

One hundred years ago the major news stories were ones of destruction and construction. The three destructive fires of 1914-1915 in Crocker were a hot topic for six months. We begin our century-old local news review with the first fire in November of 1914, which we omitted in last year's recap. The good roads movement was definitely on a roll with construction and improvement of local roads and enthusiasm for the Ozark Trail.

This year's news feature has a different structure. In addition to centennial news, we will for the next several years feature "news and views" from 75 years ago. Why? This year, 2015, is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the 7th Corps Army Training Center, officially designated Fort Leonard Wood in 1941. Surveying for the training center began in November of 1940. Radical change came to Pulaski County.

# Pulaski News



## News and Views of 100 Years Ago 75 Years Ago

The newspapers of Pulaski County had several turn-overs in proprietors during this period. George Lane turned over ownership of the *Pulaski County Democrat* to V. V. Long in the latter part of 1914. A. Goforth published the *Crocker Star* but left to share the helm of the *Dixon Pilot* with co-publisher Miss Ona McCully. He still had newspaper equipment and supplies stored in Crocker that burned. Ethel T. Meade was owner/publisher and M. F. Meade, editor, of the *Crocker News*. Educator George L. Cole was editor/publisher of the *Richland Mirror* until June, 1915, when W. M. Holmes became editor and then publisher in October. In December, R. T. Lemons bought the *Mirror* and became publisher.

November 13, 1914  
*Dixon Pilot*

### Big Fire at Crocker.

Crocker suffered a serious fire last Tuesday night when three buildings and thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise burned.

The fire seemed to have originated in the basement of the concrete store building owned by W. H. Fike and occupied by C. A. Burchard & Co.'s general store. The wall of the building crumbled and the frame building adjoining on the east side occupied by Chas. Vandegriff's barber shop was quickly laid low by the flames, which went on east into and destroyed the massive brick Odd Fellows building, which was occupied by the Crocker State Bank, the Crocker Mercantile Co.'s large store, and Dr. Orrick's office. The long, high and solid south wall of the building and much hard work prevented the fire from taking hold on the adjoining frame buildings, though most everything was carried

into the street from the remaining five stores and the bank of Crocker in the same block.

Most all the contents of the two last named buildings were saved, but little was saved from Burchard's store, in which an immense lot of new staple goods had just been placed, and the stock was perhaps not half covered by insurance. The Odd Fellows carried about \$3,000 insurance on their building, which was worth \$7,000 to \$8,000.

The fire was discovered at about 8 o'clock by ladies at Rebekah lodge, in the I. O. O. F. Hall. It is thought the fire started from an acetylene light generator.

## 1915

January 1

*Richland Mirror*

See the moving picture show at the town hall Saturday night. Moving pictures Wednesday and Saturday nights of each week at the town hall. Change of reels at every show.

The Pulaski county court has ordered a special election for Liberty township for the purpose of voting on the stock law proposition. The election is to be held February 9, 1915. [A stock law required livestock to be confined by fencing.]

E. E. Noe was called to Stoutland Wednesday to do some telephone repairing. Finding that the Frisco schedule and his did not agree altogether, he walked home after supper. [That's a walk of about 8 miles.]

January 22  
*Dixon Pilot*  
**Finest Ever.**

The Dixon Light and Power Co. turned on the lights on the various streets, in our business houses, residences, etc., for the first time Friday night, 22nd, and to say our people are pleased with the lights the Ab-ernathys are giving us is putting it mild enough. These beautiful white lights cannot be surpassed by the plants of the big cities or any other

place, and they are just as steady as the Rock of Gibraltar. While some smaller towns around us had electric lights installed before Dixon did yet our Alderman and others have used their usual conservatism and farsightedness and didn't grab at the first opportunity to get any sort of makeshift for electric lights, and now we think all are beginning to feel well paid for waiting a while, as we got a fair deal in lights, have good men at the helm and are getting as good service as it is possible for anyone to render. We believe our Aldermen, who largely engineered the securing of the light plant, and who were "cussed" more or less (principally more) in connection with former light propositions, are entitled to the lasting gratitude of our people in general, and that special thanks are due Mayor M. F. Sweet, whose head was level on the matter of lights, who was a tireless worker for a light plant that would rank with the best on a plan that

would stand the test of time, and who moved to Colorado before the plant was nearly installed.

February 5  
*Richland Mirror*

Local and Personal—Wm. Dodson says the largest single sale of postage stamps that he has ever made was last Tuesday when he sold \$15 worth to E. A. Steckel. [Steckel was promoting his development of Turkey Ridge.]

Prospects for a large real estate business this coming spring are extra good, says E. A. Steckel. He mailed out over 700 letters last Tuesday to prospective buyers.

It is reported that two brothers of Waynesville by the name of Black died this week from the effects of having drank a quantity of wood alcohol. [These were sons of Eliza Black, owner of the Black Hotel, now the Old Stagecoach Stop.]

February 11  
*Crocker News*

Now is the time to look around and pick out your Mayor and City Council for the next year. We don't care who they are so long as they favor a city waterworks, electric lights, a free public library, more sidewalks and street crossings and a progressive administration of the city's affairs.

February 12  
*Dixon Pilot*

#### Why Have Good Roads?

There are an abundance of reasons why we should have good roads, even under normal conditions.

But there are urgent reasons why we should have them this year, when conditions are expected to far surpass even those of normal.

Our roads must be in condition for prompt harvesting of the great crops which the world is demanding

of America this year.

Experts in all lines of business predict that 1915 will be the most prosperous year in the history of the United States.

President Wilson has publicly warned the farmers of the country that the task of feeding the world will soon devolve upon us, and he urges us to utilize every ounce of energy and every foot of ground, that the supply may be equal to the tremendous demand for food.

Europe today is non-productive yet the people of those countries must be fed. They must not starve. And America is the only nation that is equal to the gigantic task.

And because the herculean task falls upon the American farmer, it is imperative that no act of ours be left undone that may be productive of greater or swifter results.

And herein lies the value of good

country roads.

Tremendous crops may be grown and harvested, but they must be marketed in record time this year.

And without good roads this cannot be done.

The time is opportune for the people of this community to take up this matter and see that prompt measures are taken to insure the best of roads in the country districts before the time is at hand for the moving of the great crops we are asked to produce.

Horses and mules must draw this produce to the shipping points, and this is a matter requiring both time and animal energy.

An animal possesses only a certain amount of energy, beyond which it may be taxed, and when that energy is exhausted it ceases to be of the greatest value to its owner, and future movements are retarded



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If country roads are placed in the best possible condition during the spring and summer months, the fall movement of crops will be accomplished with greater ease and less expense than heretofore. And every hour of time will be needed this fall if the farmers heed the call of the world and the warning of our president.

Let us "up and be doing" here that we may contribute bountifully of our substance when humanity turns to us for bread.

*Richland Mirror*

### Stock Law Meets Defeat

The stock law, which was voted on at the special election last Tuesday in Liberty Township, was defeated by a majority of 42. Following is the official vote cast:

Swedeborg—38 for, 73 against

Bellefonte—19 for, 49 against

Richland—160 for, 137 against  
[It's apparent that Richland was the only community in the township in favor of keeping cows, hogs, sheep, and horses behind fences.]

March 26

*Dixon Pilot*

### Second Conflagration for Crocker Within 5 Months

Fire which started at about 8:30 p.m. Saturday night, 20th, dealt a much heavier blow to Crocker than the fire that occurred the 10th of last November. Starting in the old Wagner hotel building the fire spread quickly to adjacent buildings north and south till every building south was burned out to the street, and was only checked in the old bank brick building near Rowden's store on the north side of the block.

The buildings burned, all of which were two stories in height, were: the old solid concrete building on the southeast corner of the block and the large frame building adjoining on the north, both owned by Dr. J. E. Rayl; the concrete block and Wagner building, owned by J. L. Hoops; the Teeple Hotel (formerly

sanatorium), owned by Drs. L. and A. L. Tice, and considerable damage was done to the interior—especially of the north side—of the old brick bank building owned by Dr. A. L. Tice.

The ground floor of the solid concrete building on the corner was occupied by the Head & Fisher general store and the second floor by the Thos. Jones family and the local exchange of the Pioneer Telephone Co.

The first floor of the frame building adjacent was occupied on the south side by the City Drug Store, owned by T. M. Peterson; and on the north side by Dr. J. E. Rayl's offices in the rear, and Arthur Singleton's barber shop in the front. Part of the second floor was used as a city hall—official meeting place of the city officers, and part was used as residence by Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Fisher.

Next in line was the concrete block building, the first floor of which was occupied by Onnie Gifford's meat market and restaurant. The second floor of this building and the second floor of the Wagner hotel building adjoining were occupied as bed rooms in connection with the Hotel Teeple. The first floor of the Wagner hotel building was occupied on the south side by the Palace Drug Store, owned by Dr. Orrick and Geo. Zeiseniss; the north side by the Vandegrift barber shop.

Next was the sanatorium building, which was occupied as the Hotel Teeple proper, conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Teeple.

The brick bank building, which was not destroyed but damaged, was occupied on ground floor by the Crocker State Bank, the bank which suffered a loss and was burned out of a home in the November fire. The second floor was occupied as the residence of Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Tice.

Head & Fisher saved all their goods, and we are told had \$2,000 insurance, which probably will cover damage sustained in piling goods out in the street. The Pioneer Tele-

phone Co.'s switchboard and other paraphernalia was saved, as was also all the household goods of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones, except a heating stove which was too hot to handle at the time.

T. M. Peterson saved most of his drug stock, fixtures, etc., and was still wearing "the smile that never comes off." Insurance, \$1,500. Dr. Rayl's office fixtures and Arthur Singleton's tonsorial equipment were saved.

Onnie Gifford saved part of his stock, lost considerable, and had only \$600 insurance.

Perhaps less than half the Palace Drug Store stock was saved, though most of fixtures saved. \$1,500 insurance. The Vandegrift barber shop equipment was destroyed in whole.

With the exception of a piano, little of value was saved from the well furnished Teeple Hotel, embracing the three buildings. \$950 insurance perhaps half covers the loss.

We didn't get any report on the amount of insurance carried by Dr. Rayl on his buildings. Part of the other insurance reports we give were not obtained first hand and we do not vouch for their correctness.

J. L. Hoops had only \$2,500 insurance on his building.

Drs. Tice had \$2,000 insurance on the Hotel Teeple (sanatorium) building and a like amount on the brick bank building.

The fire's origination was from a gasoline heating apparatus that was being lighted by Chas. Vandegrift in the Vandegrift & Lumpkin barber shop, located in the Wagner hotel building. Mr. Vandegrift, who was blown against the wall and his clothing set on fire by the exploding gasoline, was rescued by friends who happened to be in the shop at the time.

Crocker had not recovered from the loss sustained in the November fire. The Odd Fellows' building is the only one of the three destroyed at that time that is being replaced and it is not near ready for occupancy.

Learning about midnight Saturday

night, 27th, that Crocker had just suffered another disastrous fire, the Pilot man boarded the 12:44 a.m. train for the scene of the conflagration, saw the ruins, gathered the facts above as best he could 'midst the confusion and returned on the 7:16 train, No. 10.

March 19

*Richland Mirror*

### RICHLAND LIGHT & POWER CO.

No town large or small on the Frisco has a better quality of electric lights or a more dependable and satisfactory service than Richland. The Richland Light & Power company has over 800 lights in residences, stores, public buildings and on the streets. The machinery is driven by an oil engine of the latest design. As soon as the demand will justify the additional effort, a day power and fan service will be installed. [Richland was the first Pulaski County village to have electric lights. It was also the first to have a city water system, due to a series of devastating fires.]

March 25

*Crocker News*

Dr. Pippin came out from St. Louis Sunday with a force of men to finish the work on his summer resort, which he is building at Bartlett's Mill.

March 29

*Dixon Pilot*

The Dixon Light & Power Co. is kept busy wiring houses and installing fixtures for electric lights. The very latest and most efficient fixtures were installed in the Masonic Hall this week, and therein was also installed the first electric fan for Dixon—a large ceiling fan. The time is near when many others will have fans installed.

April 2

*Dixon Pilot*

The material for the reconstruction of the Baker Hotel is being delivered and work will begin on same as soon as the weather will permit.—reprinted from the *Pulaski County Democrat*. [The Baker Hotel

in Waynesville burned in December of 1914.]

April 8  
Crocker News

**Bartlett's Mill Burns**

Word reached Crocker this (Thursday) morning that Bartlett's Mill, situated on the Gasconade River about five miles southwest of Crocker, burned last night, the building (except water wheel) and contents being a total loss. The fire started at 8:30 or thereabouts and light from the burning building could be seen from here.

Dixon Pilot

The proposition to hold a nine months term of school carried by an overwhelming majority, 123 For and 12 Against.

The Fontanelle Stock Company played in the local opera house for three nights this week. These players

put on some good plays, but because of the fact that their coming was poorly advertised and the revival meetings at the churches, the shows were not largely attended.

April 9

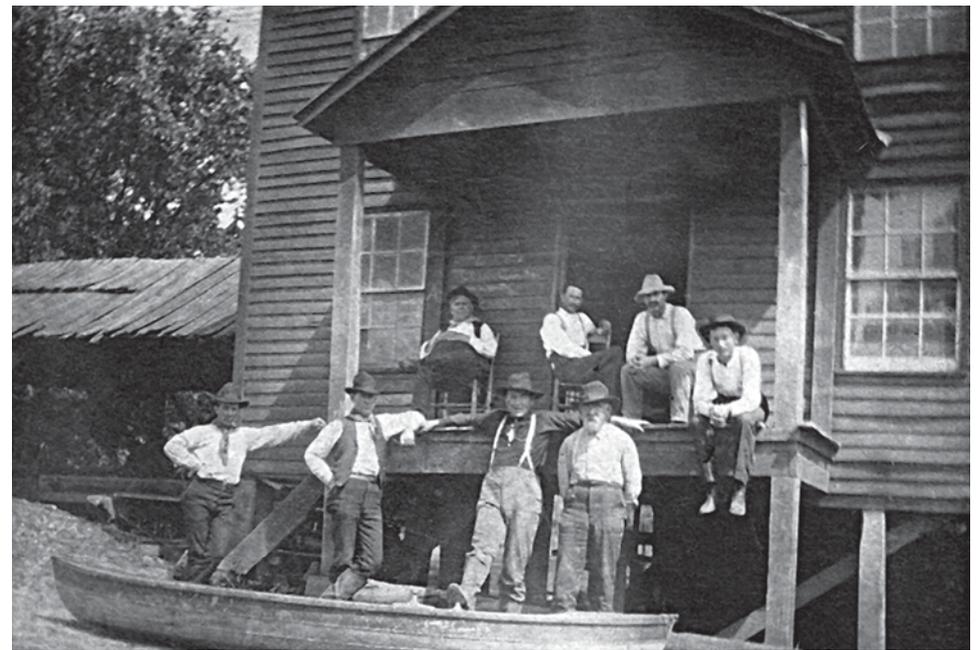
J. J. Grempczynski and Wm. Hilton opened a new picture show—The Gem Theatre—this week, 2nd door south of the Bank of Dixon. The first show was Friday night. They are arranging to show pictures soon on last Monday's prize fight in which Jesse Willard, the cowboy, knocked the sox off Jack Johnson. Willard's training quarters are to be shown. [The boxing footage of the fight in Havana was not shown. A law prevented it.]

April 15

Crocker News

**What About Fire Protection?**

Within the short space of six



A partial view of Bartlett Mill before it burned. The mill structure was built by Solomon Bartlett in 1866. Dr. Bland Pippin bought the mill in 1911 from Bartlett, who died in 1917. Pippin rebuilt the mill after it burned in 1915. Dr. Pippin is at far left, front row. At far right, front row, is William Bradford of Pulaski County. After young Bland was orphaned, William and his wife, Missiniah Tilley Bradford, raised him. Others in the picture are Dr. Pippin's cronies from St. Louis. Courtesy Lauramae Pippin Eckert.

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months property losses in Crocker from two fires totals over forty thousand dollars. Practically all of this loss could have been prevented had the city had adequate fire protection. To save a few dollars in taxes Crocker people have seen thousands of dollars in property go up in smoke, and the city set back an incalculable degree in progress. A third of the amount claimed by the fire demon in the recent fires would have given the city adequate fire protection, saved most of the burned property and reduced the insurance rate from one-half to three-fourths; also the plant would soon pay for itself and become a source of revenue to the city from the sale of water to private individuals. The saving on the insurance rate alone would go a long way towards making a water system a paying investment for Crocker. When will the city wake up to the

realization of the need of fire protection? Possibly when the remaining portion of the city is wiped out.

April 16  
*Richland Mirror*

J. B. Woodward and son, Ernest, have purchased the entire stock in the Richland Light & Power plant and are now the sole owners. The people of Richland will be glad to know that the plant is owned and controlled by local men.

April 23  
*Dixon Pilot*  
**At Crocker.**

The new ice plant to be installed by T. H. Turpin, the Crystal Bottling Works man at Crocker, will soon be producing ice.

Mr. Turpin has had a large force of workmen very busy for some time erecting a substantial two-story

building, 40x60 feet, to house the ice plant and the bottling works, and he expects to have all the machinery installed ready for business by the middle of May. The new building is located opposite Mr. Turpin's palatial residence and in front of the Frisco station—on "Sardine Corner."

Dr. J. E. Rayl has contracted with an architect for the erection of a large brick building on the site of his concrete and frame buildings recently destroyed by the big Crocker fire [in March]. The building is to be 60x90 feet, two stories, with extensive basement, and is to cost \$12,000. On the first floor will be three large store rooms, which will be occupied by T. M. Peterson's drug store, Fred Burgess' general store and Onnie Gifford's meat market and grocery, all facing east. At the west end, facing south, will be Dr. Rayl's offices. The entire

second floor will be fitted up in the most modern way for a hotel of a couple of dozen rooms, which will be conducted by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Teeple. The entrance to the hotel will be from the center of the south side of the building, facing the Odd Fellows' building.

April 30, 1915  
*Dixon Pilot*

**CROCKER HARD HIT BY THIRD BIG FIRE WITHIN SIX MONTHS Seventeen Thousand Dollar Fire Licks Up S. Gleave's Furniture Store and Lumber Sheds, J. L. Hoops' Mill and Elevator, 25,000 R. R. Ties and Star Printing Outfit.**

Crocker suffered the third disastrous fire within the last six months when the large business house owned and occupied by S. Gleave, J. L. Hoops' large grist mill and grain elevator, the new lumber sheds owned by S. Gleave and

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a small stock of lumber owned by E. S. Bond, and about 2500 railroad ties owned by the Hobart-Lee Tie Co. were reduced to ashes last Saturday night [April 24] by a fire of unknown origin which started in Gleave's Furniture store.

The Gleave building was a large two-story frame building with iron siding. Mr. Gleave had the first floor pretty well packed full of new furniture, including a number of coffins, a \$500 piano, some cream separators, etc.

The large concrete basement was used by Mr. Gleave for the egg department of his produce business.

The second floor of the building was used as an opera house, and on this floor was stored the paraphernalia of the Odd Fellows' lodge, which was rescued when the Odd Fellows' building burned last fall. On the second floor was also over \$500 worth of new printing material stored there by the publishers of Pilot last fall. Nothing was saved from the building, as the interior was well ablaze before the fire was discovered. Mr. Gleave's loss is estimated at about \$8,000. He had about \$5,000 insurance.

Mr. Hoops's loss on mill and elevator building, machinery, grain and flour is estimated at \$5,000 and he had about \$2,000 insurance.

The lumber and railroad ties were a clear loss.

Heroic work saved Chas. Johnson's residence, though the siding on the south side was charred by the heat. His damage is well covered by insurance.

The Pioneer Telephone Co. suffered some damage and loss. Slight damage was also sustained by the Telegraph Co. when the ties burned.

We are told that J. L. Hoops had a close call for his life: that he was on top of his grain elevator trying to save it when the high south wall of the burning Gleave building swung over against the mill building. Fire below shut off his escape by way of the stairs, and no ladder was at hand long enough to reach him, but by

men holding a ladder up on their hands he was rescued.

The last big fire before this occurred four weeks to a quarter of an hour previous to this one. The other one was on the 10th of November. They all happened at or immediately after 9:00 p.m., the first on Tuesday night and the last two on Saturday night.

Mr. Hoops, Mr. Gleave and the Pioneer Telephone Co. each sustained losses in the fire of March 27.

The property destroyed by the fire was all first-class stuff. The buildings were practically new. They were located south of the Frisco depot, immediately on the east side of the railroad about a block from the site of the two previous fires.

The Pilot man, while finishing addressing last week's sheet to the subscribers, at about 12 o'clock Saturday night, was apprised of the fire, and arrived on the scene in Crocker at 1:00—in time to see the four ricks of ties burn. They made some fire. [Pictures on page 13.]

*Richland Mirror*

George L. Cole has been employed as superintendent of the schools.

The salaries for the Richland teachers were fixed as follows: Principal \$50, all others \$42.50 per month. [It is interesting that Editor Cole did not publish the salary of Superintendent Cole, who were one and the same.]

May 6

*Crocker News*

### **Crocker To Have Four Year High School**

Crocker is to have a four year high school this coming school year. This fact was assured the other day when a number of public spirited citizens of the school district pledged about five hundred dollars towards maintaining the extra grade next year. This move puts Crocker at the top of the schools in Pulaski County and shows that the town is alive and wide awake along educational lines. Quite a bit of credit for this move is due to Prof. Trippe, but more is due

to the people for the readiness and enthusiasm with which they came to the support of the plan, financially and morally. The News is glad to chronicle this forward step for it shows that we are doing as much as possible for the better education of the rising generation—the citizens of tomorrow.

### **Moves to New Quarters**

The Crocker State Bank will move into their new quarters on the corner, in the I. O. O. F. building from which they were driven by the fire last November when the building burned out. Their quarters have been thoroughly overhauled and refinished and now they have one of the neatest banking offices to be found in country towns. Drop in and see them. Cashier Chas. Ousley will be there to extend the glad hand.

Chris Adamson, one of Pulaski county's progressive citizens, living near Crocker, paid the News office a visit last Saturday morning. In the course of the conversation Mr. Adamson called the editor's attention to an article in a recent issue of the News stating that Monroe Evans, of Richland, was the first Pulaski county farmer to purchase a tractor. Mr. Adamson, it seems, has that honor. He brought the first tractor to this county last fall and unloaded it at Crocker. He also sold one to Chris Strom, also of near here, and later sold Mr. Evans his tractor. We are glad that Crocker has the honor of introducing this modern farm implement in Pulaski county.

May 7

*Dixon Pilot*

Amusements and attractions seemed plentiful here Saturday evening. The Gem was in full swing, a medicine show held forth on the street, the ice cream social and bazaar by the Ladies' Aid of the Christian Church catered to good business in the Franklin concrete building, and last, but not necessarily least, there was something doing

at the city hall and holdover.

Unless a quarantine is established here soon, the fishing fever promises to envelope the whole community. Been feeling the symptoms ourselves.

May 13

*Crocker News*

Tom Turpin, the ice man, has begun making soda and ice cream and will soon have the ice plant running. Crocker need not worry about the hot weather this summer.

June 4

*Richland Mirror*

### **PRIZES FOR FLIES**

The collection of flies for which the Richland Civics Club has offered a prize each to the boy and girl bringing in the largest number or amount of flies has been changed from June 1 to Tuesday afternoon, June 8. Collection will be made and prizes awarded at the school house at 2:30 o'clock P. M. June 8. Get busy with your fly swatters and fly traps. Don't forget the date. Bring your flies! [Controlling flies was a community cause in the summer of '15.]

June 4

*Dixon Pilot*

The Pulaski County road machinery has at last arrived at Crocker. It is first to be used in building a good road from Crocker to Waynesville and from Waynesville to Richland, a distance of twenty-five miles in all, at a cost of \$125 a mile, and the county is to pay \$5,000 for the machinery. The work is to require about five months' time.

June 18

*Richland Mirror*

### **NOTICE.**

An Ozark Trails Convention will be held in Lebanon, Tuesday afternoon June 22. This is an organization for the promotion of a good road through the Ozarks for automobiles. It is a splendid undertaking and everyone interested in the welfare of Richland and Pulaski county should make special efforts to attend

this convention. This convention will have much to do with the location of the trail through the Ozarks. The Old Wire Road is a competitor for the trail and has claims worthy of consideration. It is requested that Richland shall be well represented with automobiles. *[This is the first mention of good roads in the Mirror.]*

June 25

*Dixon Pilot*

### **Ozark Trail via Dixon.**

In response to the Ozark Trail article in Pilot on the 11th, the Business Men's Club met promptly and took decisive action. Committees were appointed and our people were thoroughly organized to look after the interests of this section, and, believe us, they were looked after. Seventy of our good people were at the Lebanon Convention to see that Dixon's claims were properly presented. Dixon had the largest delegation present of any town in Pulaski County, but Richland came so close to us that there wasn't any fun left, and Crocker came right down the line after them.

The fact of the business was Pulaski county just simply swamped the convention and carried off the honors.

The Convention was presided over by Hon. J. T. Woodruff of Springfield, formerly a Crawford county boy, and G. W. Shelton of Dixon was the Secretary.

When our people figured out the route they intended to present to the Ozark Trails Association's Committee, they felt sure they would propose the best possible route that could be selected between Springfield and St. Louis, and it proved to be so. It is practically a "bee-line" from Springfield to St. Louis, leaving the Frisco where the railroad makes the crook at Dixon.

In a write-up of the Convention at Lebanon, the Iberia Sentinel, which was personally represented by its editor and publisher, Ben. M. Martin, put it very aptly in its this week's issue when it says:

*The route most favored by the Convention was the one following the Frisco Railroad as far as Dixon and thence northeast via Vienna, Owensville and Union to St. Louis.*

One of the best rock roads in the State has already been built from St. Louis to Union, and there were plenty substantial representatives present at Lebanon to vouch for the fact that the balance of the chain would be completed, and it will be. The counties of Webster and Laclede propose to complete the trail at once so far as they are concerned. Pulaski county has spent considerable money for road machinery and is very much on record for good roads—she is building them now and is figuring on buying more machinery to hurry the good work.

It is probable that the plan that will be decided on will be that of organizing special road districts along the route of the trail in the county and voting bonds in these districts. That would appear to be a feasible way of getting at the matter. As Mr. Woodruff, the able chairman of the Convention said, no county ever built a system of good roads without going in debt; all railroads are built on borrowed money and the great corporations and all big undertakings are founded in the same way; and we believe our people have about arrived at the place where they have come to the conclusion that this is the only way to ever get good roads in this section.

The matter of paying a small added tax doesn't spell so much when you get down to real figures on it. The added benefit to the community would more than offset the extra tax. In one way or another good roads will increase everyone's income sufficient to offset the little added tax.

One thing that bears on our mind is the fact that whenever any proposition for issuing bonds is mentioned, almost the only fellows to raise a howl about increasing taxes are those whose taxes, like those of Pilot, are too insignificant to even be

worthy of mention; while the fellows who have large possessions and who plunk down the real taxes seldom complain and are almost invariably in the forefront of any move to increase taxes for any purpose whatever that will add to the advancement of the community. And if the fellows who have to pay the real taxes are willing to have them increase to build good roads—the paramount need of this part of the country—Pilot will be there to contribute its might before the last roll is called. *[What Richland's attitude about the convention was is unknown. The issue after the meeting is missing.]*

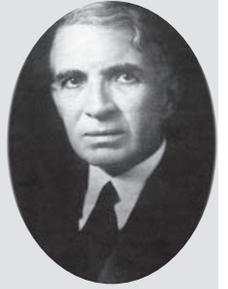
July 2

*Dixon Pilot*

### **To Put It Up to the Court.**

The Committee meeting of Richland, Crocker and Dixon Commercial Clubs was held in Dixon

### **John T. Woodruff**



John Thomas Woodruff (1868-1949), Springfield attorney and hotelier, was an early supporter of the good roads movement. In the second decade of the twentieth century, he was a featured speaker at conventions and small town road meetings all over the Ozarks promoting the Ozark Trail and road improvement in general. When Route 66 was commissioned in 1926, he focused his promotional talents on the new national road. Woodruff was a founder and first president of the U. S. Highway 66 Association.



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Tuesday afternoon, as per schedule. All the officers of the Ozark Trail Association of Pulaski County were present as follows:

J. L. Hoops, Crocker, President

F. H. Wright, Richland,  
Vice-President

S. G. Black, Swedeborg,  
Vice-President

Arthur Alexander, Hancock  
Vice-President

Chas. Ousley, Crocker, Secretary  
G. W. Shelton, Dixon, Treasurer

The meeting was well attended by Dixon enthusiasts, and after several talks on plans for getting the Trail built through the county, it was unanimously decided that the Committee should confer with the County Court at Waynesville next Wednesday.

The idea suggested by Mr. Hoops at the organization at Lebanon last week for the county to buy another tractor outfit with which to build the Trail road and with which to build other roads in the county, is the basis of the plan the Association will work on. The plan seems to meet with the approval of everyone without exception whose attention is called to it, and undoubtedly it will be approved by the Court.

The tractor that is at work on the Crocker-Waynesville road is doing great work. It is simply wonderful what the "shootin' match" is doing—making about half a mile a day of excellent road at a cost of \$17.

We believe the county is able to buy another one of these outfits and we can't imagine any better use that it could put \$5,000 to than invest it in road machinery that has been tried and found to deliver the goods to the utmost satisfaction. There is nothing Pulaski county is as much in need of as good roads, and no other investment of ten times as much money could add as much to the value of the county and to convenience and comfort of the citizenship in general. With two of these tractors it would not require a great deal of time to build good roads all over the county, which



**Top** An unusual view of a nighttime fire. This is the I.O.O.F. building ablaze during the first fire on November 10, 1914. The brick building still stands today on the corner of Commercial and Tenth Streets. Courtesy of Cherie Newcomb Rigsby.

**Middle** The day after the first fire, goods rescued from incineration are piled in the street. Courtesy of Brett Kinsley.

**Bottom** The devastation on the east side of the railroad tracks, across from the depot, is evident in this picture. Although there were three fires in a relatively short time, they all appeared to be accidents. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



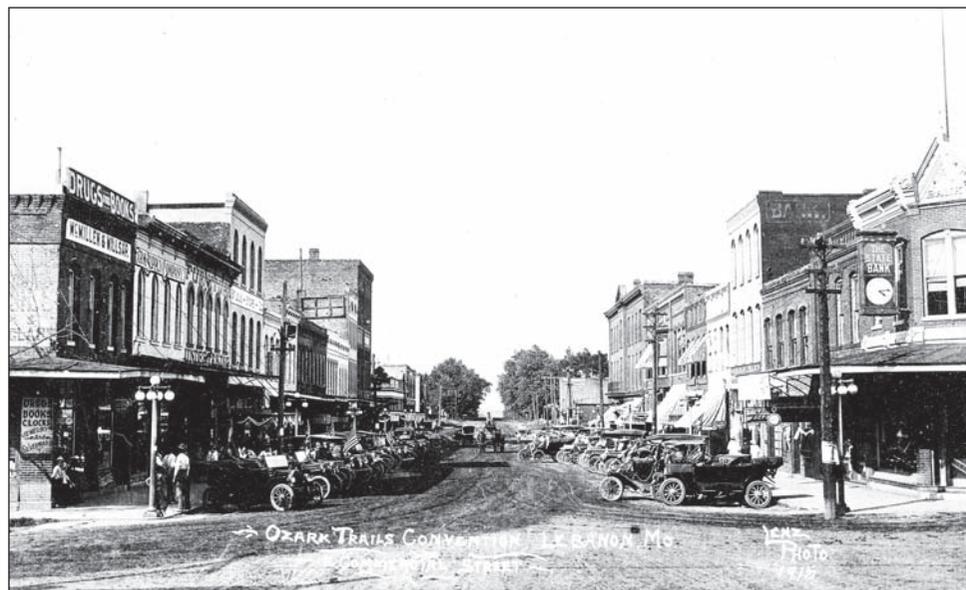
would immediately place our county in a much higher rank in more ways than one.

If necessary to vote bonds, the quicker we vote them the quicker we will reap the benefits.

In the matter of taxes Mr. Hoops Tuesday put the question in a very true but different light than perhaps many have looked at it. He stated that the man on the farm who hauls railroad ties and farm produce to town pays more taxes than the big merchants and other business men, in that the tie hauler pulls his team hard every day bringing in eight or ten ties, while if he had a good road to travel on he could just as easily if not more easily haul twice as many ties at a load, and make the trip in less time. When you come to think about it the fellows that travel our make-shift roads are paying a heavy tax every day.

Undoubtedly those who have to use our miserable roads regularly cannot conscientiously oppose a bond issue. If their children have to finish paying them off it is a self evident fact that they could afford to do so. Having the advantages of good roads to begin with they would be more able perhaps than their dads are now.

There isn't one good reason under the sun that can be advanced for Pulaski county staying in the rut, and we do not think she will. Our people are determined to pull out of the rut, and it will take an earthquake cou-



The rutted dirt Commercial Street in Lebanon was lined with automobiles for the June 1915 Good Roads Convention. The meeting was very well attended by citizens from Richland, Crocker, and Dixon. The excitement carried over, inspiring good roads meetings in those towns. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

pled with a cyclone to prevent the building of good roads in Pulaski county, Missouri, U.S.A., in the no distant future.

July 16

*Dixon Pilot*

**Do You Want a Band?**

Do the City Council, Citizens and Business men of Dixon want a Band?

The citizens and business men now realize the benefits and needs of a good Band organization in Dixon and have signified their desire that a new and more permanent band organization be perfected soon, and feel that everyone should assist in such organization, to the end that music can be had at home by home

people whenever wanted for any public entertainment or business undertaking.

On some occasions it is necessary to have a band, and to have the necessary music. I feel assured that if our Board of Aldermen, citizens and business men generally will lend the assistance they should, there can and will be a good and permanent band organization perfected in Dixon by those who are in business who are permanently located and expect to remain in Dixon.

The first step in reorganization of a good permanent band is to get the hearty co-operation of every citizen and business man of Dixon. In order to get those who will make good and

permanent members of a band, they must be assured that the band would be supported by the necessary funds and the influence and aid of our best citizens and business men to sustain a first-class band.

H. J. von Grep.

If Dixon people are to have and keep a concert band, we must make up our minds to support a band organization. Bands have went by the wayside heretofore for the lack of support, and it would be folly for another band to organize without having a guarantee of good faith on the part of the citizenship. Why pay \$50 for a band (that isn't much "punk" at best) to come from elsewhere to play for us on each single occasion? It is up to the people of Dixon.

July 23

*Dixon Pilot*

Considerable improvement is being done at the Pickle Station. Two large tanks or tubs have just been erected, making eight 1200 and two 500-bushel tanks in all and Manager McGirr expects to fill all of them with cucumbers this season and then perhaps not be able to handle all the supply, as ground by the hundreds of acres is to be planted to cucumbers. The present capacity of the plant, as will be seen above is 10,600 bushels.

A new and extensive platform has also been built on the north side of the plant.

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The owners of the pickle plant a few years ago were reluctant to station the original small equipment here till several of us stood for \$20 apiece on a guarantee to them that the farmers around Dixon would produce enough cucumbers to make the venture profitable at this place. And it has made good from the start, and the Company is continually enlarging and improving the plant.

We understand the Pickle Company will use the Dixon canning plant in connection with the pickle plant in putting up dill pickles.

July 30

*Richland Mirror*

More automobiles in town this week. Messrs. Press, Lingsweiler, Evington and E. L. Payne are the newest recruits. Most of them are of the Ford type with now and then a sprinkling of the other varieties.

Remember the Good Roads Day at Richland, August 10. Be a booster for the Ozarks Trail, come to Richland and help us put Pulaski county on the map.

August 13

*Dixon Pilot*

**Good Meeting at Richland.**

Several of our local O. T. boosters attended the big meeting at Richland Tuesday, though a number here as well as all along the line were kept from attending by the rain. The meeting was a good one and well attended considering the amount of rain.

J. T. Woodruff of Springfield was Chairman and G. W. Shelton of Dixon was Secretary of the meeting, and Mr. Woodruff made the first talk, telling about the beginning of the good road movement at Springfield by organizing a special road district, and that they found they had abundance of money from the regular tax, and they paid thirty per cent on the building of a number of roads many miles out from Springfield. Mr. Woodruff reminded all that the O. T. was not only a good road through the Ozarks, but that the part of the Trail we are interested in is a link of a transcontinental road from San Francisco to New

York. And the road is being built just as much for wagons as autos. [This reference to a transcontinental road is the first mention of the vision of what became Route 66 that Woodruff and Cyrus Avery of Oklahoma championed. Woodruff became the first president of the U. S. Route 66 Association and Avery is acknowledged as the "father" of the road.]

August 20

*Dixon Pilot*

**Road Meet Postponed.**

On account of the immense amount of rain and mud produced thereby, the big good roads meeting and the Picnic scheduled for



This may be the previous Dixon band, ca. 1912. Musicians are, left to right: Dick Stricklan, Charles Smith, Chas. ?, Guy Rhea, Ray Stevens, Eglin Lumpkin, Frank Schneider, Ray Harrison, Tom Schneider, W. S. Needles. Courtesy of the Jessie McCully Library.

the 21st has been postponed for a few days. Notice of new date will be sent out soon. [It should be understood that the citizens of yore were not afraid to get wet or muddy. The problem was that the roads became impassable.]

Peaches and apples certainly are plentiful this season, and the prices are almost in reach of printers.

Pouring oil upon troubled waters was a practice of ancient days, but in modern times we have different uses for oil.

We put it upon our streets and roads, and it pays for itself many times over.

Since the automobile made its appearance the practice of oiling streets has come into general use, and has proven by actual experiment to be one of the best methods of preserving our public highways.

August 27

*Dixon Pilot*

The finest home-grown Elberta peaches we ever saw have been selling at 50c a bushel.

The farmers along the O. T. route near Dixon don't seem to be falling over themselves in subscribing to the fund for building the road. Though the road would mean more to them than to any business man in Dixon, yet it seems they are waiting for Dixon business men to tender them the road on a silver platter.

Large numbers of our people went to Jerome, Arlington and other

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**Daniel Whittle**

*Looking forward to serving you as Assessor of Pulaski County.*

**Have Fun at Old Settlers Day**

points on the river Sunday to view the high waters. We saw the water at its highest point during the rise. In places it was touching the main girders of the railroad bridge. A riverman said it was a twenty-six and a half foot rise. The gravel barge at Arlington which cost about \$6,000 was claimed by the Piney flood.

High water caused a fire that destroyed the Powell lumber shed and stock at Newburg. The fire was started by slacking lime which was reached by the water.

September 2  
Richland Mirror

#### CITY TO HAVE NEW PARK

The City Council and the business men have made arrangements to gravel McClurg street from Piney street two blocks north west to the depot and teams will be put to work at once hauling the gravel. The Frisco R. R. Co. has promised that if the city will gravel this street they will Park the vacant strip lying between the railroad track and the hotel placing the Frisco emblem of flowers within the park and surround it by a graveled drive. The company has just recently fenced the park lying just across the street from the strip and added very much to the appearance of front street.

With this other work completed Richland will present an inviting appearance to all passengers and persons coming into our city from the railroad. May this spirit of enterprise and civic pride never wane.

Clyde Pennell [*who was in jail*] was taken to the Cemetery last Saturday to work out a fine. After working about half a day he decided to quit and departed for places unknown.

September 3  
Dixon Pilot

Deputy game commissioner Chas. F. Roach of Newburg and John G. Leshe of Jefferson City have just completed a two weeks' trip through Camden, Osage, Franklin, Crawford, Maries and Pulaski counties.

They found that the game and fish laws were being generally observed and as people are beginning to see the advantages of these laws, it is easier to secure evidence that will lead to the conviction of offenders. During the trip the two officers arrested 10 men for violating the laws and secured a conviction in each case.—*Rolla Times*. [*It was reported in an April issue of the Pilot that game warden Roach had obtained 37 convictions out of 38 arrests. This significantly increases his record.*]

September 10  
Richland Mirror

#### Game Warden is Active

Deputy Game and Fish Commissioner Chas. F. Roach is proving a terror to those who persist in violating the Game and Fish Laws of the State. He recently followed a man from Laclede Co. to Nebraska where he was arrested and returned to this state for dynamiting fish here last March. He also arrested a man in St. Louis last week for violating the Game and Fish Laws last October. It is not Mr. Roach's desire to arrest people for violations of the law but rather to have them obey the law. Should they fail to do this he never sleeps while running them down.

September 17  
Richland Mirror

#### Ozark Trails

The [*Pulaski*] County Court met last week and voted to appropriate \$2500 towards building the proposed Ozark Trail through Pulaski county. This addition to the \$2500 previously subscribed gives \$5000 to be used in building the road between Richland, Swedeborg, Crocker, Hancock and Dixon to the Maries County line, a distance of some twenty-five miles. This will make a good start on the road from St. Louis to Springfield since there is already a rock road from St. Louis to Wincon, a distance of 58 miles, and much of the other twenty-five miles of the road in Franklin County is already graded and graveled.

The work in the twenty-five miles across Maries County is now being built as rapidly as their new machinery can be made to work. Greene county has her part of the road built and now with Pulaski's twenty-five miles assured it is more than half done and only need Webster, Laclede and Gasconade to fill the gaps. They will each do their parts.

October 1  
Dixon Pilot

#### A Good O. T. Meeting

The O. T. Good Roads meeting in Dixon Tuesday was well attended by people from far and near despite the gloomy and threatening weather. John T. Woodruff of the Springfield Good Roads Committee acted as Chairman of the meeting and E. A. Wallace, Mayor of Belle, acted as Secretary.

Farmers and other boosters came at least forty miles in automobiles to attend the meeting.

The principal speech was delivered by W. H. Seed, consulting highway engineer of Springfield. Enthusiastic talks were made by Mr. Woodruff, Mr. Armstrong of Richland, Hon. Alonzo Tubbs of Gasconade county, Hon. W. D. Johnson of Crocker, Hon. J. W. Terrill of Vienna, Judge W. R. McIlvaine of Lebanon and George Underwood of Belle.

Among many important things mentioned by Mr. Woodruff and others, Mr. Woodruff mentioned the fact that from Vienna a branch of the O. T. will extend to Jefferson City, showing that Dixon will be on the great interstate, in fact national highway that will connect the Capitols of Missouri and Arkansas, and which will run on down to New Orleans. The matter of extending the Trail to Manitoba, Canada, is also well under way. The Ozark Trail is to be one of the most extensive highways in America.

If the average American citizen was half as devoted to his country as he is to his favorite baseball team we would have less cause to fear a

licking at the hands of some other country.

There are three kinds of baseball: Professional, amateur, and that played by lady teams.

October 8  
Richland Mirror

PERSONALS—G. W. Laquey purchased a new buggy from the Richland Hardware Co. Monday. [*Some are holding on to the old transportation means. It may be that purchasing a buggy became more of a novelty than buying a car, although two subsequent items in the "Personals" mentioned citizens with a new Ford and Overland.*]

H. E. Warren left Thursday for St. James to attend the board meeting of the Old Soldiers Home. The home is expending \$500 a month for the benefit of the Old Soldiers.

[*The management of the Richland Mirror underwent a change. W. M. Holmes became the new Editor and Publisher and R. E. Stearnes was the Associate Editor and Business Manager.*]

October 15  
Dixon Pilot

Just received a shipment of the latest in Ladies' Corsets—C-B a la Spirite—at Modern Mercantile Co.

LOST—Set of false teeth, two weeks ago, tied in a brown silk handkerchief. Finder will oblige owner by leaving same at Pilot office.

Here are a few samples of increases in drug prices on account of the European war: Quinine sulphate, from 60c to \$1.25 oz.; the former 10c bottles are now 25c. Salicylic (fruit) acid, from 50c to \$5 per pound. Peroxide has a little more than doubled in price. Glycerine has exactly doubled so far. Many other things in the drug line have increased in proportion. The high prices of course are due to the extreme scarcity of and difficulty to secure materials from which the drugs are made. And neither the end of the high prices nor the terrible war appears to be anyways near in sight.

October 22  
Dixon Pilot

You can get your photos made in cow boy costume at Funke's Photo Studio. One block west of Roose and Murphy Mill.

October 29  
Richland Mirror  
Ozark Trail

The grading and making of the Ozark Trail which was started at Crocker some time ago has been completed as far as the old Weir [Wire] road near Waynesville. It is certainly a fine specimen of road building and Pulaski county will have a road which she may be justly proud of when it is completed. This road will probably be completed to this city in the next month or six weeks. [It is obvious that the new management has little knowledge of the O. T. or the time it takes to construct a road in Pulaski.]

The canning factory is canning pumpkins this week.

Mr. Tom Scott purchased a new Ford car from A. A. Parson of Laquey this week. Mr. Parson is the Representative of the Ford Co. in this county.

On and after this date (Oct. 21) all automobile and repair work done at 50c per hour, unless by special contract. —H. A. Stearnes

The Swedeborg Lodge of the I. O. O. F. has completed their new hall.

November 5  
Dixon Pilot

Crocker is to decide by vote Monday the 8th, as to whether she will have electric lights. T. H. Turpin, the enterprising Crystal Ice & Bottling Co. man, proposed to install the plant.

Found—Wood box containing rye and package of dry goods. Call for

it at Pilot Shop. [We are unable to ascertain whether the rye is the grain or the whiskey.]

November 12  
Richland Mirror

Wonders never cease! Our High School is going to have a piano! That is if the people of Richland will lend a helping hand to the students who are working toward that end. Our students are missing the best part of their school life in not having Opening exercises each morning and Literary Society each Friday afternoon—and all because they haven't a piano. Next Friday evening at 7:30 a number of the high school students will speak in a declamatory contest at the city hall and the proceeds of this program will go into our piano fund. If you want to hear some good speaking as well as to help on this fund come out Friday

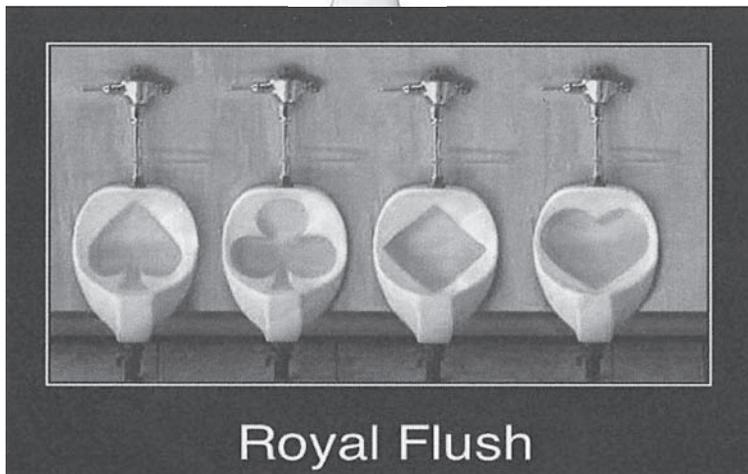
evening. Admission 10 and 20 cents. Reserved seats 25 cents.

There have been two big eagles killed here in this neighborhood in the last week one of them measured from tip to tip about eight feet. Eagles are getting to be very common in Pulaski county the ideal winter climate must be the cause.

**Crocker's New Hotel.**

The Pulaski, the large new hotel at Crocker [see next page], will be opened next week by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Teeple, the noted hotel people.

It contains twenty-two cozy bedrooms, is to be lighted by electricity and have all modern conveniences, and of course is being fitted with new furnishings. The rates are \$1 and \$2, and the public is invited to make the Pulaski headquarters when occasioned to visit Crocker.

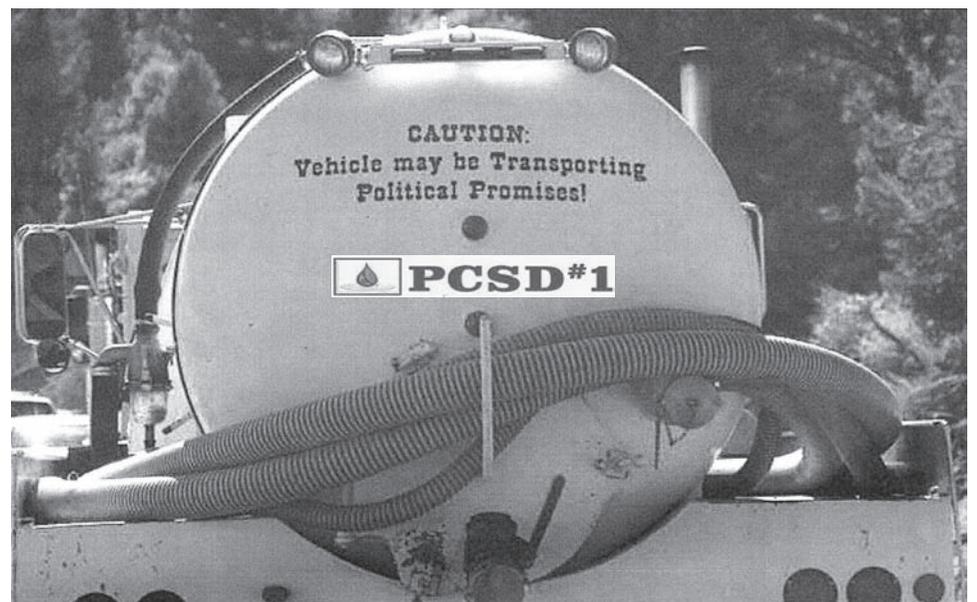


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**“Words of Wisdom” by Will Rogers**

1. There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
2. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.
3. Always drink upstream from the herd.
4. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.

November 26

*Dixon Pilot***Red Cross Seals.**

Nearly \$2,500,000 has been raised by Red Cross Christmas seals in the last seven years, and yet many people who will buy these holiday stickers at this eighth annual sale do not know how the charity stamp idea originated.

It was war that brought forth the charity stamp—our Civil War of '61 to '65. Some of your grandmothers first played "post office" with stickers similar to Red Cross Seals way back in 1862, when they conceived the idea of selling stamps at fairs for the relief funds for the soldiers' hospitals in Brooklyn, Boston and elsewhere. Nearly \$1,000,000 was raised in this way before 1865.



Stamps or seals were first used to get money for the anti-tuberculosis crusade in Norway and Sweden in 1904. To Jacob Riis, the well known

social worker of New York, and to Miss Emily P. Bissel, the energetic secretary of the Delaware Red Cross jointly belong the honor of originating our American Red Cross Christmas seal.

In 1907 Mr. Riis's interest was aroused by the receipt of a Christmas tuberculosis stamp on a letter from Norway. Miss Bissel induced the American Red Cross to take up the sale in 1908 on a national basis. In 1914, in spite of war and hard times, 55,000,000 seals were sold, totaling \$550,000 for the anti-tuberculosis war.

This year, already 225,000,000 seals have been printed and practically that entire number distributed to agents in every state and territory of the Union and Alaska in the North to the Canal Zone in the South and from Porto Rico in the East to Hawaii in the West.

The Red Cross Christmas Seal for 1915, one inch square, is printed in three colors, an outline drawing of which is reproduced above,

Every effort is being put forth to sell 75,000,000 seals, somewhat less than one for every man, woman and child in the United States.

Fifteen million seals have been allotted to Missouri and it is expected that 5,000,000 of these will be sold, realizing \$50,000 to carry

on the fight against tuberculosis, \$45,000 net of which will be used in this state.

Over a million pieces of standing, attractive and instructive printed matter pertaining to the disease will be distributed by the school children of Missouri. Every school in the state will be given opportunity to participate in the campaign to save Missouri 5,000 lives a year from death by the great White Plague.

December 17

*Richland Mirror*

*[Sometime between October 29 and December 17, the Richland Mirror changed hands again. R. T. Lemons became the Proprietor and Publisher.]*

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 15—Mrs. William H. Utter, one of St. Louis' most prominent clubwomen, founder and first president of the Women's Council, has made arrangements to leave St. Louis March 1 and take up her residence in the Ozark country. *[Culture shock?]*

Mr. and Mrs. Utter have taken over the Parson place at Hazel Green, Laclede county. This is one of the best known fishing and hunting lodges in the Ozarks and they will conduct it as a summer resort.

The property is 160 miles from St. Louis, on the Frisco railroad, eight

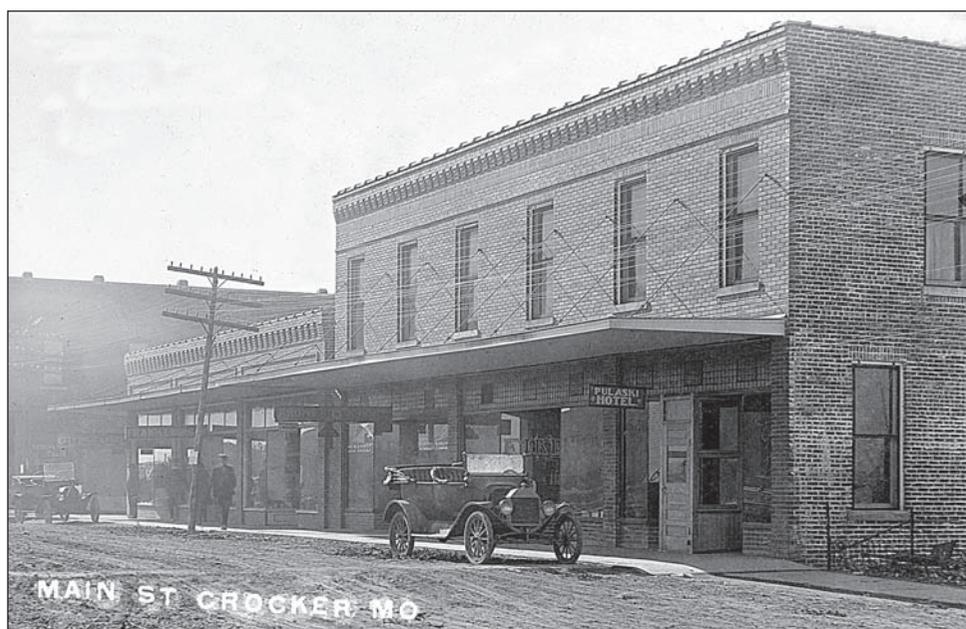
miles from Richland, Mo., and 16 miles from Lebanon.

It consists of 50 acres of typical picturesque Ozark land lying along the Merimac river. *[The St. Louis reporter doesn't know his rivers. It was on the Gasconade River.]* It affords some of the best fishing, hunting and canoeing facilities in this part of the world and is frequented by hunters and fishermen from all parts of the state. *[Got that part right.]*

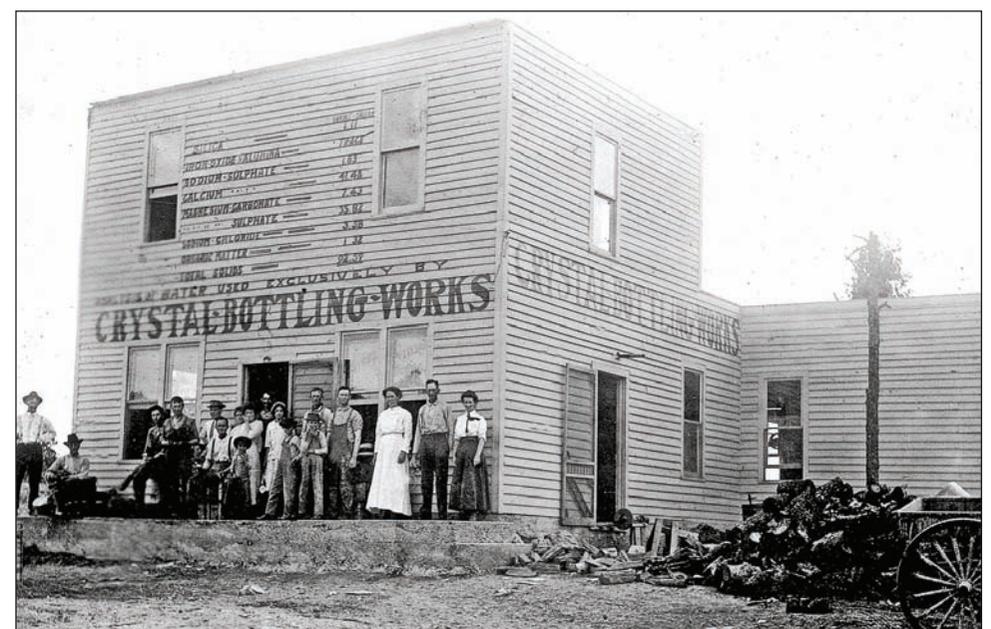
There are 10 cottages on the property, with accommodations for 70 guests. The cottages keep open for guests from March until November. *[We featured the Parsons' Lodge brochure in a half-page spread in last year's Gazette on page 57.]*

*Dixon Pilot*

Thos. Turpin, proprietor of the Crocker ice factory and bottling works, who is now installing an electric light plant at that place, last week purchased the copper wire belonging to our defunct plant and a force of men are now at work taking the wire down. The work has badly interfered with our telephone service, as the phone wires in town were strung on the poles belonging to the light plant.—from the *Maries County Gazette*. *[Apparently Vienna was in the dark.]*



The new (1915) Pulaski Hotel on Main Street in Crocker had twenty-two bedrooms at one and two dollars per night. It was operated by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Teeple. Courtesy of Brett Kinsley.



Thomas Turpin's entrepreneurial efforts began with the Crystal Bottling Works in 1911 to which he added an ice plant. In 1915 he planned to generate electricity for Crocker. Courtesy of Brett Kinsley.