

Pulaski County's 1893 Events

By Gary Knehans

When Pulaski County residents embraced the new year in the wee hours of January 1st, 1893, little could they suspect it was not to be a year of post-election reconciliation. Nor were events to be as predictable, peaceful, nor as prosperous as they were earlier in the nineties.

By May, 1893, just two months after Grover Cleveland became the country's new president, the nation dove into an economic depression. Within a year, four million workers would be without jobs. The sharp downturn meant even more misery for farmers, who had been experiencing hard times since 1877. Diminished purchasing power adversely affected railroad revenues and prompted many business failures across the nation.

Pulaski Countians, like many other Americans, saw an upsurge in lawlessness and violence, prompted no doubt by the declining economy. Flooding in May delivered another blow to county farmers. Contamination of ground water from the flooding led to a deadly outbreak of typhoid. Diphtheria also became a major health concern late in the year.

1893 began promisingly enough in the community of Waynesville. Efforts were announced to increase the mail run between Waynesville and Crocker, the nearest point on the railroad, to twice per day. This was welcomed news to the community's citizens, who could only look with envy to the booming growth of the railroad communities to their north. The only way for Waynesville to tap into the prosperity brought in by the trains was by much slower and more primitive transportation over an eleven mile stretch of rough roadway.

The community was served well by the St. Louis to Springfield road. But, while the Gasconade River and Roubidoux Creek proved beneficial to Waynesville, bad weather could hamper river traffic.

A raft of lumber from the upper Piney regions is froze up on Big Piney near Joe Ousley's. There is about 25,000 feet of lumber in the raft. ("Waynesville Democrat" article, reprinted in the Jan. 12th "Rolla Herald").

Meanwhile in Dixon, a continuation of the type of festivities for which New Year's Eve is known got some residents in trouble with the law.

On Monday night of this week some of the boys loaded up on red liquor and started in to paint the town. After breaking the glass out of the door of Esq. Huckins' office and yelling and shooting, they went on to the depot and started to tear it down. The night operator, George Greener, and Luther Long were in the office, and when Mr. Greener told them to stop, Fred Smith started to kick the stove down. Mr. Greener started out of his office and

Fred started to vacate the depot, and Mr. Greener caught him on the platform and gave him a good thrashing. Paris Young, of Linn Creek, who was in the gang, came back and threw some rocks through the window at Greener, but did not hit him. Mr. Greener went before Esq. Liessman and procured a warrant and had Young arrested, who filled a bond for his appearance on the 17th inst. The next day a warrant was procured for Fred Smith's arrest, but up to this time he had not been found. ("Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the Jan. 12th "Rolla Herald").

A death in the state senatorial ranks gave politicians in the 27th district counties of Pulaski, Phelps, Maries, Miller, Osage, and Cole the unexpected opportunity to name a successor. Democrats in Pulaski County raised the banner of H. E. Warren, a leading Richland businessman and a prominent member of the party. Party members in the other counties in the district also advanced their favorite candidates. Delegates from all six counties met early in January in Jefferson City to settle on a candidate.

A convention was called to order by J. H. Imboden of Dixon, and after reading the official call appointed Gen. E. Y. Mitchell, of Rolla, temporary chairman, and Judge J. O. Holmes, of Maries, temporary secretary.

The chair appointed one from each of the counties to act on committees on permanent organization and order of business, on credentials, and on resolutions.

Mr. Faulkner represented Phelps on the committee on credentials, Mr. Livesay on organization and order of business, and Mr. Richards on resolutions.

Gen. E. Y. Mitchell was chosen permanent chairman and Judge Holmes permanent secretary. Nominating speeches were ruled to five minutes each, and the call of counties to be alphabetical. No county was allowed to change its vote until after the secretary had announced the result of the ballot previously taken, a rule which in fact meant that no county could change its vote after once announcing it.

Some of the nominating speeches were exceptionally fine and masterly efforts, notably that of Attorney Will Bowles of Maries, Prof. Stewart of Pulaski, and Mr. W. B. Richards of Rolla. The speeches of these gentlemen were highly complimented by the large throng of spectators and elicited much applause. A prominent statesman from St. Joseph said in our hearing that the efforts of these gentlemen were far above the ordinary and was much superior to the oratory heard in state conventions.

The first ballot was as follows: Silver 9, Mosby 6, Pittsford 5, Davisson 6, Harrison 6, and Warren 5. Nineteen votes were necessary for a choice.

The balloting was kept up until 5:30 p.m. without any material changes, when a recess was taken till 8 o'clock.

Upon re-assembling the balloting was resumed. When the 57th was reached, Maries county gave Harrison 6 votes, Miller county 2 of her 5, Phelps 6, and Pulaski asked for time to consult. With Pulaski's five votes Harrison would receive the nomination. The silence was broken with a Democratic whoop when Judge Wright of Pulaski announced 5 votes for Harrison of Phelps and thus suddenly terminated a convention which had every appearance of culminating in a dead lock. ("Rolla Herald", Jan. 12th).

Although disappointed that one of their ranks did not receive the nomination, Pulaski County Democrats nevertheless closed party ranks in support of Rolla's James B. Harrison to fill the vacancy left by the death of State Senator Samuel Mosby.

Captain Warren expresses himself satisfied with the work of the convention last Saturday. Henry couldn't be a sore head if he wanted to be.

While the "Democrat", in common with the great body of stalwart Democrats of this county, preferred another, yet, in obedience to that fundamental principle of our party, we bow to the will of the majority, and shall cast our ballot for Mr. Harrison as cheerfully as we would have done for Mr. Warren, or any other one of the honorable gentlemen before the convention. With us, before our party in its organized capacity speaks, we have our personal choice of candidates, and do all we can to further their interest, but when the party, in convention in primary, names the candidate, then all individual preferences are laid aside, and we accept the choice of our party, and do as much for his election as we would have done had our personal choice received the honor. ("Waynesville Democrat" article, reprinted in the Jan. 19th "Rolla Herald").

Editor W. T. Wright's call for party solidarity was echoed by H. E. Warren himself. Warren wrote a letter to Wright on January 17th to express his appreciation of the effort on his behalf and to rally Pulaski County support for Harrison.

I desire to express my thanks, through the columns of the "Democrat", to the Democrats of Pulaski county and the delegates to the late Senatorial convention. When it became evident that some one else was to be chosen, the delegates from our county believed, as did the delegates from Maries and Phelps counties (which give the Democratic majorities), that one of them was entitled to the nomination. Hence, the greater number united upon Hon. James B. Harrison, of Phelps—a Democrat well equipped for legislative duties, and familiar with the wants of our people. I believe him

to be a man who will represent the interests of the district, ably and impartially. And I would insist that every Democrat—especially every friend of mine—give to him the same earnest and honest support that you have given me, had I receive the nomination. This is no time for sulking. Be up and doing. Go to the polls on the 28th of this month and deposit your ballot for the Democratic nominee. The Democrat that serves his party best in this contest will be my best friend. Yours truly, H. E. WARREN. (Jan. 26th "Rolla Herald").



H. E. WARREN

Harrison went on to an overwhelming victory on election day over the Republican nominee for the office.

While this political drama unfolded in the early days of the new year, county citizens went about the everyday pattern of life, which for some meant a change in marital status.

Married, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. Louis Black, on Wednesday, Jan. 18th, 1893, Mr. O. W. Shockley, of near Waynesville, Mo., to Miss Phebe Black of Arlington, Mo. Mr. Shockley is one of Pulaski county's most enterprising and successful farmers, while Miss Black is one of Phelps county's accomplished young ladies. The "Echo" joins their host of friends in wishing them a long and prosperous journey through life. ("Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the Jan. 26th "Rolla Herald").



Pulaski County interest in late January also was focused on the second murder trial in Lebanon of Wilson Howard, who was charged with the 1889 murder of a Maries County deaf mute. Sheriff Tom Imboden and a few other Pulaski Countians testified at the trial, which ended with Howard's conviction. A more detailed account of that trial can be found in last year's "Old Settlers' Gazette".

Whatever their interest in the ongoing Wils Howard saga, residents of the county soon found their attention riveted closer to home with the capture of the man suspected of killing a Richland law officer four years earlier.

Sheriff T. V. Imboden passed through this city to-day enroute to Woodville, Tex., where he has located and caused the arrest of Thos. Hendricks, who is wanted in Laclede County for the murder of Constable J. O. Manes, of Liberty Township, Pulaski County, in November, 1889. Sheriff Imboden stopped off here to consult S. J. Manes, father of deceased, who offered a reward for the arrest of Hendricks. The Sheriff will arrive in Lebanon, Mo., Friday night with his prisoner, requisition papers having been applied for. Public sentiment is vehement in denouncing the atrocious murder, but no violence is feared. ("Rolla Herald" article of Feb. 23rd, with a Feb. 20th Richland dateline).

Even as this news was being received, another incident caused a bit of a stir around Richland. The excitement, however, was short lived.

Jim Mitchell, a young white man, recently released from the Penitentiary at Jefferson City, where he served a term for burglarizing the jewelry establishment of Bardshaw Brothers, is again in custody. The Harston Hardware Company's store was burglarized last night. This morning the glass front was found broken in and the rear door open. A Winchester rifle of the latest improved pattern, a breech-loading shotgun, two pistols and some 700 cartridges were missing. Jim Harston, head of the firm, and Charles Waler started out about 9 o'clock this morning in search of suspect. To-night they returned with Mitchell, who acknowledges committing the burglary. The property, save about 100 cartridges, which he had fired, was recovered. ("Rolla Herald" of Mar. 2nd, with a Feb. 25th Richland dateline).

Welcomed news came in February for the citizenry of Waynesville. The effort to upgrade transportation to the nearest railroad point was successful.

On last Friday another stage was added to the Waynesville and Crocker line, to leave Crocker at 8 o'clock in the morning and arrive at Waynesville at 10 o'clock a.m., and known as the "Cannon Ball." This, in addition to the "Fast Mail and Express" that leaves Waynesville at 8 a.m. and arrives at Crocker at 10:30 a.m., gives us all the transportation needed at present. But with our growing business additional lines will soon have to be added. It may be before the end of 1893, we will have a double track from here to Crocker, thus preventing any possible

collision from fast running stages. Waynesville is on the "push." (Feb. 23rd "Rolla Herald" article, reprinted from the "Waynesville Democrat").

The upbeat news was not shared in Dixon, as a devastating fire destroyed a thriving business of that community.

At 12:50 on Wednesday morning the citizens of Dixon were startled by the cry of "fire! fire!" resounding through the streets.

The alarm was given by Mr. James McGregor who had just returned from Waynesville, and discovered the Dixon Roller Mills in flames.

The affrighted citizens rushed to the rescue, but were powerless to save as the flames had gained such a headway that it was impossible to do anything, and in an incredible short space of time the mill or what was remaining of it, was a pile of ruins.

The loss was complete, as absolutely nothing was saved but a scale. The origin of the fire is unknown. The mill was running until 9 o'clock the previous evening, having several large orders for flour to fill and was running overtime. The mill was owned by T. A. and Chas. Murphy and was doing a large business, and is quite a loss to the community.

There was an insurance of \$9,500 on the building and machinery.

Mr. James McGregor, who first discovered the fire and gave the alarm, was seriously injured in his heroic efforts to save property; but although still suffering severely at this time, it is thought he will recover. (Mar. 18th "New Era" article, with a March 16th Dixon dateline).

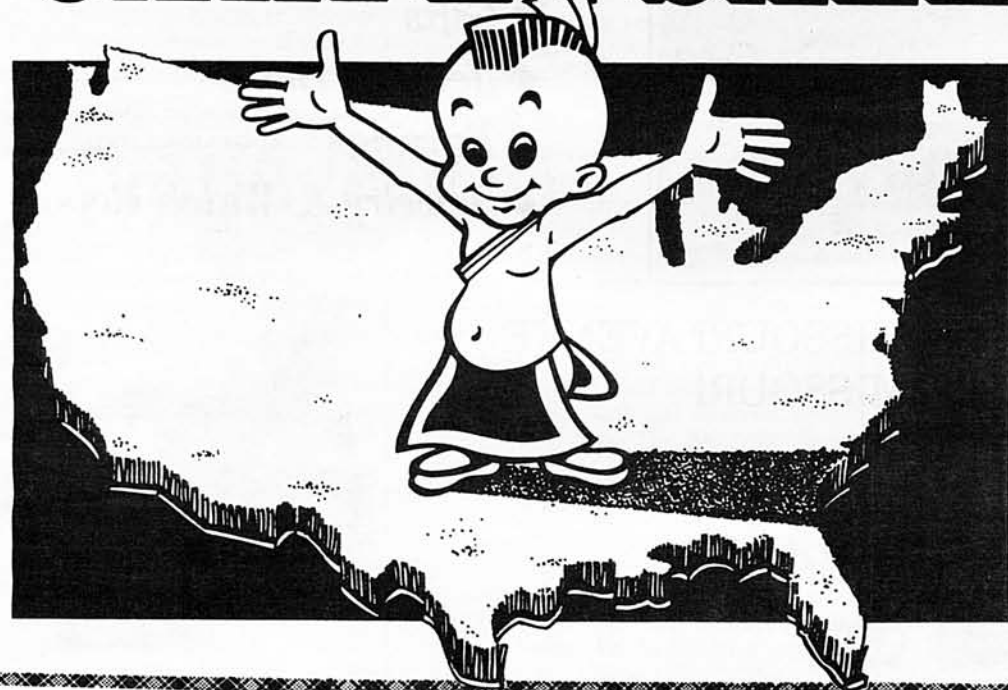
Residents of Richland had a tragedy of their own in the form of a singular accident.

An exciting incident occurred here to-day in which a young man named Boone Davis narrowly escaped death by torturing flames. Davis purchased a bottle of alcohol and after placing it in his coat pocket walked into the store of J. N. Burhans and seated himself by a stove. Being too near the stove, the bottle burst, saturating his clothing with the fluid, and a part of the contents fell on the stove. The alcohol ignited and set fire to his clothing and in a moment Davis was enveloped in flames. His clothing was torn from his person by bystanders, but not until he was horribly burned. His back from shoulders to hips was cooked and his eyebrows, hair and mustache were burned off. He may die as a result. (Mar. 23rd "Rolla Herald" article, with a Mar. 18th Richland dateline).

Still another murder case was in the news in '93. The John Bell case was carried over from the previous year. Bell, a Pulaski County resident, was charged with murder in the death of Elmer Hayes. The defendant's attorneys in late March successfully obtained his release on bail. A \$10,000 bond filed with Circuit Clerk Rollins was signed by J. A. Rayl and T. A. Murphy.

A Crocker man, W. D. Allen, lost a team of horses in the Roubidoux Spring in late March. The horses drowned while fording the creek. The team's driver, Grant Williams, and a clothing drummer with him narrowly

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escaped the same fate as the horses.

Violence erupted in Richland over a city election in early April. The Democrat editor in the "Rolla Herald" published a partisan account of the political feuding and fighting and headlined the article, "A Republican Outrage." Read with delight as a Democrat or with skepticism as a Republican.

The proceedings of to-day's city election were without a parallel in the history of this county. As the vote of the city is very close, both Democrats and Republicans were early mustering their forces. It is known that the Republicans attempted in every conceivable manner to elect a straight ticket. Alex. Rutherford (Rep.), Mayor elect, went to Stoutland, Camden County, last Friday evening and by his promises to protect and defend Thos. Godfrey, a fugitive from justice, induced him to come to Richland to-day to vote, the understanding, being, of course, that he was to support the Republican nominees. Notwithstanding the fact that Godfrey had knowledge of City Marshal Manes having a warrant for him, he came to town, obtained a horse, and backed by Postmaster J. A. Bradshaw, Mayor elect Alex. Rutherford and other leading Republicans, rode through town swearing he would vote at the risk of his life and defying arrest.

His cowboy proceedings were soon brought to a close by City Marshal Sam Manes, who in order to arrest him was forced to shoot him, the ball entering his back just under the shoulder blade, penetrating the right lung and inflicting a dangerous wound. Soon af-

ter the shooting it was boldly asserted by the Republican leaders that the Democrats were responsible for the shooting, from the fact that Mayor Musgrave had instructed and deputized a posse to make the arrest. This was bitterly denied by the Democrats, who pointed to the fact that it was a Republican candidate for Mayor who induced Godfrey to return to town and a Republican Marshal who did the shooting. For some time bloodshed seemed imminent (sic) in several instances. (Apr. 6th "Rolla Herald" article, with an Apr. 4th Richland dateline).

A late spring frost severely damaged prospects for a good fruit crop. An April 24th Dixon news account stated that "a half-crop is more than is looked for at present." Not long after this, serious flooding not only wrecked havoc on bottomland farms but also disrupted the normal conduct of everyday life for many.

The heaviest rainstorm ever known in this county struck here last night. Rain began to fall in torrents about 6 p.m., and continued all night, flooding the entire county. Farms along the small streams are almost entirely ruined, and the damage can hardly be estimated. The water was higher than has ever been known by the oldest settlers. The Gasconade is very high, and greater damage is feared from it. (May 4th "Rolla Herald" article, with an Apr. 30th Dixon dateline).

Serious flooding took place also at Newburg, where the water reached the

highest stage anyone had remembered up to that point in time. A railroad bridge east of Newburg was damaged by the flood waters, which in Newburg itself covered the tracks and the depot platform, and lapped at the doors of several business establishments. Train traffic had to be delayed, leaving merchants and individuals in Pulaski County and all along the rail line anxiously awaiting the restoration of normal service.

When not detained by flood waters, the new stage line gave Waynesville residents the better access they wanted to the rail line at Crocker. But, while some in town may have fancifully wished for the tracks to pass through Waynesville itself, there were plenty of reminders that the trains brought problems as well as prosperity.

Col. Evans, of Franks, last night brought a couple of young tramps to town that he had arrested at Franks for breaking in a box car and stealing tobacco. They entered the car near St. Louis and a brakeman shut the door on them at Jerome, intending to turn them over to the officers at Dixon. Finding they were caught the boys began cutting out with butcher knives, and succeeded in cutting a hole through which they got the door open at Franks and jumped from the car and ran. In the afternoon, they returned to Franks, and Col. Evans kindly brought them to Dixon in his hack. The prosecuting attorney was telegraphed for, and if the case is rightly prosecuted they will be likely to get a term in Jefferson. (May

4th "Rolla Herald" article, reprinted from the "Dixon Echo").

June weddings abounded, but a prominent Pulaski County couple walked down the aisle a month earlier.

Married, at the M. E. Church, Dixon, Mo., May 10th, 1893, by the Rev. Mr. Hurley, Mr. J. B. Christeson, of Waynesville, and Miss Maggie E. Zeigler, of Dixon.

The groom was supported by Frank Christeson and Garrett Howard, and the bride was attended by Misses Edney Christeson and Hettie Dudley.

On leaving the church the wedding party accompanied by friends and relatives repaired to the residence of W. L. Wilson, where a pleasant reception was tendered them, and the bride and groom presented with many presents in token of friendship and love by admiring friends.

The occasion was made one of Dixon's most happy social events, and as each guest departing late extended congratulations to the bride and groom, and to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson for the hospitalities enjoyed at their pleasant home.

Mr. Christeson and bride have long held prominence in the social world of Proud Old Pulaski—he for his affable, generous and progressive qualities in business circles; and she for that amiableness and high order of intellect and sweet culture that creates queens among the American women. May rainbows of joy ever illuminate their path, and may the horn of plenty be



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generous with them, is the wish of their many friends, one of whom is the "Pulaski Democrat". (May 25th "Rolla Herald" article, reprinted from the "Waynesville Democrat", with the headline, "Cupid Captures Christeson.")

The happiness of the Christeson and Zeigler families sharply contrasted with the agony of another family in the area, whose son robbed a train near Pacific, Missouri, in late May. The robber, Sam Wilson, had been recently released from the Pulaski County jail under bond on a felonious assault charge. The bond was secured by Wilson's father, who mortgaged his farm near Lebanon to raise enough money. The train robber later confessed that one of the reasons he had robbed the train was to keep his father from losing the farm.

Wilson was captured at the home of his father two miles east of this city at a few minutes after 8 o' clock last evening. He was brought to this city and lodged in jail, where \$135 in currency and \$472 in silver coin were found in his possession. The two revolvers with which he intimidated the crew were mere toys and cost less than \$3.

Wilson says that he was rendered desperate by his failure to secure employment as a telegraph operator and was determined to obtain \$1,000 with which to make his father safe on the \$1,000 bond given by the latter for his appearance at Waynesville at the next term of court to answer to an indictment for felonious assaults and then skip the country. The money the father refused to receive, and it was through his influence that Sam consented to surrender to Sheriff Jones.

After the robbery he concealed himself in haystacks during daylight and traveled every night, keeping close to the railroad track. He stopped at a number of farmhouses and got something to eat. On Wednesday last, a week after the robbery, he arrived at Rolla and got his dinner there. The next day he was at Hancock and walked into a store and bought a suit of clothes. He changed clothes in the store. The merchant recognized him and knew that he was the man whom the detectives were searching. The alarm was given, but too late—the robber had flown. (Jun. 8th "Rolla Herald" article, with a Jun. 3rd Lebanon dateline).

Once in captivity, the slim highwayman, who was married to a Pulaski County woman and was the father of three children, talked freely and remorsefully of the desperate train robbery.

"When I robbed the train at Pacific it was after long deliberation—some four or five months, I think. My object, of course, was to obtain money, and I tell you I needed it. My father is poor, owning only a small farm. I own nothing. Not only that, but I owe money for almost everything that my family and myself have had in months. People were pressing me for money and I really didn't know what to do. I have worked around railroads nearly all my life as an operator, train dispatcher, agent, etc. When I was 17 years old I got tired of farming. The life was too dreary for me and I've worked at Richland and Crocker, this State, at Arthur,

Tex., at Wichita, Kas., and other places." (Jun. 8th "Rolla Herald" article, with a Jun. 3rd Lebanon dateline).

Wilson's 47-year-old dad, Francis, believed that his son's plight was brought on by "evil associates and bad habits formed during the past few years in railroad life."

Tragedy of another sort struck a Richland family in late May. This incident prompted a particularly gory killing.

News has been received here of a frightful killing at Montreal, Camden County, late yesterday evening. The trouble was over the possession of a 6-year-old boy of Leonard Foster. About four years ago Foster's wife died, leaving the child, then only two years old. The father consented to let the little one stay with his grandfather Wincoop. Two weeks ago Wincoop's wife died, and Foster, having married again requested possession of his boy, but to his astonishment Wincoop refused, and a fight followed, which resulted in the latter being killed. Wincoop, who was a powerful man, attacked Foster, and despite the pleadings of bystanders, attempted to choke him to death. Foster defended himself by stabbing his assailant twice in the breast and stomach. Finally grabbing a brush hook he hit Wincoop in the back of the head, exposing his brains. Sticking him the second time in the mouth he cut a frightful gash, knocking him down. After Wincoop fell to the ground Foster cut his throat, almost cutting his head from his body. Public opinion is in favor of Foster. (Jun. 1st "Rolla Herald" article, with a May 29th Richland dateline).

In June, Sam Wilson was taken to Union, Missouri, to face trial in July, but not before he successfully obtained a meeting with Governor Stone. The two men talked for a long time, during which Wilson asked the governor to obtain bond and arrange for a continuance of the trial for several months. The self-confessed train robber said this would give him enough time to make enough money exhibiting himself through the country to pay the governor a good fee.

Wilson's proposal gave Governor Stone a good chuckle and prompted the state's chief executive to advise the man to call for a jury trial, plead guilty, and let it fix the punishment, which he thought would prove to be a lighter sentence.

The Governor was wrong.

He was immediately sentenced to 15 years at hard labor in the penitentiary.

The long sentence was a severe blow to Wilson, as he had not expected more than 10 years and had hoped that he would get only five. His only hope now is that Governor Stone will pardon him. He said that after the robbery if he had known what he knows now he would never have surrendered himself. Instead of returning to his home he would have gone East, and he never would have been captured. Wilson was taken to Jefferson City last Monday. (Jul. 6th article in the "Rolla Herald").

Plans for a fabulous Fourth of July were made in many communities in the county. Waynesville expected several prominent people from Rolla at its celebration. Richland residents arranged for Prof. Richards, a staff member at the State School of Mines in Rolla, and Claude Mayfield of Lebanon to provide the oratorical fireworks for their Fourth of July event.

The Independence Day celebration at Dixon apparently got out of hand, reinforcing the belief by some townspeople that law enforcement in that community needed more firepower.

For some time past it has been talked of organizing a gunners club in Dixon for the protection of the town in case of burglars (sic) or bank robbers. It would certainly be a good thing to do, but would it not be also a step in the right direction to give the members of the club the power to assist the marshal on public days? The 4th of July undoubtedly convinced any law abiding person that something must be done to protect the town against the drunken ruffians that come here and have no respect for themselves or any body else. The largest crowd was assembled at Dixon that has been here for many a day, and the vulgar and indecent actions of the drunken men was disgusting to any civilized person. Organize a gunner's club and empower them to assist the marshal at any time they are needed and stop such proceedings if it has to be at the expense of a funeral. The sooner it is done the better for the town. The drunken ruffians are worse enemies to the town than robbers and burglars. (Jul. 15th "Rolla New Era" article, reprinted from the "Dixon Echo").

Even less patriotic were three young Pulaski County men—John Loughlin, William Payne, and William Copeland—who in late July were arrested and charged with counterfeiting dollars and nickels. Some of the "bad metal" was passed at the Fourth of July celebration in Waynesville, which apparently led to the trio's downfall.

The samples of depreciated coin that the young men are charged with making wouldn't pass currency in a blind asylum, yet the parity of the coin of the realm must be maintained, and if guilty they must be punished. The penalty is a fine or imprisonment, or both. The accused are farmer boys living on the headwaters of the Roubideau (sic), and don't look like bad men. The strongest testimony against Loughlin and Payne was given by A. J. Davis and W. H. Hanmcock, from the neighborhood. The other witnesses present were J. J. Clark, Treasurer of Pulaski county; Walter Bates, Wilks Rigsby, C. H. Colley, Mert. Lane, Sheriff J. M. Long, Jas. Robertson, Geo. Skidmore, Wm. Kinnard, and Henry McAlroy. (Jul. 27th "Rolla Herald" article).

The July 29th "Rolla New Era" reported that Copeland waived examination before a U. S. Commissioner and was held "in \$300 bond to appear at the October term of U. S. district court in Springfield." After examination before the commissioner, Loughlin also was held "in \$300 bond for his appearance at the same term of the court as above, in default of which he

was committed to the Springfield jail." The paper reported that Payne was discharged.

Despite the upsurge in lawlessness, summer in Pulaski County in 1893 was not without its lighter moments.

Mrs. H. H. Wrinkle, Mrs. H. M. Cowan, Mrs. Sam Keller and several children stood grouped about some object, yesterday, which they were studying; it seemed, with all possible earnestness. They were armed with rakes, hoes, rocks, rolling pins and broomsticks. The editor of "The Cyclone" was near, and was called on by the ladies to come kill a snake. A response was made, not without trepidation. A hoe was furnished him; the snake was pointed out. Poising the weapon and taking aim, a blow was struck which nearly dislocated the editorial arm. The ladies ran and screamed; the children cried; the editor ruined the cabbage patch getting away. Investigation was made, and the snake was no snake. It was a piece of the coiled iron support of a school desk. (Jul. 22nd "Rolla New Era" article, reprinted from the "Richland Cyclone").

During the afternoon of July 28th, a bolt of lightning from a heavy thunderstorm struck H. E. Warren's dry goods store in Richland. The resultant fire was quickly extinguished by the heavy rainfall. While the store was loaded with people, no one sustained the slightest shock. This was reported to be the second time within the past two years the store had been struck by lightning.

Meanwhile, lawmen in Waynesville found themselves trying to repopulate the county jail.

On going into the jail Monday night to take a bucket of water to the prisoners at Waynesville, Scott Imboden was over-powered and locked in the cage while the prisoners took their departure from the town, not even calling at the post office to have their mail forwarded to them. Scott's call for help soon attracted attention and Sheriff Imboden immediately started in pursuit. Bud Craft, one of the prisoners, has spent the last few years of his life in the county jail and the penitentiary, and is continually under indictment for theft. The other is the same one who broke jail a few months ago and was arrested in East St. Louis, and is certainly the one who planned the escape as Craft had as soon remained in jail. (Aug. 3rd "Rolla Herald" article, reprinted from the "Dixon Echo").

If many residents of the county had lost their ability to be shocked by the general lawlessness of '93, they surely were unprepared for the next event of the summer. While many had come to expect "hellraising" in public, who could have expected hell to be raised in a church building?

Flea Hollow Meeting House, a Christian, or Campbellite, Church, about two and one-half miles south of Swedenborg (sic), was the scene of as disgraceful a church row and general riot as ever disturbed the calm of a Christian community. The pastor of the church, Rev. Henry Roam, has been accused of cruelty to his wife, now deceased. His children, now grown, fre-

quently told of his cruelty, but of late Roam, thinking them well under his control, announced several times from the pulpit the accusations against him, denied their truthfulness, and insisted on a trial before the church that he might vindicate himself. The trial was granted him, and set for the 22d of July. Witnesses were summoned and everything progressed well at the trial until Roam's two sons, known as Pet and Ike, were called upon to testify, when they, contrary to his expectations, startled him by telling the truth about the matter. He called them liars and (sic) other vile names, and was promptly knocked down (sic) by an old man, Ed Booher, an elder in the church. This was the signal for the trouble which followed. Though there was much feeling on both sides, nobody interfered with the contestants, and the Rev. Roam received a mauling and was chased from the grounds, leaving his plug hat, which was slashed into ribbons. Roam had recently married a young woman named Stockton, and, of course, old man Stockton and his sons, also brethren in the church, were present and assisted in the vindication of their new kinsman's honor. Very few were the brethren who did not participate, and rocks were thrown by the dozens, clubs were almost as plentiful, and knives were used with great effect. Roam's oldest son was hit with a club, two Kissinger boys were stuck with knives, several ribs were broken, and there were skinned heads galore. Roam's mother-in-law, Mrs. Stockton, constituted the largest of his available fighting forces, and rendered him valuable assistance, for, while Ed Booher was drubbing Roam, she was pounding the former over the head with her umbrella. Extensive developments are expected. (Aug. 5th "Rolla New Era" article, reprinted with a Aug. 1st Waynesville dateline from the Aug. 2nd edition of the "St. Louis Globe Democrat").

Early August also saw a change of venue granted in the Hendricks' murder case. The trial was scheduled to be held in Phelps County instead of Laclede County.

The relatively new game of baseball was becoming more popular in Pulaski County. The "Dixon Echo" reported that Dixon ballplayers faced off against those from Waynesville for a game on September 7th in Waynesville. Despite stacking their squad with a fireballer from Rolla, Joe Campbell, and a catcher from Arlington, Walter Coffman, the Dixon boys could not hold on to an early 3-to-0 lead. Campbell's arm gave out in the fifth inning, allowing Waynesville to score 8 runs before the game was abandoned. The editor of the "Echo" apparently didn't know much about the nature of singing fat ladies when he wrote, "The pitcher giving out was all that kept the Dixon boys from winning the game by a large majority."

The fact that the game was played on Sunday disturbed many in Waynesville, prompting Editor Wright of the "Waynesville Democrat" to write, "There are many good people who believe that a ball game which couldn't be played on one of the six days allotted to man shouldn't be played."

As the depression deepened, the Frisco Railroad announced cutbacks that sent chills up the spines not only of company employees but customers as well. Passenger trains had begun making the run from St. Louis to Springfield instead of stopping at Newburg. Several runs were discontinued between St. Louis and Monett, which eliminated employment for a number of workers.

Editor Wright of the "Waynesville Democrat", who spiced his weekly publication with homespun homilies, boosted spirits in rural communities by stating in language of 1893 the equivalent of the modern statement, "country boys can survive."

The happiest man in the land today is the successful farmer. He sits contentedly under his own vine and fig tree, undisturbed by the maddening noises of a great city. Banks fail, railroads go in hands of receivers, booming towns collapse, all business stagnates—but the wise farmer can snap his finger at all these things. He is the monarch of all he surveys on his broad acres. (Sept. 7th "Rolla Herald" article, reprinted from the "Waynesville Democrat").

Meanwhile, a familiar political figure in Pulaski County was positioning himself for another run at state office. County Clerk E. G. Williams expressed interest in vying for railroad commissioner again. The "St. Joseph Herald" stated, "His friends think he was euchered out of it in the last convention. They are determined that money and railroad lawyers shall not repeat the dose. Should Williams not be nominated, all the Paw-Paw country will secede from the Democratic party."

Typhoid fever raged in Dixon in late summer. An August 15th dispatch reported, "Several dangerous cases are reported. A prominent young doctor and Mrs. H. H. Dille, daughter of Sheriff Imboden, are both dangerously ill."

In Richland, many were saddened to hear of the drowning death on the Gasconade of Joe Wyrick.

September proved to be an eventful month in Crocker with the abduction of a 19-year-old woman who lived three miles south of the community. Two men were arrested and charged with taking away a woman with intent to defile. On the 14th of the month, three prominent Crocker citizens made a midnight arrest of a suspected train robber. J. V. Parker, W. D. Rowden, and James Hoops detained R. B. Hill, who was believed to have robbed the express office at Columbus, Kansas. He was turned over to Kansas authorities for further action in the case.

The Hendricks murder case hit a snag late in the month when it was discovered that the order granting the change of venue to Phelps County was "insufficient." This would delay the trial until at least March of 1894.

On October 30th, Peter Schultz, a Dixon area miller, was badly injured when someone placed a dynamite cartridge in his machinery. The explosion propelled a piece of metal to strike Shultz on the shoulder.

A late October baseball matchup between Dixon and Piney resulted in a Dixon romp. In their 24-to-8 victory, Dixon reinforced ranks by employing

the services of three Rolla players, including Campbell, the pitching ace, and a Waynesville player, Luther Long. The Piney team was reinforced by Clare Lane and Robert Barrows of Waynesville and Bruce Tilley and George Philipps of Crocker.

October also saw a prominent county resident, Col. John A. Schlicht, travel to the World's Fair in Chicago. A short visit to St. Louis and to that community's fair resulted in Col. Schlicht learning that a Pulaski County girl, Hilda Errickson of Swedeborg, won the premium for the finest cake entered in competition.

Good fortune also was experienced by two other Pulaski Countians. County Clerk Williams won \$100 from the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company for a good guess of the number of paid admissions to the World's Fair. Ed guessed 21,481,722. The actual number of paid admissions was 21,480,141, which amazingly was guessed by a Kansas doctor, who won \$5,000 for his accurate entry.

After a long trial, John Bell, who was charged with killing Elmer Hayes in 1892, was acquitted on the ground of self-defense. The trial began on Friday, November 17th, and the jury did not reach a verdict until the following Wednesday morning.

Editorial opinion in Waynesville expressed disbelief in the jury's conclusion.

It matters little what a Texas county Jury may say, in the opinion of the people of the County Jno. Bell killed Elmer Hays without cause or provocation.

As to the testimony of Mrs. Hays in the case, let the curtain be dropped and the weak woman left to her conscience and her God. (Nov. 30th "Rolla Herald" article, reprinted from the "Waynesville Democrat").

Clifford Barr, the editor of the "Dixon Echo", announced to his readers in November that Joe X. Wright had secured ownership of the paper.

The late fall weather must have been unusually mild in Pulaski County, as it was in nearby counties. A dispatch in the "Olean News" reported, "On Wednesday, Nov. 1, our friend, Guy Godfrey, presented us with a beautiful bouquet (sic) just plucked from the stems, consisting of apple, cherry, peach and lilac blossoms. They were full size blooms and grew on the trees in profusion, the lilac bush containing 40 good size clusters."

And speaking of oddities, consider this report from Dixon in early December.

Dixon has a deer park, a dove cote, a gasoline engine, the only one in the country, she has a rich deposit of fire-clay; the waters from nearly all her wells have medicinal (sic) qualities; she has a house with seven gables, the only steam engine ever built in Pulaski county was made by one of Dixon's master mechanics—and he can build another. The deer park is opposite the Frisco depot and its quadrupedal inhabitants number seven. The dove cot is on the farm adjacent (sic) to, and west of Esq. Huckins place. The gasoline engine is the moving power of W. H. Heller's grain elevator. The fire-clay is on the farm of Mr. Roose in the southeast. The medicinal springs are

at the bottom of every deep well in the city. The Scribe will allow his readers to look for the "House with seven gables." It is sure-enough here, but there are no cranks living in it, such as we are told resided in the celebrated old time building of that name. The editor of the "Democrat" will take pleasure in showing that steam engine to any one wishing to see a Pulaski production of that sort. Dixon is a breezy little city, there is always one or more Gales in it every day. (Dec. 9th "Rolla New Era" article, reprinted from the "Waynesville Democrat").

Sheriff Imboden found himself hot on the trail again of another fugitive from justice and a reward for the man's capture.

Jesse Jones of Miller county, charged with killing his son-in-law on Oct. 15, 1893, was arrested in Stone county, Arkansas, by Sheriff T. V. Imboden of Pulaski county, and the deputy sheriff of Stone county, and delivered him on Saturday last to the sheriff of Miller county. There was a reward of \$300 offered by the governor and \$100 by the citizens of Miller county. (Dec. 30th "Rolla New Era" article, taken from a column titled "Dixon Gleams").

As the holiday season approached, things became more quiet in the county. While some residents in the Richland area were still grumbling over the verdict in the John Bell murder case, others in accordance with the peacefulness of the season had resigned themselves to a forgive and forget attitude.

A masquerade ball was held on Christmas night in Dixon and was pronounced a great success. The Frisco House served the supper, which was described by a Dixon writer as "as fine a supper as was ever given in Dixon."

Still, despite the festive nature of the season, it is reasonable to postulate that the deepening nature of the nation's depression managed to cast a cloud of some gloom over holiday celebrations. The old year was going out with a heavy baggage of economic uncertainty. Residents could only hope that 1894 would prove to be a better year and would provide them with a lighter load.

♦♦HENRY KRAHL♦♦

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