

One hundred years ago the major news stories were about the Great War in Europe. Enlistments, draftees, and the continual efforts to raise money through bonds and other means filled the newspaper pages.

Dixon and Crocker continued to have problems with their electric light plants, while Richland's electric service was more dependable. While the northern part of the county was often bathed in electric light at night, Waynesville, the county seat, remained in the dark.

Road improvement continued to gain momentum as automobile ownership continued to grow.

This year's news feature has a different structure than in years past. 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.

1919

Dixon Pilot
January 24

Mr. McMullen, the electric light man, who had not been able to find a founder in St. Louis or elsewhere that could supply him with a suitable engine, went down to Newburg yesterday and purchased an excellent 35-horse-power engine and 50 horse-power boiler, which are being loaded today for shipment to Dixon. [Dixon was without lights for more than a year. Mr. McMullen was from Hancock.]

February 7

If Federal control of the railroad is causing the delay in shipment of that light plant engine, we are in favor of handing the road back to the owners.

Dixon School Attendance.
...The report of the school month ending January 24th shows an

Pulaski News



enrollment of 93 boys and 125 girls, with an average daily attendance of 162.

February 14

And still the light plant engine has not "arriv"—but don't lose hope; it probably will come yet.

Wouldn't it be nice if the city council would take even half as much interest in repairing the concrete street crossings as it does the darned old hitchrack in front of the *Pilot* shop. Perhaps in all these years they have never discovered that two-foot disconnection in the crossing between the Mayor and Joe Gilbert corners—where one's foot goes casouse into the water and mud of dark nights.

Richland Mirror

Alexander Bryan was born in Ballard county, Kentucky, March 1, 1825, and died at Richland, Missouri, February 4, 1919, aged 93 years, 11 months and 3 days.

When four years of age he moved

with his parents to Murry county, Tennessee, where he lived until about fourteen years of age, when the family came to Pulaski county, Missouri. Here Uncle Alex, as he was familiarly known, resided for more than eighty years.

He married Mary A. Carmack on August 11, 1856, and for fifty-six years they traveled the journey of life together. Six children blessed their home; two of whom survive him, namely, Mrs. Alice Chamberlain of Colorado, and Mrs. J. W. Armstrong of Richland.

Uncle Alex spent many years on the farm, and for a number of years was in the hotel business at Waynesville. His years of retirement have been spent in the home of his youngest daughter, Mrs. Armstrong. He was, perhaps, the most widely known man in this section of the country; and his optimism, and kindly manner enabled him to number his friends only by his acquaintances.

News and Views of 100 Years Ago 75 Years Ago

The newspapers of Pulaski County had no changes in ownership from 1918. We assume Charles Iden was Editor and Publisher and Josie M. Iden the Local Editor of the *Crocker News*. However, no issues of the *Crocker News* from 1919 survive. The *Dixon Pilot* continued in the capable hands of Arundel Go forth. In December of 1917, R. T. Lemons bought the *Richland Mirror* and became Proprietor and Publisher and remained so during 1919. V. V. Long, who took over the *Pulaski County Democrat* in 1914, continued at the helm of the county seat publication. However, a fire incinerated the newspapers from 1918 to late 1940 so none survive on microfilm.

News compilation by Terry Primas.

Though he attained the extreme age of nearly ninety-four years, his mind was clear to the last, and he took a lively interest in the events of the day.

He suffered much, yet he was ever patient and appreciative to the extreme, of every kindness. He was a great Methodist and kept in touch with the church work, though unable to attend. He was a man of great faith, and during his days of forced retirement his soul repented beautifully and he looked forward with pleasure for the coming of the great Husbandman to gather him home.

Just as the sun was slipping over the western horizon his soul slipped away and he was not, for God took him.

The funeral service was held at the late home Thursday afternoon, February 6, the pastor, Rev. E. C. Wadlow, officiating. Interment was made in the local cemetery.
[Alexander Bryan owned the Old

Stagecoach Stop, then known as the Waynesville House, from 1874-1886.]

Dixon Pilot
February 21

It's here—the light plant engine. It arrived last Saturday, and it and the big boiler are being installed.

March 7

Mr. McMullin made a test run of the light plant Saturday afternoon. A flue in the big steam boiler bursted which necessitated closing down for a few days till a new one can be gotten and put in place.

Average daily attendance [*for the school district*] up to 185 with total enrolled 229.

March 14

Mr. McMullin turned on the electric light "dope" Monday night and is shooting it right along now.

March 21
City elections were held and new Board of Aldermen to be installed ...As the old Board has been somewhat neglectful of the condition of the hitchracks for several weeks, we suppose this important matter will be at the head of the docket at next Monday night's meeting, and that an emergency order will be issued for the straightening up of the posts, connecting and tightening of the chains and a first-class overhauling of our ancient and prized hitchracks—in front of the *Pilot* shop.

A Barber's Plan.

"I'm afraid we'll have to charge 35 cents for a shave after July 1," said the barber.

"How's that?" asked the man in the chair.

"Well," replied the barber, "men's

faces are getting long and longer every day thinking of prohibition, and it is going to take twice as long to shave them."—*Cincinnati Enquirer*

Richland Mirror
March 28

Mass meeting of Richland voters on Monday voted for city officers. E. A. Steckel got 98 votes. Interesting to note that the other nominee, A. J. McDonald, the current mayor, received 85. [See sidebar next page.]

Dixon Pilot
May 2

Manager J. S. Coffer of the Ozarks Telephone System is over at Waynesville moving the switchboard at that place.

Joe Brandon's mare, we are told, was taken out of the cistern at the Arthur Harmon place, occupied by Claud Groves in north Dixon, Wednesday morning. The job

necessitated the assistance of several neighbors, as the faithful animal was considerably below the earth's surface and all submerged except her periscope. This reminds us (though we are reminded most every day by object lessons) that a number of people are becoming rather impatient on account of the amount of live stock running at large in town, doing damage to gardens and lawns. We were under the impression that a number of our people elected a new Marshal recently who was not to give the stock "more rope," but to "jail" 'em—but we are told a herd of swine were exercising their rooters in his garden the other day.

May 9

Judge Veasman has been wrestling with county affairs at regular session of county court at Waynesville this week. Among other transactions,



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the court granted a franchise to J. B. Quigley for an electric and power wire to be run through the county. Power is to be generated at a dam to be built across the Niangua.

Richland Mirror

A construction crew for the Republic Silo Company unloaded equipment here Tuesday for building concrete silos. They have contracts for 23 twelve-foot silos to be built in this community, and some 15 or 16 larger sized ones. The crew will be at work here most of the summer. [There are still a few of those 100-year-old concrete silos to see, dotting the fields of the old farmsteads, providing a backbone for vines climbing upward. The one above is in Pulaski's Piney Township on the Big Piney River.]

Dixon Pilot

May 16

Sam G. Ballard was over from Waynesville Monday. Mr. Ballard is now the publisher of the *Pulaski County Democrat*, having recently bought the plant.

Richland Mirror

[In March or April, the town board passed a resolution to support the building of a skating rink or area for the town. The mayor should facilitate its establishment but no town funds spent. A controversy apparently developed, possibly a generational dispute.]

Objections to the Skating Ground

Richland leased to the devil and he has begun the erection of a training school for the young folks that they might be more perfect in his work—that his purposes be more effective in overcoming righteousness and in the establishment of evil. This, I understand, has been introduced by the mayor and town board of Richland and influenced by the high school, and financed mainly by the



business men of the town! ha! ha! And no marvel—for Satan himself is transformed for his designs into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the minister of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works!

T. J. Z.

[T. J. Z. is most likely Thomas J. Zumwalt, venerable traveling preacher of the area, also known as Uncle Tommy.]

May 23

Reply to T. J. Z.

Richland, with NO amusement in the last year! [We reprinted an article in last year's Gazette that Richland passed an ordinance in April of 1918, "to prohibit the production of theatrical plays, motion picture films, and other forms of amusement for the period of the war."] The place where the old people care nothing for the pleasure of their children, the town that has not made any advancement in the last few years. She has worn a rut and it is beginning to get deep. We have been in this rut long enough and if we don't get out soon we can never get out.

Richland, the home of the old mossbackers who have been in the one old rut for so many years. You can see their sons loafing around on the street seven days out of the week. They have inherited from their fathers this trait. Richland has had the name of being a slow town, one where there was no chance for a young man who has to make his own way on his own resources, must leave Richland and leaves never to return only on a visit.

The young people of Richland have hunted for pleasures the last few years and have found them. These pleasures have been everything from bumming a ride to the next town to stealing cherries, peaches, apples, playing cards, poker, matching pennies and anything which would be of any enjoyment to them. All of these things have been done after dark because there was nothing else to

do when they congregated in town. There was no public skating rink, no play grounds, no movie, no public library, no gymnasium, no Boy Scout organization and no interest taken in their welfare by any of these old mossbackers.

There is a certain class of people who lived in log houses plugged with mud, used a soap box to set on and never saw a table cloth. They have lived in this state of mind until they think that every one should do the same. They never rode in an automobile and abuse the man who owns one. They still have some of the same old dollars that they started out in life with, stuck away down in their sock which covers an old foot that has not been wet in the last six months. They, more than likely, are wearing an old shirt with the bosom colored from tobacco "ambere" or they are carrying an old pipe, that is strong enough to carry the present war debt. They breed these nasty, filthy habits into their children and then can't see where their children pick up these nasty habits of smoking and chewing.

There are a good many of them who are just living only to let their children and friends get away with what they have. They have a little money once in a while but what little that does have the hard luck to fall into their claws is squeezed until the eagle squeals.

Thanks for the younger class of voters for what they have done in the last city election. They have in office now one [E.A. Steckel] who cares what the children do. One who has enough foresight to see that something must be done. One who rides in a car and wishes every one else the good luck that he has had. One who can see the good in a few things that are in his power and has gotten behind them and is doing his best to push them and uphold them. One who founded the fair association and has encouraged the playgrounds and skating rink. Thanks to him, and may many be his rewards, and in the end when



Edmund A. Steckel was born in Germany in 1879 and in 1883 or '84 immigrated to the United States with his parents, Wilhelm and Caroline Steckel.

In the early 1900s, the E. A. Steckel family came to Pulaski County. He invested heavily in what was then called "speculator land." This was upland acreage that was not suitable for row crops. Mr. Steckel was an energetic, capable individual with a vision that put him years ahead of his time. He planned the town of Turkey Ridge now served by Highway W. The town was (and still is) laid out with lots and blocks. Small acreages were available in the outskirts of the platted town. A nationwide advertising campaign attracted a limited number of buyers. The advertising stressed growing fruit and berries rather than traditional farm crops. Acreages were sold with a small down payment and reasonable terms.

Steckel also began the development of the Ozark Springs Resort at Mays Ford on the Gasconade.

His election as Mayor of Richland ignited Steckel's political ambitions and he ran, unsuccessfully, for state senator as a Republican in a heavily Democratic area.

For an excellent look at Steckel's activities and accomplishments, see "E. A. Steckel: The Man Who Put Richland (and Turkey Ridge and The Ozark Spring Resort) on the Map" by John Bradbury, 2011 *Old Settlers Gazette*.

the great day of reckoning comes, he will be able to pass on into St. Peter's palace without first stopping to scrape off that old begrimed moss on his back.

And as a closing paragraph I might say that you old timers who are kicking on the skating rink, playing ball on Sundays, and a few other minor things had just as well keep your mouth shut and take your medicine for these amusements are going to go because we young people have had to forego these things long enough; but we now have the vote and you have had your time, so just set down and take your medicine.

S. H. L.

[From this strident rejoinder to Reverend Zumwalt, it seems that the mayoral election had more meaning than appeared in the pages of the Mirror.]

May 30

Replying to an Intended Answer.

In reply to, as I suppose, the answer to what I wrote on the action of the mayor and the town board, will say I am glad to have an expression from the one, or ones, that have a different view. It seems that my effort has been somewhat effectual and has not passed unnoticed, for my object was to make the subject a Bible question between right and wrong.

There are two things in the answer that I am greatly surprised at. The first one is that the one who wrote it was not willing to let his name be known or he is an entire stranger to the town as no one appears to know him. For this reason I do not consider I have anything to answer. To answer, if I did, would only be to burlesque or to accuse of ignorance which I do not propose to do. For I

would not accuse the one who wrote it of ignorance or trying to make his opponent look little in the eyes of the world. Neither all together void of reasoning but only missed the mark and made a mistake, as those who proposed the skating rink. I could not think that they are men who want to decrease the morals of the town but would rather give them an uplift; but, in their idea and plan are mistaken. Why? Because the skating rink is a place of revellings, which, the apostle says, they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom. And again the apostle in ---to bring them up in the admonition of the Lord, I, as in the name of reason and sound judgment, is providing such places in keeping with this counsel? I wonder if we are going back into the position of the Jews when the Lord came and found that they had

changed his service into idolatry and, as Paul says, turned the truth of God into a lie. In the language of the apostle I will say: O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that you should not obey the truth? This appears the tendency in the training of the children in the way proposed—not to obey the truth. Surely this is a downward course. My object is the better training of the children that they may be pointed to the higher order and way of righteousness.

I don't care for your log cabins daubed with mud, neither your mossbackers. Rather have them as to have your place of idle and frivolous influences which misleads. I believe in progression in righteousness not in sin. I admit that our fathers had many foolish ideas and habits and that of filthiness; and we want better things than these. And it is

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our object to impress a stricter rule of child training which will certainly be more pleasing to God and betterment of the children which is given into our care.

Yours for truth and right,

T. J. Zumwalt.

[About] S. H. L.

The article in last week's paper was not written with the idea that any one should take it personally but was written as a vivid picture of a condition.

One in writing will let their feelings carry them in a certain extent and when they picture anything or condition they are liable to exaggerate their picture so as to make the readers see the picture more plainly.

Then again a writer always has his opinions, ideas and ideals, and if you can't see the same as he does

don't think that you are right and he is wrong or vice versa, because you have an equal right to think opposite to what he does. (Belief in anything is not limited any in the least.)

Then the age of the writer plays a great part for if the writer be young he is more liable to have a fictitious brain than an older one.

You people that have taken this to heart, forget it and remember the article of last week's paper was not written to fit any one personally but just to fit a condition that was in the mind of the writer.

Lynn Bohannon.

[The Bohannons were a prominent business family in Richland, owning an elevator and feed store. Lynn was 19 years old at the time, one of the younger set.]

[That is all the heat we can stand in the Gazette for this year.]

Dixon Pilot

June 6

Re-Organize Club.

The Commercial or Business Club was re-organized Monday night at a meeting at the city hall, which is a timely action on the part of the citizens, as there is much for such an organization to do.

One of the first moves the re-organized Club is making is an effort to induce the city to vote bonds with which to purchase the electric light plant, which suspended operations last month, and revive and operate it on an all-night basis.

Richland Mirror

June 13

Notice.

Someone, through ignorance or maliciously, is circulating the statement that an admission will be charged for the use of Richland's

new skating rink and play ground.

Richland's Free Municipal Skating Rink and Play Grounds will be just what the name implies—Free for the use of the public without charges of any kind whatever.

E. A. Steckel, Mayor.

June 20

Skating park opening tomorrow night. Get your skates ready. Skating on the sidewalks is unlawful but skating on the wide concrete track about the big city lot is not only permitted but free and is urged. That's what it is made for. Opening Saturday night.

July 18

The skating park is the greatest attraction in town, both for the skaters and the onlookers.

This correspondent was at Turkey Ridge last Monday and found every body in the little town well and

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happy. Mr. James, the blacksmith, was busy in his shop. M. J. Eldridge was waiting for some one to call on him to build a new flue. W. A. Gillete and wife were busy in the store. J. H. Carroll, Bill Smith and Otto Gustin were busy stacking E. A. Steckel's fine oats and rye. Mike Godfrey was busy in his hay and the Walters brothers were running their saw mill on schedule time.

July 25

Don't forget Waynesville's annual picnic, Friday and Saturday, August first and second.

August 1

Dixon Pilot

Rolla Herald.—A large truck from Rolla came here after a load of ice Wednesday.

The above item was taken from the *St. James Journal* of last week. It is very nice that Rolla is able to be supplied with ice from our progressive sister city on the East. It is worthy of note, however, that should there be an ice shortage in Rolla again, it is possible for ice to be secured from the Salem ice factory; also Newburg will soon be able to supply ice from the Newburg ice factory. We also hope that the progressive citizens of Edgar Springs may soon organize and build an ice factory. It is very inconvenient to have an ice shortage in Rolla, and we like to live in the neighborhood of progressive communities that have their own ice plants.

August 8

\$30,000 Bank Organized Here

The organization of a new and third bank for Dixon was perfected here last Wednesday, capitalized at \$30,000, which we believe is the largest capital stock of any institution in Pulaski County and no doubt the stockholders represent by far the greatest number of good, wealthy and influential citizens of any bank



McClurg and Chestnut Streets, Richland, ca. 1920. Courtesy Jan and Terry Primas.

in the county. In fact, we are told, it was originally intended to capitalize at \$20,000, but the demand for stock from such men was so strong that the capitalization was raised to \$25,000, and finally, for the same reason, was raised to \$30,000, and then all could not be taken in.

The following young progressive, enterprising and shrewd business men were chosen to head the institution as officers: A. L. Veasman, President; P. A. Christeson, Vice-President; and J. A. Clark, Cashier.

The capital of the new bank, combined with the capital and surpluses of the two old banks, will make nearly \$85,000 capital strength

for Dixon's financial institutions.

Richland Mirror

August 15

Uncle Sam, World Leader

Uncle Sam has become the world's greatest captain of industry, so says Managing Director W. I. Drummond of the International Farm Congress. Here are the figures, the facts:

The United States has 6 per cent of the world's population.

We own 7 per cent of the world's wheat.

We produce 53 percent of the world's silver.

We mine 40 percent of iron and steel, 20 percent of the world's gold.

We operate 40 percent of the world's railroads.

We dig 52 percent of all the coal used in the world.

We raise 60 percent of all cotton of the world.

We produce 66 percent of the world's oil.

We produce 70 percent of the world's copper.

We manufacture 82 percent of all motor cars.

Dixon Pilot

August 29

Barney Baker reports quite an overflowing business at the Frisco Hotel this week.

Arrangements have been made for opening the Dixon Schools Monday morning with the exception of a teacher for the high school. Teachers are hard to engage this year, as so many find more lucrative employment in other lines. However, the School Board expects to get in touch with and secure the services of a good man Saturday for the high school. [The school opened with a faculty of six teachers for all grades. The superintendent was a lady, Miss Georgia Rollins of Dixon.]

Richland Mirror

September 19

Notice.

Every home in Richland that can care for one or more roomers during the fair please notify Mayor Steckel at once how many you can care for and what rate you will charge. This is Important. Richland will have the largest crowds ever seen in the town and many will need places to sleep, and we must do OUR BEST to accommodate them. Make room for every one you possibly can and go to the phone TODAY and talk to Mr. Steckel about it.

Dixon Pilot

October 3

If our city council would enact an ordinance against fortune telling it would afford a means of



"A Saturday Crowd" in downtown Dixon, ca. 1919. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

Richland Hotel.
W. S. Gray, Proprietor. Nine rooms. Can accommodate ten guests. Rates: \$1.00 per day, \$7.00 per week, \$25.00 per month.—from *Vacations in the Ozarks Along the Frisco Lines 1913*. Courtesy of John Bradbury.



preventing jipsies tarrying here.

Richland Mirror

E. A. Steckel was the first to ascend in the aeroplane [*at the fair*] making a tour of Turkey Ridge and Gasconade vicinity in his flight. The aeroplane was plainly visible and performed some very daring feats while here.

October 10

The aeroplane is still here the owners so far having failed to get the engine in running order. They say they will have another engine here today.

Dixon Pilot

Skaggs Buys Electric Plant.
Bennett Skaggs of Iberia, a good business man who makes good in his undertakings, has purchased the Dixon electric light plant and is today buying a new 25 h.p. Fairbanks-Morse engine (like the one at the Frisco pump station) and will put the plant in working order and turn on the lights as soon as it can be done.

The lights are to burn till 11:30 p.m. and be turned on again at 4:00 a.m. and burn till daylight. The rate is to be 22 cents per kilowatt, with \$1.25 per month minimum.

October 17

An excellent picture show was put on at the Opera House Saturday and Monday nights by a Mr. Allen, who is a movie show man of long experience. He is to give another show tomorrow night, and has arranged for two shows a week at the Opera House hereafter.

October 24

Thanks to the City Council for having the northernmost post of the hitch-rack in front of the Pilot shop straightened up and the fertile soil firmly packed about its base. That was a very important job, such minor items as broken and long-neglected street crossings, publishing annual financial statements, enforcing the cur [dog] tax ordinance, improvement of the park, etc., to the contrary notwithstanding.

Richland Mirror

Financial statement of Clover Leaf Fair Association shows good management by Steckel et al. Started with a balance of 138.80 from last year and ended this year with balance of 1,009.49. Paid \$100 to have the aeroplane come to the fair.

October 31

TURKEY RIDGE—Turkey Ridge is four miles long and two miles wide. If you are coming this way stop with us.

E. A. Steckel came over on Tuesday night of last week to attend a committee here to arrange the building of the town hall.

Dixon Pilot

November 28

Movie Show For Dixon.

H. J. Wainwright and F. C. Burgdorfer have fitted up the K. P. Hall in the Wainwright building and equipped it for a moving picture show they intend to operate here regularly, and which is to be opened

as soon as the electric light plant resumes operations.

Mr. Burgdorfer returned Monday from St. Louis, where he had purchased the best picture machine and outfit to be had in the city, and the machine is to be run by an electric motor.

The hall has been thoroughly renovated and everything put on a sanitary basis, fitted and decorated for the movie business and seated with comfortable folding chairs.

The gentlemen intend to put on shows each Tuesday and Thursday night and Saturday afternoons and night, giving first-class accommodations and showing a class of pictures far ahead of anything ever put on here. [Wainwright fell ill the same week and was taken to the State Hospital at Farmington.]

The new engine for the light plant has arrived and was unloaded from

the car today. So we are to have lights very soon.

December 12

Mr. Skaggs turned on the electric lights last night. The service starts out fine and is in good time for the holiday shopping season.

Richland Mirror

December 19

TURKEY RIDGE—Strangers are coming here every day looking for a location and when they stand on the public square and look northwest across the river and see the electric lights in Richland, a distance of six miles, they at once decide to locate with us.

December 26

We note that electric light rates at Richland are to be raised to 15 cents per kilowatt in February, which is the rate Dixon started with a few years ago.

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