley

trial, after carefully planning the murder he asked Jim Smith to accompany him to the woods to look at some timber and when in a ravine a short distance from the house and while Jim was looking at a tree he struck him in the back of the head with a broad axe, killing him instantly. He struck him several other blows on the head and face to destroy the features and then cut off one ear, which bore a peculiar mark, to prevent identification. He then concealed the body in the leaves and went on about his business telling all whom he saw that he had bought Jim's property and that he had gone the night before to Joplin.

He left the body in its hiding place until night when he placed it on a horse and carried it all alone to the place where it was found, which is four miles from the place where the crime was committed. The broad axe was found near the scene of the murder and a pool of blood at the place pointed out by Smith as where he struck the fatal blow. Much evidence was adduced at the trial to prove the truthfulness of the foregoing statement and it is generally accepted as true.

He was placed on trial March 11th and on the morning of the 14th the jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Smith broke down after the verdict and for nearly a week neither ate nor drank, nor did he eat much after that time until about three weeks ago. After that time he ate heartily and appeared reconciled to his fate. He chatted cheerfully and freely to visitors and seemed to have no fear of death. He received many visitors and a number of bouquets [sic] were presented him during the last forty-eight hours.

A small force of competent [sic] workmen have been at work most of the week building the scaffold and stockade and the condemned man has stood at this cell door and calmly watched the work with grim but apparently cheerful demeanor. He occasionally jokes the workmen and has frequently requested that they do a good job.

He made a statement yesterday afternoon that was taken in writing in which he declares his innocence of any wrong intention and declares the killing was done in self defense, he and Jim having become involved in a dispute while at work. This statement will be published in full next week.

COOKVILLE—We see an account of the vote in Dundas district for School Commissioner. Robert Green received one vote in St. Annie district, that one vote being cast by the chairman of the meeting. Next time we would be glad if there were several candidates to vote for.

#### Local Briefs

A great many people visited Elias Smith in the county jail within the last few days. Most of them have went to

see him through curiosity.

We wish to impress our correspondents with the idea that we want items of news of general interest and that they must in all cases refrain from slurs or reflections on other people.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
April 28

#### STATEMENT

Of Elias Smith April 20th, 1905 at 3 O'clock p.m.

The following statement was made by Elias Smith about two hours before his execution and was repeated the evening before he was hanged in the presence of Rev. Full, Rev. S. M. Manes, Nathan Wheeler, Charlie Baker, Ed Cook and Robert Peterson in the jail. He also declared the statement to be true while on the scaffold on the morning of the 21st, and only a few moments before his death.

While the evidence in the case and the physical facts connected therewith are the contrary to this statement we will not for a moment question the truthfulness of the same, coming as it did from a man who knew he was to die in a few hours; nor would we say a single word to prejudice the mind of any one either way in the matter, but if this statement be true the evidence of several good citizens of the neighborhood in which the killing occurred is to be taken for naught and their veracity placed in doubt, while on the other hand, if their evidence be true, then Smith died with a lie on his lips. This fact we will not pass upon and leave our readers to judge for themselves, as he is in the hands of a just and alwise God who, and who alone, knows the facts in the case.

#### His Statement

"On Monday morning James Smith and I left the house to cut some logs. On the way from the house to the saw mill Jim asked me if I was going to lease his land and purchase his stuff. He said, "I have got the contract made with Courtwright to sell him the lumber off the land." I told him I could not, for I had not got the money to feed the team, nor can't get it on time. He said, "That is the way with you South Missouri people, you ain't got no here and you are no account, and the people around here tell me she is a negro, your children are negroes and you are no better than she is or you would not be living with her and raising them." I said, Jim, don't talk about my wife and children that way." He said, "You know it is so," and started around the tree to me. I said, "Jim, don't come around to me; if you don't like my way or my folks I will just quit; I am not hunting for trouble and am not going to have any." Then we passed and he kept coming toward me with his axe and I kept backing off with mine. Then he said, "I will crack you one on the head and see how you like that," and I threw my axe at him

and killed him. I covered him over with leaves and went from there to the house. I came back again, talked to Uncle Johnnie Courtwright at the mill and went back to the house and helped John Jones tear down a shed and went from there to Frank Switch. On the way back I overtook G. W. Peck. I stayed a around the house the balance of the day and I ate no dinner. Between nine and ten o'clock my wife said to me, "Let's go to bed." I said, "No, I have to take a trip off tonight," and she asked where and I said, "I will not tell you; if I do not tell you will not know it." She kept pleading until I told her I had killed Jim. She asked me what I killed him for and I told her. I said, "I must go and move him; I don't know what else to do." I saddled my horse and went to him and put him on the horse—no one else helped me. I took him about 3 1/2 miles and left him in the woods where his body was afterwards found. I did not kill him with a broad axe. I did not kill him for his money, nor did I take any money from him; I took nothing but his watch and knife and threw them away. I took them because I was afraid they would drop out on the way and give some clew [sic] as to what I had done with the body. I showed the officers something near the place, some day when I am gone they will find them there. I did not cut off his ear nor his nose to disfigure the body; that must have been done by some animal after I left him in the woods. They put all kinds of words into my mouth and made me say they were so and compelled me to accuse innocent parties who were not

in any way connected with the killing, under fear of a rope which was laid in the hack that carried me to the scene of the killing; I rode down there with my feet on the rope. I want to be buried in the Smith grave yard by my baby. I hold no malice against anybody, even those who put the words into my mouth that convicted me. I part with them with the best of feelings and pray God's blessings to attend them. I am prepared for death and the scaffold has no terrors for me. I look beyond the gallows. I will soon be with Jim and we will be glad to meet in Heaven, for we were good friends here. I have no fears to meet Jim in Heaven, for it was only a fit of temper that caused the trouble and Jim will remember he got mad first and is more to blame in that way than me. I left Jim in the woods near the road and within two or three hundred yards of a house where some people lived. I was anxious that his body be found and properly buried, but did not want any one to know that I had placed it there. I stayed by his body about five minutes and wept bitterly. I never would have struck the fatal blow, but I really thought Jim was going to strike me with his axe. Oh, if he had only stopped when I told him to; we would both have been free men today."

BAILEY—Quite a number from Cookville went to Waynesville Friday to witness the execution of Elias Smith.

CROCKER—The conductor on the local freight going east Tuesday unloaded for our benefit a carload of



As far as we can determine, this is an unpublished photograph taken before the hanging. Charles Ousley of Dixon took three pictures. The most commonly published view is on the cover. We have not seen the third photograph. This photograph is in very bad condition. We have done our best to restore it. Elias Smith is in the center. To the right is Sheriff Dotson Sutton and at far right is Deputy Lee Baker. The identity of the men on the left is uncertain. Our guess is that this is a photo of the lawmen involved in the case. If that is true, the man on Smith's left could be the previous sheriff, J. S. Anderson. The man on the far left (with his hands on his hips) could be Thomas V. Imboden of Dixon. Imboden did much of the investigation in the case and has been characterized as a bounty hunter. Photo courtesy of Benny Doolin.

bums. They were all mere boys.

Rev. J. F. Forsythe has received from Chas. Ousley of Dixon three photographs of Elias Smith. They are on exhibition at Turpin & Turpin's, where you may leave your order.

SCHLICHT—Boys, get the cow bells and tin horn ready, for we will have wedding in the Valley shortly. [This is a reference to the shivaree. See sidebar on page 17.]

GOLDEN CENTER—Some bad and outlaw boys fired off their pop guns on the road rom church and caused some folks to get thrown from their horses. Look out, boys, the citizens will not allow this. You can run or face the courts, for your names, with plenty of witnesses, have gone to Dan Johnson.

#### Local Briefs

Mrs. E. M. Black is building a new fence in front of her yard and otherwise improving her hotel property.

The stockade and gallows were torn down and removed Monday and the old jail has taken on its usual appearance.

Just before his execution last Saturday morning Elias Smith spoke words of commendation of Sheriff Sutton and Deputy Lee Baker. He praised them for their kindness during his incarceration and the favors shown him by the Sheriff while preparing for the execution.

The largest crowd that has been in Waynesville for a long time gathered here last Friday to be present when Elias Smith was hanged. About 150 persons witnessed the execution and the balance were content to remain on the outside and watch the crowd, which was a much more enjoyable sight.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
May 5

DIXON—A would be deaf and dumb man was begging on our streets Tuesday evening and through the tender feelings of some of our charitable inclined people he secured enough funds to get drunk and into the town calaboose. The fire water seems to have had a beneficial effect on him for Wednesday morning he was fully restored to the faculty of hearing and talking.

SCHLICHT—We had the pleasure of having Mrs. Cary Nation here at the springs recently. She pronounces the famous waters "O. K." but is undecided whether to move into the Valley or St. Louis since the city went dry. We welcome the Lady.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
May 12

CROCKER—Now that the stock law scare has subsided, our citizens have

come to view the law as it stands in its true light. We cannot help looking back with amusement at the Shakespearian eloquence rendered by our citizens for and against the passage of such a law. The writer believes that the voters living on the Ozarks had better look before they leap in voting for such a law, as the principal part of our income is from the sale of our stock.

SCHLICHT—Lower Egypt is all "broke up" over the alleged wild man. It is reported that his hair is three feet long and no lady ventures out doors after night to go to prayer meeting or church.

CROCKER—The vote for the change of the school house site at the special election Tuesday resulted 100 for the change and 1 against the change. This will place the new school house in the north part of town on the block donated to the district by H. E. Rollins.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
May 19

#### The Stock Law Problem

Editor Pulaski County Democrat:

I notice a little breeze in the Bailey items of your valuable paper, which would indicate that some person is in the dark on the stock problem. I affirm that we mountaineers of the beautiful Ozarks need the stock law just as bad as we need good government, and now we present a few reasons based on facts and common sense in support of that position.

In the first place we have no grass outside and many persons turn their stock out to suffer for the want of something to sustain life, consequently the round up finds them like a gang of soldiers after a three-days march without rations; therefore you can see that the successful stock raiser must pasture his own herd and build a six foot fence to keep the stock law fighter's old starved cows outside. Well, our stock law fighters say us poor devils who have no land must let our stock run outside. To this I reply that you are wrong again and say further I know some of my poor neighbors, who have five cows running outside and all of them combined do not give enough milk for a baby, besides they are so poor their bones rattle when they walk. On the other hand we know some persons with modern ideas who have only one cow on a pasture at fifty cents a month that gives plenty of good rich milk and butter for a family of a half dozen and in the lot you will see a big fat calf that will sell for as much money as all the five starved ones of our neighbors.

Here in my community I notice all the stock law fighters have a lot of old poor starved stock outside and all the hounds and hunters in Pulaski County could not keep them out of the neighbors' fields—no fence will turn them.

Give us the stock law, let everybody see after their own stock and our good neighbors will not be tormented with old poor horses and cows outside, belonging probably to our worst enemy—if we have one.

I hope to hear from some other person with modern ideas, and who has his eyes open for the stock law, which act of legislation would be one of God's blessings upon good old Missouri and Pulaski County.

MOSSBACK

#### Overcome all Obstacles

Edward D. Grimm, aged 17, and Capitola Daggett, aged 15, both of the Cookville neighborhood came to town last Friday and applied at the office of Recorder Gan for a marriage license, but on account of their youthfulness the same was refused. J. B. Daggett, father of the girl, came along to give his assent to the marriage to the would-be groom, he having neither parent or relatives in the country. Their troubles were taken to Probate Judge Joe McGregor, who is ever ready to assist those in trouble, and he soon devised a means by which they could escape from their dilemma. Judge G. W. Berry was duly appointed the young man's guardian and at once accompanied him to the Recorder's office where the proper document was made out. Judge J. B. Harvey was then called in and the nuptial knot tied hard and fast and the happy couple went on their way rejoicing. The best wishes of the Democrat goes with them.

With this issue the Democrat enters upon the twenty-fourth year. For twenty-three years it has battled with the tide and has at times barely been able to keep its head above the surging billows, but at the present time the craft is afloat with sails fully set and its bow pointed toward the haven of progress and usefulness. The present subscription list of the Democrat is larger than at any time since the founding of the paper. This is a fact of value to the advertisers and one which they appreciate, as is shown by the amount of home advertising our columns contain...

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
May 26

SCHLICHT—And now bobs up that stock law again. Friends, give the poor man's cow a chance to enjoy our Ozark mountain herbs and pure spring water. Plenty of room for all.

#### Local Briefs

Waynesville is on the boom and what we most need is a lot of new sidewalks.

The town board will wall and improve the ditch in front of the bank in a short time.

The town board says the gravel

walks must go. To which we join in a hearty amen; but treat us all alike.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
June 2

LAQUEY—We understand the telephone line will be continued to Hanna in a short time.

SCHLICHT—Bob Manes of Moccasin Bend was in the Valley on business one day this week. He reports the wild man captured.

#### A Large Crowd Present

Probably the largest crowd ever assembled at a religious meeting in the country was that gathered here last Sunday to witness the baptizing of the candidates for that ordinance that were to be received into the Baptist church. The baptizing was the result of a protracted meeting held at the Baptist church here last winter at which there was a number of conversions, also several from other Baptist churches in the county and more recent conversions in the church here.

The occasion had been extensively advertised, circulars being sent all over the country, and one of the members informed us that 500 personal letters had been written. Thus it is proven that advertising pays. There were about a dozen ministers present and forty-two candidates were baptized. The crowd was estimated all the way from one thousand to three thousand, but conservative estimates of the crowd place it at about 1,500 people. Dinner was served on the ground, people of all denominations being present and taking part.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
June 9

DIXON—The town board has passed an ordinance prohibiting the opening of any place of business, except drug-stores, on Sunday for the purpose of selling merchandise.

[And the debate continues over free range.]

Editor Pulaski County Democrat:

In your issue of May 19th I notice an article advocating a stock law by "Mossback." I want to inform Mossback right now that we don't need any stock law in South Missouri any more than we need Christian Science, Socialism, Mormonism, a house-to-house telephone system or a wagon with an extra wheel. We have had several cranks down in this park like region of Missouri; one man is a Christian Science, faith healer freak; another is a Socialist and want to build himself up on the ruins of a better man, and another has such ultra-prohibition ideas hid away in his 2x4 block that he thinks it a sin to raise grapes to be made into wine. All are more harmless than the man who wants a stock



Early Baptist baptizing in the Gasconade River. Reverend Seth Manes baptized Prosecuting Attorney W. D. (Dan) Johnson, a hefty 340 pounds. Johnson later became a State Representative. Courtesy of Bob and Geneva Goodrich.

law. Mossback backs up his argument with that big popular word "progress." "Oh, liberty," said Madam Roland, as she was carted to the guillotine, "how many crimes are perpetrated in thy name?" The same may be said of progress; embattled knaves fortify themselves behind the word progress. Land is cheap here. If a man can't buy it he needs this range; if he can buy it and fence it he is perfectly welcome to do so. A man can put up a woven wire fence with two barbed wires on top that will keep out a whole herd of bears as large as those President Roosevelt shot in Colorado. Perhaps Mr. Mossback has a pasture and wants to take in stock at 50 or 75 cents per head per month. Bob Ingersoll charged only fifty cents admission to let folks listen to him find fault with God for having created him. It is the interest of the great majority in South Missouri to have free range and no stock law. If a man is not satisfied with what is good for the majority here in South Missouri he is free to go to the Philippine Islands, Port Rico or Canada. Maybe our stock law friends would be better contented under King Edward in Alberta, where they fence their stock with a snow fence. Pulaski County range is good enough for us.

W. H. MACKNEY, Ladd, Mo.

**Local Briefs**

A band of Gypsies, those strange and

curious people of the far east, will be encamped in the Court House square next Tuesday night and will not only entertain you in their songs and music but will serve cake, ice cream and lunch. These people are under the auspices of the ladies aid of the Waynesville Baptist Church and the proceeds of the evening will be turned over to their treasurer. Don't fail to see these people and enjoy the evening with them. Camp opens at 8 and closes at 10 o'clock.

*[Seems a new correspondent is being heard from this week. Refer to map at the beginning for news for the location.]*

BELLS CREEK—Quite a number of sheep have been killed in this neighborhood recently by dogs. Let's stop discussing the stock law question and adopt some drastic measures to get rid of these vile, worthless sheep-killing curs. What say you, neighbors?

There is good prospect of a telephone line being built through this neighborhood, connecting the points of Wheeler and Crocker. Such a line will be a great convenience for our people and the matter should be pushed to completion as soon as possible.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
June 16

LONE STAR—A small party explored Brooks cave near Tribune a week ago.

Several bee trees are being found in

the woods now.

SCHLICHT—It's hot enough here to enjoy a bottle of "Falstaff" or "Bud." Lower Egypt is at war over fences and stock. How about a stock law.

**Local Briefs**

E. G. Williams left Sunday for Louisville, Kentucky, to attend a reunion and great old comrades who wore the gray. *[County Clerk Williams fought for the South in the Civil War, participated in many of the biggest battles, and was wounded in his left leg, which was amputated. —Ed.]*

The new game law goes into effect next Tuesday and then our sportsmen will be careful how they hunt and what they kill.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
June 23

**Local Briefs**

A band of Gypsies comprising about twenty persons struck town last Thursday and camped on the Island. Saturday morning they were invited by Sheriff Sutton to move on, which they did.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
June 30

LAQUEY—The telephone line contin-

ues to grow in our neighborhood; two new subscribers for phones in last week.

GOLDEN CENTER— The Center is on the boom now. If we only had the stock law we would be all O.K.

Some of our neighbors are having trouble over stock running on free range outside; now they are in favor of a stock law and prosperity.

BLOODLAND—Pitching horse shoes seem to be the only game among the boys now.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
July 7

DIXON—The newly organized "Band of Crocker" is getting along nicely under the direction of John J. Grempczynski of Dixon.

SCHLICHT—A party of sixteen prominent railroad officials of the Rock Island came in on a special carried by No.11 the first of the week. Their equipment consists of three wagon loads---17 cases beer, a case of Bourbon, seltzer and the "lid". They have no use for magnesia springs water.

LAQUEY—We understand there has been one hundred dollars made up [reward] for the conviction of the scoundrel that burned our school-house on last Thursday night.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
July 14

LAQUEY—We understand a few parties have taken out a license to kill squirrels, but we think it useless, as we don't believe we have an officer in the county who would try to enforce such a rotten law. We feel proud such a bill was not introduced by a Pulaski County representative. We don't think this county has any such politicians in it, if you are a mind to term such so.

To the Citizens of Pulaski County  
Being fully satisfied that the 1905 act does not require bona-fide residents of a county to take out hunter's license to hunt in their own county, we hereby tender our professional services gratuitously to all residents of Pulaski County who may be prosecuted for hunting without a license.

JOE MCGREGOR  
GEO. M. REED  
[attorneys]

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
July 21

HANCOCK—Horse shoe pitching is the principal industry, Isaac Goodman being the champion.

DIXON—Work has already com-

menced on the new six-room school house which is located in north west Dixon. The structure is to be of brick.

The Dixon telephone exchange which was put in here by P. H. McGregor, was completed Saturday. Dixon has as good an exchange as any town on the Frisco R. R. and it was built by an expert line man, W. M. Spradly of Rolla. The exchange is up to date in all respects.

**Local Briefs**

The band boys ordered their instruments and in a short time they expect to be able to "toot their own horns".

Notwithstanding the difference of opinion on the game law a number of licenses have already been issued by County Clerk Williams.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
July 28

**Local Briefs**

H. A. Cotton will move his Iberia Impetus to Crocker in the near future. Crocker is a bustling little city and a good paper will be a valuable addition to its enterprises. We presume the paper will continue republican in politics, and we hope the venture will prove a financial success.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
August 4

TRIBUNE—The writer does not own any land in this county, but favors a stock law just the same.

Richard Hudgens has been buying some new furniture lately. Get your bells ready, boys, for there is going to be something doing.

**Local Briefs**

The band received their instruments last week and the air has been rent with hideous sounds since.

The band boys held their first meeting Tuesday night and consist of the following players: Albert Christeson, C. H. Colley and F. L. Scott, Solo Cornet; Paris Christeson, 1st Cornet; Nathan Wheeler, Solo Alto; Guy Reed, Baritone; Frank Christeson and A. F. Mitchell, Altos; Bert Burchard, Tenor; J. M. Long, Tuba; A. D. Sutton, bass drum. The snare drum has no one to take it yet.

[Cornet bands became quite fashionable at the turn of the century in small towns throughout the Ozarks. Crocker, Dixon, Richland, and, finally, Waynesville each had one.]

**To Bridge Roubidoux**

W. D. Johnson circulated a subscription last Tuesday to raise money to

place a suspension bridge across Roubidoux at the ford west of town and secured \$172.00 in a few hours. This is an enterprise that is badly needed and one that will be a great convenience for those living on the west side. But a wagon bridge would be much more appreciated as it would benefit about one-half of the people in the county, who come to Waynesville. On the railroad all west of Swedeborg and on the south side all west of Cookville cross at this ford of the creek and would use a bridge at that place. Waynesville will help liberally to build a bridge there if the county will do the rest.

[The Iberia Impetus moved from Iberia to Crocker and became the Crocker Impetus, published its first issue Friday, August 4, 1905. It was located on the second floor of Copp's General Store, sharing space with Dr. Orrick, who had two rooms and the paper one. H. A. Cotton, Editor, was a graduate of Drury College in Springfield.]

*Crocker Impetus*  
August 11

We find as we go about, the *Impetus* is not liked here for the name of a paper. As we said last week we expect to change the name in a few weeks. Let the friends decide what they want. Some want the name *Gazette* and some *Patriot*. and others the *Times*.

1/4 page Woodman's Spur  
Laundry & Cleaners

1/4 page Buckhorn Carpet

*Crocker Impetus*  
August 25

The Country Store.  
I'd know it by the sight of it,  
I'd know it by the smell.  
I'd know it by the sound of it,  
and know it mighty well.

I'd know it if you set me down  
at midnight, mid the scent  
of coffee bags and sugar bins and  
country butter blent.

With eyes, shut,  
I smell right now the prints  
upon the shelf—  
"Mid the colored shirting—  
You could do the same yourself.

If you had lived among them in  
days when life was bleak.  
And all you saw was in the town—  
Say every other week.

I've been in houses mercantile  
That covered blocks and blocks;  
I've seen the clerks that  
swarmed around in be vies and in  
flocks;

I've seen the elevators,  
I cannot make it seem like  
anything substantial, for 'tis  
nothing but a dream.  
To me the real "store" will be

as long as life shall last,  
That smelling country village  
place I knew there in the past.

With just one clerk to sell you  
things—some feller that you knew,  
Tho sometimes on a busy day  
there"be e as high as two.

No fun to "do tradin" like I used to  
any more.  
How clear is memory's picture  
of that general country store.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
September 1

HANCOCK—The new school house is  
all finished except painting, one coat of  
paint already being on. J. D. Porter and  
W. H. Tibbs are doing the work.

GASCONADE—Boy Carmack and his  
aggregation of trained hounds are giv-  
ing the foxes Hail Columbia every few  
nights. Foxes are detrimental to poul-  
try keepers and many a good hen that  
is worth dollars to her owner becomes  
the prey of those worthless animals.  
We would to God that they were  
wiped from off the face of the earth, if  
such could be possible.

**Local Briefs**

Our public school will begin the

eleventh of September, which is the  
second Monday. Parents should  
arrange to start their children in at the  
beginning of the term as the law pro-  
vides that they shall attend at least the  
first half of the term. *[This is the begin-  
ning of compulsory education in Missouri.  
See sidebar.]*

*Crocker Impetus*  
September 1

**A Word to Our Readers**

The new name for this paper will be  
the Crocker Gazette. We have thought  
this name would please everybody.  
The name Impetus has not pleased  
people here. We don't attempt to guess  
why. The change of name will take  
place in three or four weeks.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
September 8

Golden Center—Silver mineral has  
been discovered on Uncle Bob Brake's  
land in paying quantities. Mr. Brake is  
now a 16 to 1 man. *[This news, true or  
not, probably increased the mineral fever  
in the area. There was often news of  
prospecting in the Schlicht/Golden Center  
area. See Dan Slais' article, page 34.]*

*Crocker Impetus*  
September 8

No votes have been sent in on the  
changing of the name of the paper. We

**You Gotta Go**

The new compulsory education law  
went into effect in September of 1905.  
Parents or guardians of children  
between the ages of six and fourteen  
were required by law to send them to  
school at least half of the year. Young  
persons of fifteen or sixteen who did not  
have a job were also required to attend  
school. Temporary exemption could be  
granted by the truant officer if the  
child's wages were required to support  
the family.

The compulsory education movement  
did not originate in the rural areas of  
the country. The flood of rural  
Americans and European immigrants  
into the cities in the late 19th century  
seemingly worsened the urban prob-  
lems of crime, poor housing, and pover-  
ty. School attendance seemed to be a fix  
for these problems. The schools would  
Americanize the immigrants, decrease  
juvenile crime by keeping youngsters  
off the streets, and teach skills needed in  
an industrialized society.

Another compulsory education law  
was passed in 1907 to remedy the short-  
comings of the 1905 act. Children were  
required to attend a full year of school.  
Regulations were tightened on those  
fourteen to sixteen years who were  
working instead of going to school.  
Exemptions were still granted for rea-  
sons of poverty but exempt students  
were required to attend evening  
schools, making a very long day for  
those children.

find some do not like the name Gazette. We find too that more like the name News better than anything else. Very likely that will be the name.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
September 15

HANCOCK—Hancock has the best school house for a village that there is in the county and everybody seems to be proud of it. One week of our school is gone by with large attendance.

Last Saturday was set aside for working on the school grounds and put them in nice shape but was very near a failure as only W. H. Howser, W. T. Goodman and the writer were present. Can't someone else come?

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
September 22

BIG PINEY—[from which a correspondent has been missing for most of the year.]

A young cyclone struck this community on the 16th at 4 o'clock. It appeared in the southwest and took its course in a northeastern direction. The first place it done any damage we have been able to hear of was at Andrew Williams in Texas county, where the dwelling and barn and everything in them were completely demolished, at J. A. Daniels farm all the buildings

with their contents were destroyed and the family and two neighbors saved themselves by going into a cistern four feet deep in water; no lives were lost at this place. The next point was John Arnold's place. Here the house and barn were also blown away and Mrs. Arnold was so seriously hurt that at the latest report she had not regained consciousness and the Doctor thought she could not live; one child was slightly hurt also. The next place on the track was Charley Penney's, his house was unroofed and the barn torn away; the family escaped to the corn field where they laid down an escaped personal damage. The next point was Helton's place and missed his house about one hundred yards. At Penney's place one of S. M. Manes' steers was killed; C. M. Rowden had a horse in the barn which was torn to single pieces and the horse was unhurt. The growing crops in the track of the storm are a total loss and the fencing and timber all demolished. While we lament the losses and suffering of the parties affected we feel glad that the lives of so many were spared. We also sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and sincerely hope the wounded ones may recover.

[Big Piney was visited by another tornado in 1926. It leveled the town, except for the tallest building - the hotel.]

### The Waynesville Fire

Eighteen years ago Tuesday [1887] occurred the great conflagration in Waynesville in which every business house in the town was destroyed. The business part of town at that time comprised the territory from where Mitchell & Wheeler's store is now located to J. R. Burchard's store. The entire row was burned and a large part of the goods were either burned or damaged.

Among the losers were several who are yet in business here, namely, J. B. Christeson, J. B. Burchard, J. J. Clark, J. M. Long and probably others.

*Crocker Impetus*  
September 22

The new bank is nearing completion. The second story is being plastered this week, and is to be divided into three rooms to be used as offices. The vault is nearly ready to receive its two foot of concrete covering. The floor of the vault is to be of concrete also. The building when finished will be just THE thing for our bank.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
September 29

LIGHTNING ROD—Some of the good people of Lightning Rod seem to have founded at the picnic Saturday.

There will be a singing at Lightning

Rod next Sunday evening at 7 o'clock and everybody is invited and expected to attend. It is to be hoped that this singing will benefit the young people of this neighborhood.

You can hear the anvil ringing at all hours of the day at Mr. Shaw's place. Gene is a good blacksmith.  
[Another new correspondent is heard from

*Crocker News*  
September 29, 1905

[With this issue, the Crocker Impetus becomes the Crocker News. Crocker citizens voiced displeasure at the original name of the paper - "Impetus". Cotton, the editor, appealed for suggestions in the paper but received few. It seems some informal conversations led to the choice of the new name.]

The Richland Cyclone, the paper published at our neighboring burg, has changed from a blank sheet to a four column quarto size, the same size as the News. It is now printed clearly and is a readable paper

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
October 6

HANCOCK—They are distributing and setting the poles for the telephone line here now that is to connect Dixon and Waynesville.

Judge Colin Long

Seda's Gift Shop

Pepsi

Sanman's

Farnham Realty

Talbot House

There has been a discussion going on here every since our school commenced about the meaning of the law in regard to the constitutional right to compulsory attendance at school, of session act 1905. Some argue the children have to go to school all of the first half of the school and other argue that not less than one of the entire time is sufficient; so we would like for our friend at Richland [Representative J. L. Johnson] to let his light shine on this law before our county jail is filled as this is a busy time with the farmers and there are several truants in this district.

**SCHOOL NOTES**—The board has promised the school a new Dictionary and two Encyclopedias. Which will be greatly appreciated by the pupils, if the board ever decides to fulfill its promise.

**LONE STAR**—Lone Star has the largest attended school this year it has ever had. In fact the school room is crowded and we need a district on this side of the hollow very bad on account of the distance some of the scholars can seldom attend.

**Local Briefs**

The Crocker Impetus last week changed its name to the Crocker News.

The Waynesville Cornet Band will make their first appearance in public Saturday afternoon. Everybody is advised to chain their dogs and keep the children indoors if they don't want to lose them.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
October 13

**HANCOCK**—Boys, get your bells ready, for we seen Willie Goodman over in the west part of town again.

We understand that P. F. Singleton has the contract to dig and set the poles for the telephone line from here to Crocker and will begin work Monday morning. The line is finished to this place and J. Goodman and W. H. Cannon both have a box in their houses.

**Sutton-Payne**

Married at the home of the bride's parent near Hanna, Mo. on Sunday October 8, 1905 by Rev. J. A. Francis, Mr. A. D. Sutton, of Waynesville, and Miss Savilla Payne, in the presence of the families of the contracting parties and a number of relatives and friends.

Mr. Sutton is the present Sheriff of Pulaski County and a very popular young man, having been elected twice to the office of constable of Roubidoux township before his election to the office of Sheriff.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. N. Payne, an old and well known citizen of Roubidoux, and is a very estimable and lovable young lady.

They came to Waynesville Tuesday afternoon where Dotson had supper

prepared at the Baker hotel to which everybody in town was invited. Many could not be present, on account of various causes, to tender congratulations and bid the happy couple welcome but a large crowd was out and all had an enjoyable time. Mrs. Baker had an elegant supper prepared and all seemed to enjoy it. The band rendered a few selections and at a late hour the crowd dispersed wishing the bride and groom a long, happy and prosperous married life.

A number of useful and valuable presents were presented but space forbids us giving a list of them. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton will make Waynesville their home and will go to housekeeping in a short time.



Dotson Sutton (left) and Savilla Payne Sutton. Courtesy of Benny Doolin.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
October 20

**GOLDEN CENTER**—As per government test Brake's mineral runs \$48 to the ton.

The new telephone company has the line surveyed and is putting in poles.

**Local Briefs**

Collector G. W. Lane and deputy C. H. Colley left Monday on a collecting tour of the County. They go to Dixon first and will be in Richland Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week. They will work the other railroad towns next week after which they will go south. [ *Because travel could be difficult for some to pay their tax money, the tax collector went to the money.* ]

A Mr. Attaway who owns the old iron mine tract of land one and one-half miles west of town is here this week looking over the land with a view to opening up the mine. He will mine and haul a few carloads of ore to the railroad to test its value and if the enterprise will pay an effort will be made to get the Frisco to build a track to the mine.

**Discovered Gold**

Considerable talk has been indulged in here this week concerning a gold mine that Henry McKinnon is supposed to have discovered on Robt. Brake's land four miles southeast of Crocker. The mineral is reported to have assayed \$48.00 to the ton, which if true, is very valuable. Mr. McKinnon has done considerable prospecting and reports the ground full of the ore he

had assayed. We hope the report will prove well founded and if so we will give you a more complete account of the discovery next week.

[ *A new correspondent from Laclede County.* ]

**COLENSO**—They say if a republican lives in Pulaski and feels like running for office he leaves that county and moves over into Camden.

The Braser store at Hazle Green does a good steady business all the time. Jack treats his customers right and knows how to keep them coming.

And you folks over in Pulaski have two bridges over the Gasconade. [ *These probably were Fish Dam Bridge on the road to Dixon and Skaggs Bridge to Crocker.* ] There are lots of rivers in Laclede but not a bridge. Are we not behind the times?... It would pay Richland big to give half toward building a bridge at the mouth of Bear Creek.

We once heard a man say that if anyone commits a crime over in Pulaski he is dead sure to get his just deserts. They say Mr. Johnson, the prosecuting attorney over there, shows no mercy to law-breakers.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
October 27

Editor Democrat:

I wish you would announce in your columns that there will be no issue of the Richland Cyclone this week. Last Saturday morning a riotous mob of about a dozen persons burglarized my office and proceeded to tear down the presses, stands and other furniture and carried the printing material away—at the same time robbed me of the subscription books.

I replevined the material but it is in such damaged condition that it will not be possible for me to issue a paper this week. Therefore, I ask all subscribers to send me their names (by postal card or letter), that I can make a new subscription list or book—as the outlaws still have possession of the old one, and it is impossible for me to recall every name and postoffice...

JOE X. WRIGHT, Manager

**A Cyclone in Trouble**

Richland was again in the throes of a sensation and excitement was a fever heat last Saturday when one George C. Bents undertook to buck a Cyclone and succeeded in subduing and carrying the unruly thing away bodily. Prosecuting Attorney W. D. Johnson was called to see what he could do in the matter and now Bents is in the clutches of the law and will appear in Circuit Court to explain why he saw fit to interfere with a Cyclone that was pursuing the even tenor of its way molesting no one nor making none afraid.

The particulars as we learn them are about as follows. Last Saturday Mr. Bents, who so far as we know is a

good law abiding citizen, made up a crowd consisting of E. R. Valandigham, another Mr. Bents and few others and went to the Richland Cyclone office, battered down the door and carried away the entire plant consisting of presses, type, subscription books, job material, etc. The office was replevined and moved into other quarters and the Cyclone will be issued this week on time if Bro. Wright can possibly get help enough to do so. The entire crowd that carried off the Cyclone are under bond for their appearance at Circuit Court here November sixth to answer to the charge of stopping the career of a Cyclone.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
November 3

**GOLDEN CENTER**—W. W. Lee has discovered gold, sliver, copper, lead and zinc on his land.

The Dixon and Waynesville Telephone Company is setting poles and the line will soon be completed.

We visited Mr. Schlicht last Saturday and he is rejoicing over a large amount of soap bones and all other old greases he purchased for his soap factory; we also visited the Brake gold mine and it is a sure thing. We predict, from actual observation, that golden Center will be Cripple Creek No 2 in less than three years.

The Circuit Court was set to convene in November for three days. To give the reader an idea of the nature of the crimes prosecuted in 1905, here are the "nature of the actions" on the Criminal Docket during that term for Pulaski County:  
Burglary and Larceny (1); Carrying Concealed Weapons (1); Disturbing the Peace (2); Selling Liquor to a Minor (3); Selling Liquor without a License (2); Appeal from J P (2); Murder (1); Felonious Assault (1); Forgery (1); Robbery (1); Malicious Trespass (2); Petit Larceny (1). [There were also eight divorce cases on the Civil Docket.]

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
November 10

**Local Briefs**

County Court has been in session this week with all the judges present. Quite a lot of important business has been transacted.

Judge Woodside [ *of Salem, who had been ill most of the year* ] was unable to hold Circuit Court this week and Frank H. Farris was elected by the bar to hold this term of Court.

It was a smooth trick previously planned by which J. L. Johnson was defeated for Circuit Judge by Frank H. Farris at the opening of court here Monday.

Judge G. W. Berry was called upon Monday to perform his first marriage ceremony and although considerably

perturbed at first he performed the ceremony with the grace and dignity of a veteran and sent the couple on their way rejoicing.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
November 17

RICHLAND—[not heard from in a while]

Corn stalks measuring twenty-five feet are rare, even in Pulaski County, but several such are on exhibition in the office of C. H. Davis. This corn was grown by Joe Miller living about five miles south of Richland. The stalks are nearly five inches in circumference.

**Local Briefs**

Editor Pulaski County Democrat:

There is quite a conflict of opinion as to whether you have to have a license to hunt in the county in which you live. I am reliably informed that all the Circuit Judges in the State that have passed on the question hold that you do not. In consideration of this fact I will say that I will not prosecute any resident of Pulaski county for hunting without a license, and if the Court of Appeals should hold that you are required to take out such license, the people will be notified through the paper and will not be held responsible for what they have already done.

Respectfully,  
W. D. JOHNSON



William Daniel Johnson (1859-1924), Prosecuting Attorney (1893-1896, 1901-1902); State Representative (1913-1914), and Crocker Postmaster (1913-1922).

The Cyclone reached us again last week, after an absence of two weeks, again under the management of E. R. Vallandigham. Success to the new management.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
November 24

RICHLAND—Last week's Democrat

was much in demand. Many expected some kind of a notice therein, referring to a scurrilous attack on Joex and Judge W. T. Wright, in a late issue of the Cyclone. Your correspondent deems that article too scurrilous, malicious and false to merit any notice whatever from a self-respecting person. We shall pay no attention (in this column or elsewhere) to anything further that may appear in that slop jar—unless it be to ask you to publish in the Democrat a signed statement from the attorney of the trio who presumes to manage the aforesaid s. j., in which he denounces as untrue each and every allegation therein made regarding Joex and W. T. Wright.

**Local Briefs**

G. E. Kimmel, one of the Tavern's god citizens, sent us four good brooms this week for which we mark him up a year on his subscription. George is a splendid broom maker. [If you can get a copy of the Gazette from last year, there is a splendid article about the broom maker by his son, Ray Kimmel.]

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
December 1

HANCOCK—Esquire Goodman has a new telephone box put in is residence by the Metallic Telephone Co., of

Dixon, and any person wishing to talk can do so for a small fee. [First pay telephone?]

The South Central Missouri Teachers' Association will hold its next annual session in Rolla, Mo. This session of our association will be especially interesting and instructive.

**Local Briefs**

W. H. Ousley was arrested Monday on an information filed by Prosecuting Attorney W. D. Johnson, charging him with selling intoxicants without a license. This case grows out of the sale of hard cider, which Mr. Ousley has carried in stock and sold since he went into business here.

*Crocker News*  
December 8, 1905

**A Terrible Smash-up!  
F.B. Musick Killed.**

14 Cars off the Track and Smashed

Section foreman Scott Louzader says it is the worst wreck that ever happened on this section.

At about 6 this morning rain No. 35, west bound, was wrecked at the water tank, less than a mile south of town. The train was a doubleheader. It is thought that the accident was caused

Dunn's Auto Finishers

Loretta Rouse

Sweetwater

Threlkeld Machine Shop

Waynesville Urgent Care

Orscheln Farm and Home



The First Annual Meeting of the South Central Teachers Association in December of 1892. The meeting was held in Rolla at Central School, 8th and Main. The attendees are numbered in the picture for identification but the list was not found. In keeping with 19th century stoic posing practice, only two faces out of the sixty-four can be found that have a hint of a smile. The South Central District of the Missouri State Teacher Association still meets annually and, with the exception of a few times, in Rolla. Courtesy of the Mann Collection, UMR Archives.

by a broken rail. Engineer Musick jumped when he saw there was an accident. It was a mistake on his part, for his engine came out of the accident all right. In jumping he fell under a box car as it toppled over, and was instantly killed. His right leg was cut off near the body. He was a married man, but had no children.

The water tank was badly damaged. The train was composed of all kinds of merchandise and emigrant cars. One man was in his car with stock and household goods, and the car was turned over and smashed. He had to be chopped out, but he himself was not hurt. Wrecking trains from both directions are here clearing up the

track. Every body seems to be interested in the wreck today, most every body has gone out from town.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
December 15

DIXON—Dixon is not dead but sleep-

eth—that is the reporter has been. But he has awakened, and will tell the news to the Democrat for awhile. The services held at Mungy school house last Saturday night terminated rather unceremoniously, according to reports. rev. Geo. W. Boatman was using all the logic and oratory he could command to get the wicked to forsake his ways, and was in the midst of his Saturday evening sermon when some hell-bent scoundrel threw a rock into the building, striking the wall near the preacher's head. This broke up the meeting, and was the beginning of a general fight. William Wells, one of the school directors and a leader in church work, was attacked and bruised up considerably; Rev. Boatman lost his watch in the melee. A state warrant will be applied for and the assailants made to feel the penalty of law.

RICHLAND—The Richland Telephone Exchange is going to extend their lines over south of the river to Hazel Green postoffice, connecting with the farmers in that section. This will add greatly to the convenience of farmers.

*Crocker News*  
December 15  
PICK-UPS FROM LAST  
FRIDAY'S WRECK

Mr. Musick's body was taken to

Springfield for burial.

The whole country for miles around went to see the sight.

J. F. Forsyth has some good photographs of the scene Friday.

Loss, one life. Engineer F. B. Musick, the destruction of 14 freight cars and the water tank.

Saturday and Monday the people living near the wreck were busy getting kindling wood.

It took the wrecker and a great many hands to clear up the wreck. It was mostly done by Monday night.

Mr. Musick was Mrs. Cotton's first husband's cousin, and she had seen him quite often some years ago.

Friday, the day of the accident, was spent in getting the cars out of the way and laying a new track. The first train passed about dark.

The Mattoons had their hands full feeding the workmen, and the hungry crowds that came to see the wreck.

Mr. Musick's clothes was stripped off from him during the accident. His diamond ring, watch and purse was found in the dirt under one of the cars. It is said the watch was running when found.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
December 22

BLOODLAND—A number of Bloodland people attended the baptiz-



Train wrecks were not uncommon in Pulaski County in the first decades of the 20th century. This is a picture of a Frisco train wreck on Dixon Hill in 1913. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

ing at Overbly pond last Sunday, week ago.[Brrrr.]

BAILEY—Our Bloodland neighbors are talking up a graded school.

DIXON—T. A. Murphy & Co. have installed a new gasoline lighting system in their store. It makes a brilliant light.

Painters and carpenters are putting

the finishing touches on the new school building and Masonic Hall.

**Local Briefs**

“Crap shooting” in the back alleys is becoming a common pastime among our boys and young men, which, if persisted in, will lead some of them to greater evils—if not to jail. Quit it, boys, and place your minds on loftier employment.

*Pulaski County Democrat*  
December 29

The telephone line between this place and Dixon is in operation as far as Crocker, and it is to be hoped will have this place connected with Dixon and Crocker in a short time.

**Local Briefs**

Notwithstanding that neither whiskey or cider is supposed to be sold in Waynesville, a very large number of drunk people were on our streets the past week. Where did they get it?

The trial of W. H. Ousley, for selling cider, took place in 'Squire McDonald's court last Thursday, and Ousley was acquitted. It was claimed that the cider he was selling produced drunkenness, and he was indicted for selling intoxicants without a license. But we presume the jury didn't consider that that cider was intoxicating.

**The Best Physic.**

When you want a physic that is mild and gentle, easy to take and certain to act, always see Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. For sale by L. Tice, Waynesville and J. A. Rayl, Crocker.