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OLD NEWSPAPERS ALLOW TIME TRAVELING TO THE PAST

By Gary Knehan

Throughout the centuries, mankind has been fascinated with the concept of traveling through time. We don't know the exact moment when the idea first sparked in the human mind. Time travel as a concept was expressed in literature back in the 19th century. H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine" served to foster a universal longing to travel backward or forward in time. Success of the recent movie "Back to the Future", and the TV series "Quantum Leap", raises collective hopes that time travel at some point may become reality; but modern science offers almost no encouragement that it will.

Even though our bodies seem likely to remain confined to the imprisonment of time, our minds are free to escape equally to fanciful illusions of the future as well as to dim images of the past.

Some of the brightest images of long past days can be found in existing copies and microfilms of old local newspapers. There a researcher can read firsthand accounts of historical events and about the comings and goings of ordinary citizens of the older days.

For example, in the August 11, 1905 edition of "The Crocker Impetus", you can travel back and attend the tenth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Toops. The July 6th, 1922, edition of the Newburg newspaper, "Phelps County Record", tells about a bridge to be built over the Little Piney River at Arlington.

The "Impetus" came to Crocker from Iberia. Its first Crocker issue came on August 4, 1905. "The Phelps County Record" was renamed "The Newburg Record" in 1922, its eighth year of operations.

Editor Stella Westlake explained in the July 6th edition that "The old name is a misnomer for the paper is not expected to contain a Record of Phelps County happenings, but of Newburg happenings. When we chronicle and record all happenings in this little city of 140 souls, we will have given you a good paper and the Phelps County happenings we add to this will help out and will be such as particularly affect Newburg and the surrounding country."

Pulaski County's longest continuously operated newspaper was the "Democrat", located in Waynesville, which was in business in the 1880's and perhaps even earlier. Its last paper was published on January 28, 1982.

Another Waynesville newspaper was the "Gasconade Valley Plain Dealer" in 1876. A paper called the "Fort Wood Free Press" was published in Waynesville in the summer of 1941.

Old Fort Wood publications were the "Pioneer" in 1941, the "News" from 1941 to 1946, and the "Sentinel" in 1963.

In Crocker, the "Crocker News" had a short run from 1972 through 1974. Dixon's oldest known paper was the "Echo", which dated back at least to

the 1890's. The "Dixon Pilot" has operated from at least 1914 to the current date. The name was changed to the "Pulaski County Pilot-News" from 1953 to 1969, when the paper became the "Dixon Pilot" again.

In Richland, the "Cyclone" operated from at least the 1890's to the early 1900's. The "Mirror" has published from at least 1913 up to present times. The "Richland Sentinel" made a brief appearance in 1876. The "Tri-County Press" operated from 1983 to 1985.

Newburg also was served by the "Times" in 1939 and 1940, the "Democrat" from 1951 to 1954, and the "County Newsboy" in 1968 and 1969.

In Jerome, the "Gee-Roader" proved to be a short-lived venture in 1922. It was designed to serve the tourist trade in the Arlington-Jerome area and was published in the summer months.

Readers are cautioned that this article is not intended to be a complete nor definitive listing of historical newspaper publications in the greater Pulaski County area. There could have been some papers of which there are no surviving accounts. Publication dates mentioned in this article are based upon a listing by the Missouri Historical Society of microfilmed newspapers in their possession. This does not allow us to report with complete accuracy the exact dates these papers began and ceased operations.

DID YOU KNOW
By Van Beydler

Did you know... a man who was an artist for Walt Disney once trained at Fort Leonard Wood? Frans Wetterings, former animator at the Disney studios in Hollywood, drilled recruits at the Engineer Replacement Training Center at Fort Leonard Wood and was eventually promoted to corporal in the 31st Engineer Training Battalion. For more than a year prior to his induction at Syracuse, N.Y., Wetterings worked on "Pinocchio" and "Fantasia," giving life to the Disney creations that later won the hearts of a nation and broke box office records from Alaska to South America. Immediately before entering the service he worked on "Bambi." In the Disney world of dancing elephants and exotic centaurettes, Wetterings began as an "in-between," an artist who draws the movement lines to make the flow of the animation complete. Later he became a junior animator, creating the movements and developing specific characters in movie cartoons. Wetterings, a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, came to the United States in 1919.

Did you know... the man who helped draw the comic strip "Henry" was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood? Don Trachte of Madison, Wisconsin was a sophomore pioneering in animated film work in the art class conducted by Carl Anderson at the University of Wisconsin. "Henry" was born during these classes. When King Features bought the strip from Anderson in 1935 and began syndicating it throughout the world, Anderson offered Trachte the job as his secretary and assistant. "For the next two years," Trachte said, "I drew what seemed like 30,000 miles of straight lines!" His first duty was to draw the frames that surround the characters. Later he became "idea man" thinking up the antics that made people laugh in 30 countries. In 1938 when Anderson was ill, Trachte did all the drawings, keeping the daily strip three months ahead of the deadline. "Henry" was a great favorite in Sweden, where he is known as Ollie, and in Holland as Hasse and Finland as Hoi-ki-Poiki. Their system of collaborating on the strip was a simple one. When the idea was decided upon, Trachte drew the first draft with Anderson making any suggestions or corrections he felt necessary. Trachte would then ink the final copy. In addition to his training, Trachte worked on a series of humorous drawings depicting a selectee's plight at the Fort Leonard Wood Engineer Replacement Training Center.

Did you know... Jerome and Arlington once had their own newspaper. "The Gee-Roader" was published by W.L. Simpson for the Associated Resort Keepers of Jerome and Arlington. The paper featured stories about summer activities held in the area. Advertising was supported by such Jerome and Arlington resorts as Piney View Cottage, Chapin Mercantile Company with groceries, dry goods, and soda fountain, William M. Hance's Cafe, Bryant's Cottages, Huber's Ice Cream Parlor, Pine Bluff Farm, Harry R. Mc-Maw Furniture and Undertaking, Smith & Hawkins Jitney Service with transportation from Jerome and Arlington to Newburg to catch a train, and Hawkins Booth at the Jerome Station.

Did you know... Rolla once had a bottling company for Whistle? R.M. Strobach bottled Whistle and Royal Soda Water in a "sanitary shop by people who know how." Their slogan, "Ask your dealer for Whistle. JUST WHISTLE."

A TIN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hoops celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary Aug. 7, last Monday night. Ten years ago they were married in the old house which occupies the site of their present beautiful home. Mrs. Hoops wore the wedding dress of ten years ago, and her friends thought she looked as pretty as she did at that time. During the ten years, four children, three boys and one girl, have come to them, George, Paul, Clyde and little Jeretta. Mr. Krause and Mrs. Everett Rowden furnished the music. A graphophone (sic) did some fine word to (sic).

The Rev. Forsyth married this happy couple a second time and they seemed willing to "love, honor and obey" one another for another ten years at least. Ice cream and cake were served at about eleven, and then the fourty (sic) guests went away wishing many happy returns of the day. J. L. thinks they are now stocked with tinware for the rest of their days. "Crocker Impetus", Aug. 11, 1905

COURT ORDERS BRIDGE OVER LITTLE PINEY

Cost \$11,000, 250 Feet Long, 16 Feet Wide,

Serves a Big Territory

The county court at its session Monday made the order for the construction of a bridge over Little Piney at Arlington and awarded the contract to the St. Louis Bridge Supply Co. As soon as the formalities regarding the contract are completed construction work will be started, probably next week.

This bridge will be one of the largest and most expensive in the county. It will cost about \$11,000 and is 250 feet long, broken into two spans of 125 feet each, and is 16 feet wide, room for two cars to pass.

The bridge was badly needed and will open a large territory the year round. The west part of Spring Creek township and Arlington are cut off from the railroad with every high water and this bridge will be above any high water that we have yet known.

In addition to this it makes the ferry at Jerome useable every day in the year and records kept at Jerome this year since shows that Piney was not fordable on 152 days since the first of the year. The bridge gives a direct route south west and cars can go through to Crocker and joins on the Frisco after it is built without the long detour.

The site for the bridge is about 150 feet from the Gasconade and its approach is the old railroad dump. It will be interesting to know that the center pier, the one in the center of the river, will rest on an old railroad pier that was built before the war and is still around.

We want to congratulate the court for giving the people of this vicinity this bridge. We know of no place in the county where the expenditures of so much money will bring such lasting good to so many people.

"Rolla Times" article, reprinted in the July 6, 1922, edition of the "Phelps County Record".

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