

Here is a story from 1904 that we didn't use. It popped up again in 1907 and we didn't use it then, either. We have a little space here so thought we would share this story, akin to the urban myths of today, with you now.

The Cabbage Snake Scare
More than a hundred letters have been received by the Missouri Agricultural College asking for information concerning the so-called "poisonous cabbage snake," and the collection of snails, centipedes and other creeping things received from these inquirers would form the foundation for a splendid collection of Missouri's lower animal life. The most peculiar thing about this scare that has swept the state from one end to the other is that it has no foundation in fact. Professor J. M. Steman, Entomologist of the college says: "Not a thing is found on cabbage that could not have been found any fall for the last twenty years. And more than this," he continues, "there is not an animal in the world that will poison cabbage. I seems to have started from a fake report concocted by a correspondent of one of the St. Louis papers. Being hard pressed for news one day he wrote of a whole family that had come to a painful death from eating cabbage upon which a new reptile re-

sembling a small snake was present in large numbers. Other papers copied the story. People read it and began to scrutinize their cabbage patch and, of course, were rewarded by finding upon it bugs and worms that can be found any fall. The most common specimen that I have received is a nematode worm, somewhat resembling a horse hair, that lives as a parasite on crickets and grasshoppers and is perfectly harmless. Not a single one of the seventy-five specimens I have received is at all injurious. This so-called cabbage snake is a myth pure and simple and people should cease bothering about it."

Pulaski County Democrat, November 18, 1904

Violet Cowan of Crocker shared with us the pictures at right. Her grandfather was on the work crew that cut, sledged, and picked its way along the bluff that parallels Roubidoux Creek north of Waynesville. We don't know what year this was but work on a right-of-way for the proposed and aborted Waynesville to Crocker electric rail began as early as 1907. The work by these men produced calluses and Highway 17.



Stoutland

Settlers began arriving as early as the 1830s in what is now extreme southeastern Camden County, attracted by the rolling hills of prairie grass and good springs. The area bottoms along the Gasconade River and Bear Creek offered good farmland.

Railroad construction resumed after the Civil War and the tracks reached the present site of Stoutland, named for Captain Stout, a director of the South Pacific Railroad. At the turn of the 20th century, Stoutland, like its Pulaski County neigh-

bors along the Frisco, was a railroad boom town. Straddling the Camden and Laclede county lines, a thriving freight business developed.

Below Left - Main Street looking west in 1911. Cattle were driven down the middle of Main Street for shipment. At the far end is the Stoutland Christian Church.

Upper Right- The Stoutland Depot on the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway (Frisco).

Lower Right - Baptist Church. In 1859 the Good Hope Baptist Church was organized. The First Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1914 and the two Baptist churches united in 1924. Images courtesy of John Bradbury.

