

One hundred years ago the major news stories were about progress in Pulaski County. Crocker joined the other two large railroad towns in supplying electricity to its citizens. While the northern part of the county was bathed in electric light at night, Waynesville, the county seat, remained in the dark.

Road improvement continued to gain momentum as automobile ownership took a big jump.

The legend of a lost silver mine and the hope of getting rich with a mineral strike, perennial Ozark dreams, rated some printer's ink, too.

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. The construction and operation of Fort Leonard Wood in the first half of the decade of the Forties brought profound changes to Pulaski County.

1916

January 13

Pulaski County Democrat

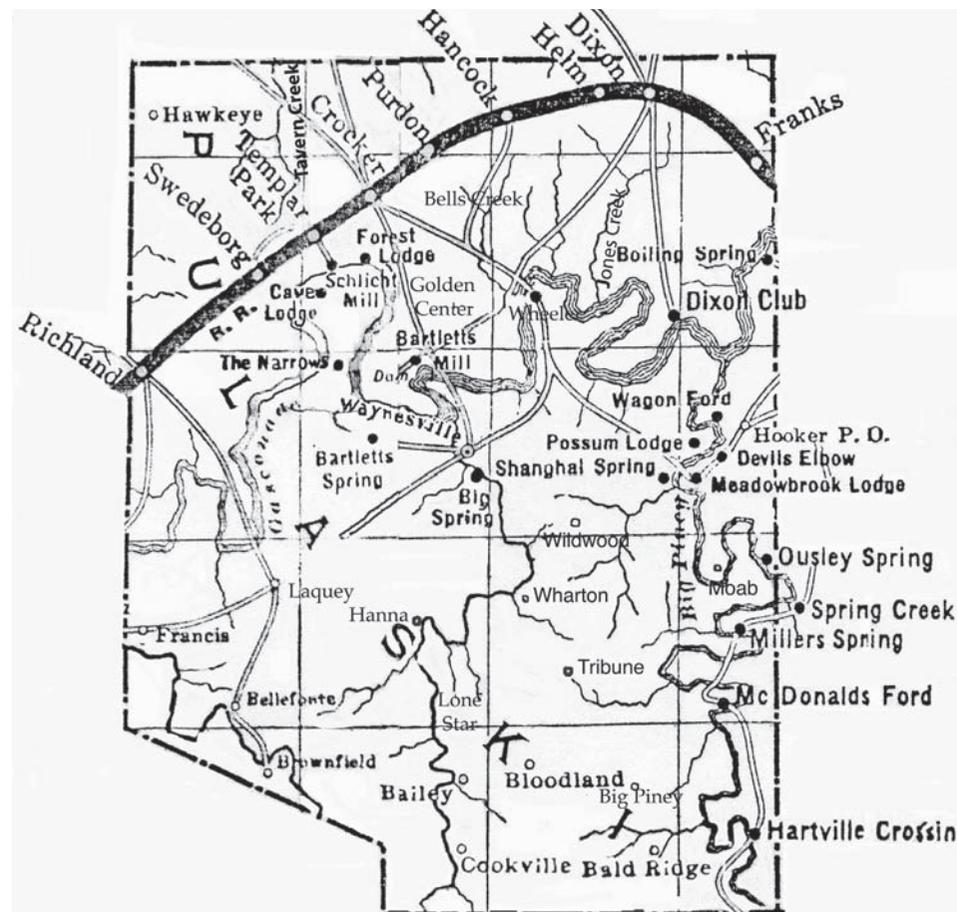
A decree establishing a minimum wage of \$8.50 per week for 10,000 women and girls employed in retail stores in Massachusetts has gone into effect.

LOCAL—A crowd of our young folks attended the pie supper at the Gospel Ridge school house Saturday night. [Pie suppers were the main fund-raisers for schools and numerous in 1916.]

We are trying to raise the circulation of the Pulaski County Democrat to 2,000 by June 1st and ask our subscribers to assist in this campaign.

Town Marshal Charley Ousley set up four more gasoline street lamps Monday. We have a lamp now on each corner of the square located so every street leading into the square is well lighted for quite a distance

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. Long's involvement ceased when he became Waynesville's postmaster in 1933. A. Goforth published the *Crocker Star* but left to share the helm of the *Dixon Pilot* with co-publisher Miss Ona McCully. 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.

and one is located in front of Mrs. T. J. Christeson's residence that lights the street and approach to the bridge that spans the Roubidoux at the edge of town. Electric lights might be more convenient but if we had them it would be impossible

to have better lights than we have now. [The bridge was located at the west end of North Street, which goes past the current police station. Mrs. Christeson's house was directly across the street from the current police station.]

Judge B. E. Stites, of Crocker, is the agent in this county for R. S. Parker, of Republic, Mo., contractor for concrete silos. [The agricultural practice of ensilage began in the county in 1913 with wooden silos. By 1916, longer lasting concrete silos were the rage. A few still stand today.]

Miss Addie Christeson, Teacher of the Rigsby school, was punishing one of the Scholars last week in the usual manner, and a piece of the hickory [switch] broke off and struck Ralleigh Blackford in the eye, destroying the sight entirely.

LAQUEY ITEMS—There is an anti-horse thief association being organized here which we believe will be a very good thing while we do not anticipate they will have anything much to do, but in case there are depredations they will surely be apprehended.

CROCKER—The machinery for the light plant is on hand and the News understands that the work of installation will begin next week, or just



The first bridge across the Roubidoux in Waynesville, the county seat, was constructed in 1911. It was in use until the present concrete arch bridge was built in 1923 for the improvement of State Highway 14, which became U. S. Route 66 in 1926. For more on Pulaski bridges, see the 2008 *Gazette* "The Bridges of Pulaski County." Courtesy of Pulaski County Historical Society.

as soon as T. R. Drennen is able to supervise the job. [The Crystal Ice and Bottling Company, owned by Thomas Turpin, was installing the light plant at Crocker. The Dixon Light and Power Company lit that city up for the first time on January 22, 1915. There were no plans afoot in Waynesville for electric service.]

January 20

Pulaski County Democrat

RICHLAND—Uncle Alex Bryan is on the sick list this week. [Alexander Bryan joined the Confederates in 1861 and then enlisted in the Union Army in 1864, from which he received an Invalid Pension. He served with the Missouri State Guard for about six months or until he “learned that the troops were raised for the purpose of aiding the Confederacy. I quit them and never had anything more to do with them.” Bryan owned

the Old Stagecoach Stop, then known as the Waynesville House, from 1874 until 1876. He sold the hotel to J. F. Vaughan, who quickly resold it to

James H. Ross. Ross was the son-in-law of W. W. McDonald, original owner of the building.]

DIXON— Our city dads have given

Hotels.

WAYNESVILLE HOUSE,

A. BRYAN, PROPRIETOR,

WAYNESVILLE, • • MISSOURI.

Ample accommodation for man and beast. Boarding by the day, week and month. Prices moderate. Hotel situation on the East side of the Square. 1-1-17

This is the oldest reference we have to the Old Stagecoach Stop as a hotel. This ad appeared in the July 9, 1876 issue of the *Gasconade Valley Plain-Dealer*. The hard-to-read ad copy at the bottom reads “Ample accommodation for man and beast. Boarding by the day, week and month. Prices moderate. Hotel situation on the East side of the Square.”

us three more electric [street] lights which is a great improvement. BLOODLAND—Our new high school building, the best in the county, is completed. Not only is our building a leader, but the young people who make up the school belong to the same class.

LOCAL—T. P. and J. A. Jeffries of Big Piney, Inspectors for the Hobart Lee Tie company of Springfield, attended to business here Tuesday. [Tie-making is still a big business in Ol' Pulaski.]

Correspondents wanted for this paper at Franks, Hancock, Moab, Hanna and Cookville. [Do you recognize the names of those early 20th century villages? Find them on the map, page 6.]

LAQUEY—The outlook for a good ice harvest is very favorable, as the thermometer registers around zero. [Although Crocker had an ice plant,



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most people still cut ice from ponds in the winter.]

January 27

Pulaski County Democrat

BIG PINEY—J. C. Lane has put up a fine supply of ice for summer use.

LAQUEY—Fred Hammock purchased him a new buggy last week. He thinks a buggy will beat an auto until the mud dries up some.

LOCAL—The eye of Rolly Blackford, whose sight was at first reported to be entirely destroyed, is now improving. The accident happened while in the school room. A switch was being used in punishing another pupil and a piece broke off and flew across, striking the eye of the little Blackford boy who was sitting on the front seat. If he should not continue to improve as expected his teacher Miss Adelaide Christeson has made arrangements to take him to the city to an eye specialist. *[This follow-up was good to read. We do not know the correct first name of the Blackford boy.]*

Sheriff G. M. Laquey of near Laquey was here from Saturday until Monday attending to official business in his office and while here he had Albert Davis, a county prisoner, cleaning up the court house. Mr. Laquey bears the reputation throughout the County of keeping the Court house and lawn in a presentable condition at all times. *[It was part of the sheriff's duties to keep the courthouse, grounds, and streets on the square clean. Laquey was sheriff for two terms, 1913-1916.]*

Crocker News

Zinc, Lead, Oil Probably Discovered Near Crocker

The News has been hearing from different parties, from time to time, about zinc and lead deposits in this section, and now come reports that seem to bear out these rumors.

C. P. Tedman, of near Swedeborg, was in the News office last Saturday and told of a discovery of what seemed to be zinc and lead, with a sprinkle of silver, in his neighbor-

hood and stated that an expert from the Joplin mines was coming to prospect the find.

J. B. McMillian reports that similar discoveries have been made on the W. K. Royce farm about four miles north of Crocker, and stated that arrangements would probably be completed soon to open up the mine.

Another man, who asks that his name and location of his "find" be kept secret just now, claims that he has struck sure signs of oil and gas on his farm. This man has seen the oil fields of Pennsylvania and Oklahoma and ought to know what he is talking about.

Almost sure signs of oil have been discovered near Dixon and in Texas county and there is no reason to doubt its existence in this locality.

Lead, zinc and silver are here, but whether in paying quantities is to be determined. There is an abandoned silver mine somewhere along the Tavern *[Creek]*, old inhabitants can't agree on its location, but all agree it is there.

February 3

Pulaski County Democrat

DIXON— The ice Sunday stopped the telephone and electric lighting plant here, put the Frisco telegraph wire entirely out of commission, broke up and ruined nearly every shade and fruit tree in this community, delayed the trains and caused



The excessive ice persisted for a week after the February storm and provided a stark postcard scene. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

several wrecks. The bridge across the Merrimac river at St. Clair, has the approaches washed away, so we are not getting any mail or train service, except from the west. *[Large rainfall swelled the rivers, washing out bridge approaches and other damage, equaling the high water of August. The rain was accompanied by a big drop in temperature, coating all with ice.]*

HOOVER—The "Devils Elbow Club House" on Big Piney river was washed away Monday. It was a private club house owned principally by the Goddard Grocery Company of St. Louis, a one story modern constructed building located in a large park about two miles up the river from Hoover where the river makes a sharp curve, commonly known as the Devils Elbow from which the club house derives its name.

February 10

Dixon Pilot

DIXON—W. A. McGirr, manager of the pickle station, is ready to contract with farmers for the growing and furnishing of cucumbers to the plant the coming season.

The pickle business here this year will be strictly under Mr. McGirr's management, which is nuf sed. He

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Circuit Clerk and Recorder.....	Frank Manes
County Clerk.....	L. A. Carmack
Prosecuting Attorney.....	C. H. Davis
Sheriff.....	G. M. Laquey
Collector of Revenue.....	J. J. Dake
Assessor.....	Harley M. Dye
Treasurer.....	A. W. Burchard
Surveyor.....	Edwin A. Bryant
School Superintendent.....	L. J. Gladden

says fifteen and one-half cars of pickles were shipped out last season and he desires to make it twenty cars this year. He desires to contract for about 200 acres and has already made contracts with several farmers. Better not procrastinate.

Pilot printed another large batch of oil lease blanks first of the week and they are being rapidly filled in and signed by the land owners in our eastern and northern "oil zones." There is nothing for the farmer to lose. The man that does the digging and prospecting is the man that spends the money and takes the chances on losing it. *[While mineral prospecting and mines held the interest of many around Crocker, Dixonites are hoping for a gusher.]*

February 17

Crocker News

NEW WAYNESVILLE BANK

Pulaski County has a new bank. "The Spring City State Bank" has been organized at Waynesville and is now ready for business. The officers of the new concern are: president, A. W. Burchard; vice president, George M. Reed; cashier, J. A. Clark. The directorate is composed of the following gentlemen: G. W. Gan, L. N. Hufft, George Lane, A. F. Mitchell, D. S. Mitchell, J. F. Graham and T. J. Wilson.

February 24

Pulaski County Democrat

SCHLICHT— The 10c show and the pie-supper has about ruined our

churches and public school.

March 2
Springfield Leader
**Local Company Given
 Big Road Contract.**

The Pioneer Tractor company of Springfield has been awarded the contract for the building of twenty-six miles of road in Pulaski county between Dixon and Richland at a cost of \$5,000.

The road building is to start as soon as the weather conditions are favorable and is to be under the direction of the Pulaski County Ozark Trails association. Frank H. Wright, vice president of the association, was in Springfield today on business. Mr. Wright was formerly connected with the Holland Banking Company and is cashier of the Bank of Richland. *[We covered the proposed Ozark Trail extensively in last year's news*

section.]

According to Mr. Wright, work is progressing rapidly on the road between Springfield and St. Louis through Pulaski county. Fifteen miles of road has been completed. Twenty-four miles of the roadway is to be built by the same concern which received the new contract.

The tractor company uses a monster machine drawn by a gasoline tractor. The machine weighs many tons and has a scarifier, a grader and a roller. With favorable conditions, the machine builds a road almost at one rotation over the highway.

The new road for which the contract has been awarded, will connect Dixon, Crocker, Hanna, Swedeborg and Richland. The other part of the highway for which a contract was let last year will connect the towns between Crocker and Waynesville, the county seat of Pulaski county.

The road work between Dixon and Richland will be built by the Pulaski County Ozark Trails Association and the county court. Half of the expense was contributed by the county and a half by donations. *[This became Route 133.]*

March 9

LOCAL—Miss Eulah Baker of this place *[Waynesville]* closed a very successful term of school at the Hopewell district, near Big Piney, last Friday. Seventy-five patrons were present with well filled baskets, and after the interesting program rendered by the pupils dinner was spread and enjoyed by all.

Ties Wanted

I am paying 30 cents for White Oak ties and 20 cents for Red Oak from Wheelers Mill to Wilson ford. 32 cents for White Oak and 21 cents

for Red Oak on down to Three Island on the Gasconade.

Tess Degrafenreid
 Waynesville, Mo.

The personal property valuation in Pulaski County is \$898,032, real estate, \$1,686,700. The county's taxable wealth, \$2,584,732.

Crocker News
Lost Silver Mine

The labor commissioner has issued a bulletin calling attention to a lost silver mine somewhere in the Ozarks. According to Indian tradition and tales of early settlers this mine produced much silver of high quality. This mine, according to local tradition, is located along Tavern Creek within five or six miles of Crocker, and who knows but what someone may yet locate it and live independently thereafter?

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This was an earlier gathering of patrons and students at Hopewell School, ca. 1895. The gentleman on the right with his hand in the air is W. W. McDonald, builder of the Old Stagecoach Stop. Hopewell was on the east side of the Big Piney River near McDonald Ford and the McDonald farm. Emma Page Ichord taught at Hopewell in 1904 for \$22.00 a month, while paying nearby farmer Sam Gardner \$5.00 for room and board. The school operated until the late 1930s when average enrollment fell to less than 13 students.

Courtesy of
Joann McDonald Moss.



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March 23

Richland Mirror

RICHLAND—A new enterprise will soon be established near Richland—the skunk business—don't hold your nose for there's money in it so people say who know. T S. Roach and A. M. Medley are arranging the former's farm just west of town for that business and the latter gentlemen will move out there and take charge of the farm. Skunk proof fences are being built and they expect to have a stock of 30 cats in a few days.

W. E. Burchard is installing a gasoline station, with underground tank, in front of his hardware store. This is a big improvement in handling gasoline and will be greatly appreciated by automobilists.—*Crocker News*. [*"Filling stations," as they used to be called, were a rarity at that time. Motorists carried gasoline, filling the cans where they could. This was the first station with underground storage.*]

March 30

*Crocker News***Electric Lights Turned On**

Crocker took another forward step last Saturday night when the electric lights were turned on in the business houses. The street lights were turned on Sunday night and the people going to church felt safe in leaving their lanterns and flashlights at home. Oh, what relief!

Evidently the Crystal people have done the installing in a thorough and efficient manner for the lights are steady and are giving excellent service.

The News trusts that now we have up-to-date lighting for the streets, the city council will get busy and order in some badly needed walks and crossings. One good turn deserves another.

The Crystal Ice & Bottling Co. began making ice the first of the week and expect to begin bottling soft drinks tomorrow.

Quite a lot of walnut logs are being hauled to Crocker these days. The

[war] demand for walnut for gun stocks is causing the country to be cleaned out of available walnut logs.

Pulaski County Democrat

LOCAL—The Spring City State Bank recently organized at this place rented a portion of the J. E. Rayl barber shop and cigar store and had their fixtures set up in that place waiting for their safes before opening up for business. But they decided their room was insufficient and that there was not the privacy to be had that should be in the banking business, so they rented a portion of the concrete block building of J. R. Burchard which he purchased of Sam Ballard. They received their safes Tuesday and moved into their new quarters yesterday where they will be ready for business Saturday.

A. A. Parsons of Laquey, agent for the Ford automobile, was here last press day and sold a 5 passenger to Sam T. Rollins. Mr. Rollins was seen with the car in Dr. Tice's pasture Friday learning to manipulate the steering of the car. After cutting the figure eight and pulling off a few more difficult stunts the pasture gate was opened and he proceeded to "make it" around the square through town and to the shed missing telephone poles and other obstructions,



This walnut log was paraded along the main street of Crocker in 1916. It was noteworthy for its size but was probably transformed into gun stocks rather than fine furniture. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

which are so noticeable on such occasions. Sam T. is a full-fledged chauffeur now.

FOR SALE

1 Acetylene Lighting System, 35 light capacity, fixtures included. Price \$100.00. Outfit guaranteed. Reasons for selling—installing electric lights.

W. E. Burchard
Crocker - - Missouri

April 6

Pulaski County Democrat

WHEELER—The new buildings at Wheeler are quite an improvement and speaks well for the place. The farmers are rejoicing over the arrival of the new store, but one improvement calls for another. We need a blacksmith shop, then we could go to mill, do our trading and have our blacksmithing done at home.

*Crocker News***Electric Theater Opens**

Last Saturday night was the initial performance at the Electric Theatre. The program was good and considering the fact that the management had to rush work and give the first show before they were ready, the pictures were all that could be asked for.

The program opened with a two reel feature entitled "Vanity" by the Rex Universal. This was an excellent play. This was followed by a split reel of comedy "Eddie's Awful Predicament" and an educational feature, "Forest Kindling", showing the wood as it progresses from the tree to the mill, via water route.

The big number of the evening was the two reels of "The Black Box". These pictures certainly made a hit with the audience, especially those who had read installments of the story in the *Crocker News*.

The Electric Theatre is fixed up in a modern manner, with opera chairs, sloping floor, elevated stage, footlights and up-to-date lighting arrangement. It is an ideal place to spend an enjoyable two hours.

A company has been organized near Swedeborg for the purpose of prospecting, exploiting and mining zinc, lead and iron in Pulaski county. The prime movers of the project are a man who claims much experience in the mining game, H. C. Gerdom, and C. P. Tedman, a prominent farmer of that neighborhood. The company has been named the Queen Mining Co. At present they are devoting their energies to uncovering a vein of mineral on Mr. Tedman's farm, which promises to be quite rich. Mr. Gerdom says he has had mining experience in many lands and he pronounces this country rich in lead, zinc and iron; says nature has given us abundant wealth, only we are too skeptical to go after it. The News understands the vein they are working on now is about eighteen feet thick.

April 20

Pulaski County Democrat

BIG PINEY—R. Jordan is rafting to Arlington for Tess DeGraffenreid. LOCAL ITEMS—The promoters of the annual picnic at this place met last week and decided on July 28th and 29th for the 2 days picnic this year. It appears somewhat early to be considering a picnic so long

off but these gentlemen are strong believers in preparedness and when the programs are published for the 2 days of real enjoyment at the county seat you can depend on them being prepared to carry out the program to the letter.

Notice to Contractors

Notice is hereby given that I, E. A. Bryant, County Highway Engineer of Pulaski County, MO., will receive bids until noon Wednesday, May 3, 1916 for the erection of concrete culverts on Crocker & Waynesville road between Waynesville and the ridge, according to plans and specification on file.

Contractor is to have the use of steel forms and cement is to be furnished him at railroad.

E. A. Bryant,
Highway Engineer.

Crocker News

Work Starts On The Trail

The contract for the clearing and grading of the Ozark Trail across the county from Dixon to Richland has been signed by the Pulaski County Ozark Trail Association officials and the Pioneer Tractor Co. and same has been given the stamp of approval by the county court.

The contract provides that the Pioneer people shall clear, grade and put the road in good condition for the sum of \$3720. The work is to start at once and road is to be finished by September first. A penalty clause is attached which provides that in case the road is not completed by date specified, the company is to forfeit a certain sum.

The stump puller for use in removing the trees and stumps is now at the Frisco depot. The signing of the contract and its approval by the county court marks another big forward step in Pulaski county and those men who dug down deep into their pockets and raised their half of the required amount to insure the construction of this trail.

April 27

Pulaski County Democrat

A. A. Parsons, of Laquey, agent for

the Ford automobile, has sold four, 5-passenger cars here the past week. Those purchasing cars are as follows: Dr. C. A. Talbot, A. F. Mitchell, A. W. Burchard, Frank J. Christeson. This makes a total of ten cars in our town, nine Fords and one Metz, and if Mr. Parsons remains here much longer there is no telling how many more he will sell. *[There were four Maxwells in Crocker, plus several Fords. An auto buying frenzy would soon begin.]*

Burchard's *[general mercantile]* have just received a car load of Springfield wagons. *[Wagons and buggies are still the biggest sellers.]* SCHLICHT—The mines are running full blast and turning out good stuff. A. H. Gordon, President of the Queen Mining Co., went to St. Louis after machinery for the mine. It will be a 100 H. P. engine and a 4-inch cable to run the traveling machinery on. Heavy timbers are contracted for by the mining company for their works.

County Surveyor, E. A. Bryant, of near Dixon, was here yesterday. He had just completed surveying out a road from the Pulaski and Texas county line south of Bloodland, to Waynesville, which road is to be graded in the near future. This will be a portion of the state road running north and south through the state and \$50.00 per mile will be expended by the state on this road each year. *[This would become State Highway 17, which was later relocated due to the building of Fort Leonard Wood.]*

Rolla Herald

Phillip Becker, of St. Louis, is spending a few days at Meadow Brook Lodge on the Piney. *[Picture on opposite page.]*

May 4

Pulaski County Democrat

RICHLAND—The home of Dr. Oliver was destroyed by fire Monday morning at 1 a. m. The doctor had it converted into a private hospital some few years ago and was enjoy-

ing a very good business. The origin of the fire is unknown and the amount of insurance is unknown to us. There was nothing saved except a few books the doctor managed to save. The loss is very heavy as all his surgical instruments were consumed in the fire. *[Picture on opposite page.]* SCHLICHT—Col. Ebersole, proprietor of the Hotel-de-Cave, came out from St. Louis to superintend many improvements to be made. Electric lights and power will be put in the hotel. *[A history of Hotel-de-Cave, aka Cave Lodge Resort, was featured in the 2013 Old Settlers Gazette.]* LOCAL ITEMS—Dr. Krapf of St. Louis was here last week and leased the Sam Scott Club house at the mouth of the Roubidoux for one year. He and five friends and their families will spend the summer there. They will probably begin repairing the building next week. *[This is a ref-*

erence to Scott's club house at Pike's Peak or Indian Cave.]

S. J. Bartlett of the Bartlett Springs neighborhood has been awarded the contract for carrying the mail on the Waynesville to Bartlett Springs route at \$275 per annum. The mail is to be carried 6 days each week, leaves Bartlett Springs at 12:45 p. m. arrives at Waynesville at 1:45 p. m. and leaves after the arrival of the mail from Crocker.

Mrs. B. N. Pippin and baby of St. Louis, arrived at the Bartlett Springs club house Wednesday of last week. They will probably remain until fall. *[Bartlett Springs would soon be renamed Pippin Place. The baby was Lauramae. Son Dru was 17 years old at this time.]*

Some of our little folks very appropriately observed May Day by hanging May Baskets on the door of each and every home of the town



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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 of St. Louis, manufacturer of Buss fuses. A new lodge was built, but continued to be known as Meadowbrook. The Bussman family sold the property, which includes Merrill Cave, to the Forest Service in the 1980s. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

Monday evening which was highly appreciated. *[Like roasting eggs at Easter, the May basket tradition has all but disappeared. As the month of April rolled to an end, people would begin gathering flowers and candies and other goodies to put in May baskets to hang on the doors of friends, neighbors and loved ones on May 1. In some communities, hanging a May basket on someone's door was a chance to express romantic interest. If a basket-hanger was seen by the recipient, the recipient would give chase and try to steal a kiss from the basket-hanger.]*

T. H. Turpin, of Crocker, proprietor of the Crystal Ice and Bottling Works, was here Monday taking orders for ice. He arranged to deliver ice here Tuesdays and Fridays of each week. *[Turpin was quite an entrepreneur. He started his bottling works in 1911 and added an ice plant in 1915. He then bought an engine and dynamo and began producing electricity for Crocker in 1916.]*

Richland Mirror

[Nothing direct from Richland Mirror about the hospital fire, as issues

are missing. The only reference is oblique as the following.]

Richland is desperately in need of some sort of fire-fighting equipment. If nothing better could be provided, a few dozen zinc buckets and some ladders, fifty or a hundred feet of good hose and a powerful pump, and truck to haul them on should be purchased. A convenient place for keeping them could easily be provided, and a sufficient number of men should in regular turn be detailed to use this in case of fire. If nothing more this would give a plan and some system to the work of handling fires. The city ought without delay provide some more adequate means of combating possible fires.

May 18

Pulaski County Democrat

LOCAL ITEMS—J. R. Burchard has installed a new gasoline auto filling station in front of his store, which is the safest and most convenient way of handling gasoline. *[J. R. is following the lead of W. E. Burchard of Crocker. We do not know if the storage tanks were underground, though,*



Dr. E. A. Oliver's home and private hospital in 1908 that was destroyed by fire in 1916. Dr. Oliver rebuilt his hospital. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

as they were in Crocker. It was the first filling station in Waynesville.]

Richland Mirror

The electric light plant was out for four days last week. In the meantime Richland had to re-experience the old coal oil lamp days—guess we'll all appreciate more than ever the value of electric light.

Dixon Pilot

The Frisco Hotel changed hands last Saturday and Monday Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Imboden, who have been conducting the Hotel the last couple of years, moved out and Mrs. M. J. Cramer moved in. The Cramers are said to be excellent cooks and hard workers and having a fine location. Their hotel will no doubt be much patronized by the traveling public.

May 25

Pulaski County Democrat

The ice cream social given on the court house lawn, under the auspices of the Boy Scouts last Saturday night, was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the boys were well pleased with the proceeds. *[Ice cream socials as money-raisers seem to have disappeared, along with*

most of the court house lawn. However, there is still a strong Boy Scout program today.]

June 8

Pulaski County Democrat

O. G. Thomson bought the barber shop of Geo. Vaught Monday, in addition to which he will run a jewelry and watch repair shop. *[Making a decent living in such a small town as a barber or jeweler or watch repairman would be difficult. Combining the three might pay off.]*

CROCKER—The Electric Theater gave away a free ticket to the shows during the month of June to those that guessed the number that was present May 28th. Mr. G. A. Burd was the only lucky one who guessed the exact number, 161. *[The Electric Theater was the first motion picture theater in Crocker, at the present location of the post office. Richland and Dixon had movie venues but Waynesville had not yet gone Hollywood.]*

Crocker News

Dr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Krapf and daughter, Miss Lillian, and Messrs. E. G. H. Kessler and H. Weindel, all from St. Louis, came Friday to spend the summer at Sam Scott's

club house at the mouth of the Roubidoux. Miss Margaret Krapf, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Krapf, came Monday to join the party [see photo below right].

There will be a big picnic at Camp Gasconade on July 4th. Sterling Baker, the manager, is planning to make it a big event.

June 22

Pulaski County Democrat

CROCKER—Our editor and family were kodaking in Dixon between trains Sunday. [Interesting that “kodaking” entered the vernacular language, meaning to take pictures with a Kodak camera. We sure would like to see the pictures. We have “Kodaks” from this period. They are often fine images, excellent contrast, and hold up well over time.]

LOCAL ITEMS—Wanted: men to make ties at 15 cents each. See J. B. Shultz, Spring Creek, Mo.

Monday was undoubtedly a “hoodooed day” for the road building men. Clair Ballard, who is running the large tractor during the absence of the engineer, Chas. Metcalf, started to crank the engine when his feet slipped from under him his head striking a large angle iron inflicting quite a gash on the back of his head. The large crank struck him in the mouth resulting in the loss of a few teeth. The small grader was turned over on the bluff road and slid down the bank. Geo. M. Reed was on the grader, but

made a successful leap coming out of fracas all O.K.

F. L. Scott and wife, of Bartlett Springs, were here Monday, closing a deal for the rental of the Black Hotel, and will move here this fall.

James DeLong has been awarded the contract of furnishing 40 cords of wood for the court house. His bid of \$1.19 per cord being the lowest received.

Richland Mirror

Resort seekers are becoming more numerous each week. Almost every day groups of pleasure seekers come to Richland and go out to the club houses on the river.

The concrete work on the new hospital building is being pushed rapidly. The basement and foundation will be completed shortly. [Dr. Oliver is wasting no time in building a new house/hospital after his was destroyed by fire.]

June 29

Pulaski County Democrat

DIXON—John Birmingham, of Vienna, came up last Sunday in his Ford. John says good roads and automobiles shorten the distance by at least three-fourths as it used to take half a day to make the trip and now he can make it in an hour. [That’s an average speed of 20 miles an hour.]

BLOODLAND—F. R. Brown is getting his moving picture show in order now. Get your dimes ready boys. [Bloodland is added to the

towns showing moving pictures, leaving Waynesville and Big Piney as the only substantial villages movieless.]

Crocker is going to have a band. They organized Friday evening with the following officers: President, A. A. Burd; Vice President, Dr. A. L. Tice; Secretary, Clarence Burchard; Treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Burd; Leader, Charles Ousley. Mr. Scott of Rolla will instruct them.

SWEET HOME—They will begin to build a new schoolhouse at this place, Monday.

Crocker News

The bandstand in “Frisco” park was given a dressing up last week and

is now resplendent in a new coat of paint, which improves the view of the town from the railroad somewhat.

July 14

Richland Mirror

Richland is in the midst of a chautauqua session of unusual merit. The attendance has not been what it ought to be by half...Unless the attendance improves, the chances for securing a future contract will be meager.

July 20

Pulaski County Democrat

The County School Enumeration



Scott's two-story club house was built between the Crocker-Waynesville road and the bluff. The two entrances to Indian/Pike's Peak cave can be seen above the club house. The cave was later developed for tours. A tavern and dance hall was built inside the entrance. For more pictures and information, see the 2015 *Old Settlers Gazette* online article “A Social History of Some Phelps and Pulaski Caves.” Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

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Part of Camp Gasconade's half page ad for its July 4th celebration. There was a tub race, swimming and boat races, and a ball game. A \$10 prize was awarded to the best decorated automobile. The Big Picnic Dinner was 35c. Camp Gasconade was located just above the Narrows on the east side of the river, between Crocker and Waynesville. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

of Pulaski County is now completed. The total reveals the following figures: White, males, 1907; white, females, 1812; total white children in Pulaski County, 3,719.

Dixon Pilot

The Frisco Railroad was sold under the hammer last Wednesday for \$45,700,200 to representatives of Speyer & Co. and J. and W. Seligman

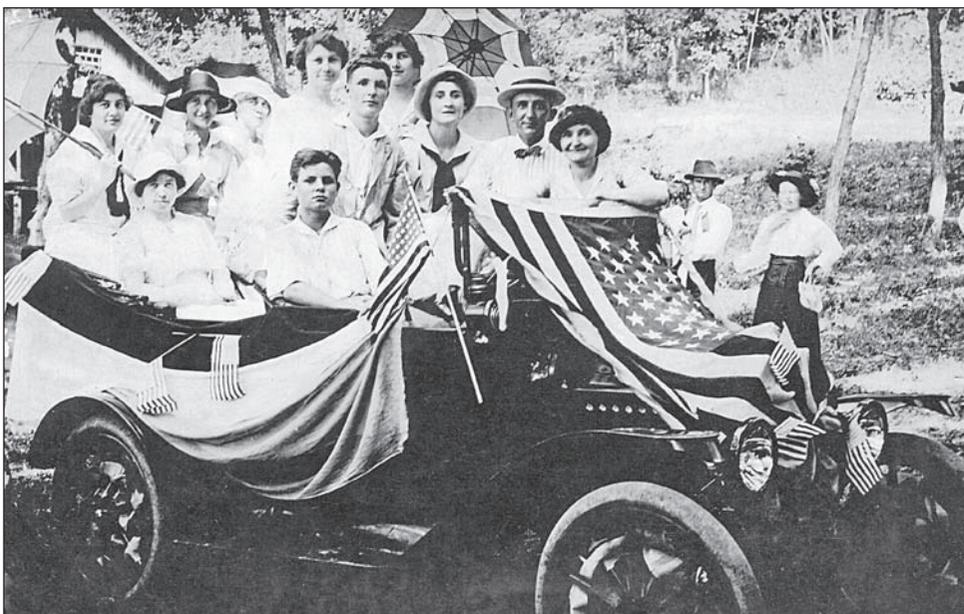
& Co., New York bankers. In other words the property goes back into the hands of the stockholders under a reorganization plan. There was only one bid, and the auctioneer's fee was about \$50,000.

Crocker News

Chautauqua August 4-5-6

The Chautauqua will be in this city

at a time when everybody will need a little outing—the warm weather period. And it will be under a large tent, cool and inviting. It will be the vacation period for many, a time when they can take a vacation and yet remain at home and attend to home affairs. It should also be the home-coming time and the reunion



This flag-draped auto and occupants are only identified as from Crocker. This might have been an entrant in Camp Gasconade's best decorated automobile contest during its Fourth of July picnic. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.



The Crocker bandstand, near the Frisco Depot, surrounded by a crowd sending off men to serve in World War I. Courtesy of Brett Kinsley.

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*Thank You For
Allowing me to
serve you as
Assessor
of
Pulaski County*

Daniel Whittle

**Have Fun
at
Old Settlers Day**

time for all relatives and friends. Those who have gone to other places should be invited to come home for Chautauqua week. Many of them will gladly come and enjoy the time with you. Cut away from the daily routine and the daily grind of business for an hour or two each day and recuperate at the Chautauqua.

August 17
Dixon Pilot

The Chautauqua

The annual Chautauqua this year was by far the best in every respect of the three years thus far given here. And best of all, our people (or more of our people) have begun to appreciate the Chautauqua as they should—large numbers in fact are very enthusiastic, and the enthusiasm and awakening has assured the Chautauqua for next season—after the knockers had almost succeeded in getting in their work to rob the community of this great annual event. *[The three large railroad towns (Richland, Crocker, and Dixon) each hosted a Chautauqua for the third year. Waynesville had not hosted one.]*

Pulaski County Democrat

The concrete culverts on the Waynesville-Crocker road have been completed and fills put in around most of them. A crew is at work now on filling the remainder of the culverts and expect to get done in the next few days. This road is undoubtedly one of the best dirt roads in the Ozarks, and the citizens of Pulaski county have reasons to be proud of it. It has been pronounced as the most scenic road in the state by numerous tourists. Within the next few months we will have many miles of such road, viz: the Ozark Trail, the Crocker and Hawkeye road, the Waynesville and Richland road, Waynesville and Bloodland road, Dixon and Waynesville road and the Bloodland and Richland road. Every progressive citizen of Pulaski County is anxious for these roads to be pushed to completion.

August 25
Richland Mirror

A tie fight among local purchasers during the past two or three weeks has greatly stimulated trade in this line. People from 25 to 30 miles have hauled ties here for sale and the weekly purchases during this month have exceeded \$2,000 per week. But, unfortunately, the fight has been called off and the price is back to the normal again.

August 31

Pulaski County Democrat

Local Items—F. L. Scott and family, of Bartlett Springs, are moving into the Black Hotel this week. They will open up for business immediately.

Mrs. E. M. Black moved into a part of the Charley Ousley home Tuesday. Both of the families will reside in the house. Mrs. Black will occupy the lower rooms and the Ousley family the rooms upstairs. *[This ends the active management of the Black Hotel, a.k.a Old Stagecoach Stop, by Eliza Black. Last year, 1915, was a particularly bad one for Eliza as three of her grown children died.]* Wingo and family and Mrs. McCulley, of

Bloodland, were in an automobile wreck last Sunday afternoon. They were returning home from visiting relatives near Crocker, and as they were on the bluff road between Bart Sparks' and Mrs. Jim Laughlin's one of the wheels struck a rock, turning the car down the bank. Mr. Wingo quickly turned the car back toward the bluff but turned it too far, and the car struck the bluff, sending it off of a bank 8 or 10 feet high. The car turned completely over on the occupants, all of whom, save Russell, came out unhurt. But he was pinned down by it. His wife had to take the jack and raise the car off

of him. He was not seriously injured. Aaron Edwards, a prominent farmer of that neighborhood, took them on to their home at Bloodland. *[This road is between the bluff and the Roubidoux above the Big Spring, past the County Farm, and was called the Houston Road. Wingo was cashier of the Bloodland Bank.]*

September 7

Pulaski County Democrat

Contractor E. M. Noble, of Crocker, with a crew of willing workers shoved the old cell from the site for the new jail Monday morning and began excavating for the foundation for the new building, which is to be completed on or before November the 1st, 1916.

September 14

Pulaski County Democrat

It is reported from Jefferson City that the new state capitol will be in readiness for the inauguration of Governor Frederick D. Gardner early next January. *[The capitol burned in 1911. See 2011 Old Settlers Gazette "News," pages 8-9, online.]* LOCAL ITEMS—Found: 1 set of auto

chains near A. J. Anderson's farm on Waynesville & Richland road. Owner call at the Democrat office, pay for this notice and receive the chains. A. J. Anderson *[Remember the good ol' days, putting chains on tires?]*

October 5

Pulaski County Democrat

M. L. Clark & Son's Combined Shows while moving from here to Bloodland last week turned one of their wagons of animals over on the bluff road near the Barton Sparks farm *[near Roubidoux Spring]* and two monkeys escaped. A member of the show troupe and several young men of the neighborhood tried for a day or two to capture them, but failed. Perry Sparks caught one of them Saturday and it got away from him the next morning. Sunday morning, "Buff" Rayl (colored) went out there and he and Perry Sparks attached a wire hook to the end of a fishing pole, which they managed to get over the monkeys' heads and choked them down. They have them securely chained and are waiting for the reward offered by the owners.



This is a look at the dirt road in 1916, which was somewhat improved, between Waynesville and Crocker. This was a particularly important road for the county seat as Crocker was the nearest railroad access. Wagons, twice-daily hacks that carried mail and passengers (probably on the road above), and an increasing number of automobiles made trips to the depot. It was still essentially a one-lane road. Automobiles passing each other from opposite directions had to exercise caution. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.

October 12

Pulaski County Democrat

Tom Burchard passed through here Sunday enroute here to Bloodland, with a Ford for Russell Wingo. [Suppose his old one was demolished when he rolled it the last week of August.]

November 9

The election results of November 7, 1916 in Pulaski County gave President Wilson a majority of 328 votes. He was also reelected nationally. Edmund A. Steckel of Richland was defeated in the State Senate race by Sam B. Cooke. Young Robert A. Bell, who recently graduated from Washington University Law School, handily defeated well-known George M. Reed for Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney in the county Democratic sweep. Lee Baker, unopposed, became the Sheriff and again served

two terms. The stock law proposition narrowly passed in Liberty Township (337 to 326) while livestock would continue to run free in Union Township.

November 23

Crocker News

From County Court it appears E. M. Noble has finished building new county jail: Warrant drawn in favor of E. M. Noble to the amount of \$942 on Court House and Jail Fund as balance payment on building jail and \$12 for extra work.

December 1

Dixon Pilot

The Frisco Railroad is spending \$100,000 for large, new and modern roundhouse, a massive turntable, miles of additional sidetracks and other improvements at Newburg.

December 8

Richland Mirror

W. H. Utter and wife of Hazel-green motored to St. Louis Tuesday. Later they expect to visit relatives in Kansas City. Before leaving Mr. Utter purchased the Parsons Lodge which he has leased the past summer. They will return to the lodge early in January. Mr. and Mrs. Utter are splendid people and we are glad they have come into possession of our chief Gasconade resort.

The foreman of the E. A. Steckel farm and some of the Turkey Ridge people were blasting stumps from the road on the Ridge last Saturday and stumps—large and small—were being blown “higher than a kite.” Bang!, Bang!!Crash! Cr-r-ra-sh!!—a hundred yards away! Two huge stumps were sent high in the air and two gaping holes were made in the roof (and nearly through the floor)

of Uncle Mart Eldridge’s home. Well, blowing stumps out of the road is a mighty good thing to do, but Uncle thinks there are better places to put them than in his home.

Tavern Township has a stock law.

December 22

Richland Mirror

The Payne produce company bought 940 rabbits Saturday and 410 Monday for 10c each. Price has since slumped to a nickel.

The Hobart Lee Tie Co. has opened a market at Stoutland and is buying nearly a thousand dollars worth of ties a week.

December 29

Richland Mirror

The first of the new Frisco 96 ft. engines made its initial trip through Richland yesterday afternoon.



The Royal Flush

Chairman of the Board- Gary Porter

Secretary- Carl Jensen

Trustee- Tom Mills

Trustee- Daniel Wogan

Trustee- Larry Helms

Director of Finance and Administration- Nola Wadley

Operations- Zach Shepherd



“Words of Wisdom” by Will Rogers

1. So let’s be honest with ourselves and not take ourselves too serious, and never condemn the other fellow for doing what we are doing every day, only in a different way.
2. People’s minds are changed through observation and not through argument.
3. It’s a good thing we don’t get all the government we pay for.