

A CENTURY BEFORE IN NINETY FOUR

BY GARY KNEHANS

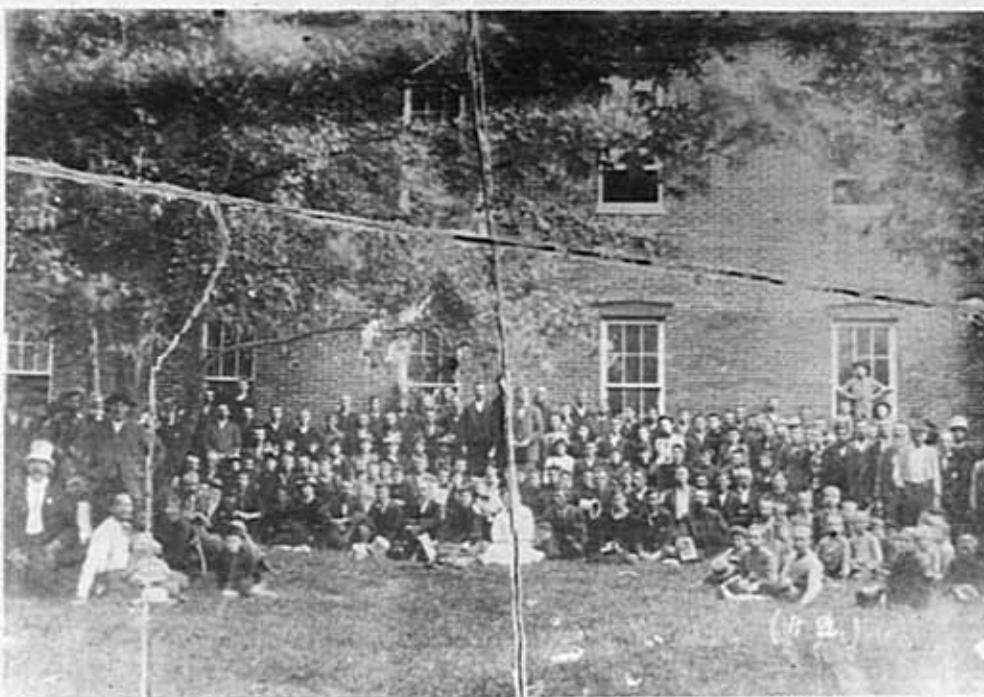
The economic downturn of '93 deepened the following year. Pulaski County residents, like so many of their countrymen, did their best to make ends meet. In the political arena, the recession proved fertile ground for demagoguery from all spectrums of thought.

Hope always springing eternal, many Pulaski County residents mixed equal parts of optimism with their concerns about the new year. Although the "Dixon Echo" noted the Christmas season had been "dull, (because) there (was) but one straight-out fight the whole day," few could complain about the succeeding holiday. Unusually warm weather prevailed on the first day of 1894, prompting residents to forget whatever concerns they may have had, and to take to the outdoors.

On New Year's Day the residents of Arlington and Jerome had a world of sport on the Gasconade gigging fish. The day was clear and warm, a perfect calm prevailed, the river was clear as aqua pura could possibly be, and the fish could be seen at a depth of 10 or 12 feet as easily as if the water rolled over the graveled bottom of the stream. At least twenty boats were out, and twenty expert giggers were kept busy hurling the spear into huge buffalo, red horse and suckers. Only a few bass and salmon were killed; the latter varieties being too quick for the movements of the giggers. Three or four boats worked together at a distance of 30 or 40 feet apart, the fish being driven from one bank to the other, giving each spearsman a chance to display his skill. Hundreds and hundreds of red horse and buffalo could be seen at any time at a distance varying from 20 to 200 feet away from the boats. Boats flitted hither and thither, and gigs were hurled into the water, sometimes bringing up huge fish, at others only plunging into the gravel. Men whooped and yelled; some swore when they missed, while others took it easy and got the most fish. When a big buffalo weighing 20 or 30 pounds would appear every boat would be hurried by the paddler in hot pursuit until the fish was captured. Sometimes two boats would crash together, throwing the giggers, who stood at bow, into the water, but those hardy fellows didn't seem to mind it the least bit. With a sputter and a splash or two they would climb once more into the boat, forgetful of



Aerial view of Waynesville



An old fashioned basket dinner at the courthouse in the early 1890's. The courthouse in the picture was built in 1870 and burned to the ground in 1903. The bearded gentleman in the front row, just left of center, perfectly matches a line drawing of judge W.H. Murphy. The young women seated to his left and holding a notebook and a pencil most probably is his daughter, who was reported to be the first person ever to take stenography in Pulaski County Courthouse. Judge Murphy tried unsuccessfully to move the county seat to Crocker in the early 1890's, but voters turned thumbs down to his proposal. He hired H.H. Hohenschild, the famous Rolla architect, to design the proposed Crocker courthouse. Hohenschild, plans were strikingly similar to the courthouse built in 1903 that still stands in Waynesville. A staunch republican in a democrat dominated county, Murphy endlessly stirred the political waters, even running for congress in 1892 against the legendary R. P. "Silver Dick" Bland of Lebanon. Murphy's timing was off by a couple of years, as a Republican tide swept Bland out of office in 1894.

(Photo courtesy of Larry Lercher).

the wetting in the excitement of the sport. For about three hours the sport continued, and then the wind sprang up, ruffling the surface of the river and compelling the giggers to abandon their work. Fully 1000 pounds of fish was taken by the twenty boats, some of them not participating for more than an hour. Some fine bass, croppie (sic) and jack salmon were caught with hook and line during the day, which was considered a remarkable thing by the old residents, considering the season of the year.

"Globe Democrat" article, reprinted in "The Rolla Herald" on Jan. 11th.

Residents of Dixon early in January saw telephone service to Vienna curtailed. The individual or company that provided the service apparently failed to keep current on rent payments on the phone equipment. It was removed and sent to St. Louis.

The wonderful spell of weather on New Year's Day eventually came to an end. With time on their hands and a need to feed their families, many local men took to the woods in search of game wherever it could be found. What some found was much more than one would normally expect.

While out on a shooting excursion last week in the vast oak scrub south of here, Mr. S. O. Rayl, of this place, fired at long range upon a large gray eagle and succeeded in bringing him to earth; but when he quickly rode to the spot, dismounted and went forward to examine the quarry the "bird of liberty" proved to be only wounded, and, raising itself by its wings, it fiercely gave battle, fastening its talons in his legs, where it clung and fought with a strength born of desperation. It finally succumbed, however, to the blows of the gun which was rained upon it, and when dead it proved almost too large to handle, measuring from tip to tip of its great wings nearly 8 and a half feet, talons 8 inches across and center claw 2 and three-fourths inches long. The wounds inflicted by it, although painful, are not considered serious. This eagle is the largest of its kind ever seen in Pulaski County.

-Jan. 25th "Rolla Herald" article with a Jan. 20th Waynesville dateline.

Rayl's ordeal with the eagle paled in comparison to a nearly fatal encounter with "rabbits" by three other Pulaski County hunters. The incident apparently occurred also in late January.

Frank Graham, Tom Ousley and a Mr. Gan, who teaches the young ideas how to shoot at Spring Creek, had an unpleasant experience with the "Rabbits" while at large in the Irish Wilderness. The Mail carrier, Bill Latheridge, who rides through the hills for Uncle Sam, came into Waynesville last Wednesday (Jan. 31st) with a startling report from the trio above mentioned. They had encamped by a small lake, and after four days in the "Wilderness" had as many deer, besides six large turkeys, hung up beside the canvas house. Tuesday night (the 30th) the hunters were seated by the blazing camp fire, exchanging experiences of the day, when out of the gloom suddenly appeared a gaunt and grim-looking figure, clothed in the quaint garb of the "Mountain Rabbit." Long, reddish whiskers fluttered at his breast as the south wind murmured among the ragged fringe.

"Wall," said the figure, as he folded his arms across his breast and pressed an old shotgun in fond embrace, "you uns be killin' we uns game. You uns had better be goin'. The Rabbits is commin' soon, an' the Rabbits is bad uns. They do kill some-time, the Rabbits do. Kin any of you uns pray? I kin hear the patter of Rabbits' feet in the dry leaves. If enny of you uns kin pray, better git at it, cause the Rabbits is here."

Just then a gun cracked, and the whistle of buckshot was heard by the campers in the wilderness as the leaden missiles (sic) flew above their heads. The hunters made a dash for their guns, but were confronted by five more figures that had been lurking in the shadow of the tent, and the three babes in the woods looking with horror into ten cylinders that represented five villainous looking shotguns. Soon other "Rabbits" came from the cover of the forest until fifteen men, in all sorts of garbs, and with unpleasant and forbidding aspects, stood in a circle about the astonished and terrified hunters.

"The Rabbits is here. Do you uns see 'em?" inquired the first comer. "If you uns kin pray, you uns had better be quick. You uns kills our deer an' our turkeys, and we uns must kill you uns."

"Talk to them, Gan," said Frank Graham. "For heaven's sake, talk to them, quick, they look as if they mean business." And Gan did talk with all the eloquence he possessed, after which five of the "Rabbits" withdrew and held a consultation. When they came back, a big sour-visaged ruffian spoke up:

"The Rabbits they be peaceable and lawlovin' people. They live in these forests an' hills uv Shannon an' they never kills men unless they think it's right. Every deer, turkey er enny other game is their'n. We uns has decided to let you uns go in peace this time. Go before the sun gits a foot above yon bluff."

Then ten of the men proceeded to take the game from the trees, where it was hung

up, and carry it away into the timber, while five remained to keep the hunters from getting to their guns. After the game was all removed the five men took the guns of the camping party and started in the direction the others had gone. One of the "Rabbits" came back a few steps and said to the trio of hunters:

"In 'bout an hour you uns'll find the guns by yon big rock," pointing where a huge boulder (sic), with a little cedar tree on its peak, rose dimly into view. Then he joined his companions, and the three nimrods looked sorrowful into each other's faces.

"Kin you pray?" asked Ousley of the school teacher.

"Pray!" exclaimed Gan. "Pray! no, I can't pray, but I can swear. D_n the 'Rabbits!'"

"Amen!" said Graham and Ousley, fervently. They found their guns where the "Rabbits" had indicated, and before night and day had clearly separated (sic) their tents were folded, and the hunters were jolting away in the old farm wagon toward Texas County, where they are now endeavoring to make up for the lost time and game. The Irish Wilderness may be a good place to hunt, but they declare that the next trip they make down there will be after "Rabbits."

- "In the Irish Wilderness", reprinted from the "St. Louis Globe Democrat" in the Feb. 8th edition of "The Rolla Herald".

Late January sealed the fate of Wilson Howard, the Kentucky outlaw convicted in 1893 of the murder of a Maries County deaf mute in 1889. Howard was hung in Lebanon on January 26th. Pulaski County Sheriff Thomas V. Imboden, who had captured Howard in California, attended the hanging.

Howard's death did little to deter other murderers from following in his footsteps. The very next day, a man was shot to death on the streets of Waynesville. Two days after the Howard hanging, a Hancock resident was shot to death.

John Robinson to-day shot and mortally wounded James Vaughn and shot William Bates in the thigh. Vaughn met Robinson in the main street and proceeded to settle an old grudge. Only a few words passed between the men, when Robinson drew his pistol and commenced firing, shooting Vaughn in the jaw and a stray bullet hitting Bates who was only a spectator. Physicians were immediately summoned and they have so far failed to locate the bullet, which entered Vaughn's jaw, as it ranged upward and probably entered the base of the brain. After the shooting Robinson mounted his horse and went home and has not as yet been arrested. No Justice of the Peace being at Waynesville Prosecuting Attorney Johnson wired to Crocker for Justice Johnson to issue a warrant, which, up to this hour, has not been done, no affidavit being filed, as the law requires. All parties are prominent in Pulaski County, and it is greatly deplored that the difficulty has ended in such a

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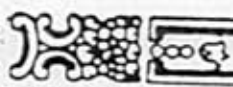


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tragic manner. Robinson is also a prominent farmer, has had charge of the poor farm for several years and is highly respected by all. Vaughn is also a wealthy farmer and prominent man in Pulaski County. Bates was County Treasurer for four years, is a wealthy farmer and the accident befallen him is deeply regretted by his numerous friends.

Jan. 27th dispatch from Waynesville, printed in the Feb. 1st edition of "The Rolla Herald".

J. M. Dunkin, a merchant at Hancock, Mo., was shot and killed at that place last Sunday by a young farmer and merchant named Decker. The killing was the result of an old difficulty. Dunkin was very quarrelsome when drinking and threatened young Decker a few days before the fatal meeting. They met in Hancock Sunday, the old trouble was renewed and Decker drew his revolver and commenced shooting. Dunkin was shot three times and expired almost instantly.

There were nine cases against Dunkin on the criminal docket of the Feb. term of the Laclede Co. circuit court, which would have been tried next week. The cases were for disturbing the peace and carrying concealed weapons. They were sent to Laclede county on a change of venue from Pulaski county. The death of the defendant wipes out the record in this life.

"Lebanon Rustic" article, reprinted in the Feb. 3rd "The New Era".

Both of these incidents followed a stabbing death the previous weekend in Camden County, which involved two young men known to residents in Richland. Pulaski Countians could only ponder the cause of the violence. Did hardships of a declining economy contribute to these events?

The Camden County stabbing occurred Jan. 22nd after Monday evening church services. A quarrel erupted among a group of young men. When the group separated to go home, James Osborne (also spelled Orsborn in another account) and Charles Deberry resumed the quarreling. Osborne drew a pocket knife and slashed Deberry's throat. The victim died a short time later.

Both men, according to an account from the "Richland Cyclone", had not attained "majority." In other words, they were teenagers.

On a more pleasant note, the "Waynesville Democrat" reported that Col. E. G. Williams, the county clerk, had returned on Jan. 22nd from a long visit to Virginia and North Carolina. Despite the pleasant friendships that had been renewed, Williams was reported to be glad he had returned to the "hills and valleys of Missouri."

In February, the wheels of justice, rusty it would seem in punishing the suspected killer of Constable James Manes several years before, finally creaked a notch.



PULASKI COUNTY BANK BUILDING.—RICHLAND, MO.

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It is reported here that Tom Hendricks, who is now confined in jail at Lebanon for the killing of Constable James Manes, has a wife in Texas, to whom he was married while a fugitive in that state, and that a child was recently born to her. This is the report brought from Lebanon by persons who were there as witnesses in the case in which Hendricks is defendant. A change of venue has been granted, and the case will be called for trial in the Phelps county Circuit court next month.

"Richland Cyclone" report, reprinted in the Feb. 17th edition of "The New Era".

Meanwhile, a coroner's inquest was held at Hancock into the shooting death of Jack Dunkin (also spelled Duncan in another newspaper account). It was ruled that Dunkin came to his death by two pistol shots fired by Jack Decker. Decker surren-

Jim Wiggins and his brother, two well-known tie-rasters on the Big Piney, thought that they would resort to illegal methods of killing a load of the fine fish that are so numerous in that river. By some means they procured two sticks of dynamite and started for Bates' Mills, where the water is deep and full of fish in cold weather. It is related that the first shot was successful, and nearly a wagon load of all kinds of fish was taken away as a result. Not satisfied, they started back with their wagon and more dynamite. While jolting over the rock-ribbed road the wheel struck a stump, and Jim Wiggins dropped his explosives. They fell upon the rocks beside the wagon. Out of the wreck and ruin of the wagon poor Wiggins was rescued by his brother, who had escaped with but slight injuries. Jim was unconscious and a pitiable sight. Both arms were shattered to the elbows, and both of his eyes were blown out. His

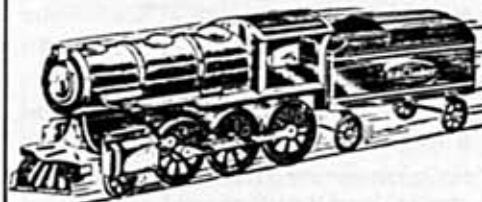
There are plenty of streams in the mountains of Missouri, however, where both trout and salmon would thrive, but these have been overlooked."

The Hancock community witnessed another violent event in late February.

A daring robbery and wonderful display of nerve occurred at this place yesterday. About 5 o'clock in the afternoon a stranger entered the store of W. A. Allen & son, and, with revolver in hand ordered "Hands up!" Mr. Allen and five or six men were in the store, and the order was promptly obeyed. The robber then proceeded to the money drawer, taking the contents, helped himself to some jewelry, a revolver and all the cartridges in stock, coolly bade the occupants good-by, backed out of the store and escaped. One of the parties in the store attempted to leave the building, when the robber commanded him to return, which he promptly did, with his hands elevated. The robber wore no mask, had on clothes of good quality, considerably worn, is a small man, with very red smooth face, sandy hair, and is undoubtedly a professional.

-Feb. 21st Hancock dispatch, reprinted in "The New Era" on Feb. 24th.

A very serious accident was averted February 24th on a Frisco train loaded with some 200 state Republicans returning from a convention in Springfield. At 2:02 in the morning, the axle on the Pullman broke when the train was on the Dixon hill near Franks. The axle dragged on the track while the train was running at high speed. The Republicans were badly shaken up. When the conductor grabbed the emergency air rope, the train stopped in a few hundred yards. A damaged sleeper was uncoupled, the sleepers bundled into other cars, and the train made it to Rolla by 9 a. m.



Criminal activity again struck the area in March and April. There was even a scandalous event by 1894 standards to prompt the wagging of tongues in the Dixon area.

Officers from Stoutland came here to-day and took charge of a tramp, who had burglarized the store of Fred George at that place some time yesterday. Last night two young men discovered a fire in the Baptist Church, and, knowing there had been no services, made an examination. They found the tramp, with a huge pile of miscellaneous articles of merchandise. They turned him over to the officers, and this morning the goods were identified and the tramp, with his plunder, was taken back to Stoutland to-night.

-March 5th Richland dispatch, reprinted in the Mar. 8th edition of "The Rolla Herald".

The county court of Pulaski county offers \$100 reward for the apprehension and conviction of one Alfred Devour for rape. Devour is a young man who was riding the mail between Crocker and Toronto, in Camden county, and about two weeks ago was making his final trip when a short time after leaving Crocker he came upon the 11-year-old step-daughter of James Elder, who lives near that place, and assaulted her, accomplishing her ruin. He then fled the country and has (not) been heard of. If apprehended it will probably go hard with him.

- "Pulaski County Democrat" article, reprinted in the Apr. 7th edition of "The New Era".

Two elopers from Dixon, Mo., are in the calaboose. James Smith, 25 years old, and Nellie Wilson, 23, were arrested on a Frisco train on authority of a telegram from the Sheriff, alleging that the couple had stolen \$45 from the bride's mother. The young folks had a ticket for Paris, Tex., where they expected to be married. The bride's parents objected to the marriage, so she took \$45, which, she claimed, was owed to her and started out. The Sheriff is expected to-morrow.

-Apr. 24th Springfield dispatch, reprinted in "The New Era" on Apr. 28th.

A daughter of T. A. Wilson, a wealthy farmer and stock dealer, living near here, eloped to-day with her father's hired hand, James Smith. She it is alleged, took with her \$50 of her father's money. They were arrested at Springfield on a telegram from Mr. Wilson and will be brought back to-night. Trouble is feared.

-Apr. 24th Dixon report, reprinted in "The New Era" on Apr. 28th.

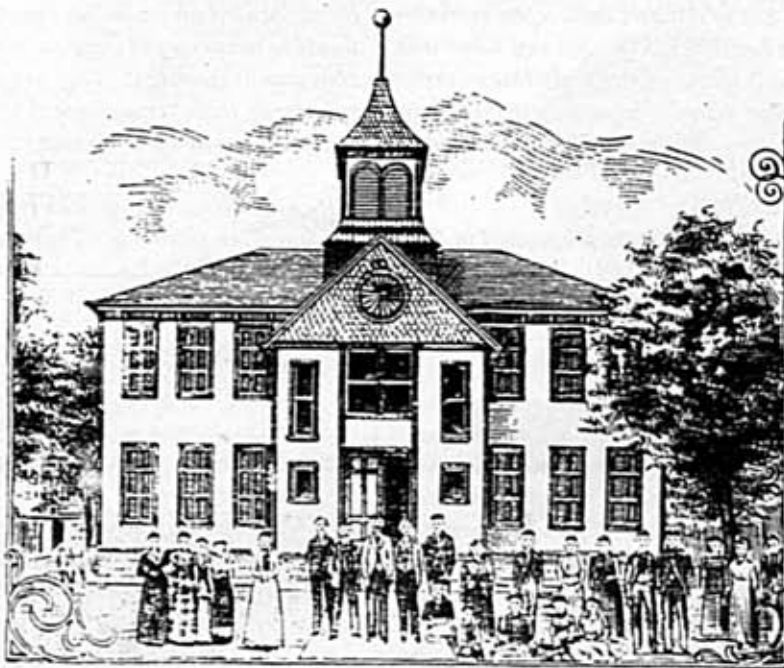
These sensational events in early '94 should not lead us to believe that Pulaski County had descended into a wild and wooly era of lawlessness. Although undoubtedly concerned about the reports of killings and illegal activities, county residents continued to normally pursue their various interests in life.

Uncle Lewis Black departed for Arlington Tuesday morning whether he goes to make final arrangements for removing to Waynesville and taking charge of the Johnson House. He has been in the hotel business at the above point for the past two years, where he has had an extensive tourist and fisher trade from the cities, and it is quite likely that a large per cent of that trade will follow him.

Rev. Ben. Deering began a series of revival meetings at Richland on the 1st inst.

Albert Bates, the boy who was reported killed by the papers last week is in a fair way to recover, but he had a close call. He has not spoken since struck by the bursting pulley, but seems to recognize his family and friends. Drs. Tice and Hutcheson think by careful nursing he will recover.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the Mar. 8th edition of "The Rolla Herald".



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING.—RICHLAND, MO.

dered to authorities and was placed under a \$1500 bond. Many people in Hancock and surrounding area pooled resources and posted bond for Decker.

Tragedy struck a prominent Dixon area family early in February. Meanwhile, illegal fishing led to terrible results on the Big Piney.

A sad accident befell the family of Rev. Jno Bell who lives three miles east of Dixon Saturday. The family ate for dinner a can of black berries which had, according to reports, become slightly moulded on the top, but after the mould had been taken off the berries tasted all right. Soon after eating the whole family became sick and had all symptoms of being poisoned. But none seemed to be in a dangerous condition until Sunday morning, when the little 5-year-old girl appeared much worse. Medical aid was procured but the little sufferer died soon after the doctor reached her. The funeral took place at Dixon Tuesday, February 6, at 1:30 p.m. The remainder of the family have about recovered.

"Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the Feb. 15th "The Rolla Herald".

brother secured assistance, and the wounded man was taken home, where he remains to-day, blind and helpless as a two-days old baby. The incident recited above is but one of the many accidents that have befallen the amateur handlers of dynamite in attempting to kill fish by wholesale.

- "St. Louis Globe Democrat" article, reprinted in the Feb. 22nd edition of "The Rolla Herald". (The article contained no date for the dynamiting accident, which could mean that it occurred at some earlier date).

In an effort to establish the enterprise of trout fishing in the Gasconade River, the U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries reported the United Fish Commission deposited 3420 yearling rainbow trout near Arlington on February 14th.

The "St. Louis Globe Democrat", which reported frequently on hunting and fishing activities at Arlington, was not happy with the stocking. "It is safe to predict that not one of them will ever reach the age and size when they will take the hook," the paper sniffed. "Of the thousands of salmon fry that have been thrown into the Gasconade the record only shows five good specimens having been taken.

A cowboy of Maries county, recently from the Territory, was in town Tuesday trying to get a race between a horse he had in town and any of our local thoroughbreds. He was an adept in wind work, and promptly talked all hearers to death—hands down.

Dixon correspondent: The Henry Wilson Post No. 189, G. A. R., Rolla, Mo., celebrated the birthday of the Father of his Country, and invited visitors from the various posts in the country round about. The post at Dixon was ably represented by Comrade Commodore Perry Burchfield, who reports being royally and in due form received at the Frisco platform by Captain Dan Mc Masters and, with the usual military support, escorted to a spacious and hospitable parlor especially prepared and set in order for the occasion, on the board hearth of which the camp fire was brightly blazing. Here, after the usual grand honors, an address of welcome was uttered and responded thereto in Commodore Burchfield's eloquent and inimitable style. Dixon's worthy representative was further honored by being assigned a seat at the right hand of the presiding officer. After the usual program of the unwritten and traditional work of the order was gone through with in due, ample and ancient form the line of march was formed and the, by this time, hungry veterans were led by their valiant commander to the dining room of Comrade H. H. Davis, whose tables were soon relieved of the immense loads of good things and luxuries, as well as substantial, from every land and clime under which they were so heavily weighed down. After this bountiful and rich repast was demolished Comrade Commodore Burchfield was tendered the "freedom of the city," whatever that was, which he enjoyed to the fullest extent of his capacious ability—so full, in fact, that he was overflowing for a day or two after his return to Dixon.

- "Waynesville Democrat" article, reprinted in "The Rolla Herald" on Mar. 8th.

Farmers along the Gasconade contended with spring flooding in May. Because of higher water tables, streams and rivers in the county were more prone to flooding than they are today. Water levels were always high in the spring, prompting flooding on an almost annual basis.

The late rains put the Gasconade on a rise, and had there been no tributary streams to empty into it, thus increasing the volume of the overflow, the rains were sufficient to have created quite a rise. The highest point reached was on Sunday, when the adjacent bottom farms were all submerged beneath a deluge varying from eight to ten feet in depth, and at the shoals in the river the highest stage of the water was said to be twenty-five feet. Fencing was carried away; incalculable damage was done to crops, corn and wheat suffered more severely, and in places the soil was badly washed. Fording was out of the question, and ferrying was abandoned. The waters ran into the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad company's pump-house, necessitating shutting down the pumps, and everything indicated a general

inundation. There were fears that the waters would not run out more rapidly than those from the streams above came down, which occasioned a great deal of alarm; but a fall set in about noon, continuing at a rapid rate for some hours, and then gradually lessened, dropping from about one foot an hour to about two inches an hour. This was due to the on-rushing waters from above. The fall continued, however, but not sufficiently to permit of the running of the ferry, and it was not until Tuesday that the stream got within its banks and the crossing by the ferry was resumed.

- "Richland Cyclone" article, reprinted in the May 19th edition of "The New Era".

Sheriff Imboden had few idle moments in '94. In addition to his county law enforcement duties, the lawman seized every opportunity for additional income by rounding up fugitives from the law and collecting reward money. His many travels and successful apprehensions were becoming legendary.

Sheriff T. V. Imboden located a Kentucky murderer in Vancouver, Wash., went after him, got him, returned him to the authorities in Kentucky, and is now at home; as if nothing had happened.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the May 17th edition of "The Rolla Herald".

The Waynesville community, always envious of the railroad communities of Crocker, Dixon, and Richland, boosted talk of riverboat service to booming Arlington. The county court in late May or early June approved the construction of two bridges over the Gasconade.

We learn that there is a reliable probability of there being a small steam launch placed upon the Gasconade to carry on traffic between the mouth of Roubideaux and the mouth of the former stream. An effort should be made to further the enterprise, as it will be of inestimable value to Waynesville and the territory south; especially between our city and Arlington, where a considerable traffic would soon develop. An appropriation can be secured from congress for the improvement of the Gasconade with small effort, and our representatives in congress can be readily induced to interest themselves in the matter. Hustle!

- "Waynesville Democrat" article, reprinted in "The Rolla Herald" on May 17th.

The county court has contracted with a Chicago firm for the construction of two bridges across the Gasconade river, one at the Skaggs ford and one at the Mc Cain ford. The cost of the two bridges will be about eight thousand dollars.

"Richland Cyclone" article, reprinted in "The New Era" on June 9th.

The summer of '94 brought reports of illness and death. Diphtheria again was a concern. The "Maries County Gazette" in early June reported two deaths from the disease in Dixon. Dixon also proved a place of recuperation for at least one ailing person.

Geo. E. Cansler, an attache of the Iron Mountain Road, after a two weeks visit to his sister, Mrs. H. J. vonGrempe, for the purpose of recuperating from a recent spell of sickness, departed for his home and position Monday, much improved in body and spirit. While here he gained 35 lbs. in weight; the effect of Dixon's medical well, and the health giving breezes of our little city.

Little Minnie, the 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Welsh, who had been very low for some time, died Wednesday morning. The little girl had been improving for several days and was considered about out of danger, until a few moments before her death, when she was taken with paralysis of the heart. Only last week the bereaved parents buried their baby boy, three years old; so soon to be followed by another little darling.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in "The New Era" on Jun. 2nd.

Mrs. Eaton, daughter of Sheriff Imboden, who has been visiting her parents in this place for some weeks, received a telegram last Wednesday afternoon stating that her husband had been drowned at Cuba, their home. She left here Thursday morning, accompanied by Mrs. Dr. Tice, for the scene of the accident.

Frank, son of Major Chalfant, who lives near Richland, this county, had a narrow escape from death at Dixon Monday. In stepping from the calaboose (sic) to the depot platform he lost his footing and fell beneath the car. A wheel struck and severely bruised his head, but he was otherwise uninjured. He considered himself fortunate to escape with so slight an injury.

- "Pulaski County Democrat" article, reprinted in "The New Era" on Jun. 30th.

What appears to be a "silly season" arrived in midsummer. A Richland man was struck by gold fever. Thomas Hendricks, who was arrested for the killing of Constable Manes, took unusual action. A couple of newspaper editors even found humorous ways to report on events.

Mr. Joseph Leiter, who recently conducted a meat market here, told some of our citizens of a gold mine which he and others had located in Wyoming thirty odd years ago, but were forced to abandon by the Indians. He was the only survivor. Some of our citizens, as well as the citizens of Rolla, were interested, and Mr. Leiter, accompanied by a Mr. Robinson, of Rolla, left for the West a few weeks ago. A letter was received from them yesterday, which stated that they had found the mine, but it being located on an Indian reservation it would be necessary to secure a permit from congress to operate it. They are in correspondence, the letter states, with Mr. Bland, with the view of securing that permit.

- "Richland Cyclone" article, reprinted in the Jun. 30th edition of "The New Era".

Thomas Hendricks, the Laclede county murderer, at present confined in the Rolla jail awaiting trial, has adopted peculiar tactics with a view probably of securing temporary liberty. For the past seven days he has persistently refused to eat and is gradually becoming so emaciated and weak that fears are expressed by the jailer and sheriff of his death. He is the only occupant of that lonely and dismal bastille and this, with the remembrance of his horrible crime, has cast upon him a gloom and fear which is driving him crazy. His brother has been notified and is expected here to attend him.

- July 19th "The Rolla Herald" article.



END VIEW OF THE MCCAIN FORD BRIDGE.

Tom Hendricks, the Laclede county murderer, after trying the Dr. Tanner racket for nine days, weakened on last Friday night and is now on the road to corpulency. He asked for some kind of a stimulant that evening and whiskey was given him. This created an appetite that he could not endure, and he begged for something to eat. He devoured all that was brought him, even to licking the plates. About a week before he began his fast Hendricks made an attempt to break jail. He removed the brick from the chimney flue which passes through his cell, but was discovered.

-July 26th "The Rolla Herald" article.

The trial of one Hazel, now incarcerated in the county jail, charged with purloining a surloin (sic) off some other man's swine, came up one day in Waynesville. The evidence being stronger than circumstantial, he was forcibly detained to answer to the above charge and to be tried by a jury of his peers. He is good for a brand new suit of striped clothes at the clothing store in Jeff.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the June 2nd edition of "The New Era".

The "Dixon Echo" reported in early August that Tom McDowell was injured in a threshing machine accident. McDowell slipped while helping Peter Shultz start the engine of a thresher. The wheel of the engine mashed two of McDowell's toes entirely off. The other toes were reported to be badly mashed. It would be a considerable number of days before the victim could walk again.

A few days later, the January church quarrel in Camden County, claimed its second victim.

News was received here at a late hour yesterday evening that James Orsborn, son of E. E. Orsborn, a prominent farmer of Wet Glaize, Camden County, 10 miles from this city, had been shot from ambush and killed.

While returning from watering his horse at a point about one-half mile from his home, young Orsborn had received two loads from a shotgun. His body was struck by 18 No. 3 buckshots, which entered his back and left side, four balls penetrating the left lung, one entering the kidneys. The rest made slight flesh wounds. Death resulted about 45 minutes after the shooting.

Last winter young Orsborn, who is only 17 years old, became involved in a row at church with Charles Deberry. A fight at the time was prevented, but meeting on the road home the quarrel was renewed and Deberry killed.

Orsborn furnished bail for \$10,000 when held by the Grand Jury for murder.

Kavey Armstrong, who was with him when the killing took place, was released.

The Deberys are known to have sworn vengeance when Charles was killed, but there is nothing known to connect them with the assassination of young Orsborn.

-Aug. 15th dispatch from Richland, printed in the Aug. 16th edition of "The Rolla Herald".

Despite the tragedies, Pulaski Countians enjoyed the summer in traditional ways--picnics, fishing, swimming, and church socials. A new tradition was being established by the growing popularity of a new sport--baseball.

Tuesday afternoon at Waynesville the Rolla base ball club carried off the laurels after a hard and hot fight by the close score of 10 to 8. The Waynesville club is composed of good players selected from Pulaski county, and are capable of putting up as fine a game as any club in the Southwest. Of course Rolla is excepted, as the reputation of our boys as athletes extends over a period of twenty years, and it is an acknowledged fact that they stand at the head of the amateur class. Dr. Tice, of Waynesville, was the umpire and gave general satisfaction.

-Aug. 30th article in "The Rolla Herald".

Last week a series of three games of base ball was played between the Rolla and Waynesville clubs, the first at Waynesville on Tuesday, the score being 10 to 8 in favor of Rolla. A purse of One Hundred dollars was put up by the clubs. Clarence Evans was in the box for Rolla, with Walter Coffman behind the bat. The Waynesville battery was Lane pitcher, W. Barrows catcher.

The second game, for a like purse, was played in this city Wednesday afternoon. It was the most exciting ever seen in this city not excepting the great contest between Rolla and Salem, 14 years ago, when Salem had engaged a St. Louis battery and Rolla won on a home run hit made by Jimmie Warren.

Campbell and Coffman were in the points for Rolla, and Will and Robt. Barrows for the visitors. Dr. Tice was the umpire. Waynesville started off with a rush, scoring four runs in the first inning. Rolla followed with two, and for the next four innings the score remained by fine work, in that shape. At the end of the eighth inning Rolla needed one run to tie and two to win the game--the score standing 8 to 9 in favor of the visitors. Waynesville made a hard fight to increase their lead in their half of the 9th inning, and was successful in pushing one man over the plate. Things looked dark for Rolla. The first two men to bat for Rolla went out on easy pops to the infield. When Joe Campbell stepped to the plate he had mischief in his eye, and the large crowd of Rolla enthusiasts saw a small chance left for the Rolla club to win. He was given his base on balls, stole second, and got to third on a safe hit by Coffman. Coffman was allowed to take second without an effort to cut him off. Right here came in the fine head work of Campbell, which in fact won the game. Hollow at the bat struck a weak grounder to the pitcher. Campbell started for home like a flash, yelling at the pitcher to throw the ball home. The pitcher bit at the ruse, and Campbell quickly turned to third allowing Hollow to reach first in safety.

Mansbridge, "the silent man," was next at bat, and he landed on the first ball pitched, making a two-base hit between left and center. The game was over. The excitement became intense, and the yelling and cheering was nearly loud enough to be heard at Waynesville. Mansbridge was carried from the field on the shoulders of his friends.

The third and last game of the series took place Thursday afternoon. There was no purse on the game, but the friends of the clubs staked considerable money on the result. Dr. A. L. Mc Rae was chosen umpire. Cliff Seay was put in to pitch by Rolla and Coffman caught him. Dr. Tice occupied the box for the visitors with Bob Barrows behind the bat. At the end of the sixth inning the score was 9 to 8 in favor of Waynesville. Rolla made two runs in the seventh and five in the eighth, while Waynesville had to be contented with two in the eighth. The game was won by Rolla, the score being 15 to 11.

-Article in "The Rolla Herald" on Sept. 6th.

Political maneuvering intensified in the heat of summer and early fall. Incumbent U. S. Congressman R. P. Bland carried the Democrat party's banner into the foray. The Republicans nominated 33-year-old Joel Douglas Hubbard, Morgan County Clerk.

The courtroom at this place was packed to its full capacity last Monday to hear the Hon. R. P. Bland.

In his talk of an hour and a half he reviewed the legislation of the democratic party in the state, and nationally, since the late civil war, and showed to the people the great benefits they enjoyed through such legislation.

-Article in "The Rolla Herald" on Sept. 13th.

Dr. Joel Hubbard, of Versailles, the Republican nominee for congressman from the 8th (this) district, spoke to a very small audience at the opera hall yesterday evening.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in "The Rolla Herald" on Oct. 4th.

While the candidates were busy on the campaign trail, Sheriff Imboden stayed busy on the trail of the lawless. The "Dixon Echo" reported the sheriff passed through Dixon Sept. 11th on a return trip from Jefferson City. Imboden had delivered three men to the state pen following their criminal conviction in Waynesville earlier in September.

There was a return of bad weather in September.

Last Saturday's storm did much damage to fences and the corn crop in the country west and south of here. The most damage we have heard of was on Bell's Creek where everything was swept clean. The new church near Henry Mitchell's was blown down and Bell's Creek is said to have been higher than ever known before. The amount of damage can hardly be estimated as it reached over a large scope of country, but it is known to be immense.

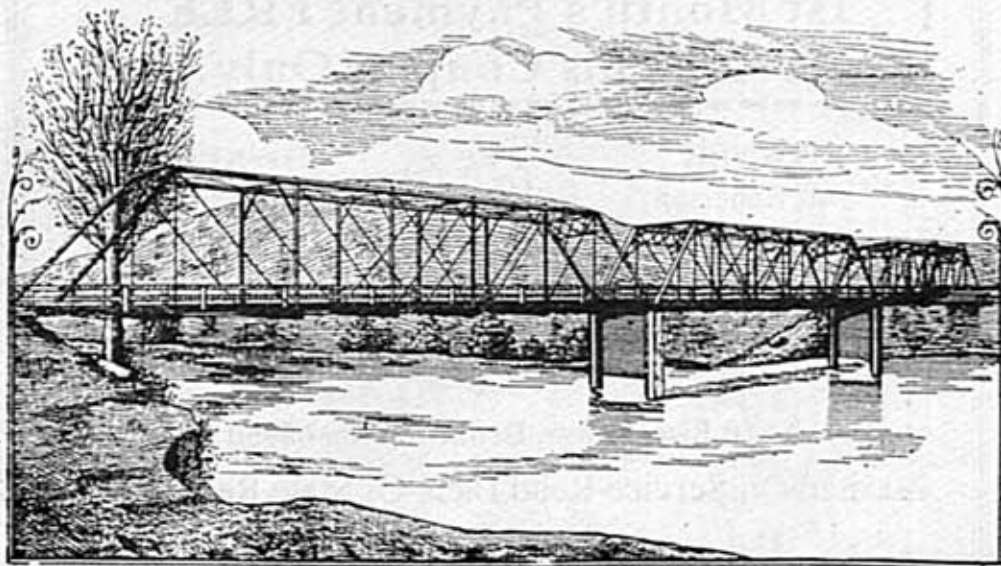
-Article in the Sept. 15th edition of "The New Era".

J. L. Hooker of the Wagon Ford of Piney came to Waynesville to report the death on September 19th of his father, J. T. Hooker, who had lived in Lebanon for a number of years. The elder Hooker was 63 at the time of his death. Burial was in the "old Harrison grave yard" at Arlington.

Tom Hendricks went to trial in September on a charge of murder in the first degree for the slaying of Constable Manes of Richland. The jury, however, found Hendricks guilty of a lesser charge, manslaughter in the fourth degree. He was sentenced to 2 years in the penitentiary.

A Phelps County grand jury wasted no time in indicting Hendricks for a jail break he attempted after the conviction.

On Monday about the noon hour, while Jailer Mc Masters was cleaning the cells of his bastille, Thomas Hendricks, the Pulaski county murderer who escaped the gallows and got two years in the penitentiary for shooting down in cold blood Constable Manes of Richland, made a dash for liber-



SKAGGS FORD BRIDGE.—GASCONADE RIVER, PULASKI COUNTY, MISSOURI.

Total Length 300 feet — Three 120 foot spans with rock abutments. Tubular Steel piers filled with concrete — 14 foot roadway.

ty. He pushed Mc Masters to one side and got outside the outer barricade, and although commanded to halt he kept going. When he reached the fence surrounding the jailor's residence, Mc Masters pulled his pistol and started in hot pursuit. When Hendricks heard Mc Masters' command to stop or he would shoot, he looked around and hesitated long enough for the jailor to reach him. When returned to his cell Hendricks sulked and murmured something, but he will have to take his medicine now, no matter how bitter it may be.

-Sept 27th article in "The Rolla Herald".

The "Dixon Echo" reported that Sam Wilson, a boy raised near Richland, was sent to the pen for 20 years for robbing \$500 from a Wells Fargo's express. Wilson gave \$200 of the cache back to the company.

October saw several acts of criminality committed in Richland.

There was an attempt to burn the Richland school building last Wednesday night, but the fire was discovered in time to save the house. It was set at the back door and on the outside. The perpetrator, when discovered, should be strung up to a limb, and made an example for others of like dispositions.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted October 11th in "The Rolla Herald".

A very unfortunate affair occurred over at Richland last Saturday evening resulting in the serious wounding of E. A. Buzard, the druggist. The Manuel boys, rather tough characters from Camden county, attempted to take Buzard's drug store, when he proceeded to fire them out. In the melee one of the Manuel boys cut an ugly gash in the side, and just under the shoulder of Mr. Buzard, which at first was thought might prove fatal, but we learn that he is now improving and out of danger. Such occurrences are indeed unfortunate, but, we are glad to say, they are rare in our county and only occur when the toughs of other counties make a raid on us.

-Oct. 20th article in "The New Era".

A Republican tide swept Missouri and the country in early November. One of its victims was veteran Congressman R. P. Bland of Lebanon, who ironically only a few months ago was touted as presidential material. The official but incomplete returns gave Bland's opponent, Joel Hubbard, a slight edge in the vote count two days after the election. Still not officially reported were the totals from Morgan County, where Hubbard was county clerk and responsible for the vote count. Democrats saw something "strange and suspicious" in the delay. When Morgan County votes were reported, Hubbard had won the election by a scant 70 votes. A third candidate in the race, William C. Aldredge, running as a Populist, may have helped Hubbard by siphoning off a large number of Democrat votes.

In Pulaski County, all the candidates nominated by the Democrat party won their respective offices, although by slimmer majorities than the previous election.

Congressman Bland, now a lame duck lawmaker, narrowly escaped severe bodily harm later in November. While crossing the railroad tracks in Lebanon, Bland did not notice a train that unexpectedly started backing up. When alerted by shouts from bystanders, the congressman drew in the reins of his horse. One of the animal's feet caught in the rail, causing the horse to fall. Bland jumped from the buggy just before the train hit it.

Reverberations of the election had hardly subsided when area residents were startled by a shaking sensation of a different nature on November 27th.

An earthquake shock was plainly felt here Tuesday at 7:30 o'clock p. m. at which time quite a shaking of the earth was felt. The noise was like that of a heavy train passing. Dishes on the tables rattled and there was a slight trembling of the floor and a perceptible moving of furniture in many houses. It startled the people considerably while it lasted. We have up to this time seen no report of it in other places but it shook here just the same.

-Dec. 1st article in "The New Era".

There was a sign of progress on the economic front when the "Pulaski County Democrat" reported in late November that operations would again resume at the onyx shaft near Arlington.

Fresh capital investment of \$25,000 had been obtained for the operation.

Construction work began on the bridges over the Gasconade. The proposed structure at Skaggs crossing between Waynesville and Crocker received first attention. But in early December, the "Pulaski County Democrat" reported that construction had to be halted there in order to haul and place material for the construction of the other bridge at Mc Cain's Ford, located several miles south of Richland. The exact site for the bridge was determined by the county court in late November.

Despite the visible activity at the bridge sites, some members of the public remained skeptical. In a story about the bridges in 1895, the "Democrat" reported that "immediately after the contract was awarded there were many wild predictions, and it was not infrequently said: 'That company will not build those bridges for that money. They can't do it.'"

Sheriff Imboden delivered a prisoner in late November to the pen in Jefferson City. The lawman's cargo was Reverend John Winningham of Miller County, who had been convicted of committing incest with a niece. The right reverend was going the wrong way for five years.

Imboden's next case embarrassingly involved a family member, his 19-year-old son.

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News reached here the first of the week of a shooting affray at Waynesville Monday night, between Scott Imboden and Dr. L. Tice. We did not learn the origin of the trouble. No one dangerously hurt.

- "Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in "The Rolla Herald" on Dec. 13th.

Another violent event took place, despite the approaching serenity of the holiday season.

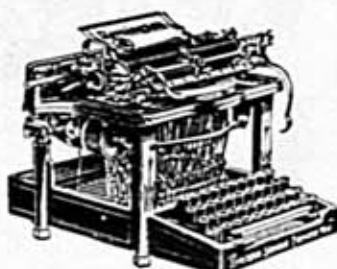
News is received here this week of a shooting affray, which occurred last Saturday night at the home of John Breeden, near Cookville. From the meager details obtainable, it seems that the wounded party, one Meyers, was on a drunk--commonly called in that country a "high lonesome"--and after a row with other parties, went to the home of John Breeden, still craving blood; which he got. He broke in the house, all the inmates being asleep. Mrs. Breeden was aroused and went to see what the matter was. Meyers threw a tea cup at her head and swore loudly at her, using the vilest language he could devise. By this time Breeden was up, saw the situation, seized his shotgun, gave the intruder the contents. He jumped through the window, ran and fell, and was picked up a few yards off next morning. He is badly hurt and is served right, as he belongs to a gang of toughs who infest that country, and pretend to run it; intimidating every body and committing all sorts of depredations and meanness. Sheriff Imboden and Prosecutor

Johnson made a trip to the scene the next day to investigate.

- "Dixon Echo" story, reprinted in "The Rolla Herald" on Dec. 20th.

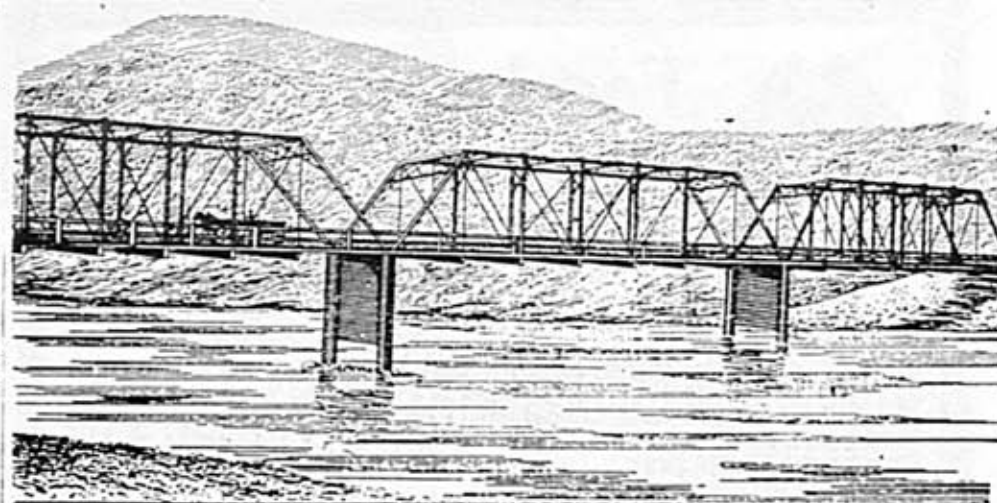
Despite the economic problems and upsurge in crime and violence witnessed in 1894, residents settled down to enjoy their favorite holiday activities. A grand ball was planned for the Opera House in Dixon on New Year's Eve. Proceeds from the big bash were to be given to the Confederate Home at Higginsville.

A large attendance was expected. A full fledged opera company was organized in Dixon, where the D'Ormond Company had recently appeared. Several cast members stayed in Dixon and recruited locals for this new artistic venture.



The "Richland Cyclone" articles quoted in "A Century Before in '94" were written by Sam Keller, who purchased the newspaper in 1892.

Keller was born in New York City, but spent a large portion of his life in Lexington, Missouri, where he edited the local newspaper. For about six years, he worked



McCain Ford Bridge.—GASCONADE RIVER, PULASKI COUNTY, MISSOURI.
Total Length 360 feet.—Three 120 foot spans, with rock abutments. Tubular Steel piers filled with concrete.—14 foot roadway



SAM KELLER.

at the "Daily Times" in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he worked up to the position of night editor.

During Keller's Kansas employment, Jesse James was assassinated by Bob Ford in St. Joseph. The young editor had intimately known Ford and the entire Ford family for many years, knowledge which proved valuable in assisting in the writing of a full page report the morning following the shooting. The account focused heavily on Bob Ford, the assassin, and his brother, Charlie, who also was a member of the infamous James gang.

Sam Keller was editor of the "Lebanon Republican" for three years prior to his purchase of the "Cyclone".

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