

The Pulaski County news of one hundred years ago reveals a feeling of good times in our central Ozarks. There was general prosperity and businesses in our towns and villages were making improvements and expanding. Concrete sidewalk construction in front of stores and homes was newsworthy and there were still items telling who had a telephone installed, although this was on the wane, due to either most residences had 'phones or the novelty had worn off. Agitation for better roads was gaining momentum.

Overall, 1910 was a progressive year. Although Theodore Roosevelt's term as President was over in March of 1909, his Progressive Movement leadership had imbued the country with his energetic spirit. Progressive Republican Herbert S. Hadley, who shared Roosevelt's trust busting and conservation values, was governor.

Although the *Pulaski County Democrat* is our most often used source to give you a notion of life a century ago, we also read papers from neighboring counties. There are items from the *Lebanon Rustic* (Laclede), *Licking News* and *Houston Herald* (Texas), and *Rolla Herald* (Phelps). These counties are in the area known as "Old Pulaski," when antebellum Pulaski included modern Camden, Laclede, Wright, and parts of Phelps, Maries, Texas, and Webster counties.

1910 News

IN OLD PULASKI



The newspapers had a network of community correspondents. Each correspondent reported who was sick, who visited whom, who sold what, and what was being built. This type of news accounted for about 90 per cent of the local news ink. We have generally omitted the sick call and the visitation reports. The larger railroad towns (Dixon, Crocker, and Richland) usually reported each week. News from the smaller communities (e.g. Big Piney, Decker, Bailey, and Hooker) was reported sporadically. Some of these communities in Pulaski County have lost their identity today for the general public (see map at left). The items below are from the 1910 *Pulaski County Democrat*, unless noted otherwise.

January 7, 1910

DIXON—At the city council meeting Monday evening, the treasurer reported over \$1000 in his hands to the town's credit.

Dixon is soon to have a new hardware store. We do not know the name under which the store is to be conducted, but Sam Logan is to be the manager. It is to be located on the north side of 2nd Street, adjoining Grempczynski's store.

LOCAL—We will pay 27 cents for white oak or post oak ties—half cash.

Star A Star cedar shingles \$3.50 per M. at the Waynesville Lumber Yard—other prices in proportion. If you intend to build come in and let us make you prices.

10,000 mink, raccoon, opossum, skunk and muskrat fur skins wanted before December 25th, will pay higher prices than ever known before. —J. B. Christeson.

Arandal Goforth has severed his connection as foreman of the *Dixon Progress* and takes charge of the *Crocker News* this week. He is a good newspa-

per man and will no doubt give the people of Crocker a creditable newspaper.

Taken up—One small red yearling steer marked with underbit in right and split in left ear—white spot in forehead. Owner may recover same by paying for this notice.

B. W. Hudgens, Bloodland, Mo. [There are numerous notices such as this each week in the newspaper. Here a farmer has found a free range steer belonging to someone else. It can be reclaimed by paying the cost of the ad. Most of the notices are from citizens who can't find their stock. Each farmer had his own distinctive way of cutting the ears, his "cutting brand."]]

The young people of our town enjoyed a watch party at the Long hall Friday night. They assembled after church and spent several hours in games and social conversation and the new year was welcomed in with merriment and song. The young men provided and served the refreshments.

January 14

LAQUEY—C. M. Dail and A. F. Nickels had their phones removed this week.

A. A. Parsons put up 15 ton of ice the forepart of the week. [Cut from ponds.]

LOCAL—Crocker is going to incorporate.

Henry Baker came over from Crocker Monday and is engaged on the erection of the Lumpkin ice house.

John N. Jones and daughter were over from Spring Creek Monday with

a load of poultry. They sold to L. N. Huft 50 hens which brought him \$25, or an average of 50c a piece. How's that for poultry raising?

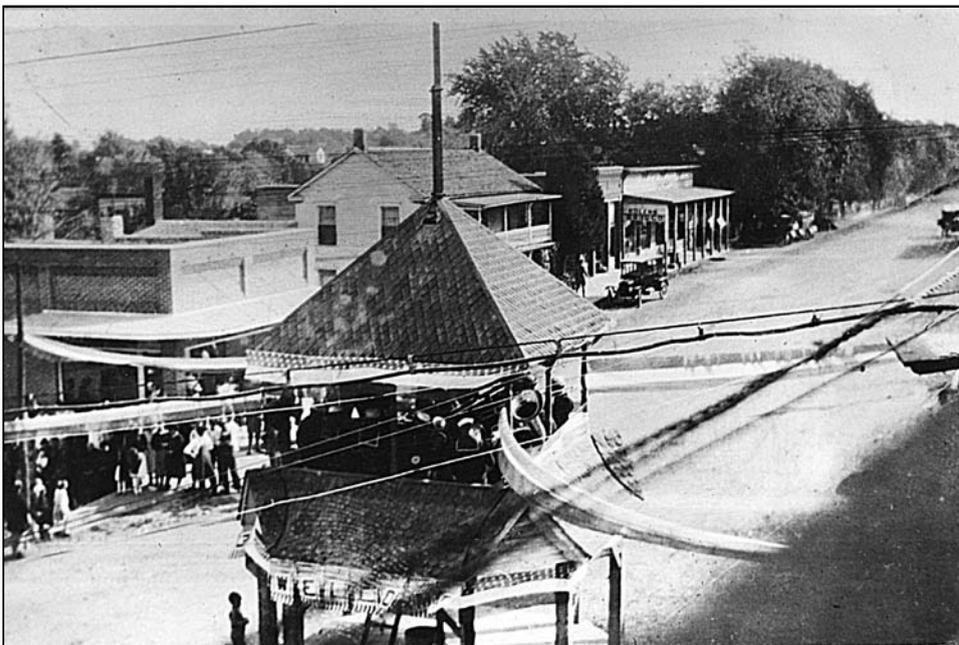
Lonnie Lane was down from Big Piney Monday on business.

This zero weather has afforded an abundance of good ice on the ponds about town. W. A. Lumpkin has had erected a large ice house and has it filled with nice ice. The ice is the best had for many years, it being from 10 to 12 inches thick.

D. T. Fuller, the Post Card man and Photographer, is now here in your village. We do all kinds of photo work. Call and see us and get our prices. You will find our office room at C. R. Gan's residence.

The complaint made against Dr. Lane, charging him with having written liquor prescriptions, and for which he pleaded not guilty before Mayor Campbell, has been withdrawn. The case had been set for hearing on the third of January. Before that date the doctor settled the case so far as the violation of the City Ordinance [Richland was dry] was concerned, by signing an agreement to write no prescriptions for liquor unless the patient was confined to his bed and he had made a personal examination of the patient and found from this diagnosis of the disease that whiskey was an actual and necessary remedy.—*Richland Mirror*.

BELLS CREEK—Some talk of a new 'phone line in the Racket neighborhood.



Dixon town square, ca. 1920. In the foreground is the town's bandstand with the band in place on the second story. At ground level is the town's common lithia (mineral water) well. The buildings in the background are, from left: Dixon State Bank, old Grempczynski home, Post Office (narrow brick building), Rolens Drug Co. store, and the Grempczynski store. Courtesy of Jessie McCullie Library, Dixon.

January 20
TO DAM THE MISSISSIPPI
 200,000 Horse Power Water Plant
 Being Erected.

One of the great feats of engineering is the installation of a great power plant on the Mississippi river at Keokuk, Iowa...

It will be remembered by many of our readers that the *Herald* has been advocating such a plant on the Gasconade river, where it doubles around Jerome [see map, right]. Such a plant would furnish power sufficient to light and heat every home in Phelps county. It would furnish power for factories and mills for a radius of a hundred miles. In this way dirt from the use of coal would be done away with and the work in the home would be reduced to a minimum.

The *Herald* predicts that the day is not far distant when this great force and power that is rushing past Arlington and Jerome every minute of the day and night will be brought into use and electricity on the farm will be in more common use than the telephone.—*Rolla Herald*

January 21
 DIXON—The Modern Medicine Company have been expiating at the Opera House each night this week, prices ranging from 2 cts up. Their medicine

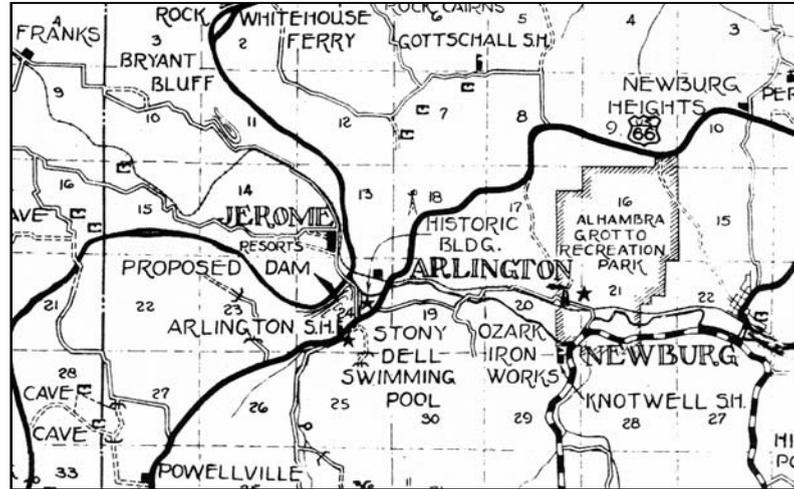
“sold like hot cakes.” We have the most liberal people in Missouri.

Boozeburg, sometimes called Frazierville, had a big blow out the other night, at least there were several blows passed. It was a regular free for all

fight so it is reported.

Must Be Registered.

Under the law passed by the last legislature every birth and death in Missouri must be reported and registered.



The proposed dam on the Gasconade River championed by the *Rolla Herald* can be found on this Federal Emergency Relief Administration (F.E.R.A.) Tourist Map. The damming of the Gasconade near Jerome would have backed up the lower Big Piney and inundated Devil’s Elbow, which, according to the State Planning Commission of that era, was one of the eight most scenic places in Missouri (and, we assert, still is.) This was also the period when Route 66 was paved through Phelps and Pulaski counties (1930). Since Devil’s Elbow was to be at the bottom of a lake, concrete was not poured on that section of Route 66. If you travel the road westerly today, cross the Big Piney, and climb the hill on the way out of Devil’s Elbow, you will be on blacktop. Just before the crest of the hill, the 1930 concrete pavement begins. That is where the planners thought the lake level would be (see next page.) At the time of this map making project, Bagnell Dam on the Osage River was completed and Lake of the Ozarks was nearly filled, which only took two years. When the eight generators came online, the impetus for a hydroelectric power plant on the Gasconade faded.

The enforcement of this law is placed under the State Board of Health. The State Board of Health held a meeting at Jefferson City several weeks ago in conjunction with the State board of embalmers, and determined to begin the enforcement of this law as soon as possible—probably by February 1st.

Registrars are to be appointed in each county in the near future. Each city or incorporated town constitutes a registration district at which a registrar will be appointed.

Each certificate of death contains 23 questions and certificate of birth requires 21 questions to be answered. The law makes it compulsory that each death and each birth be reported and for this service is allowed a fee of 25 cts. It is the purpose of the board of health to use every effort to carry out the letter of the law.

The Worst of It. “Oh, she’s awful. Whenever she tried to sing a song she simply murders it. But that’s not the worst of it. If she’d only murder it outright I wouldn’t mind, but she tortures it so long.”

LOCAL—Our County bastille is somewhat crowded at present. Four occupants are in waiting. Will Bryant, who is waiting the action of the Circuit Court, and Bud Greer and Dolf Carmack, who are laying out a fine of \$5.00

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Locals have gigged fish on Ozark streams since at least the 1880s. The gigging boats were 22 to 26 foot long narrow johnboats. In 1910, the light was furnished by burning pine knots in a metal basket craned over the side of the boat. Big river gigs were three or four pronged on a 12 to 16 foot long pole. The scene above was on the Finley River in the 1930s, after the appearance of the gas lantern. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

and trimming for disturbing the peace at Crocker, also Thomas McMahan was brought over last Friday on the charge of petty larceny.

Dixon claims to have the stingiest man on earth. He married a home girl to save expenses. They walked around the square for a bridal tour. He bought her a nickle's worth of candy for a wedding present, and then suggested that they save the candy for their children.

January 28

Registrars Appointed.

At a meeting of the State Board of Health recently held at Jefferson City registrars were appointed for the various counties of the State to the number of two or three score less than a thousand. The registrars of this county are: Dr. W. J. Sell, Waynesville; Dr. N. I. Stebbins, Crocker; Dr. W. C. Carter, Dixon; Dr. A. E. Oliver, Richland; Dr. R. E. Howlett, Fyan and Dr. Derry of Big Piney. [A nice list of the doctors in Pulaski County in 1910, although certainly not all of them.]

The duty of the registrar will be to record each birth and death occurring in his district for which service he will receive a fee of 25 cents, to be paid out of the county treasury.

LAQUEY—There is a singing school in progress at Pleasant Grove being conducted by Mr. Burrow.

LOCAL—Sheriff Baker is in the "city" this week buying furniture for the new hotel.

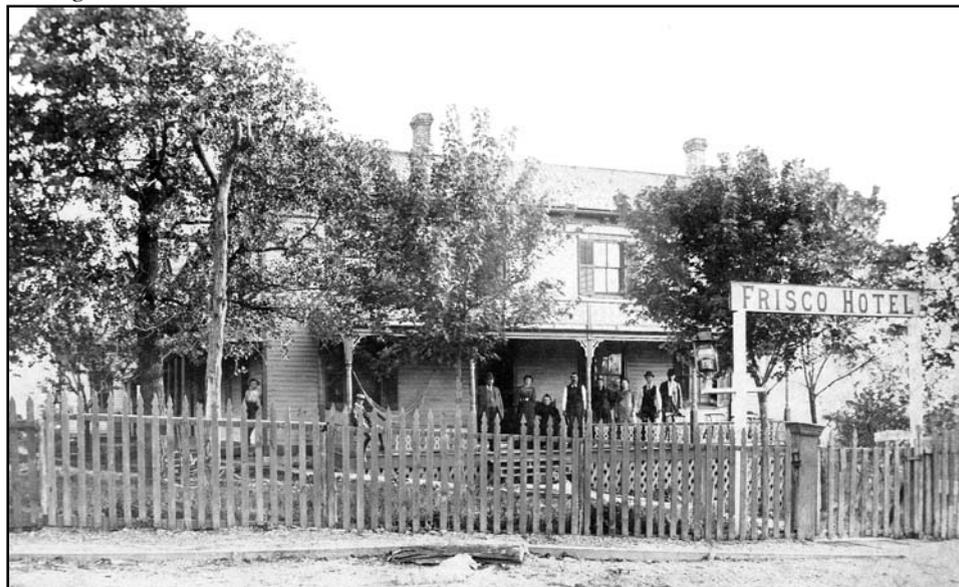
The First Ties.

The first ties for the new railroad were delivered in Licking Wednesday afternoon. W. A. Dorsey furnished the timber, Raymond Owens cut the timber. Joe Snow hewed the ties and Lawson Windsor and Kim Rodgers hauled them to town. They were sold to E. E. Young. These ties are on exhibition on the north side of the News office.

[The new railroad referred to was the proposed Missouri Inland and Southern Railway from Rolla to Houston. It was commonly known as the Ozark Short Line. Efforts were under way all along the pro-

posed route to sell shares, lots, and otherwise raise money for the venture. Communities not on a railroad, termed "inland" towns, envied the prosperity and growth of those that were. It reminds us of the aborted Ozark Transit Company in Pulaski County, 1907, which planned to build an electric railway from the Frisco tracks at Crocker to Waynesville, a distance of about fifteen miles (see an account in the 2007 Gazette "News" section.) The Short Line was to initially build an electric railway from Rolla to Licking passing through Lecom, a distance of forty miles. After cost estimates for an electric railway proved too expensive, propulsion was changed to steam.]—Licking News.

The Licking band gave a box supper and entertainment at the hall Saturday night. The attendance was very large and the financial part a success. The band rendered a nice program on the streets in the afternoon. This organization has recently been strengthened by the addition of a number of talented young ladies. The band intended giving an entertainment at Sherrill next Saturday night but failed to receive some new music in time to get it out for that date. [See picture next page.]—Licking News



The Frisco Hotel in Dixon, ca. 1910. The hotel was built by William H. Harris in 1876. Harris ran it until the round house was moved to Newburg in 1884. The hotel was operated then by each of the Imboden brothers (John, Tom, and Frank) at different times during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Courtesy of Jessie McCullie Library, Dixon.



This is a "big river" gig, forged by Webb Reagan, a blacksmith on Democrat Ridge, near Duke in southwestern Phelps County. It was made for Harry Lane in the 1940s and used by Harry and Charles Curran into the 60s. The prongs span 4 1/4 inches with a missing beard. Courtesy of Charles Curran.

February 4

SWEDEBORG—Quite a few people from Swedeborg attended the baptizing at Lundstrom ford Sunday.

Mr. John Sundquist, the champion fisher of the "burg", brought a 60 lb. cat fish to town Tuesday, the same being 6 ft. long. We wish to compliment John for catching the biggest fish ever brought to Swedeborg.

DIXON—Rumor has it that Dixon will soon have another wedding followed by a rousing old time charivari. [For the history and an account of a charivari (shivaree), see the 2004 Old Settlers Gazette, "News", page 6, online at www.OldStagecoachStop.org.]

J. H. Imboden is suffering from a fracture of the bones of his leg received in a fall on the stairway of the Frisco Hotel.

BLOODLAND—The Farmers Union store is under cover, windows and doors almost completed.

SCHLICHT—W. L. Reagan of Lebanon was taking orders for tombstones here. LOCAL—Those who promised wood on subscription will confer on us a great favor by bringing it in NOW. We are short on that commodity and can't get

it for love or money. [For quite a number of years, the subscription rate for the Pulaski County Democrat was \$1.00 per year or a cord of wood. The stated circulation of the paper was 1500.]

There were 84,506 licensed hunters in Missouri at the close of the past year. Of this number 81,443 had licenses only to hunt in their own and adjoining counties, while 3,066 were licensed to hunt anywhere in the state.

The Modern Remedy Co., after having entertained the Dixon people the past week, have gone to seek other pastures and other people to humbug, but as Barnum said, the American people like to be humbugged.

February 11

DIXON—A camp of gypsies have squatted in the east edge of town and are making their way by telling fortunes of the most credulous, etc.

LOCAL—The Baker Hotel that has been under construction for the past six months is now nearing completion and will soon be in operation in first class order. While the hotel accommodations have always been fairly good in Waynesville this new hotel is on a more extensive plan and with its furnace heat and large commodious well furnished rooms makes one of the most inviting hostelries in the country.

February 18

Newburg a Dry Town.

The wets and dries of Newburg had a hearing before the county court Wednesday. After hearing lengthy arguments from attorneys for both sides and examining the petition and striking off the names of all who were not present, it was found that the dries had won by a safe majority. This leaves Newburg without a thirst parlor. — Rolla Times.

LOCAL—The Gasconade is in fine shape for gigging and some fine catches are being brought to town.

Some one appropriated a big side of bacon from Charley Dodd's smoke-house recently. At the present price of meat you had about as well steal a horse as a side of bacon.

Robert Page, that genial real estate agent of Big Piney, was in town Tuesday. He reports business in his line good. While here he looked after the subscription of his father.

February 25

BLOODLAND—Lewis Fisher bought of H. Ludington a 40 acre tract for which he paid \$900 and Fred Gaede paid \$2100 for 70 acres on the north. Pulaski land has gone skyrocketing.

The [state] penitentiary now has 2,356 inmates, the largest number ever confined at one time in the pen in the history of this great penal institution. This is also the largest number of convicts held in any one penitentiary in the world.



The Licking String Band was lauded for adding three ladies to its membership. The band that played for the July 4th celebration was referred to in the newspaper as "the boys." That was a reference to the cornet band, which had more than a dozen members at this time. Apparently, musical talent abounded in the small town of Licking. Pictured here are, l-rt: (front row) David Votow, W. B. Terrill, Oscar Smith, Hosea Kofahl (seated with banjo); (middle) W. E. Snow, Gladys Lynch, Jennie Farris; (back) Katie McGiboney, Frank Granger, and C. C. Martin. Courtesy of Texas County Art and History Museum.

Carter & Kell's moving picture show was in operation at the Hall several nights last week, but on account of the extremely bad weather (many inches of snow) the audiences were small. Notwithstanding the small crowd the last night the boys put on an unusually

good show, running through five full reels. They have promised to visit our little city again when the weather is more favorable. — *Licking News*

March 18

SWEDEBORG—T. T. Finley has put in his

gasoline engine with burrh and corn crusher and done his first grinding last Saturday, but had so much to do, he had to finish Monday.

Chief Creecy Suspended.

His Pulaski County friends will be sorry to learn that Chief Creecy has been suspended by the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners pending investigation of several pecuniary charges preferred against him, which may and probably will result in his permanent removal. In speaking of his suspension Colonel Creecy said: "I am glad to get out of the police department and intended to write the board Friday for a thirty days leave of absence and ask at the end of that time they accept my resignation. I have done nothing criminal or crooked and have performed my duty as my conscience dictated." He also expressed the hope of soon being able to retire to his farm in this county.

CROCKER—J. P. Haldeman, member of the state board of immigration, was in Crocker Tuesday on business pertaining to the upbuilding of this country. Everything points to this being a splendid year for old Missouri.

Quite a good deal of excitement was caused in town last week by the report being out that silver had been struck in the well that Tom Peterson was having drilled back of his drug store. Just

what the strata is has not yet been learned, but several specimens have been sent away for examination and the result is being eagerly awaited.

BIG PINEY—Our young people of Big Piney have organized a dramatic club and have been rehearsing their play entitled "Dot, the Miner's Daughter." They expect to put the play on two weeks from last Saturday night.

S. W. Page has bought the barber shop and is now wielding the razor.

There are more goods in Big Piney now than ever before at one time.

LOCAL—A very pretty wedding was solemnized at the Black Hotel Saturday afternoon when Rev. Manes pronounced the words that joined Miss Sarah Kinsley and Mr. Virgil Hamilton together for better or worse. [*The Black Hotel, aka the Old Stagecoach Stop, has been the venue for many weddings.*]

Dry Again.

The election in this county last Saturday shows beyond a doubt the growing popularity of local option, or the anti-whiskey question. Great interest was manifested throughout the county, and the "drys" made a decided gain over their majority of four years ago, which goes to show that now, henceforth and forever whiskey is down and out in grand old Texas county. Only a few townships gave a wet majority, and they by a decided decrease of four years ago. —*Licking News*



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March 31

A Tribute to Col. E. G. Williams.

The Daily News of Lynchburg, Virginia, in its issue of March 6th, contained the report of a meeting of the Garland-Rodes Camp, U. C. V. [United Confederate Veterans], of that city, wherein our efficient County Clerk and fellow townsman, E. G. Williams, was the recipient of a splendid tribute at the hands of an old comrade of the Southern army. With apologies to the "Colonel" for forcing him into the lime-light, an excerpt from the report follows:

The portrait committee presented to the camp a large portrait, handsomely framed, of Comrade Edward G. Williams, of Missouri. This makes a desirable addition to the collection, being a duplicate in size and framing of those already in the room of Generals Rodes and Garland. This portrait was obtained after repeated refusals. An army comrade first wrote and asked for it, then the committee on portraits requested it. Comrade Williams' reply was that he was not a great general who had armies, but simply a man behind the guns, who only reached the rank of non-commissioned officer, and would be out of place on the walls alongside of bigger men. The camp then took the matter in hand, and, by unanimous vote, requested the portrait, and it was only then that he yielded, and the camp now has this

picture, and is glad to give it a prominent place on the walls. There being no one present to formally present or receive the portrait, Adjutant W. M. Seay, in a few words, said he was probably better qualified than any one present to tell those who did not know who Ed Williams was, and as a member of the committee, and as a former comrade over three years in the army, and an intimate friend who had kept in close touch with him for over fifty years, though most of this time they had been separated by many hundreds of miles.

Edward G. Williams at the beginning of the war in 1861 was a school boy of 17 years. At the organization of the Lynchburg Rifles, (afterwards Company E, Eleventh Virginia Infantry) he enlisted in that company and left here on the 17th of June with them for Manassas, and was on the firing line. In every battle in which his command was engaged he took an active part from Bull Run until Drewry's Bluff on the 16th of May, 1864, where he fell severely wounded in the charge on Butler's breastworks, within a few feet of these breastworks, and within a minute or two of victory, where General Heckman and his entire Massachusetts Brigade were captured by Kemper's and Terry's brigade, as it was then called; the speaker was then almost touching elbows with him, and slowing up for an instant asked him

where he was shot. His reply was, "Go on, don't stop here with me; don't you see we have them going, don't worry about me, I'll be all right." The next day when I visited him at Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond his leg had been amputated above the knee. Soon after the surrender of General Lee he concluded that there was little left in Virginia for an old crippled soldier, so he took Horace Greeley's advice and went west. He stopped at the town of Way-

nesville, Missouri, and being a good clerk he secured a position as deputy clerk of the County and Probate Court of Pulaski County, Missouri, in which he served until the death of his superior, when he offered for the clerkship and was elected, and has been repeatedly re-elected for the last forty years. In all this time he has been a constant worker for the so-called "Lost Cause," which is in fact a cause that has never been lost, and has contributed as much, if not more, of his time and money than any ex-Confederate to any or every Confederate cause which has been brought to his attention. He is an indefatigable worker and contributed to the building of the Soldiers' Home at Higginsville, Mo., one of the best in the South and is now one of the board of supervisors of that institution. On the election of General John B. Gordon as Commander of the Grand Camp of United Confederate Veterans, he appointed Ed Williams a member of his official staff, with the rank of Brigadier General, which office has continued through succeeding administrations, and he now holds the same position and rank under the present Grand Commander, General Clement L. Evans.

Lieutenant Commander Joseph L. Thompson and others, who have known Comrade Williams since the war, spoke in high terms of him, and on motion by unanimous vote,



This is the portrait of E. G. Williams. A U.C.V. pin adorns his left lapel. It now hangs in Pulaski County's Old Courthouse Museum. Apparently, after the dissolution of the Garland-Rodes Camp, U.C.V., sometime in the 1930s, the portrait made its way home to Pulaski County. Photo by Terry Primas.

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P. R. and Leota Lynch (my grandparents)

Tom and Kay Lynch (my uncle and aunt)

Vic and Barbara Lynch (my dad and mom)

And a big "Thank You" to the generations of customers who placed their confidence in us to meet their home furnishing needs.

You've given me a great blessing.

Steve Lynch



expressed their appreciation and thanks for the portrait and Chaplain T. M. McCorkle was appointed to convey the action of the camp to Comrade Williams—reprinted from the *Pulaski County Democrat*.

Col. Ed Williams is a brother of Mrs. H. B. Tourman of this city, and of J. M. Williams of near Edgar Springs. He is also an uncle of Mrs. Charles L. Woods of Rolla, and of the Webers of Edgar Springs. He has a number of other relatives and friends in this county, all of whom will rejoice over the tribute that has been paid to him by the Garland-Rodes Camp of Confederate Veterans.—*Rolla Herald*

[E. G. Williams served as Pulaski County Clerk from 1882 until 1914 and died in 1921. He also owned the Pulaski House, now the Old Stagecoach Stop, from 1888 - 1890. For more, see 2008 Old Settlers Gazette "News" sidebar, page 14.]

April 1

CROCKER—An egg roast and outing was enjoyed at the Bat cave and the river by our young people Sunday.

The addition to the City Drug store is nearing completion and the bottling works will soon be under way.

RICHLAND—A crowd of sixteen young people of Richland spent Easter Sunday at Maxey Cave.

COOKVILLE—Hicks & Son have been having their mill repaired this winter. Mr. Roehiese, the miller, was the mechanic.

Alf Purdy says he don't know which he had rather do, split rails two hours or attend to his boy one.

The singing at John Powers Saturday night was well attended and an enjoyable time was had.

LOCAL—Sheriff Baker departed for Jefferson City with Wm. Bryant who received a two year sentence in the State prison on the charge of felonious assault. Miss Ada accompanied her father on the trip.

The young people of town enjoyed an outing and egg roast at some of the favorite haunts about town Sunday afternoon.

April 8

Home in the Ozarks.

No use in talking, the Ozarks are going to be the popular resort for the men with small means as well as the man with a big roll. Land in 10, 20, and 40 acre lots can be had at from \$10 to \$15 per acre and makes ideal homes for fruit and truck farming and poultry raising. Better land may be had in north Missouri at from \$50 to \$100 per acre with a lack muddy well and a cistern full of dead rats for drinking water and muddy streams full of tad poles, miasma and moccasin snakes, while here in the beautiful Ozarks with its limpid streams of clear water filled with spotted trout and black bass on every side and big springs of pure sparkling cold water bursting from the hillside and flowing past your door

and through your lots, meadows and pastures, you can live, love and die happy.

You may stay in the north Missouri mud, but you must come to the flowery meads and the shady groves along the babbling brooks of the Ozarks to live. — *Rolla Sharpshooter* reprinted in the *Licking News*.

The story is told of Helen Hunt, the famous author of "Ramona," that one morning after church services she found a purse full of money and told her pastor about it. "Very well," he said, "you keep it and at the evening service I will announce it," which he did in this wise: "This morning there was found in this church a purse filled with money. If the owner is present he or she can go to Helen Hunt for it." — *Licking News*

A traveling man went into a Mitchellville hotel for dinner. The waiter came to him and said, "Bean soup?" "No, thank you," said the traveling man. "I don't care for any bean soup." "Dinner is over then," responded the waiter. — *Licking News*

April 14

Chief of Police Creecy, of St. Louis, was found guilty of various charges by the Board of Police Commissioners last week and dismissed from the service and has retired to spend the remainder of his life on his farm near Waynesville, Pulaski County. Colonel Creecy is 63 years of age, was a Confederate soldier, and after over thirty years of unblemished service on the

police force of St. Louis he is made the butt of political intrigue and is the victim of the [Governor Herbert S.] Hadley class of politics. After a long, faithful service this fine old man is ousted on the flimsiest, silliest charges with only the shadow of a trial, for the purpose of satisfying the machinations of the present dictators of political affairs in state and city. It is to be regretted that Theodor Bland, son of the well known South Missouri Democrat, "Silver Dick" Bland, and a member of the Board of Police Commissioners, joined with the Republicans in heaping this disgrace on Col. Creecy's head and was one of his bitterest prosecutors. Even the *Globe-Democrat* would not stand for the great injustice, and says: "The charges brought against him were manifestly unimportant and unworthy of serious consideration. It may be true that the Chief has made some mistakes in the details of his difficult service, but nothing has been developed to justify the proceedings that were calculated to blast his reputation as a public officer and a private citizen. The people of St. Louis believe him to be a man of integrity and correct intentions, and the Republican votes cast for his vindication, though he is a Democrat, are in accord with public sentiment, regardless of party lines."

April 15

DIXON—A carload of brick has been received for the new Oddfellows hall.

BAILEY—Clarence Kelley is teaching the spring term of school at Lone Star. About \$1.50 will be apportioned for



Edmond Perkins Creecy as a captain of the 7th District in 1902. State Historical Society.

St. Louis Police Chief Edmond P. Creecy appeared for the first time in the pages of the *Gazette* in 2009. In September of 1909, Creecy drove the first automobile, a chain-driven Metz, across the Big Piney River at Wagon Ford in Hooker and motored into Waynesville. It was witnessed by a young Dru Pippin, who gives his account on the same page. Creecy was spending a restful week in Pulaski County, recovering from a cold and overwork. Apparently, the recuperative power of the county was so satisfactory that he bought 340 acres on the Gasconade River, the old Bates farm which was about a quarter of a mile downstream from Bartlett Mill, later known as Pippin Place.

Creecy was appointed to a four year term as St. Louis police chief in September of 1906. In March of 1910, Chief Creecy was embroiled in the scandal involving the embezzlement of \$13,000 (possibly much more) from the Police Relief Fund. His term would be up in September and retirement was on the horizon. The investigation of the fund shortage provided a chance for Creecy's political and departmental enemies to smear him.

John M. Healey, treasurer of the fund, was indicted and Creecy was accused of impeding the investigation, in which he was not directly involved. Spurious allegations linking Creecy to Healey were made by Theodor Bland, one of the Police Board commissioners. Creecy denied the charges, spurned a forced early retirement offer, and demanded a public trial that he asserted would restore his reputation. He blamed "enemies within the department, whose personal ambitions seem to find an obstacle to my occupancy of the position of Chief."

Chief Creecy apparently made a favorable impression on the locals in Pulaski County, in particular the editor of the *Pulaski County Democrat*, O. O. Ragsdale. Such a strident editorial (opposite, April 14) had not appeared in the pages of the *Democrat* since the days when Nathan Wheeler was editor.

Eight charges were brought against the chief. An investigator was sent to Pulaski County to examine the farm purchase for which Creecy paid \$10,000. Creecy was a man of modest means, as a widower supporting a large family on his \$5,000 a year salary. No irregularities were found with his farm acquisition.

Creecy received his public trial and was found guilty on the first five charges of neglect of duty, involving minor infractions of departmental policy. He was found not guilty on the three more serious charges and explicitly exonerated of any involvement with the fund shortage. At the conclusion of the trial, he told his supporters, "Don't be sorry about this. Be glad. I'm glad. I'm happy to be quit of the whole filthy mess."

After a 32 year career with the St. Louis Police Department, Creecy was dismissed as Chief on April 9 of 1910, five months before his term was up and planned retirement. Subsequent development included the resignations of two Police Board members. Chief of Detectives Smith, one of his most vocal detractors, was slated for demotion. In short, the Creecy trial backfired on most of his enemies.

Edmond P. Creecy died in 1913 in St. Louis of heart disease. He was 65 years old. His death certificate lists his occupation as "Police Chief."



Caves were popular sites for outings, particularly for young people. Caves that had large openings and were easily accessible, such as Maxey Cave, above, near Laquey and Pike's Peak Cave between Waynesville and Crocker were favorite spots. The large front main rooms were about 60 degrees in all seasons. Courtesy of Margaret Tarbell Wehmeyer.

each child of school age in the state. There are 1,005,092 school children in the state taught by 4,931 male and 13,299 female teachers. During the last fiscal school year 81 new high schools have been added and 59 schools have increased their terms to nine months. LOCAL—It was reported that small pox was prevalent in the south part of the county and Sheriff Baker and Dr. Tice went out and quarantined several families in the Cookville neighborhood to prevent the spread of the disease.

Did you see Halley's Comet? We don't suppose it is viewed by any of the citizens of our berg, as it is only visible before sun rise. (See page 5 for more of an account of the famous comet's appearance.)

Ex-Chief E. P. Creecy, accompanied by the Attorney for the City of St. Louis, Seibert J. Jones, came out from St. Louis Monday and will spend this week fishing, hunting and rusticing in the Ozarks around the Chief's Gasconade farm. Mr. Creecy informs us he is glad to be rid of the unpleasant work of the Police department and glad that he is only a private citizen. He will spend most of the summer in our city.

April 29

RICHLAND—Snow, sleet and ice, and May almost here. The eldest settlers say they never saw anything like it for the time of year.

DIXON—It seems now that the "land of



We have this picture, "Scenery Near Dixon, MO," with no date, and wondered what the significance of the scene was. It may be a photographic record of the April 29 snow and ice storm. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

the big red apple" is going to lose her fame, for this season at least. The fruit is all reported killed.

The public school closes this week with the commencement exercises at the Opera House Thursday evening. LOCAL—Hon. T. L. Rubey stayed Monday night in Waynesville enroute to Big Piney, where he delivered an address Tuesday afternoon at the I. O. O. F. celebration.

George Kimmel from west of Crocker was trading with Wheeler & Mitchell Saturday. [George was a broom maker. See the fine article "Dad's Broom Machine: A

Symbol of "The Old Place" by Ray Kimmel (George's son) in the 2004 Gazette.]

The party who took the bracelet from L. N. Hufft's show case has been seen with it in their possession and is advised to return it some way at once and avoid notoriety. [An interesting way to deal with shoplifting.]

W. J. Scales, proprietor of the Big Piney hotel, was in town briefly Wednesday enroute to Crocker. Mr. Scales has purchased property in Crocker and will move there some time this fall. He had his name placed on our fast growing subscription list.

[William Scales talked last year of his desire to trade his Big Piney property, including the hotel, for a farm near Nebo in Wright County. Seems he changed his mind about where but he is leaving his substantial holdings in Big Piney. See the article "Big Piney."]

The report has been circulated over the county that smallpox is prevalent in Waynesville is without foundation and does the town an injustice. We make this statement in the hope that the scare may not keep any one away from the Normal [school] or from coming to town to trade.

Paul Revere never could have made that ride in an automobile without stopping for repairs. COOKVILLE—Measles and smallpox plentiful at this writing.

May 13

LAQUEY—The material is being placed on the ground to build a large addition to the Laquey store. The increase in business has compelled Mr. Parsons to enlarge the store building.

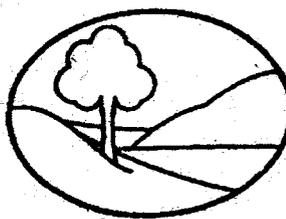
BLOODLAND—The prospect for fruit is slim. Farmers are behind in planting corn on account of the wet weather. Frank Brown was caught breaking the ordinance of Bloodland—he was seen chopping stove wood.

LOCAL—Hot and cold baths 15c at the City Barber shop, service the best.

A good item we missed last week was that of a large consignment of fish

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received and turned loose in the Gasconade river. They were of the Pike Perch species and were from Meredosia, Ill. The consignment was requested by Fred L. Scott and recommended by former Congressman Robt. Lamar and A. P. Murphy. Local nimrods, get busy digging bait.

What came near being a serious accident was narrowly averted Monday morning when a pony belonging to Haney Bros. [*Sheriff Lee Baker is out of the livery business and it is now Haney Bros. Livery, Feed and Hack Line*] that Sam Bates was riding ran off to the creek with him and jumped off of a high embankment into swimming water. All that saved Sam from a watery grave was a cool head and knowing how to swim, as there was no one near at the time. On the return of the pony to town the boys started immediately to look for Sam and met him returning to town dripping wet, but a wiser boy from his experience.

Some important business transacted by the County Court last week was an order for a road under the bluff around the creek. Several other roads were ordered opened and annual settlement made to the Treasurer. There will be a called session some time the last of May for the purpose of acting upon the Roubidoux bridge proposition.

Robt. Page was down from Big Piney with M. E. Lane Monday on business. He had sold Mr. Lane a farm in the Big Piney neighborhood.

May 20

CROCKER—The new M. E. church is being rapidly pushed to completion.

The younger base ball nine of Crocker played the Richland nine last Friday afternoon at Hawkins park. The Richland nine beat our boys by a small majority. Our nine plays the Richland boys next Friday at Richland.

DIXON—The team of Geo. Hancock, while near Helms on his way home from Dixon last Friday, became frightened at a passing train and ran away, throwing Mr. Hancock from his wagon and breaking his collar bone and one bone of his leg and otherwise badly injuring him.

LOCAL—H. E. Wharton has purchased the property, good will, etc. of the *Richland Mirror and Cyclone* and has already taken charge of the business. He expects to consolidate the two papers after June 1st and give them such a paper as Richland never had before. Here's our hand for success, brother.

BLOODLAND—In spite of the bad weather the past month trade has been good, Jaspar Bros. reporting the best trade they have had for years. Saturday they bought over \$200 worth of produce.

J. M. Steward, the hustling hardware man of Big Piney, passed through town Saturday enroute to Waynesville.

R. W. Clark is working for Jaspar Bros. tending the switch board.

Louis Fisher has put in a line of



This is the Rolla Lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, ca. 1908. Members of some other fraternal lodges in their regalia carry swords sheathed in scabbards. Notice the Woodmen have axes thrust through their belts. In addition to Rolla, most towns and villages in Pulaski County had a MWA lodge, including Waynesville, Dixon, Crocker, Richland, Hancock, Swedeborg, and Big Piney. Courtesy of Missouri University of Science and Technology Archives, Mann Collection.

coffins and caskets at Bloodland.

May 26

Perry Andres of Arlington was in Rolla Tuesday. He said he had just returned from McDonald's ford with the first fishing party that had been out this spring. They had fine luck—Rolla Herald [*McDonald ford is on the Big Piney River between Ross Bridge and Miller Spring.*]

Asks Re-Election

Judge Woodside, who is here holding court, in conversation with the *Times* man a few days ago, stated he was a candidate from this 19th Judicial District to succeed himself as Circuit Judge. He has been on the bench nearly fourteen years and stands well with the bar.

The office of Judge is a trying one and requires a man of even temperament, good judgment and sound reasoning and Judge Woodside possesses all these qualifications. His long service on the bench has enabled him to become thoroughly familiar with conditions in all parts of the district and he knows when justice should be tempered with mercy. He is a time tried Democrat, yet politics does not sway him from what he believes to be his duty and on his past service to the people and fidelity to party principles he asks for a fair and impartial consideration at the hands of the voters at the general primary in August.—reprinted from the *Rolla Times* in the *Houston Herald*.

[Some of you may remember that it was Judge Woodside who sentenced Elias Smith to hang for the murder of James Smith of Dixon in 1905. For an account of the crime and last hanging in Pulaski County, see "News", 2005 Old Settlers Gazette.]

May 27

LOCAL—"A hen" says the Lamar Democrat, is "worth as much as a hog used to be. A hog brings as much as a good horse use[d] to cost. Two good teams of mules cost as much as an

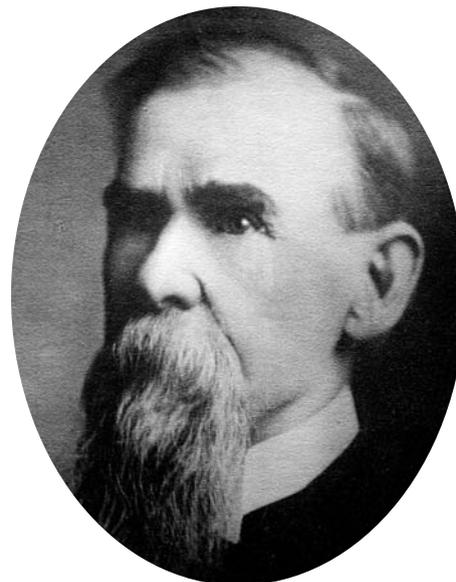
eighty acre farm did twenty years ago and two good farms now cost as much as the president's salary for a year" [*which was \$50,000.*]

Judge Woodside of this Judicial Circuit in his instructions to grand juries differs somewhat from the law as construed by the game warden of the state. He says in part "no license is necessary to hunt game that is not protected under the game law, and that no license is necessary for a person to hunt in his own neighborhood, he also says that the word "leased land" should be given the broadest significance and that it does not tend to mean only lands held by written lease, but that the tenant of farm land could hunt on such lands and on adjacent lands by permission of owner." In plain language, Johnny, get your gun and go after 'em—no license required.

Wanted—Experienced brickmaker and burner to make brick for Bloodland bank, address

W. R. Wingo, Cashier.

It has been decided that the Bank of Bloodland will build them a new brick



Circuit Judge Leigh B. Woodside. Courtesy of Missouri University of Science and Technology Archives, Mann Collection.

building this year. See notice in another column for contractor to make the brick.

Dixon Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America will decorate the graves of departed comrades at Pisgah Sunday, May 29th, at 10 a.m. There will be a joint service in the afternoon at Dixon cemetery by the Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, K. of P. and G. A. R. orders. Also the Modern Woodmen will hold memorial services at Antioch cemetery Sunday morning, May 12th in memory of their departed brother, Nathan Wheeler. Waynesville, Crocker, and Hancock Camps especially invited to attend and take part in the service. Brother Woodmen and friends come out.

James McGregor, V. C.

Pulaski Camp No. 232, Dixon, Mo.

[*Nathan Wheeler was the editor of the Pulaski County Democrat, having bought the paper from John A. Swan in 1898 (for a history of the Pulaski County Democrat, see the 2007 Old Settlers Gazette.) Nathan Wheeler died in April of 1907, seemingly of tuberculosis. Wheeler was very active in community and county affairs. He was an organizer of the Waynesville cornet band. He belonged to most of the fraternal organizations, including the Modern Woodmen of America. For unknown reasons, it took three years for his lodge brothers to hold a memorial service. Wheeler was buried at Antioch Cemetery southeast of Crocker. Equally surprising is that his stone, rather than being the distinctive tree trunk marker of the Modern Woodmen of America, is a marble obelisk with a Masonic carving on top.*]

June 24

DIXON—The concrete floor was laid in the Oddfellows building this week. This building will soon be ready for occupancy, but has not yet been rented, so far as we have learned.

LAQUEY—E. H. Hendrick reports a fine prospect for his tobacco crop. From four acres he expects to realize 1,500 lbs per acre. Mr. Hendrick knows the tobacco business to a finish.

WHARTON—The arrangements that were being made to build a school and church house near Wharton have been greatly delayed by the cold winter and the rush of spring work. There are about twenty children of school age in this vicinity who live from two to three miles of the nearest school or church. For the benefit of those who gave money for this purpose will say that the money you contributed is on deposit in the Bank of Waynesville and will be used for this purpose only. In case the house is not built the money will be refunded.

LOCAL—The recent high water and bad condition of the road under the bluff is a gentle reminder of how much we need the Roubidoux bridge.

Considerable excitement was caused in these parts lately by the find of mineral on a tract of land lying near town

The ore was found in about 12 foot of the surface and was assayed at Rolla and pronounced gold at \$3.20 per ton. We always predicted a great future for this part of thy moral heritage. [The price of gold in 1910 was \$21.00 a troy ounce compared to an average of \$1093.00 in 2010. The purchasing power of the dollar has gone down 95 percent since 1910.]

Drura (Dru) Pippin came out from St. Louis the first of the week and is visiting his relatives in the country and enjoying the Ozark mountain air. BLOODLAND—O. G. Thompson, the Wildwood photographer returned home Sunday after a week's stay in this place.

The New Railroad.

C. H. Evers and his engineering corps of surveyors began work last Monday morning, locating the route for the new railroad south to Licking and Houston. About July 15 a force of men and teams will be put to work out about two miles from Rolla and work south. The railroad will be built as sure as the sun does shine. — Reprinted from the *Rolla New Era* in the *Licking News*.

All old soldiers, both Confederate and Federal, are requested to meet in Licking Monday morning, July 4th, and join in the united parade at 9 o'clock. Old soldiers from any part of the country are invited to participate in this parade. — *Licking News*.

July 1

CROCKER—Everett Brumley, a stock buyer, who has made his home in Crocker only a short time, met with a sudden and untimely death Wednesday night at Dixon. He went to Dixon with some companions and after the train had whistled for the station he arose and passed out of the coach door. Those with him thought that he was merely getting ready to get off from the train, but when they alighted they discovered he was not there and after going back up the track a short distance, his body was found near the track. The remains were brought back to Crocker the next day and from here were taken to his old home near Brumley. He leaves quite a family and they have the sympathy of the whole community in their sad bereavement.

Primary election sites in 1910:

Franks, Dixon, Hancock, Crocker, Hawkeye, Swedeborg, Richland, Bellefonte, Dundas, Hanna, Bloodland, Big Piney, Waynesville, and Lost Hill.

RICHLAND—The citizens of Richland are erecting a band stand in the city park.

Although there was no news of importance, new correspondents from Hickory Grove and Dublin were heard from after the editor made an invitation for more news sources last week.

BLOODLAND—W. R. Wingo [bank official] has treated himself to a brand new

buggy and of course a new hat of a larger size. [Got the big head.] [Too bad several issues of the Democrat are missing here. It prevents us from knowing how the big 4th of July celebration planned in Bloodland turned out. One was also planned for the courthouse lawn in Waynesville. However, an account of the Licking Fourth of July celebration has survived.]

July 8

ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Two Days Big Celebration Under the Auspices of The Licking Band Was a Howling Success From Start to Finish.

2500 People Met and Spent Two of the Most Pleasant Days of the year.

The morning of the Fourth dawned very cloudy and threatening very rough weather, which undoubtedly kept many from a distance attending the festivities that were to begin that morning in the coming metropolis of the Ozarks [Licking]. But, despite these very discouraging signs, the people began gathering at an early hour, and by 10 o'clock, the hour when the grand parade started for the grounds, our little city was well filled.

The parade was formed on the square and started up Main street headed by the Licking band dressed in their new uniform, followed by the following floats: Licking Milling Co., with a handsome float representing the celebrated flours made by them. The wagon was piled high with snow-white sacks, interspersed with the bright, healthy boys, found around Licking, dressed in pure white, all making a beautiful and appropriate picture.

Smith Bros. [clothing and groceries] were in the line with their wagon artistically decorated with the national colors and driven by two of their lady clerks. The design was simple but to

the point, and advertised their growing business to the hundreds of watching people.

Alley & Co. [groceries and dry goods store] were in line with a handsome display. Besides a liberal exposition of the various goods, their float was well packed with a bunch of the prettiest young ladies in the state, bearing a a banner with the inscription "We trade at Alley & Co's.," which is alone sufficient to cause all the young men in the country to transfer their trade to that store.

The first prize winners were Nichols & Craven, Licking's popular and up-to-date milliners. Their display consisted of a two-wheeled cart, draped entirely with bunting, ribbons, etc., and drawn by a small jennet, dressed with ribbons and feather, and a large, very stylish hat upon its head. Misses Nichols and Watkins, each dressed in harmony with the outfit, were driving. It was a very pretty and original get-up, and certainly deserved first place.

Miss Anna Lanier preceded the above display. She was mounted on a large iron-grey horse and dressed to represent "Uncle Samuel."

Dunlap Bros. [clothing and shoes] were there, too, with a handsome and original float which deserves much praise. Besides the regular decorations, the wagon was surmounted with a large, black shoe. In this shoe was Miss Wilie Crow, representing the "Old woman who lived in a shoe," with the pipe and all. Around about the shoe, in every position, was a crowd of little tots, crying "mamma! mamma!" (buy me that—at Dunlap's).

Dan Meadows, who deals in lumber, had a miniature pine forest on his wagon, which was very suggestive of his business.

The Bank of Licking was thoroughly draped and crowded with children. High above their heads was a large

sign with the name of the bank, its resources and liabilities, and other suitable advertising.

The Peoples Bank was another to have an appropriate and original display. On the wagon was a real safe and other fixtures. At the desk stood cashier Halbert with a large stack of real money before him while the various assistants were stationed about in such way as to leave the impression that the concern was carrying on a banking business on wheels.

Behind these came the hundreds of people in buggies, wagons, horse-back, and on-foot; making one of the prettiest processions ever seen in an inland town.

The second day was a repetition of the first, with the addition of the "Blues and Grays" and the young ladies' "K.K.K. club."

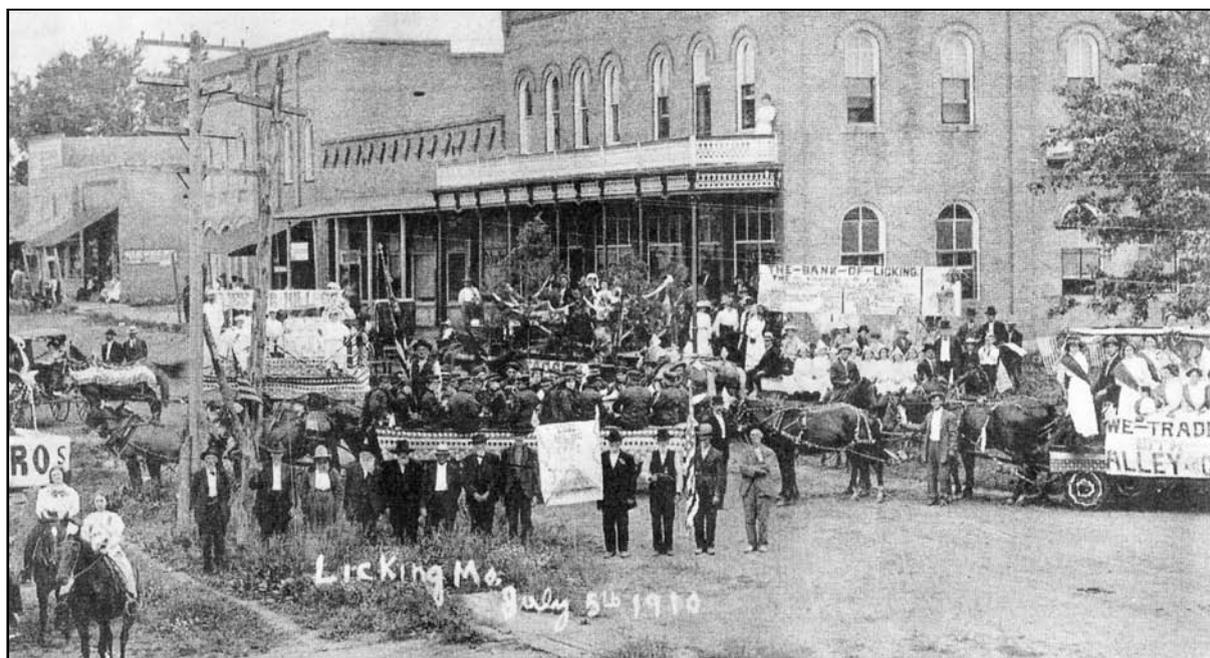
The three premiums offered by the band boys for the three best floats were awarded as follow: 1st to Nichols & Craven, milliners; 2nd to Alley & Co.; 3rd to Peoples Bank.

AT THE GROUNDS.

Upon arriving at the grounds we found the usual picnic accessories, all in full blast, and the cry of "peanuts-popcorn-candy" could be heard on every side, and you could ride around the world thirty times in the horse swing for only five cents. The general stands, conducted by Grant & Thomas and Hassell & Peacock [four businessmen] were kept on the run during the entire two days, and the lemonade, orangeade and other soft drinks consumed were sufficient to float a war vessel. Frank Mautz' ice cream parlor also did a thriving business. As did all the minor stands and games. Dr. Tomlinson was on the ground with a couple of his [blackface] entertainers, which went far toward furnishing amusement for those present.

The program as advertised in the News was carried out in most instances. While there was no elaborate or expensive entertainments furnished the people, still we can honestly say we never attended a similar celebration where there was such universal satisfaction. Everybody seemed glad because the other fellow was. There was no signs of drinking or rowdyism on the grounds at any time.

If there were any skeptics regarding the railroad after the



The Licking Fourth of July Celebration in 1910 spanned two days. A parade was held both days. On the second day, the surviving Civil War veterans marched in the parade (center foreground.) The band is behind the Blue and Grays. Also visible are several floats: Alley & Co. grocery store (right), the Bank of Licking (to their left), and the Licking Mill (to the left and behind the band.) Courtesy of Texas County Art and History Museum.



Dan Meadows, lumberman, had a float with a miniature pine forest. Courtesy of Texas County Art and History Museum.

immense and convincing demonstrations these two days we failed to make their acquaintance. But of this part of the program we will say a few words in another column.

It is utterly impossible to enumerate the people present, but suffice to say they were here from Oscar, Raymondville, Houston, Summerville, Salem, Rolla, St. Louis, Chicago, Lake Springs, Lenox, Maples, Beulah, Europe, Ireupe, Stirup and Kinslerlow. Those who were not here sent their regrets and said they would be here next Fourth, (at which time they will

come in on the M. I. & S. [Missouri Inland & Southern railway.]

A very important part of the program were the ball games between Licking and Houston. Both games were well patronized, netting the boys about \$63. The games by inning appear below. [We will not reprint the box scores. Suffice it to say that Licking won the first game 9-3, as well as the second contest 10-8 with hits for both teams in both games totaling 53. Must have been fun to watch.]

While we have no electric lights to show Houston boys [Houston was the first Texas County town to have electric

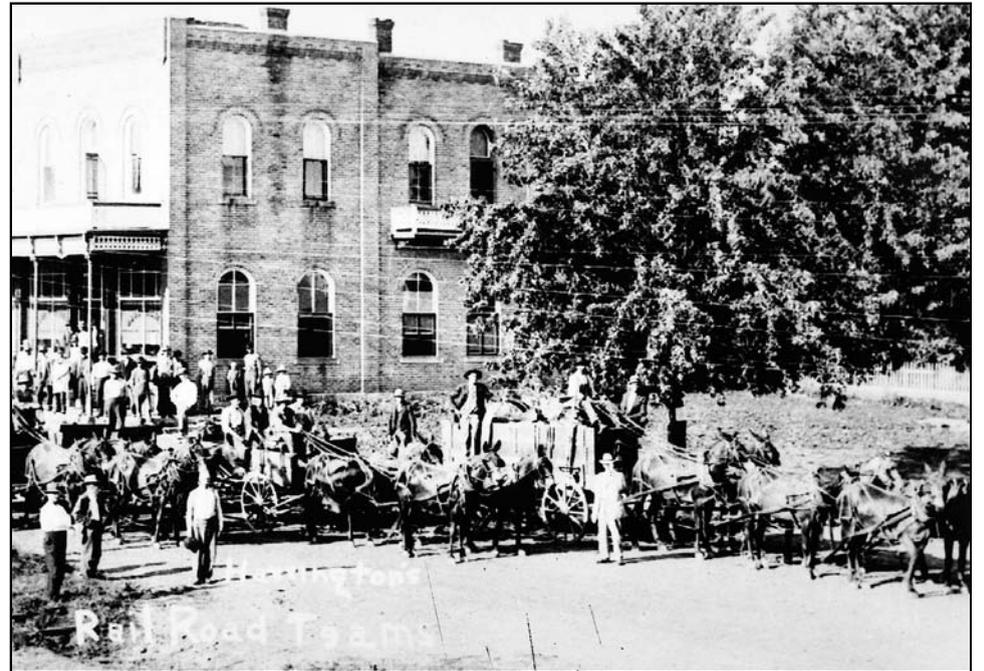
lights in 1908 and Salem lit up in 1910 - none in Pulaski yet], we welcome them back at any time and promise to show them a good time.

All in all the occasion was a success, and the band boys and business men are to be complimented. Come to Licking to have a good time.

July 22

Teams Wanted.

We wish to employ a few more men and teams to work on the grade. We employ only those who have subscribed or intend to do so. For particulars address or call at the office of the MISSOURI INLAND & SOUTHERN R'Y CO.



The call went out in early spring and summer for farmers with their teams of mules and horses to help grade the railroad roadbed. A good wage was paid but the turnout was disappointing. However, Dr. P. A. Harrington of Houston brought several teams to work. Dr. Harrington was the entrepreneur who electrified Houston with his Lone Star Dam. Harrington was also a large investor in the Missouri Inland & Southern Railway and a member of the board. Courtesy of Texas County Art and History Museum.

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Police Chief E. P. Creecy appeared in Waynesville with the first automobile, a chain driven model, in 1909. The chain driven auto above was one of the first automobiles in Rolla, ca. 1908, driven by Frank Powell. Autos were still rare enough in our Ozark counties to merit mention in the newspapers. Courtesy of Missouri University of Science and Technology Archives, Mann Collection.

August 5

H. S. Millard of Houston passed through town Wednesday on his way to Rolla to get his Automobile. He didn't intend to walk and pull the thing very far as he was accompanied by a first-class mechanic in the person of Tom Garwitz.

The Licking Band has been selected to play for the Barnitz Lake Encampment. This organization is becoming in demand. We understand they have received word to bid on big occasions at Salem and St. James. —*Licking News*.

August 12

H. S. Millard, who with Tom Garwitz, passed through Licking on Wednesday of last week on their way to Rolla after Homer's new automobile, arrived in Licking about eleven o'clock Monday. They were accompanied on their return trip by C. E. Fitch, wife and daughter. The car is of 30 horse power capacity and is a very neat looker. The folks left Rolla Monday morning and made the remarkable speed of six miles the first day. Mr. Millard was captain, Tom Carwit "shover," Mrs. Fitch and daughter first-class passengers and Ed chief pusher, or third class passenger. It seems they struck some very muddy road and from the looks of Ed's shoes he had to wade pretty deep and push very hard. The next day, however, they made very good time and went spinning through the streets of Licking at a very rapid clip. We have no record of what happened when they struck the mud hole just south of town, but presume they took the lower road and got through all O.K. —*Licking News*.

Newburg is a 'phoneless town for the present. Monday, Aug. 1, the local telephone office was closed and is not expected to open again under the present management. Parties from Lebanon may buy the system and put it on an up-to-date basis. The service has been unsatisfactory for a long time and patronage dwindled away until it

became a losing proposition. —*Newburg Independent* reprinted in the *Licking News*.

August 19

Notice to Receive Bids for a Steel Bridge.

Notice is hereby given that I will receive sealed bids at the County Clerk's office in Waynesville, Pulaski County, Mo., on the 3rd day of September, 1910, for the building of a steel bridge across Roubidoux creek, at Waynesville, in the Southwest quarter of Section 24 Township 36, Range 2 West. Bidders to submit their own plans—bond to be given by the successful bidder for - years, the amount to be determined by the court.

The court has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

A. G. Williams
Highway Engineer.

DIXON—The delivery horse of T. A. Murphy & Co. last Friday got in such a hurry to make a special delivery that the public well pagoda, which was in the shortest course, was moved from its mooring and the pillars shattered.



The horse and wagon is still the conveyance of choice. H. E. Warren grocery wagon slogs through the mud to make a delivery. In the background, right, is the Richland City Hall. The sign on the wagon says, "Buy Your Groceries of H. E. Warren." Warren was one of the first merchants in Richland when the railroad created the town in 1869. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

NORTH BLOODLAND—The contract for wood to burn the brick for the bank building was let to John York and one other fellow Saturday. So the bank building will soon be a reality.

LOCAL—Chief Creecy purchased himself a nice team and buggy and now drives with the air of a lord. [*What happened to the car?*]

August 26

DIXON—The petition for renewal of license of the Frazierville saloon was rejected last week by the Maries County Court.

The plasterers finished their work on the Oddfellow building this week and the lodge hall will be ready for occupancy for the next regular meeting of the order. The building will be dedicated soon with appropriate ceremonies. CROCKER—Our home ice supply gave out and we are using factory ice. We have the promise of an ice factory in Crocker next year, which is bound to be a paying venture.

COOKVILLE—Will Myers and E. Prewett are doing a good business with their well drill.

Mr. Roechiese, the miller, has charge of the Big Piney mill.

A Close Call.

LOCAL—Ex-Chief E. P. Creecy and son, Perkins, while fording the Gasconade at Bartlet's mill Saturday afternoon in a buggy narrowly escaped drowning when the vehicle was overturned, throwing the occupants into swimming water. A valuable bay horse, one of the team, was drowned. In mid-stream the horses became frightened and overturned the buggy. The Chief remained with the team, trying to extricate it from the buggy and keep them from drowning. Perkins swam to the shore. L. H. and Mert Trower rendered timely assistance and, by cutting the harness, one horse was saved and the buggy brought ashore.

They were brought to town in the evening by friends, glad the accident was no worse, and the Chief is minus his fine Panama hat.

September 2
AN EXCITING RACE.

We have just received word from the Secretary of the State Fair telling us that arrangements have been completed for one of the most interesting and exciting races ever held in the state. It will be a race between the Wright Bros.' aeroplane and one of the highest speed automobiles obtainable. This feature of the Fair alone will be worth going hundreds of miles to see and every reader of this paper who possibly can should be there to witness the great event, October 1 to 7. — *Licking News*.

September 16

DIXON—The Odd Fellows new hall is completed and the Rebekahs held their first meeting in their new quarters last Tuesday night.

SWEDEBORG—T. T. Finley commenced building on his new mill building Monday and is rushing work to get it done as soon as possible.

NORTH BLOODLAND—Brickmaking has been resumed since the wet weather. LOCAL—The County Court is having considerable improvements made on the interior of the court house this week in the way of putting down a new brussels carpet in the court room and on the stairway. This will eliminate the noise so annoying at former sessions of Circuit Court and also add greatly to the general appearance of the room.

September 23

RICHLAND—The good roads train which is touring the Frisco line arrived in Richland Friday morning. The train is in charge of Custer Hill, the state highway engineer. It consists of three flat cars and one baggage car. A party of eight accompanied it to handle the equipment. Demonstrations of road building were made here, the train remaining two days.

NORTH BLOODLAND—A number of our good citizens went to court Monday, some to see what they can see, others because they had saw things that they should not have seen, while a third class had rather not have gone, yet they went.

THE WORK CONTINUES.

Still the good work goes on and the railroad continues onward. One of our noted writers once said "Leaf by leaf the roses fall, drop by drop the spring runs dry." So it is with the work. One by one the trees are cut from the right-of-way, the rubbish gathered into piles and burned. One by one the scrapers full of earth are put into place and in a comparatively few days the little canvas city is taken down and is folded up and with its 30 or 40 inhabitants moves silently on to the next camp grounds, there to begin again the tearing down of nature's work and then to rebuild again according to man's ideas.

It looks slow indeed to see the first scraper full of earth being slowly

moved into place and dumped. Several weeks ago as the writer was watching the moving of that first load of dirt it seemed to him as if it would take years to build this 35 miles of road but today between 4 and 5 miles of the very hardest grading on the line is ready for the ties and rails. — *Licking News*.

Bob Dixon and daughter were visitors at the News office Saturday. Bob brought us a sample of his new sorghum. It was as fine as we ever ate (and we have eaten some), and we can certainly recommend it to all lovers of good sorghum. Bob says he has been making molasses for the past 35 years, and since sampling his goods we are willing to admit that he is a master maker. — *Licking News*.

The moving picture show, under the management of Messrs. Carty & Kell, assisted by A. C. Colman, which showed in Licking last Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday nights, was the best entertainment of the kind ever in Licking. Those men are gentlemen and carry a good clean instructive and entertaining show. Their films are all new and bright. They gave an entirely new series each evening, using three full reels. Their charge is reasonable and we fully recommend them to the public. They showed in Raymondville Wednesday and Thursday night and will show in Houston tonight and tomorrow night. — *Licking News*.

September 30

DIXON—The Red Star Store has leased the first floor of the Odd Fellows new building and will move their stock of goods into same next week.

RICHLAND—Hon. David R. Francis will deliver an address here Saturday.

[David R. Francis was President of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company (the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair). He was elected Mayor of St. Louis in 1885 and elected Governor of Missouri in 1888. Francis served as Secretary of the Interior during a portion of President Cleveland's second term. After the fair D.R. Francis was appointed to be the American Ambassador to Russia from 1916 to 1918, at the age of 65.]

Missouri's watermelon crop this year will exceed 90,000,000 melons. At ten cents apiece the crop will bring about a million dollars.

What is probably the largest single consignment of postage stamps ever received at Richland post office reached Postmaster Shubert Monday. The total value was \$1,616, in 1's, 2's, 5's, 8's and 10's.—*Richland Leader*.

October 7

RICHLAND—The Fifth Annual Stock Show and Agricultural exhibit which was held in Richland last week was largely attended. Music was furnished by the Richland band during the entire

week. To describe in detail the exhibits and tell the names of those receiving premiums would take too much space. The exhibitions were all fine. There is one thing in the art department that I think deserves special mention and that was the Dixon school, those were fine, some of the pupils showing real talent in drawing. Friday premiums were awarded on hogs, cattle and sheep some fine specimens being on exhibition. Saturday morning Hon. David R. Francis gave an interesting address to a large audience in the City park. Saturday afternoon premiums were awarded on the mules and horses.

DIXON—Saturday was a big day in Dixon. A big crowd was in town to witness the dedicatory ceremonies — the Odd Fellows Temple. The day was an ideal one and all arrangements were carried out with a most pleasing effect. The dinner served to the public in the I.O.O.F. building by the ladies was a success and replenished the lodge exchequer to the amount of \$96. Speeches were made by Ex-Gov. Dockery, Grandmaster, and J. W. Wilkinson, Grand Sec. of the order, also by Thos. L. Rubey. The dedicatory ceremonies directed by W. E. Johnson were very impressive. The Odd Fellows can justly boast of the finest hall in town.



The dedication of the Odd Fellows Hall in Dixon in 1910, erroneously reported in last year's Gazette as 1908. Courtesy of the Jessie McCullie Library, Dixon.



Rotary Club of Pulaski County

Part of our community since 2002

Current Members Include:

Randy Becht
Judene Blackburn
Carl Boone
Brad Budolfson
Brenda Bustillos
Steve Ehrhardt
Linda Gifford
Shane Goforth

Ashley Halstead
Bruce Harrill
Kim Hawk
Kevin Hillman
Pete Hiltner
Jackie Howard
Shawn Howley

Marsha Hughes
Mary Iarussi
Ollie Jackson
Merle Jones
Edie Krull
David Lowe

Steve Lynch
Virgie Mahan
Ken Miller
Rick Morris
Don Murray
Tracy O'Quinn

Jerry Plunkett
Keith Pritchard
Rosalind Pride
Brandon Reeves
Stephen Reeves
Kevin Sargent
Marie Selfors

Ron Selfors
Don Snider
Karen Snyder
Jim Standfast
Wayne Strohschein
Mike True
Mike Warren
Mike Wrinkle

Some of our favorite projects last year

included our Literacy Project, USO, "Choices," Science Fairs, "The Soup Bowl" at Christmas in the Park and taking pictures of children at Christmas on the Square, honoring a student each month, ASYMCA's "Fabulous Fakes, Chili Cook-Off, Trivia Night, and the Veterans Day Parade.



Distributing dictionaries to 3rd graders as part of our Literacy project. Our goal is that every 3rd grader in the County will get the dictionaries. We are also contributing to Headstart reading initiatives.



Two Rotarians volunteer at the USO on the 3rd Sunday of each month.



Working with the Chamber to present the "Choices" program to every 8th grader in Pulaski County.



Serving as Science Fair Judges in our partnership with SAME, MS&T, and the school districts.



Supporting the ASYMCA with the Rotary Runway Rejects, this year's act for the Fabulous Fakes program.



Right, Rotarians as the Grinch and Cat in the Hat for Christmas on the Square.

For membership information, please contact Merle Jones at (573) 336 - 8328



Men's thoughts turn to molasses in late September, along with the women who were probably doing most of the work. This sorghum production scene was photographed by Charles Elliott Gill of Dent County. Missouri State Archives.

NORTH BLOODLAND—Fred Gaede and Jim Halely are making sorghum.

Charley Elsworth was in North Bloodland and reports that Mr. Scales will leave soon for other parts.

LOCAL—Albert Christeson believes in keeping the wheels of progress in motion so he will begin the erection of a concrete building on the site of the T. J. Christeson hardware store just as soon as a car load of cement arrives. The building will be rushed to completion. *[Too late for Albert, although he will be saved some demolition labor, as you will see in the next column.]*

Naith Ousley and Henry Ward are putting in a concrete floor in the lobby of the Court house this week.

Saturday was one of the quietest days Waynesville has experienced for a long time. These parts were well represented at the Richland fair, and quite a number attended the dedication of I.O.O.F. hall at Dixon on the same date.

A young man by the name of Pennel, who is "laying out" a jail sentence, broke jail Monday evening but was soon captured and put in the cell for safe keeping by Ed Haney and Bill Rayl. Jailer Haney had went to take the prisoner his supper and upon unlocking the door Pennel rushed past him like a dart and made a strenuous effort for liberty. The evening being very dark and rainy it seemed a good time to dodge the officers and make his "get away" but the boys were onto their job with the above result.

BAILEY—The evaporators are turning out a better quality of molasses than for some years and the product is readily finding a market at the mills at 40c per gallon.

October 14

LOCAL—Mitchell & Christeson report an unusually heavy trade both last Saturday and Saturday week. In fact their cash receipts of Saturday week were the largest ever received in one day since they went into business some eighteen months since.

October 20

Fire Hits Waynesville, MO.

Waynesville, Mo., Oct. 16.—An early morning fire here today caused a loss of \$20,000. A row of pine buildings was burned.

The T. J. Christeson hardware store was a total loss, also the *Pulaski County Democrat* buildings, belonging to Mrs. Nathan Wheeler, and the office owned by her and O. O. Ragsdale, valued at \$4,000, was a total loss only subscription books and a small amount of type being saved.

The J. J. Clark and Doctor Tice store buildings also were a total loss. Mrs. T. J. Christeson and Mrs. Nathan Wheeler were the heaviest losers. The buildings will be replaced by stone or concrete right away.—*Rolla Herald*

October 21

Early Morning Blaze
WIPES OUT THE FRAME SECTION OF THE BUSINESS ROW AND THE OCCUPANTS SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES WITH LITTLE INSURANCE TO COVER SAME—PLANS FOR REBUILDING ALREADY UNDER WAY.

The people of our little city were

aroused Sunday morning by the alarm of fire and soon it was learned that the conflagration was in the business row and that the T. J. Christeson hardware store building and Baker's restaurant were all aflame and too far gone to be saved or to save any of the contents of the hardware store. Everyone came to help and most of the goods from the restaurant was saved. There was no controlling the fire and it spread rapidly and soon the flames had broke into the *Democrat* office, but by the help of willing hands enough type, 1 press, paper, etc., were saved as was the Mitchell & Christeson stock of dry goods, but the J. J. Clark store building went with the rest of the pine buildings in the row. By heroic work the flames were brought under control at the J. B. Christeson building on the west and the P. A. Christeson building on the east, but both buildings are badly damaged, especially the concrete building occupied by G. M. Reed—the post office. The explosives or the heat from the burning buildings so much damaged the wall as to render it unsafe. The four buildings burned owned by Mrs. T. J. Christeson, Dr. Tice, Mrs. Nathan Wheeler and J. J. Clark, together with contents, were practically a total loss except the Mitchell & Christeson stock which was damaged considerable aggregating the sum of from \$15,000 to \$18,000 with only \$1900 insurance. The Mitchell & Christeson stock of dry goods was carried to the Long store building, where they will remain temporarily. The belongings of the *Democrat* were stored in the Long Hall, where we have temporary quarters and invite you to come in. Monday morning the work of clearing away the wreckage at the hardware store began and the blocks are being made to erect a concrete block building which will be rushed to completion and ere the dawn of 1911 they will likely be in their new quarters. It is also quite likely that the *Democrat*

office building will be replaced and we will soon be at home again.

The origin of the fire is not exactly known and there is more or less speculation as to how it happened. There was an oyster supper Saturday evening in the Long building and those who attended report an unusual amount of drinking and it is generally supposed that some one threw a lighted match into some rubbish in the rear of the buildings. This is the worst fire Waynesville has had since the entire business row burned 23 years ago [1887].

We are temporarily located in the Long Hall, where we are working our printers pie, etc., and through the kindness of our fraternal brethren, Editors Cole and Goforth [*Richland and Crocker, respectively*], we have been enabled to handle our job work.

It is quite likely that we will be in shape to carry your advertisements next week as before. This week we have to cut out nearly everything. LOCAL MATTER—Please do not get it into your head that the *Democrat* is a thing of the past and that we have suspended business, but bring in your work and it will receive prompt attention.

While we have suffered a heavy loss along with others we still have enough type to tell the story and will not miss getting out a single issue of the paper. We hope soon to be going again in full blast.

To Subscribers:—while this office is handicapped in the heavy loss of material our ledger, subscription books and mailing list in the packages were saved. What we term the foreign, or single wrapper list, was lost. We have a partial list, but it is from 6 to 12 months behind and contains names who are not subscribers, and some persons who are subscribers will fail to receive the *Democrat* unless you help us to adjust this matter. If you have a friend or relative who was a subscriber



This is the mostly wooden business row on the south side of the square in Waynesville in 1907. The first concrete block building in town was the Long Building (Long Hall on second floor). The fire gave impetus to concrete block rebuilding. The hallmark ditch and bridges down the middle of Commercial Street are easily visible. Courtesy of Maxine Farnham.

to this paper come in or write us giving their address. It will help us out of a tangle and will help your friend also. Our list of 1,000 that goes out in packages in the county and adjoining counties is o.k. and will go out each week as usual. Let us hear from you.

November 4

LOCAL—Work on the new buildings was brought to a standstill the first of the week on account of the wait for the arrival of a car load of cement.

Lonnie Lane and Col. Dye of Big Piney were down Monday on business. Mr. Lane has purchased George Lane's farm on Big Piney and was down having the deeds made.

Hallowe'n passed off quietly in Waynesville. The young ladies of our city in masque turned out and gave the town folks a serenade while the young men tore up a few wood piles, tied up the gate, etc. No serious damage was done.

November 10

Automobile Extravagance

Both the automobile and the owner are coming in for very serious preachments these days. The machine itself is held up as the direct cause of much unhappiness and suffering and a vast deal of ethical denunciation is hurled at it from many sides. It would seem that there are only three classes of people who are at all justified in railing against the machine itself, says the

Washington Post. They are the man who gets run into or nearly run into, by one; the farmer whose horse is afraid of "the pesky thing;" and, most of all, the man who cannot get one. Those who are outside of one of these classes really mistake the thing they condemn. What they mean to get at is the extravagant, irresponsible, spendthrift habits of a limited number of automobile owners, of which the machine is only the outward and visible sign. They forget that if it is not an automobile, it will surely be something else. Of the man who can well afford to own and maintain an automobile there is nothing by right to be said; it is wholly his own private business. If a man mortgages his house to buy one, that is entirely within his own right, and if he chooses to own an automobile rather than to have a house, it is not at all clear that he has committed any breach of ethics or morality by the exchange.—*Lebanon Rustic.*

November 11

[Front page news devoted to national and state election results. Amendment No. 10, prohibition, was defeated. The entire Democratic ticket in Pulaski County was elected from Representative to Constable.]

LOCAL—The youngsters of our City enjoyed an o'possum hunt Saturday night, which was a pleasant trip, but we promised not to tell about the game they caught.

The township stock law proposition carried in Tavern township with a majority of 40 votes. A like proposal for Union township was defeated by only a few votes.

Tie Makers Wanted:—50 men to cut off 400 acres of good timber in Pulaski and Phelps counties. Good prices paid for labor.

W. H. Ross, Big Piney, Mo.

November 17

Frisco's Big Engine Passes Through Lebanon

One of the seven new Mallet freight engines recently ordered by the Frisco passed through Lebanon last Friday afternoon and attracted much attention during the short stop here.

It is ninety-two feet long, including the tender; has double cylinders and is equal to two engines for pulling

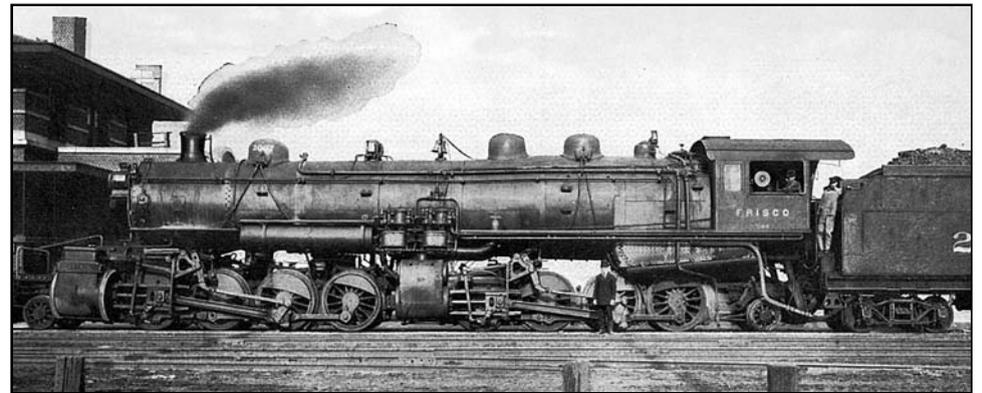
power. It is the first engine of the kind the Frisco has purchased. It can pull double the load of an ordinary engine.—*Lebanon Rustic.*

November 18

LOCAL—James Bostick celebrated his 13th birthday Saturday evening by inviting in a number of his friends to enjoy the evening with him. About twenty of the youngs responded and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed at the Black Hotel [today the Old Stagecoach Stop.] Dainty refreshments were served and a royal good time had by all present.

Sunday Paper Not Legal.

Contracts for advertising in newspapers published on Sunday were declared void and not binding in effect by Judge J. M. Johnson in the Kansas City court of appeals a few days ago.



The Frisco's huge Mallet Compound Engine. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

Welcome to Historic
Downtown
Waynesville!
Enjoy Old Settlers'
Day.

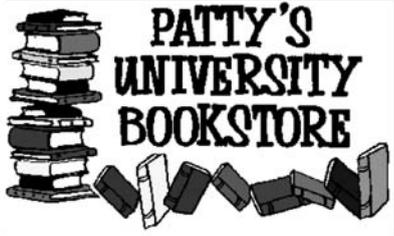


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Rachelle.Beasley@courts.mo.gov

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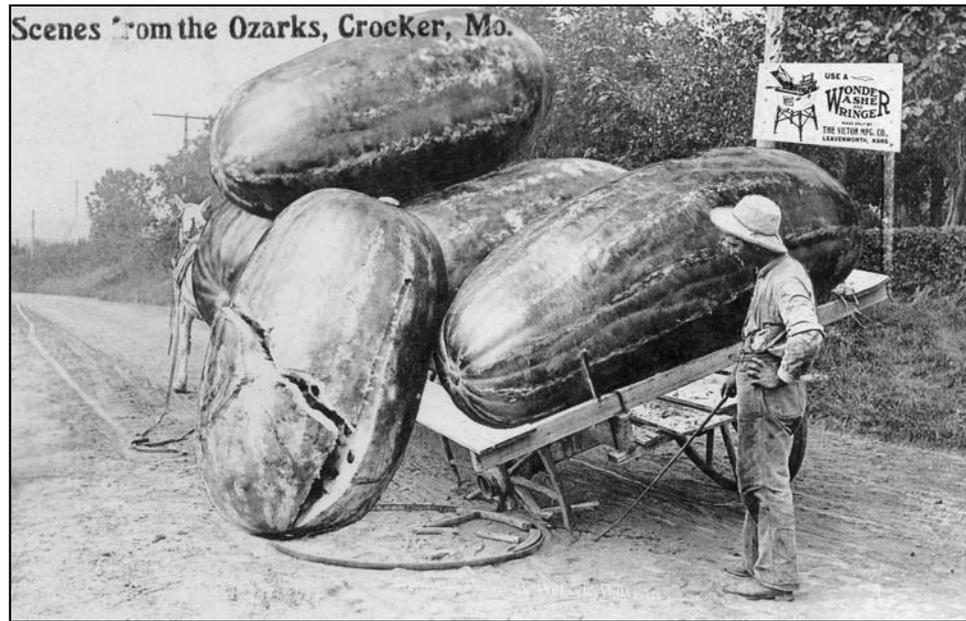
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25515 Hwy 17 South
Waynesville, MO 65583

(573) 774-2008
(573) 774-2823
skylinecycles.net



The large watermelon crop of last year must have inspired this 1909 novelty postcard. The 1910 crop was even larger at 90 million melons at 10 cents each. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas

The Sunday labor laws of the state, the court held, are being violated when such newspapers are printed and, therefore, any contract for work in connection with their publication would necessarily be illegal.

"Penny" Pennel, the boy who was serving out a 12 month sentence in the county jail for petit larceny, made his escape Wednesday night by working out a brick in the flue and taking off enough shingles to make an opening by which he could pass through. He has been a very unruly prisoner. At times he has made the City hideous by his yells and distressing cries. Sheriff Baker could not trust him a minute free for fear he would run away. Such a boy should be sent to the reform school.

SCHLICHT—The Valley is overrun with St. Louis defeated politicians. They take their medicine with magnesia water.

Revs. Marion Manns and Yeaton are holding a protracted meeting in Flea Hollow at present. [We include this item because the name "Flea Hollow" is interesting and, apparently, was a very active church. It appears often in the news.]

November 25

LOCAL—Several of the schools of the adjoining country around are dismissed at present on account of measles and scarlet fever in their district.

The Gasconade being in good condition for gigging, the town has been flooded with the finny tribe lately. BAILEY—All of our farmers expect to make large clearings during the coming winter.

The next teachers meeting is to be held at the school house at this place on Saturday afternoon and night of December 10th, will be the last one to be held on this side of the county during this year. Among the subjects to be discussed are, "good manners, morals, and citizenship." Teachers are expected

to bring in their pupils for the oratorical contest. A full program will appear in the *Democrat*. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance as these meetings are not only helpful to teachers but to all others who attend. [The meeting was at the Big Piney school house. Seems each township had a teachers association.]

Richland—All the west bound trains were late Thursday evening on account of a wreck on the Dixon hill.

December 2

LOCAL—Remember the exhibit of school work at Waynesville, December 17th, 1910. Three cash prizes, \$10, \$5, \$2.50 will be awarded to country schools and the same award will be made to town schools. \$5 will be awarded to the boy enrolled in any Pulaski county school, who selects and exhibits the best ten ears of corn. \$2.50 will be awarded the boy exhibiting the second best ten ears of corn. \$5 will be awarded to the girl enrolled in any Pulaski county school making and exhibiting the nicest cake. \$2.50 will be awarded the second best cake. On the evening of the same date, beginning at 7:30, will be held a declamatory contest. Two beautiful gold medals and two silver medals will be awarded. Teachers are requested to file the name of their contestants with the Supt. by December 10th. These awards will be made by the Pulaski County Teachers Association. Judges will be selected by teachers directly interested. All teachers are requested to have their schools represented in these contests. Patrons are invited to see the exhibit. Respectfully,
L. J. Gladden [County superintendent of schools. Just prior to Christmas, it was customary for the rural and town schools to offer a program for parents.....]

GASCONADE—Hogs are doing well on the range owing to the large quantities of acorns this year.

December 8

A Good Roads Meeting

A good roads meeting under the auspices of the Federal Government's Bureau of Good Roads and the Congress of Mothers will be held in the opera house in Lebanon tomorrow (Friday) afternoon and evening.

Representative-elect Don O. Vernon has the matter in charge, having been selected by Miss Utica M. Reagan of Ironton, who was here last week and arranged for the meeting.

The speakers expected to be present are: Mrs. DeGarmo, Mrs. Ida B. Cole, one of the editors of the *Woman's National Daily*; Mrs. Ehlers, a St. Louis club woman, and Miss Reagan, of Ironton. Local speakers will also address the meetings and stereopticon views of the progress of good roads making will be given.

The following program has been arranged for the evening meeting:

Speeches—By Mrs. Frank DeGarmo, of St. Louis, and her assistants.

Vocal Solo—Miss Reed.

Ten Minute Talk—Congressman Thomas L. Rubey.

Cornet Solo—F. J. Demuth.

Ten Minute Talk—E. B. Kellerman.

Ten Minute Talk—F. P. Swett.

Song—Male Quartette.

Ten Minute Talk—Mrs. G. W. Stanton.

Stereopticon—Views by Mrs. DeGarmo.

Backed by the government's bureau of good roads, the National Congress of Mothers has launched a novel campaign in Missouri to boost the good roads movement and a series of mass meetings will be held throughout this state.

Everybody is invited to attend the meetings. Ministers, business men, farmers, school teachers and pupils, and especially the ladies.

The leader in the movement to rouse interest in Missouri through the National Congress of Mothers is Mrs. DeGarmo, of St. Louis, chairman of the good roads department of the Mothers' Congress. On account of the deep interest in the work and her valuable services she has been employed by the government and launches the movement in Missouri as the authorized representative of the government's good roads bureau with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The work of the Mothers' Congress in behalf of the cause of good roads first came to the notice of Director Page through the results obtained by the women in the state of Louisiana. There they were instrumental in building a mile of model road, a model home and a model school house. Director Page believes that through cooperation with his department the mothers can be of great benefit all over the country in helping to boost the good roads movement.

—Lebanon Rustic.

December 9

Good Roads Movement

We find the meeting about good roads at Lebanon (column left) interesting for several reasons.

The push for better roads in the early 20th century was not initiated at the national or even the state level. It was a grassroots movement that originated with bicycle riders in the 1880s. The League of Wheelmen, a national cycling group, brought the issue to national attention. Its publication, *Good Roads Magazine*, had a circulation of one million (out of a national population of 75 million.) They distributed more than 5 million pamphlets titled "The Gospel of Good Roads - A Letter to American Farmers," published in 1891.

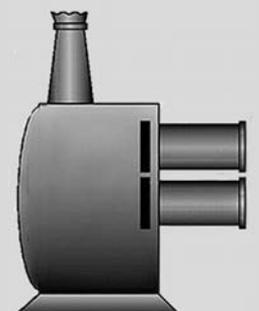
Proponents for good roads attracted many constituencies. Better farm to market roads enlisted the support of farmers. With the advent of Rural Free Delivery, rural citizens and the federal government pushed for better post (mail) roads. Even the railroads got on board, realizing that better roads were good for their business in the short term, although ultimately this was not the case.

There was also the argument that good roads were necessary for rural and village development and the welfare of children. Better roads would enable better school attendance, as well as easier travel for the doctors. Thus, the involvement of the Congress of Mothers.

At the Good Roads meeting in Lebanon, Mrs. Frank (Mary) DeGarmo, a tireless civic activist from St. Louis, linked good roads to children's welfare. Because of her effective work with the Mothers' Congress, Mrs. DeGarmo had been chosen by President Theodore Roosevelt "as the first woman collaborator in the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Roads." The National Congress of Mothers evolved into the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

We find the format for the meeting interesting. Featured speakers, except for Mrs. DeGarmo, gave time-limited speeches of ten minutes. With an awareness of the need for variety, the meeting was punctuated by musical selections, something absent at most meetings today.

There was one feature similar to contemporary meetings. Attending a meeting today, one expects to see information delivered via a slideshow/Powerpoint presentation. The 1910 meeting ended with a slideshow using the original slide projector, the stereopticon or magic lantern. This device projected images on glass slides. The stereopticon had two lenses that allowed two slides to be inserted, projecting one and then dissolving to the other, giving the presentation a "modern" look.



stereopticon



Good Roads in the Future

The good roads movement in the Ozarks was just beginning to gain traction in 1910 (page 20) with its meeting in Lebanon. In 1913, the Ozarks Trails Association was formed by William "Coin" Harvey of near Rogers, Arkansas to promote the building of good roads in the territory from St. Louis to Oklahoma City, with branching south into Arkansas. After a successful meeting in Independence, Kansas the preceding week, road boosters gathered in Lebanon on July 22, 1915 (left). It was the biggest road meeting held in this part of the Ozarks with 750 attendees, and added much momentum to the movement. The 203 delegates from Pulaski County was the largest from any locality, excepting Laclede. Pulaski towns represented were Richland, Dixon, and Crocker, while notably not mentioned was Waynesville. The members from Pulaski joined with members from Maries County to instigate the building of a road from Richland to Dixon to Vienna and on to Owensville and St. Louis. Newburg and Rolla were present to express their support of an improved St. Louis to Springfield road. William D. Johnson of Crocker, representing Pulaski County delivered the "best speech with the bark on it." Johnson stated that Pulaski County wanted to be part of the Ozark Trail but, whether it was part of the Trail or not, Pulaski was going to build the roads. "She has the machinery, the men, the sentiment, and sufficient funds for the purpose, and that County is going have roads."

summarized from the Laclede County Republican, June 25, 1915

Bloodland—The pie supper at the school house Saturday night was well attended. A short program was rendered by the school children. The proceeds amounted to \$32.32, which will be used to get books for the school library.

Local—Wanted, saw mill to cut 200,000 feet of oak, at once. Will measure up and pay cash every Saturday evening. See me one mile north of the McCain Bridge. F. A. Steckel, Richland, Mo.

NOTICE—After January 2nd, 1911, no more wheat or corn will be ground or exchanged. [We do not yet know the story behind the mill closing.]

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DIXON—The big snow brought out the sleighs and sleigh bells this week.

RICHLAND—It has been stated that "truth is stranger than fiction" and such seems to be the case in the story of Miss Mary Pugh, who after a tireless search for two years, found the body of her brother, Jessie Pugh, who was drowned two years ago in the Mississippi river and was buried in the Fisher cemetery five and one-half miles northeast of Richland. The story is brief and is as follows: On May 26th, 1908, two boats were struck by a cyclone on the Mississippi river between Memphis, Tenn., and Helena, Ark., and when the storm broke they were fifty miles apart. There were eight lives lost on the lower boat on which a Carnival Co. was crossing the river. Among those lost was Frank Fisher of Richland. Only one life was lost on the other boat (an excursion steamer) one Jessie Pugh of Memphis, Tenn. Ten days after the storm a body was picked up by two fishermen near Helena, Arkansas. It was taken to Helena and George Fisher of St. Louis, supposing it to be the body of his brother, had it shipped to Richland, where it was interred in the Fisher cemetery. In the meantime Miss Mary Pugh was making every effort to find her brother's body and upon investigation she became certain that it was his body that had been interred here. A ring

which was found on the hand of the deceased she recognized as her brother's; also the fact the body was found a little upstream from where the boat was struck that Frank Fisher was on. This and other facts convinced her that the body was not his and at last her search was rewarded and on Tuesday of last week the body which proved to be her brother was disinterred by request of the Masonic Lodge of Memphis, Tenn., to the Lodge here and the body was taken up under their directions. The teeth was examined by a dentist who had done dental work for Frank Fisher and he stated positively that it was not Frank Fisher. The identity being proved without a doubt the body was turned over to Miss Pugh, who had it shipped to Memphis Friday. Capt. L. E. Patton, who was Captain on the excursion boat, was present at the disinterment.

December 23

Local—Carpenter Lolley has been putting the finishing touches on Christeson's new concrete store building this week.

If the culprits who have been assisting the prisoners to break jail don't look out they will get the punishment they so richly deserve.

The newly elected Prosecuting Attorney, Fred L. Scott, moved his office to the Court house Saturday preparatory to taking charge. He will office with the Sheriff. Also the Probate office room which has been practically closed up since the death of Judge Joe McGregor will soon be occupied by Mr. Carmack.

W. J. Scales and lady, for many years proprietor of the hotel at Big Piney but now of Crocker, were here on business Monday. We acknowledge a pleasant call.

Of all the dirty mean tricks ever heard of in a civilized community the fellow who swiped a five gallon keg of kraut from in front of Harry Mitchell's place and dumped it into Uncle John Clark's well after knocking out the head Sunday night took the cake. A fellow so ornery and full of cussedness as

to do such a stunt is surely entitled to a seat on the highest pedestal at Satan's disposal.

Tried to Break Jail.

The three prisoners confined in the county jail made an unsuccessful attempt to break out while the declamatory contest was in session Saturday night and they probably would have succeeded in making their get-a-way had not Sheriff Baker accidentally been passing through the court yard and caught them in the act. Some one had provided them with an iron bar with which they were laboring energetically in an effort to remove the staple which held the big iron door fast and had nearly succeeded when Mr. Baker showed up and put "Fitch" and Lewis in the cell with "Penny," where they still remain. On the day following Lewis, who was serving out the last day of a ten day sentence for breaking the seal on a Frisco car, was rearrested on a charge of jail breaking and will be held for the March term of Circuit Court. This is the second occurrence of this nature within the last sixty days and proves conclusively that the county needs a better place which to confine its criminals for safe-keeping. The new County

Court should either build a new jail or remodel the old one so that the Sheriff can retire at night with some assurance that he will find his birds in the cage in the morning.

December 30

Local—Elmer Gardner has been employed as night watch at the county jail this week. The prisoners were using every means within their power to break out and it was thought best to procure a night watch.

Considerable pressure is being brought to bear on Judge Woodside for a special session of Circuit Court in order to give the prisoners now confined in the county jail an early hearing on account of their unruly disposition and the condition of the jail.

SCHLICHT—Some men tie up their dogs at night and let their boys and girls run at large.



The Pulaski County Jail at the corner of North and Lynn streets, on the square in Waynesville. This jail was replaced in 1965. Courtesy of Pulaski County Historical Society.

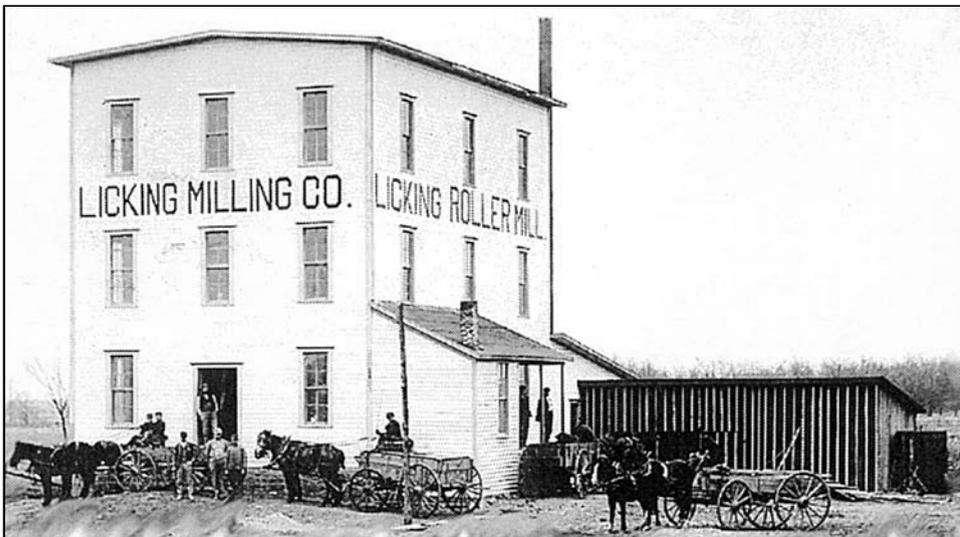
Buildings in the News



B H
A O
K T
E E
R L



Lee Baker built the original frame Baker Hotel (left) in 1910 (February 11, page 8) in Waynesville on the corner of Benton and North streets, opposite the current post office on the square. Deputy Baker became Pulaski County Sheriff when Dotson Sutton declined to run in 1908. He leased or sold his livery business to Haney Brothers and went into the hotel business. According to Emma Page Hicks, in her *Pulaski County Democrat* column "Pulaski Pioneers" (March 2, 1978), the original burned in 1914. It had 16 rooms. Baker built a new three story brick hotel with 26 bedrooms. Lee died in 1931. His wife, May, died in 1942 and Jack, the son, sold the hotel to Ralph and Mattie Atwell in 1942. It burned in the 1970s. Pictured in front of the original hotel are (l-r) Jack Baker, May Baker, Lee Baker, Ada Baker, and two unknown men. Photo on left courtesy of Pulaski County Historical Society. Photo of new hotel (right) courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



Restoration is afoot in Licking. The mill, built in 1882, is being restored by Downtown Licking, Inc. The mill has a new roof and the foundation stonework has been tuckpointed. Thirty-four new windows have been installed. The interior of the mill is in good shape and the equipment will be repaired to make the mill operable as funds become available. The original flour brands were Cream of the Valley and Daisy, last bagged in 1940. Vintage image (left) courtesy of Texas County Art and History Museum. Photo (right) by Terry Primas.



The Pulaski County Courthouse was still relatively new in 1910, having been built in 1903. Improvements were made in 1910, including Brussels carpet in the upstairs courtroom and on the stairs to deaden the noise from the wooden floor and a new concrete floor in the lobby. This photograph was taken in 1924, the earliest we have seen with autos. A new courthouse was built in 1989. The old courthouse is now a museum. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



The Black Hotel, built in the 1850s and the oldest building on the Waynesville square, appears often in the news. It was the site of several weddings, birthday parties, and the place to visit the itinerant dentist. The view above is 1888 when it was the Pulaski House, owned by Alexander (seated with crutches) and Mary Bryan. It became the Black Hotel in 1894 and now is a house museum. Courtesy of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation.

A Family

It is hard to believe today the importance of the railroad in the lives of people one hundred years ago. It is particularly true in Pulaski County. Along the 1869 railroad right-of-way in the northern part of the county rose the booming towns of Dixon, Crocker, Swedeborg, and Richland, plus a couple of other smaller communities.

There were no interstates or super-highways. There were no paved roads in Pulaski County or the surrounding counties. If you were a farmer and had surplus crops or stock to sell, getting it to the nearest railhead was the way to a larger market. Merchants received their merchandise via the railway. Mail came by rail. If you wanted to travel to the big city, St. Louis, you could drive a wagon or buggy but you better have a lot of time and prepare for a very rough trip. The Railroad provided not only a means of shipping and personal travel. For more than a few families, the railroad provided employment.

Possibly the champion Frisco family was that of William Daugherty and his wife. Mr. Daugherty was a section foreman for 44 of the 49 years that he worked for the St. Louis - San Francisco Railway, nicknamed the Frisco. Born in Tennessee, he came to Cuba, Missouri in 1851 and worked on the railroad at Moselle, St. James, Sullivan, and retired at Anaconda, Missouri. He



The Swedeborg Depot, ca. 1910, is in the background and water tower at right. The men on the handcar are unidentified but L. E. Daugherty stands to the left and his father, William, to the right. This was before L. E went to work for the Frisco. All images on this page courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas

and his wife had fourteen children and in 1929, six of his sons were working for the Frisco.

The youngest son, L. E., started working for the railroad in 1920. In 1929, L. E. was appointed agent of the train station at Swedeborg. The Frisco built the depot in 1884. The first

agent was John Maney, followed by C. C. Vickers.

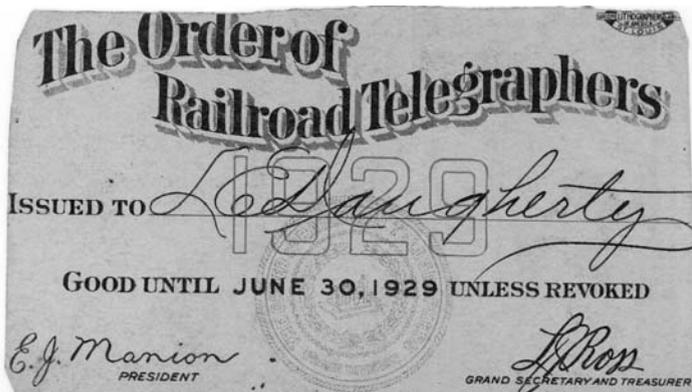
At a small depot like Swedeborg, the agent, operator, and telegrapher often were one person. As agent, he had overall responsibility for the station and a variety of duties. He controlled



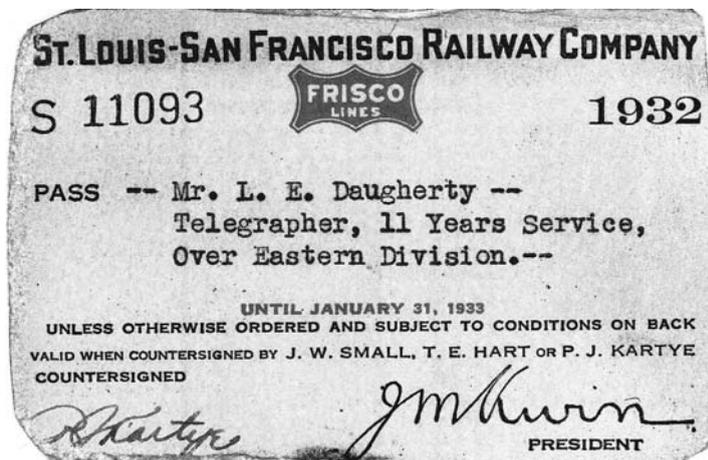
the switches and signals that determined the movement of the trains. This was a complicated activity upon which rail traffic safety depended. The agent sold tickets and submitted detailed monthly reports of all cash transactions. The agent also took care of the freight business, which at our smaller rural depots was probably the biggest job. Additionally, weather conditions were recorded and sent to the division dispatcher or railroad office. And at those smaller stations, he had to keep them clean, too.



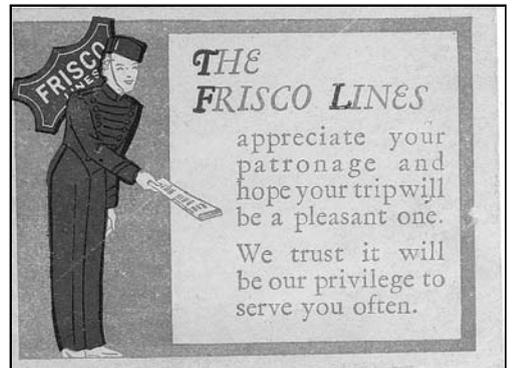
Another view of the Swedeborg depot.



Telegraphy, with a transcription rate of at least 15 words per minute, was a mandatory skill for operators until the 1980s.



This is L. E.'s railroad pass which provided free transportation on Frisco trains with some restrictions.



The Frisco worked hard at public relations and it was necessary. The public often had negative feelings about the railroads because of high freight rates and the absence of competition in markets.



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