

CROCKER IN 1905

In 1921, the "Crocker News" celebrated its 17th birthday by reprinting some recollections of its founder. Those published memories present us with some interesting historical information about this community in 1905.

A few of the words and names from this old paper were impossible to read. Where this occurs, a question mark follows the name or word in parenthesis.

A letter from Rev. H. A. Cotton, now living at Warrensburg, Ill., informs us that he began the "Crocker Impetus", later called the "Crocker News", early in April, 1905, moving the printing outfit here from Iberia in two wagon loads. The office was set up in the second story of the building now occupied by the Crocker Movie Theater. The building was then owned by F. W. Copp, its present owner, who conducted a general store on the first floor of the building. Mr. Copp was so public spirited as to feel the need of a newspaper and gave Mr. Cotton rent



WHEAT THRESHING SCENE ON A FARM NEAR CROCKER IN THE THIRTIES. A young Marcy Reed stands on the left. (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).

Bill Ransdall



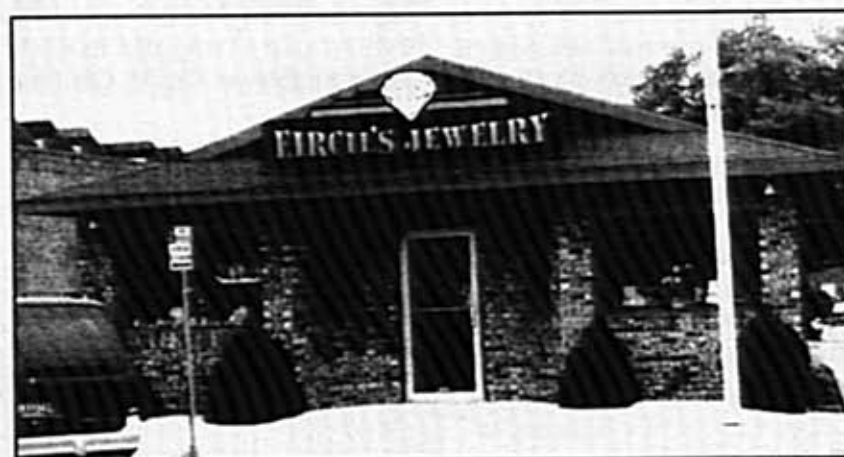
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free for one year as an inducement to come to Crocker.

The memory of man is fickle and it has been difficult to secure authentic information concerning exact dates, but we believe the following includes nearly all of the business firms in Crocker 16 years ago:

The firm of Bostick & Johnson, general merchants, was launched in 1900 in the building now occupied by them--21 years of continuous and successful business.

J. L. Hoops began selling goods in Crocker in 1892, and opened his own store, at the present location of the large general store of J. L. Hoops & Co., February 22, 1896--more than 25 years of continued successful service.

W. D. Rowden, still a resident of Crocker, conducted a general store in the building now occupied by J. W. Willis, jeweler and photographer.

W. D. Rowden and family moved from Iberia to Crocker in April, 1892, and have lived continuously in the house they now occupy. Soon after coming here Mr. Rowden began the erection of the building now occupied by the postoffice and J. W. Willis' jewelry store in which he conducted a general store for many years and formed a wide acquaintance with the people of this section of the Ozarks.

Fred Burgess was operating a restaurant on the corner across the track where the bottle works now stands.

L. M. Wagner, who resides just north of town and formerly conducted a hotel here, was operating a livery stable in the building where W. L. Wilson now has a second hand store.

Charles H. Howard, now dead, was also running a livery barn 16 years ago.

Jesse Rayl, father of Dr. J. E. Rayl, until recently a physician and druggist in Crocker, conducted a drug store.

T. H. Turpin and J. E. Turpin owned and operated a hardware store where W. E. Burchard is now engaged in the same business, and also conducted the postoffice in the rear of their store.

C. E. Teeple was engaged in the grocery business in a concrete building on the site of the present Sell Drug Co., and it was in that building that the Farmer and Merchants Bank was opened in July of the same year, both businesses being housed in the same building until November when the bank moved to other quarters. Mr. Teeple has engaged in various enterprises in Crocker since that time and now is the genial proprietor of a grocery store.

Charles Farnham conducted a lumber yard on the site of the present lumber yard which is operated by James M. Hill for the Crocker Lumber and Supply Company.

O. G. Bohannon was dealing in



ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT PIKE'S PEAK. Gasconade River flows at the right of the picture. (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).



POSTCARD VIEW ON CROCKER-WAYNESVILLE ROAD. Horse and buggy headed south on what is now Highway 17 along Roubidoux Creek. Card was postmarked 1923. (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).

second hand goods on the site of the present Crocker Hardware Co.

W. H. Fike and C. W. Nelson were in the general merchandise business in the building now occupied by Harry R. Stewart's grocery and restaurant.

Lou and Bud Crews and Charles Williams were doing blacksmithing and William Burks and (Joe?) Frank, both dead, were cobbling shoes and William (Burks?) was handling the Water... (rest of sentence unreadable).

Mrs. Julia (Walker?), formerly of Little Rock, Ark., was the excellent proprietress of a hotel on the site where the Hotel Pulaski now stands and R. P. Thornsberry was conducting the old Bostick hotel which stood where the Crocker State Bank now is. In that building James Bostick, of the firm of Bostick and Johnson, was born in 1873. The building was later moved to the north part of town where it was used as a dwelling, but is now incorporated in a barn on the property of W. E. Vickers.

School was conducted in a little two room wooden building in the south part of town near the cemetery.

Telephone service was very meager 16 years ago, but we understand that a line connected Iberia, Crocker, and Waynesville.

The building in which W. L. Wilson has his second hand store has been used as a livery stable, restaurant, high school, hotel, et cetera.

There was no bank on Crocker 16 years ago today, but on July 10, 1905, the Farmers and Merchants Bank opened its doors in a concrete building which stood on the corner where the Sell Drug company is now located. Charles Ousley, present cashier of the Crocker State Bank, was cashier and Con Frawley, now of East St. Louis, was the first depositor in the first bank our town ever had. Today we have two strong and growing banking houses comfortably housed in substantial buildings.

There were no sidewalks here except high platforms of wood in front of the store buildings and the larger portion of what is now thickly built up, close in, residence sections was in brush and woods.

J. L. Hoops had a mill on the site of the present mill and elevator 16

years ago with W. D. Anderson, who is still a citizen, as manager.

Great changes have taken place since the inception of the "Crocker News" and greater changes will occur as the years go by, for this is an important trading point on the Frisco. Among the substantial institutions now doing business in Crocker are the following:

- 7 general stores
- 1 exclusive ladies furnishing store
- 2 barber shops
- 1 harness and shoe shop
- 2 hardware stores
- 1 wholesale grocery
- 2 drug stores
- 1 bakery
- 1 lumber yard
- 2 banks
- 3 mills
- 2 blacksmith shops
- 1 new and second hand furniture store
- 4 produce houses
- 1 jewelry store
- 2 dentists
- 1 garage
- 3 restaurants
- 1 hotel



OLDTIME PULASKI COUNTY DEMOCRATS: (Back, left to right)--W. L. York of Tribune, age 70; C. R. Gan, Waynesville, 75; C. C. Turner, Waynesville, 72; C. A. George, Dixon, 70; and W. P. (Bill) Long, Waynesville, 75. (Middle, left to right)--J. M. Carmack, Wildwood, 63; Jasper Lewis, Waynesville, 75; L. H. Trower, Waynesville, 67; F. C. Halterman, Waynesville, 65; J. R. Burchard, Waynesville, 77; Richard Skaggs, Waynesville, 68; and W. L. Bradford, Waynesville, 87. (Front, left to right)--E. E. Bales, Tribune, 69; Ab Brown, Wharton, 62; John Gladden, Laquey, 77; E. A. Jewell, Waynesville, 80; John Trower, Laquey, 79; J. M. Curtis, Waynesville, 73; Marion Brownfield, Waynesville, 72; and "Big Boy" in the center. Picture taken on the afternoon of the primary election in August, 1926. (Supplied by Pearl Wilson).



(Back, left to right)--Albert Bowling, Olive Pippin, and Alf Christianson. (Front, left to right)--Mrs. Groom, Etta Brownfield, Myrtle Shaw, and Fred Brownfield. (Photo supplied by Joe and Mary Morgan).

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