

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. Fencing in stock and drinking alcoholic beverages were still controversial issues. Agitation for better roads was gaining momentum.

Overall, 1912 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. TR apparently missed the challenges of the office as he made a run for a third term in this election year.

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.

News of 1912

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. 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 1912 *Pulaski County Democrat*, unless noted otherwise. Ownership of the *Democrat* changed hands.

January 4, 1912

DIXON DOINGS—The Hancock bank has been fully organized and we understand will be ready for business in a few days with a Mr. Alexander as cashier.

A Mr. Bauer of Brinktown has bought the Baker-Davis blacksmith shop near the Ozark livery barn and has moved his blacksmith shop tools from Brinktown. Mr. Dosh Baker and Ed Schneider reopen the old Schneider shop. This makes Dixon five blacksmith shops.

HANCOCK ITEMS—H. W. Kim came in from Bray's mill Saturday where he has been installing a new light plant for Gordon Skaggs.

B. F. Goodman will have his new mill in operation in the near future.

LOCAL ITEMS—It has been announced that dying will cost more in St. Louis this year than before as the hearse and cab drivers have gone on strike for higher wages.

Collector J. S. Zumwalt and Deputy Chief W. D. Gan have been extremely busy the past two months gathering in the shekles for Pulaski County and still keep it up. December was a good month for collections. The amount taken in ranged somewhere about \$18,755.46, about half of this amount was paid by the Frisco railroad com-

pany through its attorney, G. M. Reed, all in one big check.

January 11

BIG PINEY—The weather was 20 degrees below zero Sunday morning. Quite a lot of tea and fruit froze as some of the boys complained of their ears.

The Big Piney Lodge, I. O. O. F. Number 564, has laid a carpet in their hall and has approved two gas lights to beautify their hall otherwise and welcome all visitors.

More weddings soon in Big Piney. Get the bells ready boys for the fun.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—A party of prospectors are mining in Moccasin Bend for gold.

Last Friday while the Hon. W. D. Johnson was returning from Iberia and when he was about halfway home the team became frightened and ran away. From the meager details that we could glean, it seems that Mr. Johnson was caught under the carriage in some manner and dragged a long ways fracturing the bone of one limb, also lacerating the flesh in a dreadful manner. After he had layed in this condition for some time, he was picked up by friends and taken to a farm house six miles from Crocker, when a physician was summoned, who dressed his wounds.

At last report, he was getting along as well as could be expected, but owing to his enormous size, his injuries are considered serious. [See adjacent sidebar.]

LOCAL ITEMS—Bert Phillips was the first victim of the town stock law. It cost him a \$1.50 to let his cow visit the city of Waynesville.

Uncle William Bradford, not wishing to let his city "kin" get ahead of him in the way of improvements, is having installed in his home on the farm an acetylene lighting system. The farmers are the people who town folks will need to doff their hats to in the future. They have all the conveniences of the townspeople and live much more happy contented lives. [Numerous county citizens had acetylene (gas) lighting systems installed.]

C. C. Harrison of Hazel Green neighborhood was down Wednesday tax-paying and transacting other business. He called in and had a friendly chat with the printer and informed us that his wife had sold 1416 dozen eggs last year for which she realized \$191.66. We are willing to wager that Mrs. Harrison received more profit from the hen than Mr. Harrison did off the Missouri mule. The hen, though small, is great.

Snapp Hotel at Excelsior Springs burned Sunday night and 60 guests barely escaped with their lives. Climb-

William Daniel Johnson



W. D. (Dan) Johnson of Crocker was a very popular man in Pulaski County, although his nearly 400 pounds sometimes prompted barbs. Johnson was a preacher, although he did not pastor a specific church. He traveled around the county speaking at small churches and revival meetings. He served as Prosecuting Attorney for six terms (1893-1896, 1901-1902, 1905-1905, 1909-1910, 1923-1924) and secured a conviction for first degree murder against Elias Smith in 1905, resulting in the only hanging in Pulaski County. Dan was elected as State Representative in the 1912 election but served only a few months of his term in 1913 and resigned, apparently to become Postmaster of Crocker, a post he held from 1913 until 1922. He was born in Galatia, Illinois in 1859 and died in Pulaski in 1924, near the end of his sixth term as Prosecutor.



Health spas, such as Schlicht Spring in Pulaski where visitors "took the waters," were very popular. Excelsior Springs, near Kansas City, came into being in the early 1880s as a result of its several "healing" mineral springs. The influx of tourists and health seekers supported several large hotels, such as the Snapp. The original hotel, above, burned in 1912 and a new 150-room spa hotel (below) was constructed by the end of the next year on the same site. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



ing down the ice coated fire escapes in their night clothes with the thermometer ten degrees below zero must have been horrific.



The year 1880 saw development begin at the medicinal spring north of Rolla in Maries County, whose water was compared favorably to the output of the famous Vichy Springs in France, hence Vichy Mineral Springs. The boom was on, from one house to thirty with more planned and a sixteen-room hotel (inset). Development continued through early 1885 when, on June 24, a fire swept through town. Not entirely destroyed by the flames, a tornado and subsequent hail storm all but finished the development. Interest and investment turned to Texas County and an artesian mineral well in Rolla on 9th Street. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good, so the extreme cold weather has furnished an abundant ice crop and J. M. Long so took advantage of it the first of the week and copped to a good lot of congealed coolness to deal out

to our people in the summer. [In addition to his groceries and general goods store on the square where Lone Oak Printing is now located, Long had an ice storage facility so that Waynesville citizens would have ice in the summer, until it ran out. See next page.]



Curative mineral water for drinking and bathing came into vogue in the Ozarks in the 1880s. John R. Blankenship built a hotel near the mineral springs on the Big Piney River a few miles north of Houston in that decade. Among the reported 45 springs were twins, one cold and one hot. After a few years as a mineral water attraction, the resort faded away. The picture above was taken a short distance north of the springs. Courtesy of Texas County Historical Society.



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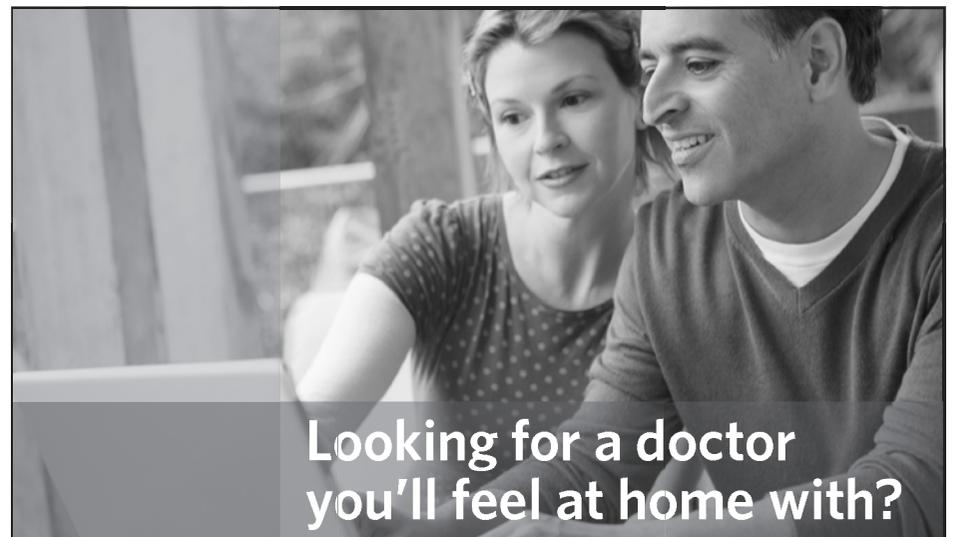


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January 18

BAILEY ITEMS—Joe Haley recently sold 63 year-old mules to a North Missouri man for \$140 each.

NEW BANK AT LECOMA.

Monday, January 1, 1912, a new bank was organized at Lecoma, Phelps County, and will assume the name of Citizens Bank of Lecoma.

The capital stock was fixed at \$10,000. A banking house is to be erected in the near future and a safe will be bought.

With the Missouri, Arkansas & Gulf Railroad being built into Lecoma, the citizens of that neighborhood realized that Lecoma will have a great future before it. *[Banks continue to be organized in the area but the Missouri, Arkansas & Gulf Railroad (Ozark Short Line) never got rolling.]*

SWEDEBORG SHOTS—Swedeborg has experienced the coldest weather in several years during the past week, the thermometer registered 31 below zero on Saturday, January 13. *[This has been the coldest winter in many years for Old Pulaski.]*

HANCOCK ITEMS—Number 1 fast mail train West happened to have quite an accident Saturday by getting the mail sack under the cars and strewing mail from Hancock to Purdon.

LOCAL ITEMS—We had another dose of zero degree weather last week, the thermometers around town registered all the way from 22 to 36 below Saturday morning. A thermometer, belonging to William Logan that had recently been tested in St. Louis, registered 30 below. We did not have to refer to the thermometer to know it was cold. This is the coldest weather known by our citizens for 18 years.

The report of State Registrar Frank B. Hiller for November shows that there were 17 deaths from various causes in Pulaski County during the month. One from typhoid fever, 3 from diphtheria and croup, 2 from heart disease, one from infantile trouble, one from Bright's disease and 7 from other causes. During the same time there were 32 births recorded.

If the old adage holds good that the first 12 days of January rules the 12 months of the year we will have ice in our own rain barrel for the Fourth of July.

Fred L. Scott has been speculating in livestock lately. He bought a horse for \$.25 and sold it the same day for \$1. Fred will soon get rich on this kind of deals.

January 25

BELLS CREEK CHIMES—Christopher Stewart had the misfortune to lose two good horses from blind staggers caused from eating faulty corn. This is tough luck on C. W. as they were all the

horses he had.

Considerable sickness in these parts, mostly grip. *["Grip" refers to lagrippe or influenza, i.e. the flu.]*

MOSSY SPRING MOTTOES—Quite a crowd was at the Crane eddy skating Sunday. A nice time was had and dinner was nearby in a cave, one small rabbit satisfied one and all. *[Mossy Spring not often heard from.]*

GASCONADE GRABS—R. N. Brownfield passed through with a large drove of hogs Thursday enroute to the Richland stockyards.

LOCAL ITEMS—The pool room has changed hands, Mr. Light retiring and a Mr. Withers taking charge.

The ice is a very good thickness and good quality and clean coming from off the Crismon pond.

That tired feeling, of which some women complain, is said to be caused by wearing high heeled shoes.

February 1

BELL'S CREEK CHIMES—Ernest Wilkerson and the Robertson boys put up a nice lot of ice during the recent cold spell.

MOSSY SPRING MOTTOES—J. O. Collier made a business trip to Dixon Saturday and tried crossing the new bridge at Riddle Ford. He says it is worth the change.

Since W. C. Long has been the overseer of the approach to Riddle Bridge, he has been seen on the streets of Dixon smoking cigars.

BAILEY ITEMS—J. W. Davis recently pre-



Riddle Bridge, 1912, was built upon petition by local residents and was the seventh county bridge. It crossed the Gasconade at Riddle Ford, named for the Riddle family on the east side of the river. The county road on the east side was built on a rock ledge above the river. The bridge approach on the west side was in the low lying floodplain and required considerable buildup and a long wooden approach (see lower right inset.) This view is looking to the southwest. These pictures were taken just prior to demolition. Library of Congress.



Crismon pond (adjacent news item) may have presented such a scene in 1912 as the ice harvest above. Prior to ice produced by refrigeration, citizens cut blocks of ice from ponds when they became frozen to a sufficient depth with long-handled ice saws. The blocks, picked up with large tongs, were then hauled by wagon to an ice house for storage. The ice house sometimes was dug into a hillside or set into the ground. The ice was covered with sawdust and/or straw for insulation against the heat and was available through the summer months. The large blocks were cut into smaller ones to fit in the residential ice boxes. Seems likely that there might have been an occasional pond plant or a bit of sawdust in the ice. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

sented his wife with a \$40 Edison phonograph. *[Edison patented his cylinder-playing phonograph in 1878 and made steady improvements in its fidelity, but by 1912 it had stiff competition from the less expensive disc-playing machines (records) produced by the Victor Talking Machine Company and others. Edison began producing a disc-playing machine in 1912. It*

is not clear what J. W. Davis purchased but most likely a cylinder machine as pictured below but with a nice cabinet, considering the price.]



SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—The ice on the river has broken up but is piled six feet high on the bank in places.

LOCAL ITEMS—Cement 40 cents per sack, net—for a short time only—Waynesville lumber yards.

Mitchell and Christeson are paying fancy prices for all kinds of produce.

J. B. Christeson wants your poultry and eggs. You get a square deal there.

Some people never handed in an item of news for publication, but if we happen to miss an item in which they are interested they are sure to hand us a North Pole stare that would freeze the liver of a polar bear.

The man who gets mad at what the newspaper says about him should return thanks three times a day for what the newspapers knew about him and suppressed.

Nancy A. Williams, widow of Sheriff W. G. Williams, of Laclede County was

appointed sheriff by the Laclede County court and commissioned by Gov. Hadley, to serve out the the unexpired term of her husband. Mrs. Williams is to be Missouri's first woman Sheriff.

February 8

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Rev. McCord of St. Louis was here looking over railroad property with the intention of bringing the Chautauqua of St. Louis out to Schlicht of magnesia water fame.

MOSSY SPRING MOTTOES—"Um" George has bought several ties lately in the hollow. Everybody is taking advantage of the good weather and hewed themselves out some tobacco money. [*Country folks hewed railroad ties to acquire cash money for necessities (tobacco?) and later in the year for the one thing you couldn't barter for—taxes.*]

GASCONADE GRABS—Frank Manes, having finished his school at Shady Grove, has been called to complete the term at Dublin and master the unruly ones there. This makes the him the third teacher for that district this term.

HANCOCK—Judge Claiborne shipped a carload of mules to the city last week.

More hot air.

A movement is on foot and is growing in favor with the people of Pulaski County and especially the people of the

south part of the County to build a turnpike road from Waynesville to Crocker and put on an automobile between this place and Crocker to do passenger traffic. There are two very plausible plans on foot for the venture. One is that the road be built by a stock company and the other is that the county build it. The first plan seems to us the most feasible as it certainly would be a paying investment to the stock holders and a blessing to the people in this part of thy moral heritage. Let it be soon.

Notice of local option election

Notice of a special election to be held under the provisions of Article 3, of chapter 63, of the revised statutes of Missouri, 1909, commonly known as the Local Option Election, to determine whether our towns will serve intoxicating liquors, including wine and beer, and shall be sold within the limits of Pulaski County, in the State of Missouri.

LOCAL ITEMS—Monday was pension day and a number of the old veterans were in to sign up.

The sun was on duty for the full ten hours last Friday and after that Mr. Groundhog had a moonlight night so if the old adage stands for anything we are to have 60 days more winter. How's your woodpile?

We this week give space to an article written by one of our citizens on the "good roads" proposition. The condition of our road is the worst drawback the Ozark country has to contend with. Look all around you and the scenery is beautiful but the roads over which we have to travel sinks every ambition within your soul. The change in the road law will help some and the time is not far distant when we will have a change of affairs.

When Johnny, a city chap, returned from a visit down on the green fields and real trees, he disclosed to his mother this wonderful news: "Out at the farm they don't get milk out of a can, they pump it out of a cow."

February 15

LOCAL ITEMS—The Barber Shop has installed a new lighting system. It is a hollow wire, gasoline light, and it is a dandy.

Some of the boys who are musically inclined met at Albert Christeson's hardware store Monday night for the purpose of organizing and practice a little on the horns. Why can't Waynesville have an orchestra or something of the sort to wake up the sleeping neighbors once in a while?

Below will be found the number of deaths from Pulaski County as filed

with the state Bureau of Vital Statistics for the month of December: diphtheria, one; tuberculosis, one; cancer, one; heart diseases, one; pneumonia, 3; Brights disease, one; other causes, 5. Births for the month 33. Population of Pulaski County 11,438.

February 22

DIXON DOINGS—Widman and White, Dixon's hustling hardware men, have kept teams busy this week hauling goods to their new store in Hancock.

The school gave a Poverty Social the night of the 14th in the Odd Fellows Hall. Everyone was supposed to dress comical and the most comical lady and gentleman were to receive a prize. Mr. Needles and Miss Kate Bush were the lucky ones. Mr. Needles got a red bandanna and Miss Bush got a piece of calico. Refreshments consisting of cornbread, baked beans, onions, gingerbread and sassafras tea were served. BELL CREEK CHIMES—John Wilkerson says if he can't share some of the honor of putting up the ice—well he won't help next time.

New Livery Barn.

I have opened a livery and feed stables in the old Vaught barn also I have put in new Fairbanks scales at the barn and am ready to serve the public. Also have good lots back of the barn where stock



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men can leave stock any time. Yours to serve, John W. Shepherd, Waynesville, Mo.

Whiskey men are using their old tactics and the only argument they have. They all say that they are opposed to the traffic but that the laws are not enforced. Do not be led by such bosh. For to deceive you is their only hope. Preachers, teachers and temperance people get busy and keep busy; beard the lion in his den and the Lord will give us victory.

HANCOCK ITEMS—Hancock is going to have a newspaper of its own now, Mr. Jones, editor. Harrison Davis, John Singleton and Curt Null moved Mr. Jones' printing press from Iberia Monday to this place.

Andrew Carnegie says that \$10,000 a year men are scarce. So are the \$10,000 a year jobs.

LOCAL ITEMS—Wanted, by March 1, man and wife, wife to do cooking and clubhouse, man to tend the corn crop and hauling. Apply to Charles Schlicht, Schlicht, Mo.

Some of Crocker's enterprising people have organized a stock company to be known as the Crocker Mercantile & Supply Company and is incorporated for \$10,000. The company intends to do a general mercantile and furniture business.

One of the fiercest snowstorms visited this section of the country Tuesday ever known by our older citizens. The snow began Tuesday morning and continued until Wednesday evening and is called a 24 inch snow but is drifted in places to a depth of 8 and 10 feet deep, blockading traffic completely yesterday and today. Waynesville has been cut off from the outside world for a day or two, no mail from the railroad yesterday, consequently no news from the Democratic convention which is snowed under at Joplin.

The Marshal issued orders Wednesday for every property owner to have their sidewalks cleaned at once. Snow shovelers were in demand for a day or two.

The city Council met in regular session Monday night and fixed the license tax for conducting slot machines in Rolla at \$600.—Rolla Herald.

February 29

A Novel Wedding.

On last Friday morning invitations were issued announcing a "stunt party" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam T. Rollins. About 60 guests responded to the invitations and all went merry as a marriage bell. Numerous games had been arranged for the entertainment of the evening of which the

visitors heartedly joined in, lastly each visitor had to pull off a "stunt" and at the ten o'clock hour the stunt party reached a climax by Claude H. Burdard and Miss Mabel Tice coming forward and having a marriage ceremony performed by Rev. Sitton, Baptist evangelist. The marriage was a surprise to everyone except the Rollins household and the contracting parties.

A building near Frazierville, a mile this side of Dixon, was dynamited by unknown parties Sunday night. The building is owned by W. C. Brittain. He had purchased it only two days before from an old lady named Otto, who occupied it with two young women of loose character, and, it is claimed, liquor was dispensed therein.—Vienna Gazette.



Don't know if this is the one but it was a building in Frazierville. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

I shot an arrow into the air; it fell in the distance, I knew not where 'till a gentleman said it killed his calf, and I had to give him six and a half. I bought some poison to slay some rats and a lady swore it killed her cats and rather than argue across the fence, I paid her four dollars and fifty cents. One night I set sailing a toy balloon and hoped it would soar 'till it reached the moon but the candle fell out on a farmer's straw and he said I must settle or go to law. That is the way with a random shot it never drops in the proper spot, and the joke you spring, that you think so smart, may leave the wound in some fellow's heart.

Massachusetts leads the nation—in insanity. A record is a record, no matter how it is attained.

March 7

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Reagan Roam is running a ferry as the Gasconade is on the boom.

A car left the track next to the station loaded with Hayner Whiskey but had the nerve to run on the railroad ties to Swedeborg and side track 15 more cars. Probably Swedeborg needed the shipment.

BAILEY ITEMS—Word has reached here that corn sold as high as \$1.18 per bushel at the Stockton sale last week.

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Every man in this school district will vote to retain the present Local Option law in our County and we believe that Roubidoux Township will be nearly unanimous for its return.

Editor Democrat, I wish to say in behalf of those living inland from the railroad that we are extremely anxious to have Pulaski County go dry at the coming election. Before it was voted dry four years ago we couldn't have a gathering of any kind without being more or less disturbed by men or boys who were under the influence of liquor. During the last four years we have had an orderly, peaceable neighborhood. We think this is reason enough if there were no other reasons for us to desire to keep our present "dry" law on the statute books. As we sow must we expect to reap. If we sow licensed saloons over our county we must expect to reap drunkards. We ask every father as he goes to the polls to ask himself if he can afford to vote for that kind of a harvest. *[Only fathers could go to the polls as mothers (i.e. women) could not yet vote.]*

Citizen.

SWEDEBORG SHOTS—Quite a wreck occurred at the east end of the switch Thursday, 12 cars being thrown off and the side track completely demolished. Both Springfield and Newburg wreckers came in to clean up the track. Fortunately no one was hurt.

LOCAL ITEMS—While playing around the *Democrat* office Saturday, Dotty Williams had the misfortune to get his hand entangled in the press, cutting off one of his fingers. The mysteries of the print shop are costly experiences to fathom.

W. J. Scales was over from Crocker Monday and had the address of his paper changed from Crocker to East St. Louis. *[W. J. Scales figured prominently in the establishment of the village of Big Piney in the late 1890s, owning a store and building the sixteen room hotel, which is still standing and restored. Scales abruptly sold out and left Big Piney for Crocker in 1909. For a more complete account of the founding of Big Piney and Scales' efforts, see the 2010 Gazette online.]*

Rabbit hunting is the order of the day in Waynesville. One day last week Bill Rayl brought in 16 bunnies and Ed Haney captured 18 of them.

March 14

Facts and Figures

by George M. Reed

I have been asked to contribute something on the question of local option, soon to be voted on again by the qualified voters of Pulaski County. It is hardly necessary for me to indicate how I stand individually on the question. My position has always been in favor of every step tending toward the



This 1909 postcard illustrates the old saying that the best way to catch a rabbit is to put salt on its tail. They raised big bunnies in Dixon. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

suppression of, or regulation of, the liquor traffic. I am not radical on this subject. But my observation of human nature leads me to believe that more men can be persuaded than can be driven; that calm reasoning is more effective than abuse.

We have now had a little more than four years without legal or authorized sale of intoxicating liquors in the county. The law will remain as it is unless a majority of the qualified voters of the county vote to change. An opportunity is to be given on the 15th day of March. How am I going to vote? Every voter should ask himself this question, now. He should answer it now; now, at home, around your fireside, surrounded by your wife, sons and daughters, is the place to decide this question, to determine on the vote you will cast.

No argument is necessary as to the right or wrong of the liquor traffic. That it is wrong, morally, that it is an

evil, goes without argument. Men who indulge in its use to excess, if honest with themselves, must admit that it is wrong. They would not want their wife to visit the saloon and indulge in excessive drink. They have no desire for their boys to become drunkards or for their girls to marry drunkards. If this be true, then why should you vote to place temptation in their way? Is it to furnish some man a business? To legalize a wrong? To enable some who want to sell you, at a profit of 100 to 400 per cent, something that is neither meat nor drink? A slow poison, a destroyer of health, or character, or willpower, of home, of happiness. You are under no obligation to anyone to help him to an opportunity to do this kind of business.

Have we not been better off as a county during the last four years without the legalized sale of liquor than at any time when it could be sold legally? Our revenue has increased. We have built more bridges than during any



These hunters (ca. 1912) from the Edgar Springs neighborhood didn't bother to get close enough to the rabbits to put salt on their tails. They are, left to right, Corrie Ingram, Tom Ingram, John Ingram, Edd Renaud, neighbor boy, Walter Renaud, Wess Ingram, and Edd Ingram. Edd Ingram was a photographer and probably set up the shot. For more about Edd Ingram and his photography, see the 2009 *Gazette* online. There is also a collection of images taken by Edd between 1907 and 1917 on the web site. Photo courtesy of the Kohenskey family.

other time. Our criminal costs have been less. Less crime has been committed. And I know of men, and so do you, who during this period, when temptation has not been placed within their reach, by you and me, who have been sober, industrious men; have made and saved more money and have provided more comforts and necessities for their families.

Let us keep this condition as it is. Let us keep the temptation as far out of the reach of our boys as possible. If you do this until they are men of fixed habits, they will never become drunkards. The moral element of this county is in the majority. All we have to do, and it is an individual duty of every friend of local option, is to go to the polls and vote. Bury this question deep in time. Convince those who would gladly bring this evil among us, that you are in earnest about keeping it out so that they will not have the hardihood to bring the county to the unnecessary expense of another election four years from now.

Remarkable Surgery.

Oliver Burton, son of Sterling Burton of Rolla, who has been blind for some time, due to disease of some internal structure of the eyeball, concluded to make one more struggle for sight and has had his eye split open and all diseased parts removed. The result is wonderful. He can now see, and will be able to make a crop. The operation was made by Dr. John L. Short, who has become distinguished on account of the many successful operations he has made at home. Burton's case will be watched by our citizens with much interest because it is one of the most delicate and risky operations on record, and was done entirely without pain. —*Rolla Times*.

LOCAL ITEMS—Frank Long killed a snake 18 inches long last week while the snow was on. Frank says it was a real snake and wasn't in boots. Remember that Friday, March 21 is Dr. Short's date for opening his eye, nose and throat dispensary in Waynesville. All his medical treatment will be free that day.

Miss Amanda Black has been indisposed the past week suffering from hemorrhage of the lungs. *[Amanda, spinster daughter of Eliza Black, ran the Black Hotel (the Old Stagecoach Stop today) with her mother. She also was afflicted with a facial disfigurement, possibly cleft palate.]*

Several Waynesville lights are enjoying (?) a case of pink eye at present.

Ed Haney purchased a lot of hay from Dr. Tice this week paying the neat price of \$18 per ton. This is about double the usual price of hay in the Ozarks.

[Haney had purchased the Waynesville Livery from Sheriff Lee Baker at the end of 1910.]

The cost of holding the local option election will be nearly \$1000 to Pulaski County. Let the voters bury the issue so deep so that it will never be resurrected again.

March 21

Pulaski Remains Dry.

The voters assembled at the various precincts Friday for the purpose of again voting on the local option question. A good vote was polled and considerable enthusiasm manifested by the "drys" which seem to be about all of it. The vote stood about four to one in favor of local option. The "wets" so overwhelmingly defeated that they will probably never try it again in Pulaski County. The people have said by their votes that local option is good enough.

A Communication.

Dear Editor: There is a great deal of talk going on about building a road from Crocker to Waynesville. I am not in favor of the county court to build this piece of road because by doing that it will cause some sectional strife in the other parts of the county that would not get any benefit from Crocker and Waynesville Road. Now as I understand and according to the best information I can get it will cost about \$1000

per mile to build roads in Pulaski County as all the material for road work and road building is right along the roadway. Pulaski County is about 21 miles across one way and about 28 miles across the other way or in other words that would make 49 miles and allow 6 miles for various angles making a total of 55 miles which would cost \$55,000 to grade and gravel as roads across the county each way.

We realize that some people are opposed to a bond issue and would vote against any thing in the shape of bonds whether good or bad. My plan would be for the County Court to put the question up to the voters at the next election to bond the county for \$60,000 of 4½ per cent bonds payable in 40 years. We are now paying a tax of 25 cents on the \$100 valuation for road purposes. It would take one third or 8½ cents of the 25 cents for the purpose of paying interest and taking up the bonds at maturity and in two years from date Pulaski County would have a cross county highway that the people of Pulaski County and the state of Missouri would be proud to travel and then all the other roads could be feeders to the main roads and they could be worked to a better advantage and in a short time you would have good roads all over the county and without any

more expense than we have now. This would pay to the people of Pulaski County a big dividend in the wear and tear on wagons, horses and harness [notice no mention of autos], besides raising the price of property, make it possible to go to market any time and 90 per cent of the money spent would be distributed to the people all over the county, whereby putting that much more money in circulation in Pulaski County but if we wait till the money is gathered by the 25 cent tax levy to build roads a great number of us will

have passed away and little of the benefit received for the tax we pay while we live.

Yours Respectfully,
Wm. H. Bird

LOCAL ITEMS—Phil Becker of St. Louis spent several days here this week in the interest of the Great Western Life Insurance Company of Kansas City.

Everett Nichols is the proud possessor of a brand new buggy purchased at Albert Christeson's Hardware.

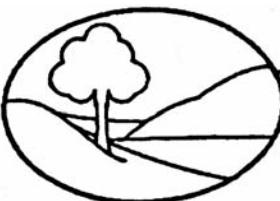
Dr. J. L. Short, the eye, ear, and throat



Men working on the construction of a road that became Highway 17 between Waynesville and Crocker. The gentleman in the middle of the picture, facing the camera, is the grandfather of Violet Cowan of Crocker. Courtesy of Violet Cowan.

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specialist, accompanied by his wife and little son, came over from Rolla Friday and have been stopping at the Baker Hotel the past week. He did considerable work in his line while here and has about decided to make regular trips to Waynesville after this.

The *Democrat* speaks to 5000 people every week and we have tried to be conservative along all lines and not "slop over" on any one and from the way our subscription list is climbing up we feel that we are pleasing our patrons. Just anybody can tell you how to run a newspaper.

Dr. C. A. Talbot arrived in Waynesville and has decided permanently to remain for the practice of his profession.

DIXON DOINGS—B. F. Imboden and wife took charge of the Frisco Hotel last Friday.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Quite a little disturbance near here. The neighbors could not agree and a free for all fight settled in.

March 28

Samp Tucker accidentally shot a Jersey cow belonging to Rev. Cox Saturday with a .22 rifle. Samp is some marksman especially when he shoots at a cow.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—A social at Col. Bensick's, the Eagles Nest, was a grand affair. Col. Jack Heberer's string band furnished the music and all enjoyed themselves until 5 a. m. And all were happy.

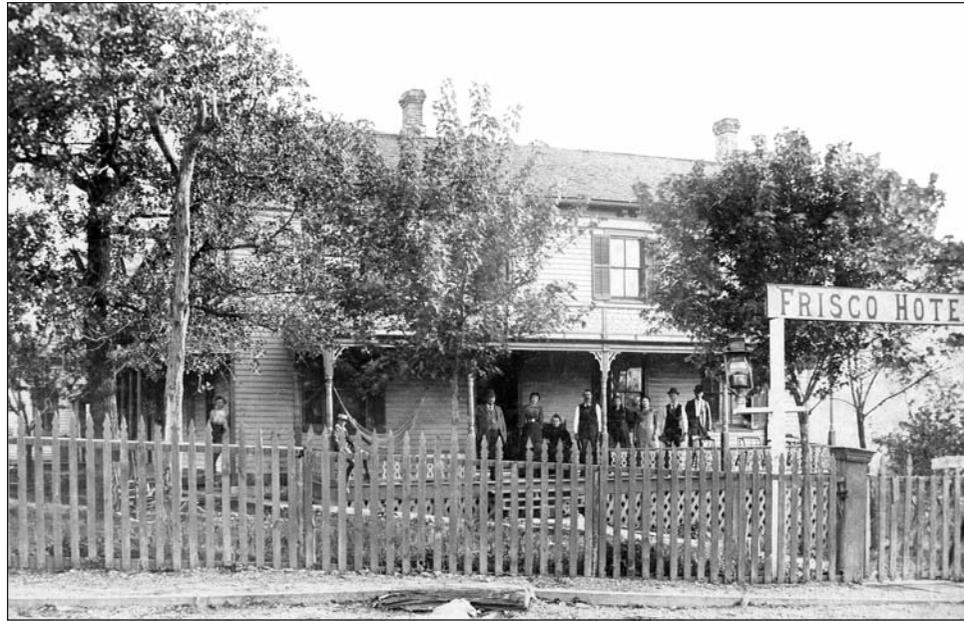
GASCONADE GRABS—Leander Cotton came near losing his team while hauling water from the Alexander Ford one day last week, getting into a bed of quick sand. He extricated his team, however leaving his wagon behind, and barely escaped with life to himself and team.

Charlie Berry, who has been serving as the accommodating porter at the Black Hotel the past week, returned to his home near Hannah where he will settle down to quiet farm life again.

The *Hancock Ozark Commoner* published at Hancock comes to our desk this week. Mr. Jones is getting out a good newspaper and Hancock people should show him their best wishes by giving their support.

The *Democrat* is constantly making improvements. Now our job presses are operated by power and you can get a job work done with neatness and dispatch. Tony, the foreman, was the engineer of the scheme.

Robert Homan has purchased a half interest in the Haney Livery Barn and will move over and take charge of this in the mail room. That change meets the approval of every businessman in Waynesville. "Bobby" is the best man



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. Part of the structure is still on the site next to the railroad tracks. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

we have ever had to look after the freight business.

Ed Haney while in route from Crocker, Monday, with a four horse wagonload of goods overturned his wagon in a big mud hole near Mr. Brownfields. Ed said it was loaded strictly with "dry" goods. The road between here and Crocker is almost impassable, also they have had to travel the Bluff Road and over Pikes Peak for the past three weeks.

April 4

BLOODLAND BULLETS—We have two photographers in Bloodland in the southern suburbs, Mr. Towel and Mr. LeFever.

LOCAL ITEMS—The city election passed off quietly Tuesday, not much rivalry as to who should receive the "high hon-

ors" of being members of the new board. The election resulted as follows: Aldermen, J. B. Christeson, C. R. Gan, Joe Long, S. T. Rollins and George M. Reed. Ed Haney received the nomination for Marshal. The bond proposition was defeated by a good big majority. The new board is a strong one and is composed of a set of men who believe in public enterprise and have a good deal of town pride. We are expecting great things under their administration. Visitors who come to the county seat will be surprised to find all the obstructions moved off Commercial Street and other much needed improvements made at an early date.

April 11

Easter Sunday was a delightful day and was well spent by Waynesvilleites,

after being hampered indoors all winter they were like birds out of a cage. Nearly every citizen was out roaming about the hills and nooks.

A bunch of the "grown ups" took dinner and enjoyed it at a spring near the Bailey place while another like crowd went to another favorite resort and had a little jocolation of their own. Mrs. J. M. Long accompanied a bunch of children to the big spring [*Roubidioux Spring in Waynesville*] where a roast was indulged in. And so it was that each one had their own little party and the social good time.

DIXON DOING—A good time was enjoyed by all at the Easter egg roast, there being 52 present to do justice to the dozens and dozens of eggs. All met at the house of Mrs. A. H. Russell in North Dixon and while the children were playing ball and jumping the rope, eggs were hidden among the leaves, rocks and trees by Mr. Youngblood and Mary Russell. A prize was offered to the one who found the most eggs and the one finding the one with the number 10 on it got ten cents. There were some stirring around until the eggs were all gathered up and when gathered together were about 18 dozen. Dinner was soon prepared by Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Sleeth which consisted of eggs, eggs, eggs.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Joel Lane moved in his new home, the Cave Hotel. He will keep some boarders. It is a fine place with twelve rooms.

Thomas Peterson, Crocker's soda water manufacturer, was a caller Sunday with a sample of his fine soda pop. It is surely good with Shawhan [*whiskey*] and Rye.

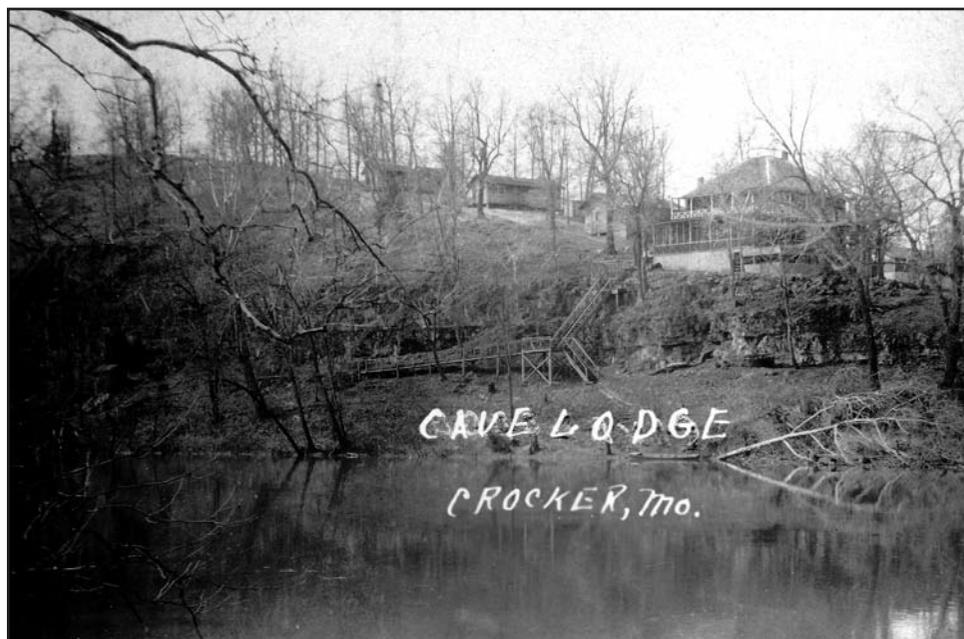
HANCOCK ITEMS—The *Hancock Ozark Commoner* has over 100 subscribers today. What do you call that but growing some?

COLLEY HOLLOW ITEMS—[*This is a new correspondent from whom we have not heard before.*]

We are going to organize Sunday school April 7 at the Deer Lick school. Everyone is invited. The people of these parts are trying to keep up with modern times by having a mail route down Colley Hollow also a new post office at Mr. A. I. Taylor's called Curtis. [A post office was indeed established at Taylor's and named Curtis, recorded on December 23, 1911. It was discontinued to Waynesville in 1918.]

LOCAL ITEMS—Anna G. Maze was over from the Becker clubhouse Saturday to get seed potatoes. She is making great preparations to take care of a good big crowd of boarders this summer.

Lost, one fountain pen somewhere in Waynesville. Finder leave same at the Democrat office and receive suitable re-



This postcard image shows the main lodge and associated cabins at Cave Lodge about 1912, referred to by locals as Hotel deCave. An elaborate wooden staircase led from the buildings to the Gasconade landing and extended (left) to the resort's namesake cavern. In 1927, proprietor Harry V. English advertised accommodations for fifty guests and touted one hundred and fifty feet of screened-in porches, indoor toilets and baths, and electric lights. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

ward.

Saturday was a banner day for our merchants. Burchard bought 270 dozen eggs and the whole number purchased by our merchants was 1000 dozen for which they paid \$.16 per dozen making the amount paid out for one day \$160. Besides the egg business, our merchants had a good trade along other lines.

O. O. Ragsdale of the *Democrat*, who has been taking treatment in St. Louis, is expected home at an early date. His many friends will be pleased to know that he has about regained his former good health.

April 18

Buys Richland Mirror.

Chester A. Haney has purchased the *Richland Mirror* and assumed control this week as editor and publisher of same. Mr. Valandigham, the retiring publisher, left for his home at Deming, New Mexico, the first of the week. He was just getting the *Mirror* again on its feet after the many ups and downs and mistakes made by former publishers when he became homesick and could not shake off that lonesomeness hence the change. Richland is a good town, made up of splendid wide awake citizens and hustling businessmen who will rally to the support of a good newspaper. The *Democrat* wishes the new management all kinds of success. SWEDEBORG SHOTS—E. R. Baumgartner, our genial hotel man and barber, has the agency for laundry work in connection with his other business.

BLOODLAND ITEMS—The whittling club met Saturday in regular session with president P. T. Bailey in the chair.

Under Mr. Bailey's able management we predict great success for this club.

LOCAL ITEMS—That jolly Dutchman, Charles Schlicht, was over from Schlicht Monday on business. Charles is proprietor of Forest Lodge, one of the great pleasure resorts of the Ozarks.

Below will be found the number of deaths and births from Pulaski County, as filed with the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, for the month of March: influenza 3, tuberculosis of lungs 6, diabetes 3, pneumonia 3, Bright's Disease 3, the puerperal state [childbirth] 3, other causes 9. Number of births during the month 32.

Burchard's bought two hams from Robert Wilson Wednesday which weighed 80 pounds for which they paid \$.14 per pound. Mr. Wilson received \$11.30. Some big hams.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Jacob Heberer, our champion fisherman and all around good fellow, has a job baiting fish hooks for St. Louis ladies.

April 25

The Ozarks as a Reservoir of Power.

The Ozark wilderness has been accounted by Missouri and Arkansas as rather a liability than an asset. It has made railway building difficult, deterred settlers and retarded civilization.

That vast and broken region is just beginning to come into its own. It has been waiting for the fifteenth hour to really feel its possibilities.

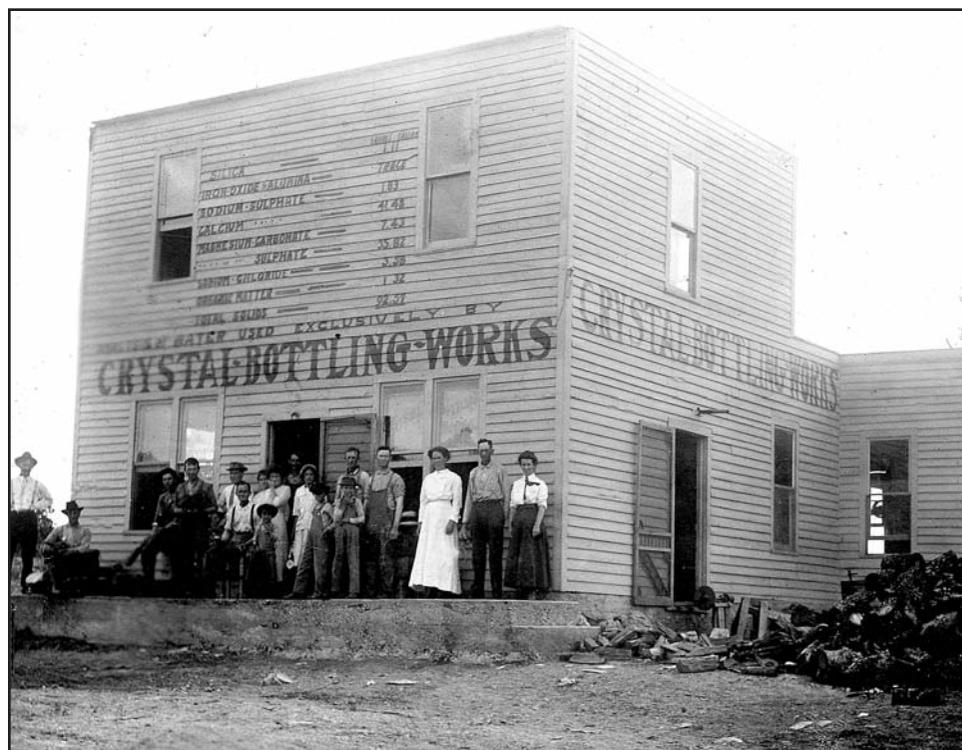
Someday the coal deposits of this nation will be exhausted, but the power of the streams will last while the sun shines and water runs downhill. The Ozarks have a rugged topography and a plentiful rainfall. They live in every direction on agricultural plains of great fertility. The Ozark country, extending to the very doors of St. Louis, is the future manufacturing region of the great Southwest.

Contracts have just been let for the construction, at a cost of \$1,500,000.00, of a hydroelectric plant on White River, to furnish 15,000 horsepower. A transmission line 123 miles long will convey current to Joplin and Springfield. The edge of the power resources of this region has not yet been touched. It is like Switzerland in water power possibilities.

An income tax is proposed by the Democrats in Congress. The bill that soon will be introduced proposes to tax every person who has an income of \$5000 a year and up. That won't affect any newspaper man in this section.

We have talked good roads, let us now start building them. Let Missouri be the first state in this movement in the Central West.

BLOODLAND BULLETS—Owing to a great display of heroism and forethought, a serious accident was partly averted. On



Schlicht Springs was not the only local business dispensing mineral water. Frank Copp invested heavily in Crocker businesses including the silent movie theatre and the Electric, Ice and Bottling Company. Crystal brand magnesia water contained three grams per gallon of solids; results of laboratory analysis were painted on the front of the building. The bottling plant shown here burned in the 1920s. We conjecture the plant may also have been used by Tom Peterson to bottle his soda pop. Photo courtesy of Brett Kinsley.

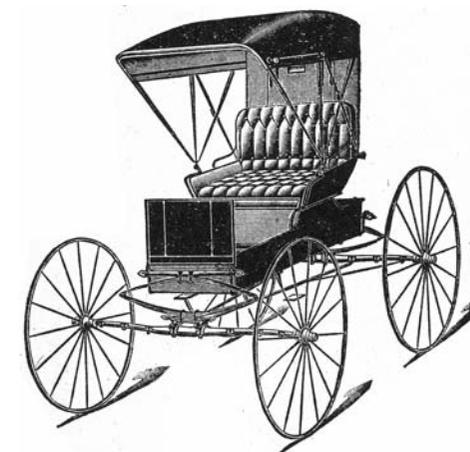
last Monday morning W. R. Wingo and F. B. Brown, prominent business men of this place started to Waynesville in a buggy, pulling the buggy with a three year old mule that had been well wintered. On rounding a turn in the road, the mule having no blinds on the bridle, discovered the occupants in the buggy and at once decided that the pace was too slow. Mr. Brown being prejudiced against fast riding decided to make his escape regardless of consequences which resulted in his head coming in contact with the corner post of Joe Yates's fence. When Mr. Brown was found by friends in the afternoon he had just completed his plans for a railroad to the moon. Mr. Wingo de-

cidated it was not safe to continue the trip alone in the buggy, owing to the roughness of the road and decided to ride the mule. On attempting to mount the mule his legs came in contact with small trees near the road which resulted in Mr. Wingo being left wounded and bleeding on the wayside. Friends hastened to the scene and found Mr. Wingo quoting from Shakespeare. "A horse a horse, my kingdom for a horse." At this writing both men are improving slowly and will be able to be out driving again in a few days. There is a reward offered for the mule dead or alive.

South Bloodland can boast of its whittling society while the north part is exalted over their checker society. The scribe has never had experience in either but it seems that an omission of both would ensure a larger corn crop



Wagon and buggy were still the common modes of transportation for the citizens in 1912. Buggy sales were strong and there were frequent accounts of runaway teams and other buggy mishaps. This trio is riding in a Concord style, typical buggy. Photograph taken by Edd Ingram of Edgar Springs, ca. 1912. Courtesy of the Kohenskey family.



This Sears model was advertised for \$43.95. Another model, the runabout, lacked a top and was a little cheaper.

and other necessities.

LOCAL ITEMS—Tom Peterson's express delivered a load of fine soda pop to our merchants here.

May 2

LOCAL ITEMS—Much damage to farms. The recent rains of the past week have caused considerable loss to Gasconade and Roubidoux farmers. After a steady downpour of rain water about three days and nights, the Roubidoux and Gasconade got on a "high" covering all the low bottoms.

We had not experienced so great a flood for about ten years and the farmers were making great headway at farming this season, much of the land had been plowed for corn and where a current ran over the land much damage was done to farms, also a great deal of fencing was carried away and ties and other stuff along the banks of the streams were lost.

All day Sunday and up to Monday morning Roubidoux continue to raise, until Monday morning when it was pronounced by our citizens to be the highest for many years. The Gasconade continues to be up and is at a stage where it can barely be crossed at the mouth of the Turpin Lane with safety. The mail has been carried around the ridge road all week.

Our merchants had large consign-

ments of railroad ties banked along Roubidoux and crews of hands worked all day Sunday moving them above the high water mark—however there were a good many lost.

BLOODLAND ITEMS—L. W. Lane, president of the "Never Sweat Club" at Big Piney, was in Bloodland one day last week. He reports the club in fine condition and membership rapidly increasing.

There was quite an excitement in town one day last week when word was received that P. T. Bailey had been discovered driving posts. A committee was sent to investigate but failed to sustain the charges.

The singing at the church Sunday night was a howling success. [The Bloodland correspondent makes overt attempts at humor.]

At the special school meeting the 22nd, the proposition to vote bonds for a new schoolhouse was voted down by a vote of 26 for and 21 against.

LOCAL ITEMS—News reached Waynesville Sunday morning of the death of John L. Hooker which occurred at his home at Hooker Saturday night. We were unable to get any of the particulars of his death. [John L. Hooker was an early landowner and hunting and fishing guide, giving his name to the area east of the Big Piney, downstream from Devil's

Elbow. According to Tombstone Inscriptions of Pulaski County (Pulaski County Historical Society, Combined Edition 1995), John L. Hooker was born in 1805 and lived 107 years. Unfortunately, no obituary appeared in the Democrat.]

The nation bows its head in sorrow over the great sea disaster in which the Titanic went down with the loss of 1600 souls.

Marshal Ed Haney has been doing some much needed work on the bridges along Commercial Street this week. [In addition to keeping the peace, the town marshal had to keep the streets in good repair. The bridges referred to here are the several foot bridges that crossed the creek that ran down the middle of the main street in downtown Waynesville.]

A special committee was chosen by the school board to select a site for the new school building. Three different propositions will be submitted to the voters on May 14, 1912. This seems to be a fair way to allow the voters to select the site and thus relieve the board of any undue criticism. [The three sites were: (1) Two acres in the form of a square, fronting the road on W. G. Weirich's farm, west of town, consideration \$500; (2) 100 feet North and 100 feet east of present site, from Dr. Tice, consideration \$500; (3) Dr. Sell, J. M. Long and Roy Reed property on the hill, consideration \$830.]

May 9

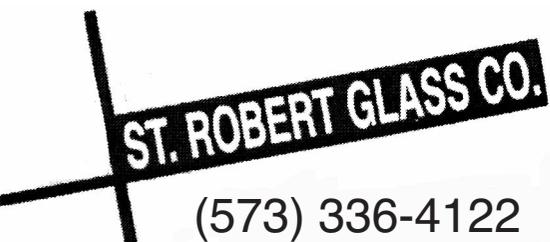
Col. Harlow's gasoline boat arrived and is certainly a fine model, 22 feet long, with a 12 horse power gasoline engine. It is a new model and was invented and built by Barbour Boat Company of East St. Louis. Mr. Barbour was formerly a Pulaski County boy. Commodore Jack Heberer, an experienced Mississippi River man and now located here in the cigar business, will run the boat. A delegation of ladies were down in the Valley watching the fine gasoline launch of Capt. Harlow's. [George Barbour built a four-room house on the Big Piney in 1903 for the purpose of recovering his health, which he did within the year. This small house became the Piney Lodge in subsequent years and is still standing, most likely the oldest extant hunting and fishing club in the county. Barbour founded the Barbour Boat Works in East St. Louis. He was responsible for bringing the gasoline launch to Pulaski County. See the 2003 Gazette online for a history of this century-plus clubhouse.]

BLOODLAND ITEMS—Roy Cunningham moved his well drilling equipment to Fairview schoolhouse where he has contracted to sink a well.

Bloodland needs either a stock law, some number 10 shotguns or some bulldogs.

Bloodland needs either a stock law, some number 10 shotguns or some bulldogs.

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BLOODLAND BULLETS—[It seems there are two Bloodland correspondents.] S. D. Wheeler, the present road overseer has done some much needed work on the roads lately. If he does the work his predecessor did (which we don't doubt), in two years we will have passable roads in this district.

HANCOCK ITEMS—Croquet is the order of the day.

LOCAL ITEMS—A circus came to town Thursday and attracted the small boy and some of the larger ones, too.

George M. Reed is having some needed improvements made on his place this week. He has laid a concrete walk the length of his property and also is having a neat porch or awning erected in the front of his new concrete store building which adds much to the appearance of same.

George G. Barbour has invented a motor boat and was trying its speed on the Gasconade this week. He, in company of several friends, drove from Schlicht's Mill to the mouth of Roubidoux Tuesday and would have paid Waynesville a visit if the depth of the water had permitted him.

May 16

A Change.

It is with regret that I write this article. After being connected with the *Democrat* for the past fourteen years indirectly and for six years directly I have sold my interest in the plant, subscription books, goodwill etc. to George W. Lane, who assumes control after this issue of the *Democrat*.

The legal advertising and job work and local ads goes to the old firm and must be settled up at once.

In Mr. Lane, who is well known to every citizen of Pulaski County, the *Democrat* has an able man at the helm—a politician who will give the readers a better political paper and make an improvement over what we have done. We commend him to our patrons and insure you that you will receive nothing but the best of treatment.

We fail to find the words to express our thanks to the good citizenship of the Pulaski County and especially to businessmen of Waynesville and the office holders of the county for their able support and encouragement they have given me while I was the publisher of the *Democrat*—and here and now let me ask you to extend to my successor the same patronage.

I have had charge of the subscription books the past six years and will be at my home in Waynesville ready to correct any differences that may come up over subscription.

Again thanking one and all for their goodwill and support and hoping the



This was the home of George M. Reed, which stood on the south side of the Black Hotel (Old Stagecoach Stop) on Lynn Street in Waynesville. George Reed was an attorney, surveyor, and violinist. Along with W. H. Murphy of Dixon, Mr. Reed was the first owner of the what became the *Pulaski County Democrat* in 1882. The property upon which the Reed house sat was the homesite of Jesse Rayl during the Civil War. Rayl owned five slaves and their quarters were in the back, where Highway 17 is now. Photo courtesy of the Pulaski County Historical Society.

good people of Pulaski County who made it possible for me to help make the *Democrat* one of the best publications in the country will be loyal to the *Democrat*.

It is possible I may return to Pulaski County and again engage in business. Mrs. Nathan Wheeler.

Owing to my impaired physical condition and other circumstances over which I have no control, I deemed it best for all concerned to retire from the management of the *Democrat* in favor of a man who is a Democrat of the old-school and I believe will maintain the high standard of newspaper making I have striven for during the past three years of my connection, thanking all who have so loyally stood behind me and asking a like support for our successor as he deserves. I am yours, etc., O. O. Ragsdale.

LOCAL ITEMS—At the special school election Tuesday, it was voted to build the new schoolhouse on the old site and pay Dr. L. Tice \$500 for a small tract of land adjoining the old site. It is probable that work will begin on the erection of the new building at an early date.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—The Cave Hotel is about completed and ready for summer borders. Mr. Joel Lane is proprietor.

Many of our citizens went to Swedeborg to see the Frisco wreck, 11 cars ditched and some of them loaded with Texas cabbage.

May 23

[The following announcement took up the

top half of the front page of this issue of the *Democrat*.] The Brown Shoe Company of St. Louis will send to the Modern Mercantile Company, Dixon, Missouri, Buster Brown and his dog Tige who will give a reception and entertainment in front of the Modern Mercantile Company store on Tuesday, May 28, 1912 at 2:30 o'clock p.m. This is a chance of a lifetime to see Buster Brown and his dog Tige. Souvenirs will be given to all the children. Free to all. Buster Brown and his dog Tige have traveled all over the United States and held over 3000 receptions personally advertising Buster Brown Shoes. Don't fail to bring your boys and girls to this entertainment of the Modern Mercantile Company, Dixon, Missouri.

A Postal Savings Bank for Waynesville.

Waynesville post office has been designated as a Postal Savings Bank. Most of the records and blanks required to conduct the business features of the bank have been received and the office will be ready to receive deposits on and after June 1. It is not intended that these saving banks will interfere with any business of the local banks, or enter into competition with them in the usual line of business for which they are organized and intended but, rather, that they will afford a safe and secure place of deposit for the persons, who for various reasons do not patronize the ordinary bank. A place where the small sums which the laborer, child, woman or any other person, can place their small savings, knowing it will be secure, and can also receive a small rate of interest on the same, if they desire to leave it for the space of one year.

Leaflets explaining the system and the requirements of depositors can be had by asking for them at the post office. [A saving system for citizens with the post office serving as the bank was enacted in 1911. It was not designed to compete with commercial banks but to offer an easy way to save for people in rural areas with no or few banks, those with limited means or those who had a distrust of the big banks, as a result of the Panic of 1907. Deposits were capped, interest rates were low but guaranteed and accessible. Total deposits peaked during the Depression and declined after WWII. The system was discontinued in 1966 but postal savings systems are found in much of the rest of the world.]

Our government has paid a much larger sum in pensions than the entire cost of the Civil War. Forty years ago James A. Garfield estimated that from that time the pension expense of the government would steadily decrease. Then, we were spending \$30 million a year, now, our pension budget amounts to more than \$150 million a year. About



The poster at left was undoubtedly plastered all over town in Dixon in 1912. Two of the country's biggest celebrities were coming to town—Buster Brown and his dog Tige. Buster, his dog, and sister Mary Jane were popular comic strip characters. A Brown Shoe Co. executive met the cartoonist, Richard F. Outcault, at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 and bought the rights to the characters. From 1904 until 1930, a troupe of actors and dogs portraying Buster Brown and Tige traveled the country promoting the children's shoe line.

Brown Shoe Company was founded by George Warren Brown in St. Louis in 1878, establishing shoe manufacturing in the midwest. The company experienced rapid growth, with five factories in St. Louis. Strong demand and boot contracts during World War I led to factory expansion into several small Ozark communities.



Buster Brown's image was pretty stable but Tige's visage could resemble a pit bull, boxer or mongrel. Buster Brown pin courtesy of Terry Primas.

one fourth of the money spent by the government goes for pensions. The proposition now before Congress increases the pension expenditure about one half. It is the duty of the government to deal liberally with the old soldiers, but many patriotic citizens are beginning to wonder whether the limit of our obligations has not been reached. In any event the cost of pensions alone is a powerful argument for the abolition of war.

May 30

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Lady Harlow's pleasure boat is daily on the river. Commodore Heberer in command making 15 miles an hour.

LOCAL ITEMS—Fish are reported plentiful in the rivers and creeks this spring. Some of our local sports have already reported catches which would seem incredible to anyone not familiar with their method of counting and weighing fish.

June 6

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Dr. Rayl was called to the Valley by Commodore Heberer to see Lady Harlow. It's not a serious case, only too fat living.

Col. William Heberer is out from St. Louis on a visit to his brother, Jacob, and will take lessons to become a Commodore on the classic Gasconade.

BLOODLAND BULLETS—There was some uneasiness a few days ago as to the cause of Fred N. Cates' absence from Bloodland but found that he had cut sprouts about half a day and was too tired to show.

BIG PINEY—The decoration at the cemetery was attended by a large crowd Thursday.

Big Piney is talking of having a public well drilled which will add greatly to the town.

Big Piney Roller Mills are doing a good business under the management of W. E. Underwood.

Mrs. Jane McDonald [widow of W. W. McDonald, builder of the Old Stagecoach Stop] happened to quite an accident last Monday. She was carrying a bucket of water and fell down and broke her arm. She is getting along nicely under the care of Dr. Derry.

We note that the *Democrat* has changed owners with Mr. G. W. Lane taking charge. Hope you great success, George.

We were glad to see so many Waynesville citizens here at the decoration. There was nearly 300 people ate dinner at the cemetery and a sermon by brother Moss, the Methodist circuit rider, followed by A. Hendrix, in the forenoon and in the afternoon, a lecture by Brother Will Gan and Bentley

Bryant and all speaking was to the point and was thankfully received and the best of order prevailed throughout the day. Mr. Carroll led the choir which was of the best vocal music as is common on such occasions. [Mr. Carroll gave vocal music lessons in Big Piney. This was Decoration Day at Hopewell Cemetery. This custom called for mounding some fresh dirt on the grave, adding mussel shells and/or bits of colored glass, and serving up a big meal. This celebration of and with ancestors lasted much of the day. A few of our Pulaski neighborhoods continue this tradition, e.g. Watts Cemetery.]

LOCAL ITEMS—Mrs. E. M. Black [proprietress of the Black Hotel, aka Old Stagecoach Stop] is having a well drilled in her pasture adjoining town which will add greatly to value and convenience.

Last week the *Pulaski County Democrat* changed hands, Wheeler and Ragsdale selling to George Lane who took charge Monday. This sale was a surprise to us all. We are sorry to see Mrs. Wheeler, who has been connected with the paper so long, and Mr. Ragsdale leave the paper but are glad it has fallen into good hands. Mr. Lane is well known in the county, having taught school for some time and held the office of collector. The *News* wishes Mr. Lane great success with the *Democrat*.—*Pulaski County News*.

June 13

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Political candidates and wood ticks are our only tormentors.

COLLEY HOLLOW CHIPS—E. A. Steckel was visiting Stafford's fruit farm one day last week with his camera for the purpose of getting landscape views and pictures of some of the fancy berries which grow in the Ozarks. [See the landscape picture example on next page.]

CROCKER CLIPS—The work on the new Farmers Union Store is progressing nicely. The rock crusher is at work and a large crew of men are making concrete blocks for the building. They expect to have it finished by July 20. This will be a fine building and a good improvement for Crocker.

BLOODLAND—Mr. Putnam is putting up a restaurant and hotel. Don't we need one in our lively town. It is the best trading point of any country town in the county.

LOCAL ITEMS—Colonels Solomon Bartlett and E. P. Creecy were in town Saturday. Strange to say neither of them have caught very many fish—too busy farming. [Mr. Bartlett owned Bartlett Springs, soon to sell to Dr. Bland Pippin. Edmund Creecy was the retired St. Louis Chief of Police and had a farm near Bartlett.]

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This is one of E. A. Steckel's landscape pictures advertising Turkey Ridge and the Ozark Springs environs near Richland, of which he was a tireless promoter. For an excellent account of his efforts, see the 2011 *Gazette* online. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

June 20

CROCKER ITEMS—"Honest Bill's" show was here Thursday as advertised. This was one of the nicest shows that has ever been here. The performance of Cupid, the educated pony, was well worth the price of admission. All his animals were well trained.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Crops of corn and potatoes are doing fine and no fence. So much for stock law.

Milton Good delivered ice to the Marlins here. Milton is a hustler of Gasconade ice. [June and there is still ice available.]

Commodore Heberer is arranging for a water trip to St. Louis in Lady Harlow's motorboat. Success.

To Commence Laying Steel.

The Missouri, Arkansas & Gulf Railroad unloaded two car loads of 70 pound steel rails and ties are expected every day.

The work of laying steel will commence this week, and the Ozark Short Line will be a reality.—*Rolla Herald*.

This is the proposed road which is to run through Licking in which many people in the South East corner of Pularski County are greatly interested. This would place them about 10 miles nearer the railroad, which would mean 20 miles saved each trip. [The Ozark Short Line was never completed.]

June 27

The Great Teddy Defeated.

His Seven Little Governors and All of the Trust Money Could Not Save Him

Well! Well! And again well! That dog-fight in Chicago has fairly taken the breath away from the American people—it's hard to get it back. And the mighty has fallen—the big wind—and the big stick which has been held up to

the gaze and which has caused all decent Americans to keep cotton in their ears for the past six weeks has been squelched—squashed—extinguished and literally "shot to the bad" and strange, but nevertheless true, this would-be modern Napoleon has met his Waterloo. On every point the big bluffer who has violated every principle of parliamentary law, let alone every principle of political decency, has been beaten. He came to Chicago like a conquering hero and retired with his feathers drooping and red splotches on his pant legs. The Taft crowd—which for that matter is little better than he—has whipped him to a "teetotal" frazzle.

Taft and Sherman

Both Renominated by the Chicago Convention on the First ballot.

After one of the bitterest struggles in the annals of American politics President Taft won out, receiving 21 votes over the necessary 540 required to nominate. It now seems certain that Roosevelt will make good his threat to bolt and head a third party movement for the presidency. Preliminary arrangements are now being made to call another convention, it is thought early in August, to perfect an organization to be known as the Progressive Party which is to draft a platform in accordance with Roosevelt's ideas.

LOCAL ITEMS—Capt. Harlow, of St. Louis, who has been to his summer home at Schlicht, in his motorboat started for St. Louis with his family aboard. They were joined at the mouth of the Roubidoux by Tess Degraffenreid who will act as pilot the remainder of the trip to St. Louis.

July 4

Wilson Wins.

Gov. Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey

received the Democratic nomination for president on the 29th ballot at Baltimore at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon's nomination is the climax of the longest and most heroically contested convention ever held by any political party on American soil. After seven long days the leaders of the greatest political party in the greatest country in the world contended for their favorite candidates, confidently believing that whoever receives the coveted prize would easily be elected in November from the first ballot to the 29th...

GASCONADE GRABS—We now have rival clubhouses here, the Kansas City and St. Louis clubhouses that are neighbors to each other. The best of goodwill prevails however among the visitors but the fish do suffer.

Tom Anderson and boys found a large owl in his meadow with a number 2 Victor steel trap attached to its foot. It measured 4 foot 8 inches from tip to tip and weighed 16 pounds. It was greatly emaciated by carrying the trap around with it in search of food and was easily captured.

E. A. Steckel, of Turkey Ridge, is making things hum these days in the way of improvements.

CROCKER ITEMS—The Odd Fellow's picnic which was to be had the 4th, was called off on account of not being able to secure a band, speakers and merry-go-round but a committee of businessmen have plans to have a picnic the same day so as not to disappoint the people.

LOCAL ITEMS—Last Saturday in Justice Shepherd's court, an agent of the Chicago portrait company was fined \$1 and the cost for unlawfully entering the house of Mary Rayl (colored) and

taking a picture over which there had been some controversy as to the price and payment of same.

July 11

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—T. E. Schneider, the devil in the Democrat office and his sweetheart, were here Sunday. [The printer's devil is an assistant who does a variety of tasks, such as mixing ink and setting type]

SWEDEBORG—The work being too heavy at the station here for one agent, the Frisco has employed Mrs. Allen as the assistant agent. She began work Friday.

The new hardware store has now a nice clean up-to-date line of hardware and Burchard and Burchard will be more than pleased to have you keep Mr. Walters busy. This is a great help and advantage to Swedeborg and we hope for more improvements soon.

TAVERN—[A new correspondent recruited by Editor Lane.] A party of uplanders celebrated the 4th on the Tavern—bathing and fishing and having a general good time.

W. E. Vickers is busy making preparation for the installment of an acetylene light plant and has a carpenter from Swedeborg assisting him.

CROCKER ITEMS—Crocker was almost deserted. Several found their way to the river and many attended Yeoman picnic at Dixon and 50 or 60 went with the baseball team to Newburg. From all appearances those that went to Newburg seemed to have the "biggest" time.

LOCAL ITEMS—Phil. Becker and family, of St. Louis, came out last week to spend the remainder of the summer at their summer home, Meadowbrook. Mr. Becker has an attractive place and



Phillip Becker's summer home and resort on the Big Piney River, upstream from Devil's Elbow, was known as Meadowbrook. Becker lived most of the year in St. Louis. The property was later sold to Aloysius Bussmann. A new lodge was built, but continued to be known as Meadowbrook. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

many people from the city spend their vacation there fishing, hunting, and bathing in the beautiful Piney.

Big Picnic

The citizens of Waynesville held a mass meeting Monday night and decided to have a two days picnic here on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27. Committees were appointed to arrange every detail necessary for a good picnic. The people of Waynesville are anxious to restore its name for liberal, sociable old fashioned picnics and everybody is invited to see how well they succeed. Large posters will appear later. Don't forget the dates July 26 and 27. All business houses will be closed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. There will be a magnificent display of fireworks Friday night.

July 18

**Killed By Lightning
Deadly Bolt Claims Four**

Wednesday afternoon the entire community was startled by the sad intelligence that the home of Joseph Pattie, about two miles south of Waynesville, had been struck by lightning, instantly killing Mr. Pattie and three of his children—his oldest son and daughter barely grown, and the baby. His wife and a small son were badly shocked. Dr. Sell was called at once and it is now

thought they are out of danger. Two small children were unhurt being on a bed at the time. Several years ago Mr. Pattie was severely shocked by lightning, his mother and a brother being killed at the time. Joe was an inoffensive hard-working man, poor but honest, and the tragic death of he and his three children will go down in the history of our county as one of its saddest events. The widow and our friends have the sympathy of all.

DIXON—A. L. Veasman went to St. Louis where he expects to buy a car load of buggies. *[Buggy sales are still strong in Ol' Pulaski.]*

The season for fishing and hunting is greatly appreciated by the people from the number of crowds that are going out.

"The Idle Hour" moving picture show is a pleasant place to spend Tuesday and Saturday evening to get relief from the busy toils of the week.

It is generally believed now that the old guard Republicans are pushing the organization of the Roosevelt progressive party in hopes that this party will catch the progressive element of the Republican party which otherwise they fear might go to Wilson.

The Baltimore convention gave us good, clean, and progressive men to head the Democratic ticket, now we as

Democrats must select strong, capable men to fill out the rest of the ticket. If we do our duty properly and intelligently there is no doubt that we will be successful at the polls in November. *[The Democrat is starting to publish a lot of political news and opinion due to the upcoming presidential election. The articles definitely reflect Mr. Lane's Democratic party affiliation.]*

LOCAL ITEMS—An auto passed through here going south last Friday. Considerable excitement but fortunately no one hurt. *[Automobiles are still objects of wonderment in Pulaski County in 1912.]*

July 25

BLOODLAND—An automobile passed through here a few days ago going north. *[Could this be the same automobile that passed through Waynesville?]*

HANCOCK ITEMS—Section men *[men who repair the railroad tracks and maintain the right-of-way]* got a raise in their wages to \$1.50 per day.

CROCKER ITEMS—Several from here attended the ball game at Richland Saturday between the Oklahoma Indians and the Richland team. The score was 16 to 9 in favor of Richland.

**Notice to Contractors
and Builders**

The School Board District Number 31, Pulaski County Missouri, will receive

the sealed bids until noon August 1, 1912 for the erection of a two-story four room concrete block schoolhouse in Waynesville, Missouri. Plans and specifications on file in district clerk's office. Done by order of the board this July 15, 1912.

Fred Christeson, District Clerk,
Waynesville, Missouri.

Remember the Four W's—Woodrow Wilson Will Win.

Bull Moose Party is the name given Col. Theodore's new organization. LOCAL ITEMS—We are short on local news this week on account of the rush in printing the primary ballots. We kindly ask our readers to bear with us this time, besides it's just awful hot.

August 1

GASCONADE—Quite a number from around here attended the picnic at Waynesville Friday and Saturday and report a good time.

A fine drove of sheep passed through our Valley heading for Richland Saturday. *[There are many news items reporting cattle and sheep drives through various areas. This was before stock was trucked to market so they were herded along the roads and through the railroad towns to the depot.]*

BLOODLAND—Uncle Billy Graves has retired from the blacksmith shop in

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



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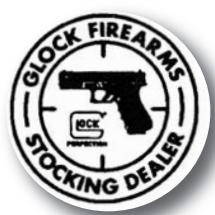
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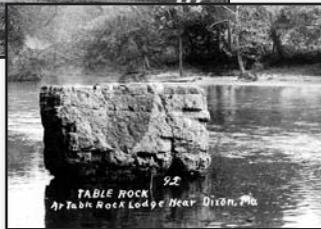


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Table Rock Lodge on the Gasconade west of Franks was a popular spot with locals. The lodge and cabins were on a high bluff overlooking the eddy where the Table Rock (inset) was located in the river. Courtesy of John Bradbury.



North Bloodland. It leaves Will Atterberry a hard road to go. I don't pity W. W. Duncan for having such trouble to get himself a wife. I heard Ed Vaughn offer to take him to a young widow and I don't think he went. *[A person's personal life was not out-of-bounds to the local correspondent—or the editor.]*

DIXON—Mrs. Jones and son, of Springfield, visited Mrs. Roose and was a guest at the Table Rock Club with a large crowd who spent last week there, also visited friends in Waynesville the first of this week.

The fish story of the crowd who spent Sunday at Three Island Ford is the latest. Thirty-five took dinner Saturday and fifty-one on Sunday and all on fish. LOCAL ITEMS—The picnic has come and gone. It was a success in every particular, fully measuring up to the expectations and hopes of its visitors, and judging from the size of the crowd each day, we believe that no one was disappointed. Every Township in the county sent large delegations each day. The best of order was managed, not by officers but by the visitors themselves.

Splendid music from Waynesville and Dixon contributed largely to the success of the affair. Taken all in all it will long be remembered as one of the best picnics ever in Waynesville.

August 8

CROCKER ITEMS—The Odd Fellows held their annual celebration in Hawkins Park west of town Saturday, the largest crowd ever attended a picnic at this place was present and it proved a grand success. Many attractions were provided for the people and all pronounced it the best picnic ever held at Crocker.

LOCAL ITEMS—Waynesville is becoming quite popular this season as a summer resort, many people from the cities are spending their vacation here.

August 22

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—The Valley is full of St. Louis visitors.

Hotel deCave is well filled with guests, some of them from Chicago.

Pulaski County Schools

Pulaski County enumerates 4015 chil-

dren, 2000 boys and 2015 girls, of these 3805 enrolled in school last year. The total number of days attended by all pupils is 310,872, the average daily attendance for the County is 2158 or a little over 30 to a district. Average length of school term is 144 days. The average monthly salary is \$38. The average levy for school purposes is \$.62 on the \$100 valuation.

BLOODLAND—The picnic in North Bloodland on Saturday came and went with only one showing any signs of

drunkenness and as luck would have it, he was too indolent to make a brawl.

RICHLAND—Mrs. Burchard, of Crocker, has purchased the Richland Hotel and expects to move here in a few weeks. *[It was reported in a previous edition that Mrs. Burchard had sold her hotel in Crocker to a man from Springfield.]*

LOCAL ITEMS—Uncle Henry Robertson, an aged and highly respected citizen of this county for 50 years, left Tuesday night for the Confederate home at Higginsville, Missouri. The state institutions at Higginsville and St. James are certainly God-sends to the many noble soldiers who fought for their respective flags during a bloody struggle from '61 to '65. Everything possible should be done to make their few remaining days comfortable and happy. *[See below.]*

George H. Reed is now the accommodating assistant postmaster taking the place of his sister, Mrs. Loto Haney, who retires after several years of faithful service in the Waynesville post office.

A fishing party composed of Drs. Pippin and White and their families, of St. Louis and W. L. Bradford are camped at Bartlett's Mill this week. Pippin and White expect to stay two weeks. Professor Babe Bucher is boss of the party and chief clerk.

August 29

An accident which might have been serious occurred here last Thursday. Mrs. Elliott was sitting in a spring wagon when the team became frightened and after a desperate effort got loose from Mr. Elliott, who was hold of the lines but standing on the ground, and ran down the street. At the entreaties of bystanders Mrs. Elliott remained in the rig and the team was soon stopped. No one was seriously injured.

A jolly crowd of about a dozen of the 'elite' young people left at 4 p.m. last Saturday on a hay ride bound for Table Rock Clubhouse where dainty refreshments were served after which they proceeded to trip the light fantastic to the music of a graphophone until several hours rolled by and all returned home before morning.

LOCAL ITEMS—Albert Bucher is working in the Democrat office. He proposes to in due time to be a first class typo.

September 5

DIXON—The canning factories are the greatest attractions in town now for the women. They can have time together and get paid for it at the same time.

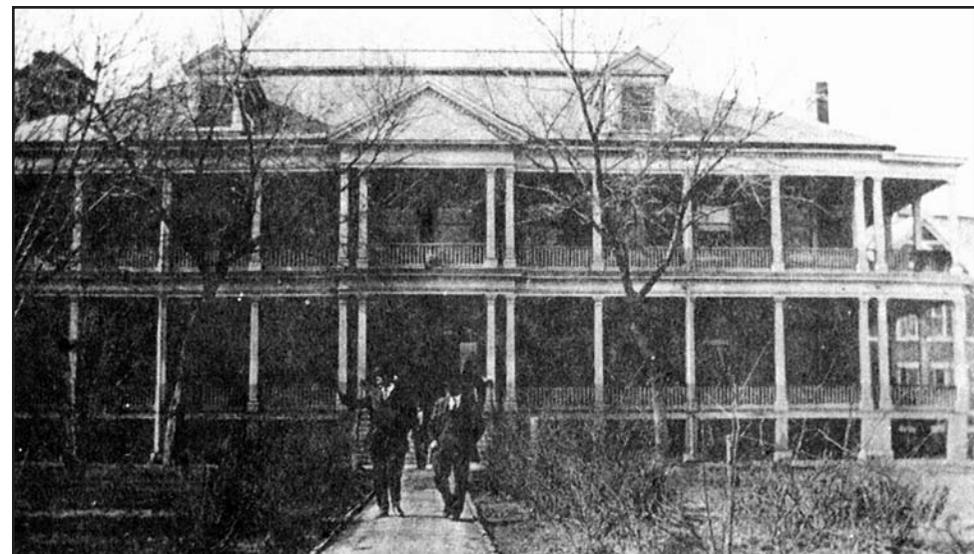
BELL'S CREEK—Fourteen converts were baptized at the Wheeler Ford Sunday evening by Rev. Bostwick.

BIG PINEY—*[This account was in the Big Piney news but the annual Blue and Gray Reunion took place at Bloodland. It may be that D. D. Boyt was the Big Piney correspondent at this time (correspondents were usually anonymous). Mr. Boyt was a storekeeper in Big Piney and a Union veteran.]*

We, the old veterans and sons of veterans of the Civil War, assembled in the annual reunion on August 30 and 31st. The reunion was called together on the 30th by order of A. R. Bailey and D. D. Boyt was on motion, elected the marshal of the day then adjournment was



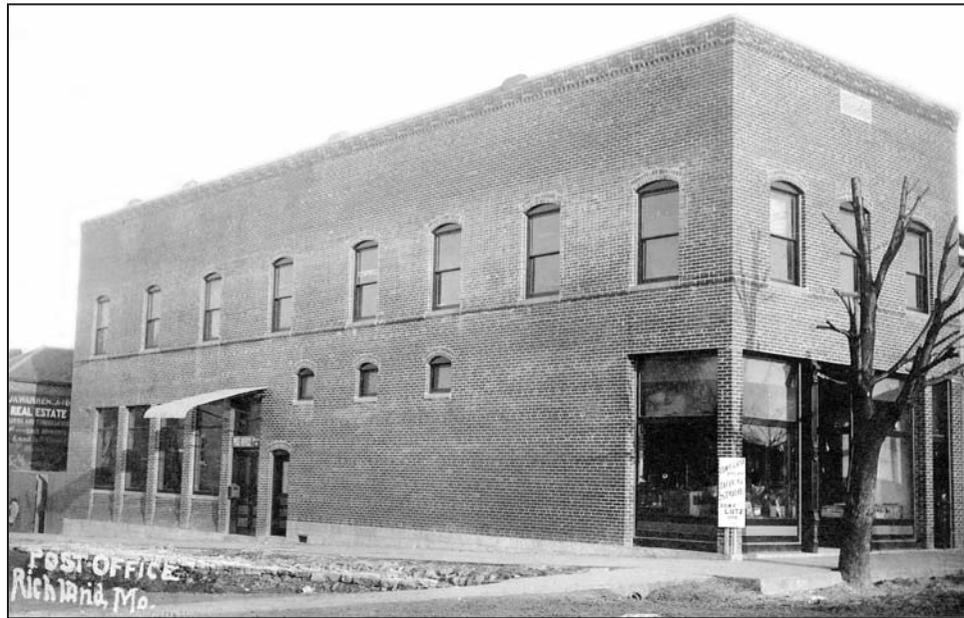
The State Federal Soldiers' Home in St. James was opened in 1896 by the Women's Relief Corps Soldiers' Home Association and given to the state of Missouri in 1897. Thoroughly modernized, it is still in operation as the St. James Veterans Home, one of seven such facilities operated by the Missouri Department of Public Safety. Courtesy of John Bradbury.



The Confederate Home at Higginsville was dedicated by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1893 and had 115 residents within six months. The State of Missouri accepted the home in 1897 and it became home to over 1,500 Confederate veterans until its closure in 1950 with the death of the last veteran, John T. Graves, at age 107. Courtesy of James Denny.

taken till 10 o'clock the 30th, then we were called to order by the marshal of the day. Speech of welcome by Honorable W. R. Wingo, Mayor of Bloodland, which was warm and cordial and reply by Elder [William] Bradford which was an eulogy to Bloodland and to the old veterans, next was a speech by Elder Bradford in which he paid regards to all old soldiers and the soldier's sons, next on the program was an essay by Miss Jennie Bradford, title, Blue and Gray.

Program was an essay by Preston Bailey's daughter, the Bloody Fields of Shiloh which touched your writer as he was on that bloody scene. The program was adjourned to meet at the stand at 1 o'clock at which time we came together after we had been refreshed by a bountiful dinner only such as Pulaski ladies usually prepare for such occasions, it was so nicely prepared that our Congressman could not refrain mentioning it in his speech. At one o'clock the marshal called the reunion into line with the sons of veterans, Marshal Boyt having charge of the veterans and G. W. Gan command of the sons of veterans the march was conducted in something like an 1862 march and returned to the stand and the marshal then announced that Honorable Congressman Ruby would deliver an address which he did and in which he showed the hard contested battles of over one thousand battlefields and then spoke of union and the good feeling that existed between the old veterans, then gave a short review of the work in Congress which was appreciated by his hearers with rousing cheers at the close of his speech. By order of commander A. R. Bailey the reunion is called to meet in May for the purpose of selecting officers of the [next] reunion of the Blue and the Gray at Bloodland Park. Now come out old veterans and help elect men to stand for duty of the reunion and respect our old soldiers. May God guide our acts till we meet again. We your fathers are glad to meet so many



C. L. Evington built this brick structure in 1912. The building housed the drug store of Edward F. Lutz in the front and the post office in the rear, with entry under the awning. Dr. Campbell, a dentist, had an office upstairs. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

sons of veterans, it shows a respect for our fathers of the 60s and their sufferings.

Yours truly,
D. D. Boyt, Marshal.

LOCAL ITEMS—J. E. Stuart, accompanied by Phil Becker of Meadowbrook, were over last week. Mr. Becker reports business flourishing at his summer resort.

September 12

BLOODLAND—If the parents would keep as close watch on their small boys as they do their stock the neighbors could get the benefit of the watermelons they were to raise.

Report comes up that the Pruitt girl who was stabbed by the Lawson girl near Democrat Ridge is not as serious as the first reports seemed to indicate. If women must fight why not pull each other's hair and no serious results will follow and leave the real fighting for men and dogs.

RICHLAND—C. L. Evington is having a two story brick building erected, 27' x 92' on the corner of Chestnut Street and McClurg Avenue. The two rooms of the first floor will be occupied by the post office and the Palace Drugstore. The

second floor will be used for business offices. [See picture above.]

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—The Frisco railway has repaired and painted Schlicht station red and changed the name to Templar Park.

GASCONADE—Baseball games seem to be the principal feature of the day on lower Gasconade especially on Sunday afternoons and we are made to wonder is it right?

LOCAL ITEMS—J. L. Wyrick and his force of hands are moving along nicely with the work on the new school house.

J. O. Collier and G. W. Shelton of Mossy Springs, accompanied by several members of the Pulaski County Rod and Gun Club, were in town Sunday. This club is composed of some of the best men in St. Louis and are always welcome wherever they are known.

September 19

Rev. J. J. Watts Dead

Died at his home in Piney Township, Pulaski County, Missouri, on Friday September 13, 1912, Rev. J. J. Watts aged about 75. This sad intelligence

brought many tears and heartache to the people of Pulaski and adjoining counties and it seems impossible yet for us to reconcile ourselves to the fact that brother Watts is no more on this Earth. For the last thirty-five years as a familiar figure invariably been present to aid and assist in all religious and educational enterprises and many of the leading citizens of this section of the county received their first incentive towards education and Christianity through his faithful efforts and fatherly advice.

And we may say that a history of the south part of Pulaski County for one third of a century past would be far from complete without a recital of his honors and accomplishments. He is gone but his memory will be cherished by the present generation until they are no more. He was the teacher and preacher for his neighbors, he shared alike our sorrows and joys. He was always sent for when the death angel visited the homes of people within the extended range of acquaintance. How many aged hearts and sad homes have been consoled and comforted by his fatherly counsel and words of comfort, who can tell. We know that he had a larger collection of family than any individual in southern Missouri. He took a special interest in collecting data concerning family records of births, marriages and deaths, and left books and information which are unobtainable from any other source and their good will not be appreciated until years hence. He was prominent in G. A. R. [Grand Army of the Republic, a Union Army veterans group], Masonic and I. O. O. F. circles. He was laid to rest in the Watts Cemetery Monday, September 16 in the presence of one of the largest crowds ever assembled at that site. He leaves a wife, son and daughter to mourn his loss. [John Jones Watts was a Union veteran, having served a short enlistment with the 24th Maine Infantry. Ordained in 1879, Watts was a circuit preacher for over 30 years. He



Pulaski Rod and Gun Club, 1908, was located on the Gasconade River, near Mossy Springs. Courtesy of John Bradbury.



Reverend J. J. Watts walked through his four county circuit during most of his 30 year ministry. Courtesy of Phelps County Geneological Society.

established Watts Cemetery in northeastern Piney Township in Pulaski County, which is still used by the Pulaski-Phelps neighborhood. During those years of traveling in at least four counties, Watts gathered genealogical information from those he encountered and recorded the data in booklets. Thirty-eight of those volumes have been microfilmed by the State Historical Society of Missouri and are available to researchers. We have found this resource invaluable.]

September 26

Phelps County Fair.

At Rolla. October 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. *Rolla Herald.*

The Phelps County Fair is to be held at Rolla, Missouri, October 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The first day Wednesday, October 2 is known as public school day, when all the public schoolchildren are admitted free.

The Phelps County Fair is not limiting its premiums on livestock to the county this year, but is offering premiums on all livestock that may be exhibited at the fair.

The racing program is excellent and there is no doubt but what it will attract some of the best horses in Missouri to compete for the prizes.

The premium list is the most complete and extensive of any county fair in Missouri. Not only does the Fair Association offer liberal premiums, but also the banks and business men of Phelps County are offering a long list of special premiums on the farmer products and live stock.

The attendance of the Phelps County Fair promises to be a record breaker this year and the people of Rolla, together with the fair management, promise to leave nothing undone to make the occasion not only most pleasant but also profitable.

LOCAL ITEMS—A deal was perfected here last week by which Martin Sparks and his son, Perry, became owners of the livery business formerly conducted by the Haney brothers. Sparks and son

are excellent citizens, good hustlers and thoroughly reliable and are certain of success in their new enterprise. We have not learned what the Haney brothers intend to do but they have many friends here who hope they will embark in some business and continue to reside here.

October 3

DIXON—Miss Jessie Cramer, teacher at High Point, gave a box supper Friday evening for the benefit of the school. A large number of the young folks from town were there with well-filled boxes and all reported a very pleasant time and the boxes were all sold with readiness and several more would have been equally in demand. The proceeds of which amounted to \$8.25.

BLOODLAND—Molasses making is the order of the day. Sorghum is in abundance here this year yet they charge \$.50 per gallon.

LOCAL ITEMS—Richard Miller, of Big Piney, visited his daughter, Mrs. G. W. Lane, last Sunday and Monday. [*George Lane, editor of the Democrat, was from the Big Piney environs. He married Julia Miller, daughter of Richard Miller, who owned Miller Spring and farm, previously known as McCourtney spring/mill.*]

Considerable sickness in the country at present. Chills, malaria and typhoid seem to be the most prevalent ailments at present.

B. F. McDonald, who has a responsible position in a wholesale house at Springfield [*Springfield Grocer*], passed through here Sunday. He had been visiting his mother, Jane McDonald and other relatives at Big Piney. [*Benjamin Franklin McDonald was the youngest son of William W. McDonald, builder of the Old Stagecoach Stop. See sidebar at right.*]

There was some moving around in getting heating stoves up the first of the week. Heating stove wood is now in demand and wood haulers are busy. Wood will be received at any time at the *Democrat* office on subscription.

[*The subscription rate to the Democrat was \$1.00 per year or a cord of wood.*]

October 10

BLOODLAND—Columbus Christeson, after getting all the sheep he could find, is now running the country for cattle that will do to ship. [*It was still open range in the southern part of the county.*]

Hum Carroll and wife made a raid on someone's hazelnut patch Sunday.

Notice.

In purchasing the *Democrat* I also bought the subscription list. If you are paid in advance I owe you the paper. If you are in arrears you owe me. I make this explanation because many subscribers have asked me who is to receive what they owed on subscription at the time I purchased the paper. So if you are in doubt as to what to do with the money, this will notify you to whom it belongs.

Yours truly
G. W. Lane

CROCKER—A moving picture show visited our town last week. Large crowds attended each night and good pictures were exhibited.

DIXON—The Dandy Dixie Colored Minstrels gave a very entertaining show under a tent here on Wednesday evening to a large crowd.

Last Thursday was a red letter day at the Phelps County fair at Rolla. About 30 of the Dixon people went down on fast train Number 10 that morning and report a splendid time.

Bids wanted.

To build 1000 or more feet of concrete walk for school district number 31, Pulaski County, Missouri. Bids to be opened October 24, 1912. Specifications can be found at J. B. Christeson's store. Waynesville, Missouri.

Sources of Typhoid Fever.

The source of typhoid fever is the typhoid patient. The bacteria leave the patient in the excreta. From the excreta the bacteria are carried to water by surface drainage; to the dairy, through infected water, flies, and other insects; to the home, by infected water, milk, flies and other insects.

Springs, surface wells, leaky cisterns, creeks and rivers are supplied by surface water. Surface water is the water in the upper surface of the soil and is derived from rain, snow and sleet. The character of this water is determined by the character of the water drained. If the watershed is infected by having the excreta from a typhoid fever patient thrown on it, for instance, the bacteria may be carried to the springs, wells, leaky cisterns and surface streams. This

Benjamin Franklin McDonald

Ben McDonald was born on the family farm in southeastern Pulaski County, just downstream on the Big Piney River from present-day The Last Resort. His story is certainly one of a local country boy makes good. The biography below is on the web site of Springfield Grocer (<http://www.sgclink.com>) and is used with permission.

The current ownership of Springfield Grocer was consolidated under the late Ben McDonald (1892-1954).



Ben came from near Big Piney, a small country town in the area near current Fort Leonard Wood. Ben's father died when he was just four years old. He graduated from Dixon High School and at age 17 (1909), with a 2nd grade teaching certificate rode his horse to Springfield. His first job was washing dishes to pay for tuition at Springfield Business College. He sold his horse to pay for his room and board and rental of a typewriter for practice. His next job was a stenographer with the Frisco Railway Co. His next employment would be as a billing clerk for Springfield Grocer Co. Ben McDonald was bright, a born leader, confident and hardworking. He made himself more and more valuable to his employer and, in turn, was recognized and rewarded. After serving his country in the Army Air Corp during WWI, attaining the rank of Captain, he returned to become a buyer and assistant manager in 1924. By 1925 he held the position of general manager. By the year 1928 he was named President, General Manager & Treasurer. In 1929, as our country was perched on the edge of the Great Depression, the boy who rode his horse to Springfield became the major stockholder of his firm. This company and his community were destined to profit from McDonald's new responsibility and role. The current owner of Springfield Grocer is Jeff Tynes, Ben McDonald's great grandson.



Ben McDonald originated and placed the company's icon, the Yellow Bonnet Girl, on scores of food products distributed throughout the Ozarks during the first half of the 20th century.



This is the Phelps County Fair Grounds in 1911 which was located in west Rolla on what is now Fairgrounds Road and the present location of Buehler Park, Army National Guard, and U. S. Forest Service. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

infected water may serve directly to infect the persons drinking the water, or may infect vegetables, milk cans, dishes and other utensils used in the preservation and preparation of food. In this way it infects the food supply which in turn infects the people.

Address questions on prevention of diseases to University of Missouri, Columbia. [Due to the large number of typhoid cases in Pulaski during the summer and fall months, Editor Lane published several health education articles such as this one.]

Both all right.

Theodore Roosevelt, candidate for a third term as president, said recently, "Taft now represents the bosses, and the Republican Party is composed of them and the vested interests of the country."

And the President said: "Roosevelt is not a Republican, but represents a one man party whose chief advisors are the harvester and steel trust magnates."

Sen. LaFollette, of Wisconsin, also a Republican, says both Taft and Roosevelt are telling the truth about each other and LaFollette has had enough experience with both Messrs. Taft and Roosevelt to know what he is talking about.

The answer is: Win With Wilson.

LOCAL ITEMS—F. M. Long and J. J. York have made over 200 gallons of fine sorghum.

The town board met in regular session Monday night and ordered some of the walks repaired and also one new walk built. Owing to the fact that some of the citizens of the town have been violating the stock law ordinance the marshal was instructed to investigate in every case where stock is found on the streets and if circumstances warrant the owner will be taken before the mayor and fined.

W. A. Logan brought to this office last Thursday three stalks of corn each measuring 14 feet and 6 inches in

length and two good ears on each stalk. Some counties may best this. If so we want their names so Pulaski farmers will know where to get their seed corn.

George Withers moved his pool tables to Hancock Monday where he will conduct a pool room and barber shop. We wish him success. [Withers apparently felt the up and coming town of Hancock offered more business growth opportunities than Waynesville.]

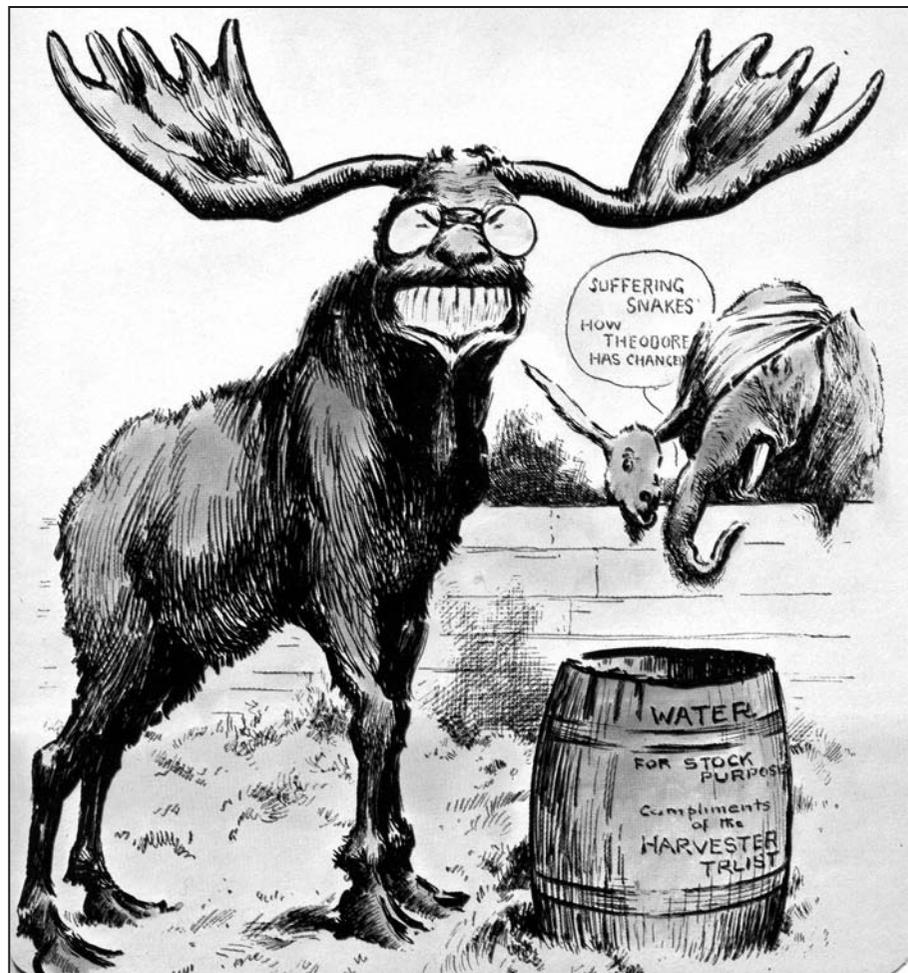
Adolf's Moving Picture Show was in town Monday and Tuesday nights. This show is about as good as ever visits the small towns and the young folks and some of the older ones too got considerable enjoyment from the pictures.

G. M. Reed while out on a fishing trip

last week killed a nice young turkey and one of the party reports that it was about the best he ever ate. The only drawback was the turkey proved to be a tame one belonging to Mrs. Jim Trower and G. M. had to donate \$1.00 to Mrs. Trower for the same.

October 17
BLOODLAND—Boys sporting around with their target guns must be more careful how they shoot or there will have to be an investigation instituted and they will have to be deprived of their guns. By carelessness or otherwise, a ball from one passed through a house in this place a few days ago.

This place will be nicknamed "Flea



When the Republican nomination for President went to Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and his backers formed a third party, the Progressive Party, nicknamed by the press as the Bull Moose Party after a remark by Teddy that he was as physically fit as a bull moose. The Bull Moose Party reunited with the Republican Party in 1916 behind nominee Charles Evans Hughes. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

Election of 1912

Theodore Roosevelt was Vice President when William McKinley was assassinated in 1901. He finished McKinley's term and was elected on his own to the Presidency in 1904. TR declined to run in 1908 and supported William Howard Taft as his successor.



Theodore Roosevelt



William Howard Taft

A rift developed between Roosevelt and Taft and Teddy decided to run for another term but he was unable to win the Republican nomination from Taft and formed a third party (see left).

The Democrats nominated Woodrow Wilson, who was President of Princeton University from 1902 until 1910, and the current Governor of New Jersey. Roosevelt's third party bid was unsuccessful. Wilson won and Taft came in third.



Woodrow Wilson

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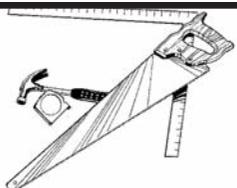
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Col. Roosevelt shot.

Ex-President Roosevelt was shot Monday evening in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as he was leaving his hotel to make a speech. He was shot in the right breast with a 38 caliber revolver by a man named Schrank, who was immediately arrested and taken to prison. Col. Roosevelt went on and finished his speech and later, on close examination, the wound was found more serious than at first supposed. At last reports he was getting along very well.

The dastardly attempt on his life is bitterly condemned by all and a speedy recovery is hoped for by all. *[Roosevelt was beginning his speech when Schrank shot him in the chest. The bullet went through his steel glass case and then a once folded 50 page copy of his speech, both in his suit pocket. Roosevelt correctly concluded that the bullet had not penetrated his chest wall entirely since he was not coughing up blood. He finished his 90 minute speech before he went to the hospital. Afterwards, an x-ray showed that the bullet had lodged in his chest muscle and that extraction was more dangerous than leaving it in place. He carried the bullet in his chest until his death in 1919.]*

October 24

BLOODLAND—Another case of typhoid fever reported in this place. A few more white frosts will be beneficial to health. **DIXON**—Mr. A. Randall from Iowa is here gathering apples on his farm west of town and shipping them to his home town.

Dixon has made contract with the Lyceum Bureau for a course of entertainments for this season, the first number to be given here next Friday night by the Jubilee Singers.

BIG PINEY—Some parties went fox chasing Saturday night. They made a fine catch, what do you think they caught? Why a very bad cold.

Sorghum crop is completed and was a full 75 per cent of a crop.

October 31

New Missouri Capitol.

The Missouri State Capitol commission has selected the plans for our new capitol. The building will be 420 feet long and 220 feet wide, facing the South, and three stories high with a dome rising 232 feet above the level of the Terrace. There will be a basement



The second state capitol, built in 1840, was hit by lightning in February of 1911 and destroyed by fire. Plans for a new capitol, above, were accepted in 1912 and construction completed in 1917. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

and sub-basement. The exterior will be of Corinthian style, and the interior Ionic, with the main entrance marked by eight pillars 48 feet high. Other pillars attached to the walls and a 40-foot high wall will girdle the entire structure. There will be 8 elevators, the Senate chamber will be 74 x 68', with the ceiling 56 feet high, and the house of representatives chamber will be 106 x 76' and 56 feet high. Both chambers will be flanked at front and rear by lobbies 64 x 80' feet with ample galleries. A stairway 30 feet wide will lead to the legislative floor. The sub-basement will be used for heating, ventilating and other purposes. The first floor proper will be for the state officers. These offices go around the entire building and are splendidly lighted from the outside. The legislative halls will occupy the second floor, with a library and committee rooms added. The house galleries and state officers will occupy the third floor. There will be a rotunda running from the basement floor to the top of the dome, 64 feet in diameter, flanked by corridors, with ceiling 30 feet high. Cubage of the building is 6,657,506 cubic feet and the cost given at \$.35 per cubic foot totals \$2,230,127.

In the last week's issue of the *Richland Mirror*, I noticed an article headed Republican Ticket in which the writer asked the Democrats the question if they did not think it time to mix things up a little, and assigned as a reason that if one bunch of politicians had control and kept it too long the public did not have the opportunity of knowing how their affairs were being handled as they would if things were mixed up a little bit. To this I wish to say there is not an office in the courthouse in Waynesville that has a single record in it that is not open at any time for inspection by any one. In fact the officials of Pulaski County are proud of their records and take great pleasure and delight in showing them and explaining

them to anyone that comes into their office and we feel that the writer of that article is himself proud of the financial record of Pulaski County and we feel that every citizen in the county is and ought to feel proud of the condition our county is in. When we begin to investigate just a little we find her in better condition financially and with a much lower rate of taxation than any of her sister counties. Take for example Laclede, Camden, and Miller with their great area of fertile soil and many other financial advantages, yet, under a Republican control they have a much higher rate of taxation and have not the public improvements and are a way behind old Pulaski in their financial condition. After due consideration, we feel if Pulaski County has been run by a bunch of Democrats, they have guarded the interest of the county well and deserved the hearty approval of not only her own citizens but the compliments of her sister counties would not be amiss for their faithfulness. Now I wish to say to you Democrats one and all: are you tired of the low rate of taxation? Do you wish to have the higher taxes imposed on you, just as they have been by our surrounding counties that have ever been under Republican control? Or would you rather remain under the low rate of taxation that we have enjoyed heretofore? If so, let's be sure and go to the polls next Tuesday remembering the prosperous times of the past in old Pulaski County and with a greater pride in our county record than ever before, remembering that we stand head and shoulders above any county in the great state of Missouri and remember that the county's greatness has been achieved under Democratic control, then with a greater loyalty to our grand old Democratic Party than ever before. Stand up for our nominees from top to bottom and never mix up as the Republicans would have you do.

A taxpayer.

LOCAL ITEMS—Barton Sparks and wife have moved from the County [poor] farm to their farm across the creek from the Big Spring [*Roubidoux Spring*].

Work on the new school building has been practically suspended for some time on account of the delay of a car of lumber. The lumber having arrived the work will now be pushed as rapidly as possible.

Harry Martin and family have moved on the county farm. Uncle Jake and Aunt Margaret Logan are living with them.

Paris A. Christeson and lady of Dixon came over Sunday afternoon for a short visit. Paris reports business at Dixon fairly good. He says hundreds of bushels of apples are going to waste in the vicinity of Dixon.

Vice President Dead

James S. Sherman, Vice President of the United States and candidate for re-election on the Republican ticket with Taft, died at his home in Utica, New York at 9:42 PM Wednesday evening. His death due primarily to Brights Disease [*kidney disease*].

November 7

Democratic Landslide.

Last Tuesday's election resulted in an overwhelming Democratic victory throughout the country. Wilson has received approximately 400 electoral votes, Roosevelt about 100 and Taft 80. The Democrats will control the House of Representatives by almost two to one, and in all probability will have a majority in the Senate. Missouri returned to the Democratic fold by electing Major by a 100,000 majority and the remainder of the state ticket, also securing fourteen of sixteen Congressmen.

Rubey for Congress and Allen for Senator, have been re-elected by increased majorities. Old Pulaski elected a complete Democratic ticket with the exception of Associate Judge of the County Court of the Western District. This is one of the greatest victories ever won by a political party, its magnitude will not be known definitely for several days as the official count in some states is slow. The Democrats elected the Governor in Illinois and succeeded in defeating Ex-Speaker Cannon for Congress. *[The Missouri governor's full name was Elliot W. Major, who defeated John C. McGinley and Albert D. Norton.]*

DIXON—The Ghost Party at the Opera House last Thursday evening was not so well attended as it would have been had the weather been nice.

CROCKER—E. A. Steckel, candidate for Representative was here Friday interviewing the voters. *[He was defeated by W. D. Johnson.]*

The faculty and the students of the public school expect to give a book social at the Gleave and Hicks Hall Friday night November 15 for the benefit of the library.

A moving picture show opened up at Gleave and Hicks Hall Saturday. It will continue all the month of November, three nights each week.

BLOODLAND—If little boys are not slated to quit smoking cigarettes, pipes, etc., the good people had better take out a policy on what they have to be safe. The looks of the habit is bad enough but the danger [fire] is worse.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Mr. N. Anderson, that champion the sorghum maker, is busy making the sweet.

Col. Bill Manes and L. Peterson were in the Valley cow hunting. Stock law capital keeps the roguish and their owners on the jump.

LOCAL ITEMS—Dick Carty, who is doing the carpenter work on the new schoolhouse, made a flying trip to Crocker Sunday. [The phrase "flying trip" was used often, meaning a quick trip.]

The County Court this week bought two road graders and two road plows, also an adding machine for the use of the county officials

WANTED—Turkeys, Geese and Chickens, for the Holiday trade. Will pay fancy prices for same. Mitchell and

Christeson.

Cash paid for produce by J. M. Long. Railroad ties wanted by J. M. Long. Top price paid. Give me a trial.

Halloween was celebrated in a very nice way by the young folks. The young people's classes from both Sunday schools had a masquerade party at the home of A. F. Mitchell and quite a variety of characters were represented. The room was decorated with Jack O' Lantern's, imitations of witches, cats and other Halloween decoration. The guests were numbered as they arrived and requested to not speak until the masks were removed and a prize was given to the most successful one in guessing the names of those, guessing being done by numbers and the names written on a sheet of paper and handed to the hostess, who later announced Miss Adelaide Christeson as the winner. After the guessing contest the masks were removed and some of the usual Halloween stunts, such as "bobbing for apples," drawing articles from an imitation pie to learn the occupation of your future intended, pinning a tail on a cat while blindfolded, Ed Haney receiving the prize for the best performance of this stunt. Refreshments consisting of pumpkin pie, cocoa, and apples were served. The whole affair was quite novel and everyone present

enjoyed themselves. The smaller fry attended a "Tacky Party" at the home of S. J. Christeson and there were many costumes present that were suitable for the occasion, some of them being very ludicrous as well as tacky. They also report lots of fun. The parties and perhaps the weather kept the boys from playing many of the usual Halloween pranks, which no doubt the merchants and citizens of the town are very thankful for.

Notice.

Bids will be received by the undersigned District Clerk of School District Number 31 until noon at Friday, November 1, 1912 for delivering 25 cords of good sound oak wood at the new school building in Waynesville, Mo. This wood is for the new furnace and must be 45 inches long. For further particulars see,

Fred Christeson, District Clerk, Waynesville, Mo.

BIG PINEY—W. D. Johnson fired the first campaign gun and it was a 300 pounder. Well charged and well directed the execution was great. [This is a reference to the large size of W. D. Johnson, who weighed in excess of 300 pounds.]

The game law is out and the river is full of ducks. Shoot boys.

November 14

DIXON—The election passed off very quietly and that drinking and loud demonstration which was so fashionable several years, seems to have gone entirely out of fashion.

The stork came flying over town with a package in his beak. Just wishing he could find a place to rest a while and speak.

To some dear father in a home who needs another boy. To cheer him in his older days, and bring to life joy.

Bill Dodds stepped out upon his porch, and cast his glance above; he saw the stork so high and bright and thought it was a dove.

He got his gun and took good aim the bird came straight to ground. With baby boy, the find is yet, that ever has been found. The baby boy was taken in, and given room and place in mother's arms, upon her breast where she would see his face.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Messrs. Barbour, Scott and Ballard ran up in a motor boat from Waynesville to Schlicht,



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LOCAL ITEMS—"Under no circumstances will I again be a candidate for president."—Theodore Roosevelt

Woman suffrage won in Kansas and Arizona in the election on November 5. Are we doomed to an age of long-haired men and shorthaired women?

Old Tippecanoe and Tyler too made the Log Cabin take them through.

So little Edmund A. Said the "Big Four" held sway and on election day he fell by the way.

[This is a reference to Edmund A. Steckel of Turkey Ridge, who made his political debut running for State Representative. He would later run for State Senator.]

On Wednesday evening November 12 about 25 young people met at the Black Hotel, it being the 15th birthday of James Bostic. Jim received many nice presents from his friends and all enjoyed themselves, at games and various other amusements. Refreshments were served.

Several of our citizens responded to the call of the Volunteer Road Workers. We are informed that Crocker was well represented and that considerable improvement was made on the road. Whenever the demand for good roads becomes strong enough that people can and will have them.

Several block-layers from our neighboring towns are here assisting on the new school building and the work is progressing very rapidly.

Some St. Louis parties headed by Dr. B. N. Pippin have just bought the Solomon Bartlett tract of land which includes the spring, mill and residence of Col. Bartlett for \$3000. We understand they will improve the same by erecting several buildings and arrange a modern clubhouse and other conveniences. This is one of the most desirable places in this county for a summer resort.

[And it certainly became one of the Ozarks' premier resorts. This sale was the genesis of Bartlett Spring Club House which became Pippin Place.]

November 21

BIG PINEY—The debating society is getting quite interesting. Some fine speaking.

Corn is being delivered here for 50 cents per bushel before the Democratic administration comes in, that is because the supply is greater than the demand.

Some of the Crocker sports passed

here the 18th going to the river to make trouble for the feathered tribe.

CROCKER—The book social given by the school Friday night was well attended and a good program was rendered. About 85 books were given to the school.

LOCAL ITEMS—J. R. Burchard was at Jerome and Arlington last Wednesday and Thursday looking after his tie interests.

Colonel E. P. Creecy and son were in from the farm Monday and had some trespass notices printed to post up on his land. The Colonel's health has improved greatly, having gained sixteen pounds in the last three months.

1000 raccoon, fox, skunk, mink and opossum furs wanted quick. Best prices from J. B. Christeson.

During the months of July and August, not less than 50 cords of wood was voluntarily promised us on subscription—in fact we thought we would have wood to sell to our neighbors but the reverse is true. We are borrowing wood from our neighbors, and will have to continue until the 50 cords arrive, which may be tomorrow for all we know.

November 28

BIG PINEY—Squire Page's court ground out two cases Friday, which resulted in two of the parties having to pay \$41.60. This helps our public school fund.

Quite a fur trade here at present. Woe unto the possum and skunks.

GASCONADE—Baptism at the bridge last Sunday.[Brrr.]

The high social at Center Point Friday night was largely attended and quite a

lucrative sum realized as a result of the entertainment we understand. Ms. Ida McMillan won the cake awarded to the most popular lady.

CROCKER—Ferrante the Prince of Magic showed some of his skill at the Baptist Church Monday night. He was greeted by a large crowd.

LOCAL ITEMS—Woman does not like to tell her age, neither does she like to show it.

George G. Barbour of East St. Louis is here superintending the building of the furnace in the new schoolhouse.

December 5

BIG PINEY—Peace, prosperity and plenty.

Some complained of hog cholera.

Charles Copeland leased the Big Piney roller mill for two years. Mr. Copeland appears at home in the milling business.

News, like cash, is scarce nowadays.

Lee Carroll was awakened one night last week by an unusual noise on his house and taking his gun stepped out and killed an eagle which measured 7 feet from tip to tip. [There was a belief that an owl on the roof foretold the death of an occupant. Don't believe it extended to eagles, though.]

BLOODLAND—The Birch moving picture show came in Saturday and remained over until Monday to get all the well earned money that the people are willing to give them for a non-entity.

RIGSBY—J. C. Rigsby, who was unfortunate to have the end of his thumb torn off by a frightened horse sometime since, has not improved as fast as was first expected. The injured member is

causing him much annoyance and loss of sleep.

Some of our younger folks attended the pie supper at the Maze schoolhouse last Saturday night report a good time. BAILEY—B. J. Davis, merchant at this place, bought the store J. W. Hick's & Son of Cookville and it is rumored that D. D. Scott intends to erect a large hotel for the accommodation of summer city borders.

That debate at the schoolhouse Friday night under J. A. Davis, teacher, in which none but the scholars took part might well put to shame some of us older ones who never had such advantage and from the start that they have made, we predict that the world will yet hear from many of them.

We congratulate brother Lane of the Democrat in carrying off the cake, although he modestly says a couple dozen Waynesville men are entitled to it. He no doubt would have felt slighted had he not captured it, as in a crowd such as he represented to have been present, they always mean the reverse and as at our place he was deemed the best looking.

Moved.

The Democrat office is now located in the Paris Christeson building, where we will be glad to have any of our friends call when convenient. When in town come in and give us the news and if you are not already a subscriber, have your name placed on our list and, if at the end of the year you feel that you have made a mistake, all you have to do is order your paper stopped. Why not experiment a little? Try it.

State Historical Society Newspapers

Belonging to the state of Missouri under the trusteeship of the State Historical Society of Missouri is an invaluable collection of 6000 bound volumes of Missouri newspapers and magazines. To the Missourian who takes a pride in his state, this collection is beyond any calculation of dollars and cents in value. [The collection also makes the writing of the Old Settlers Gazette possible.] Within those bound newspapers running back to 1819 are to be found one of the very finest and most authentic records of the history of Missouri and her people. Besides these bound volumes of newspapers the society has 1500 volumes ready for the bindery and is regularly receiving 600 different publications of this state, mostly county and daily papers. It has become imperative for Missouri to provide more adequate fireproof housing for this collection. The society should be supported by every editor of this state and its request it will make of this



The Missouri State Fair had its inaugural season in 1901, the result of Missouri livestock breeders lobbying for enabling legislation. Sedalia was chosen as the site from six competing cities. The fair has been showcasing Missouri art and agriculture annually, except for the war years of 1943 and 1944. President William Howard Taft attended the fair in 1911 on Mule Day and rode in the mule parade around the mile long race track. The mule show is still a big draw, perhaps the largest and most famous in the nation. The Wright Brothers provided daily exhibitions the year before when attendance hit 100,000 for the first time. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

coming General Assembly for a building. The Missouri Press Association at the last meeting in August, 1912, at Hannibal placed itself on record as favoring this proposition. It is now a matter in the hands of the citizens of Missouri, her Representatives, Senators, and state officers to forward this greatly needed structure. [*The State Historical Society of Missouri still does not have a building.*]

LOCAL ITEMS—George G. Barbour, accompanied by G. M. Reed and Albert Christeson, took quite a cruise in Mr. Barbour's motorboat one day last week. They went from the mouth of Roubidoux at Gasconade and Big Piney rivers to the Barbour clubhouse near Hooker.

DECEMBER 12

DIXON—There was a small robbery occurred at the depot last Tuesday and about \$17 is missing. There seems to be no clue to the crime.

There has been lots of fish coming in lately. John Davis brought in about 200 pounds last Monday.

BLOODLAND—Mr. Asbell, of Raymondville, has been here for some time doing the photo work, and is a first-class artist. He will go to Big Piney soon.

Brother Lane wouldn't have got the cake if the preachers had stayed away. BIG PINEY—Saturday night Big Piney Lodge I. O. O. F. met and held their annual love feast, 48 men and women participating, and all enjoyed themselves very much feasting on the victuals which Mrs. Charles Copeland had prepared for them.

The moving picture show was well attended and there was good order also.

CROCKER—The Clifton Medicine Show exhibited here last week. Saturday night they gave a rating to the most popular young lady. Anna Jones was the lucky winner.

A New Bridge Ordered.

The County court last Saturday ordered a steel bridge built across the Gasconade River at the Mason Ford. A very strong petition for this bridge was filed some time ago, besides it is proposed to raise \$1000 of the money by popular subscription. This money is to be deposited to the credit of the highway engineer and all right-of-ways secured without cost to the county before the court will enter into a contract for the construction of the bridge. The building of the bridge will accommodate a large number of people in that section of the county and will also furnish a shorter road from Richland to the county seat.

LOCAL ITEMS—An ad in the Democrat does get results. Col. E. P. Creecy advertised that part of his farm on the right bank of the Gasconade River three weeks ago and a buyer arrived at once. The deal was closed, L. M. Bailey paying \$10,000 for the farm. The next day the Colonel had two more buyers.

December 19

COLLEY HOLLOW—Quite a few from this place attended the spelling contest at Laquey between the Laquey and Pleasant Grove schools Friday night.

RIGSBY—The pie supper given at the Anderson school house Saturday night was a complete success both financially and socially.

The Rigsby post office has been discontinued, owing to the trouble of procuring a mail carrier from Hooker. Mr. Rigsby refused to pay the same any longer and of course Uncle Sam was not able.

Van York is the lucky nimrod of this territory he having caught a 20 pound carp and a 60 pound catfish in Big Piney opposite the Elbow Clubhouse.

DIXON—At the close of a contest for membership in the Royal Neighbors, the fortunate half were entertained by

the losers at an elaborate supper, on last Friday night and a large crowd was present to enjoy this supper and spent a social evening at the hall.

Miss Hunter was in town last Monday, taking orders for those splendid made-to-order corsets, for which she has been agent the past year.

SWEDEBORG—Swedeborg will have two Christmas trees this year, one at the Christian church and one at the American Baptist church. Both churches will have good programs and expecting good order and a good time for everyone.

The cool weather has lasted so long and the river is so clear that everyone can get fish.

LOCAL ITEMS—Rigsby post office has been discontinued and we understand so will Decker. This will be on December 31.

Phelps County will vote on local option January 11, 1913. This county has steadily remained in the "wet" column in the past, and our information is that the present campaign will be closely contested throughout the county.

The Clifton Comedy Company closed a week's engagement at the opera house last Saturday night and left Sun-

day for Iberia. Their shows were very good and they seem to be a nice lot of people, making many friends while here. Miss Sally Bird won the prize in the popular lady contest after an interesting race, receiving a handsome oak rocking chair.

GASCONADE—Baptizing at the river at the mouth of Laquey branch next Sunday after church services. Quite a number are to be baptized that day.

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—Miss Lily Grunise was baptized in the Gasconade by Rev. Cox of Swedeborg.

The river at night looks like a Spanish flotilla with all the light boats and men killing fish.

December 26

SCHLICHT SPLINTERS—If this fine weather keeps up there will not be any fish left in the Gasconade, that murderous weapon, the gig, will get them all and cripple the rest.

The price of fish dropped down to four cents per pound with no protection by law and no stop to it.

CROCKER—Ellen Fike, who is attending the Drury College at Springfield came home Saturday to spend holidays with her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fike.

The purchasers of the Barbour mill under the supervision of W. H. Sandefer are having trouble moving the huge engine up the hill to the Waynesville road. With six head of horses and all the idle men in this part of the county they succeeded in getting halfway up in two days.

LOCAL ITEMS—The question is often asked in confidence if it is proper for a man to kiss his wife goodbye every time he leaves her. Those who profess to be good authority are of the opinion that it is far better to kiss his own wife every time than to kiss his neighbor's once in a while.

Quite a demand for headache tablets and Bromo Seltzer at present.

Christmas was fittingly observed in Waynesville. Each of the churches had a Christmas tree and appropriate exercise. Both houses were crowded and both old and young had a splendid time and saw Santa Claus. [*There were two churches in Waynesville in 1912: the Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. J. L. Hicks and M. E. Church, South, Rev. J. E. Cox, pastor.*]

The wise farmer never hires a man with patches on the seat of his overalls.

Compiled and edited by **Terry Primas**, editor of the *Gazette*. Primas is a step-on guide for the Pulaski County Tourism Bureau's bus tours on Route 66 and coauthor, with John Bradbury, of a new book, **Old Pulaski in Pictures**.



This photograph is in the Pulaski County Historical Society's collection and is unidentified. Most often, unidentified images are not of much use but this one begs us to guess about its content. It seems very likely that it is of the local newspaper office, the *Pulaski County Democrat*. From the news items on these pages, we know that the *Democrat* changed hands in May of 1912, with G. W. Lane, Sr. taking over the paper from Mrs. Nathan Wheeler and O. O. Ragsdale. The rotund gentleman in the picture does not resemble the one image of George Lane, Sr. that we have seen so we will guess it is Oliver O. Ragsdale, who bought a half interest in the paper in 1908 from Mrs. Nathan Wheeler after her husband died. Nathan Wheeler had been the owner/editor since 1898 and died, apparently of tuberculosis, in 1907. We think the lady to the far left is Mrs. Wheeler. She had owned a millinery store and was probably a stylish dresser. The woman on the far right could be Mrs. Ragsdale, her age seems to be about that of Oliver. The printer's devil on the press could be Virgil Wheeler, Nathan's brother, who helped his sister-in-law and Ragsdale with the paper. The lady in the white blouse could be one of several ladies who worked at the *Democrat* between 1907 and 1912. If you have a different guess as to the date and personages of the images, please let us know.