

# 'OLE PULASKI IN 1896

By Gary Knehans

The raging December floodwaters of '95 eventually subsided, leaving Pulaski County residents free to cope with the usual winter cold in the first month of 1896. In the relative warmth of their houses, some thought of the prospects of another political year, while others dreamed of partners for the leap year.

"Leap year is a leaping," wrote one local correspondent in January. "Well, our girls don't leap. The real truth is that we can't keep girls on hand to supply the demand of the boys who come from a distance."

On the political front, Congressman Joel Hubbard, the Republican who upset the legendary Democrat lawmaker, Richard P. Bland, in the 1894 election, made a move to bolster his re-election chances by finally introducing a bill in Congress on January 22nd to appropriate \$2,000,000 for permanent improvement of the Osage River by the proposed installation of locks and dams from the mouth of the river to Osceola, a distance of nearly 300 miles. He also introduced a bill to appropriate \$40,000 to improve the Gasconade River from the mouth to Arlington.

Hubbard had made government assistance to improve these rivers a big issue two years earlier. More than anything, this was the defining issue that led to his victory over Bland. But now, constituents had become impatient with the congressman's lack of action on the issue. Just introducing the legislation was not enough, they expected Hubbard to effect its passage and deliver on his campaign promise. The ball was in the congressman's court.

Pulaski County politicians began "booming" Henry E. Warren again for state senator. He had failed to secure his party's nomination for state senator in an earlier special election. As a former state representative from Pulaski County and a successful Richland businessman, Warren was well qualified to become state senator. However, the suggestion of his



WAYNESVILLE BAND 1903: (Standing, left to right)—Albert Christeson, Edgar Christeson, George M. Reed, Bert Burchard, Charley Colley, George Hudson Reed, Virgil Wheeler, Claude Burchard, and Roy W. Reed. (Sitting, left to right)—Clyde Colley and Milford Colley (or perhaps Maurice Colley). (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).

candidacy by the "Richland Register" failed to produce anything substantive for Mr. Warren.

Well known for possessing a sharp-tongued wit, the editor of the "Pulaski County Democrat" criticized Pulaski County jail operations under Sheriff Imboden in early February.

*Pulaski County's jail contains 9 prisoners, one of whom is a fiddler, and they have dances and a jolly good time. The "Democrat" thinks a penitentiary sentence would do some of them good.*

—Reprinted in the "Lebanon Republican", February 7th, 1896.

But things were not as bucolic at the jail as they appeared to the

"Democrat". Some of the "birds" wanted to take flight. A somewhat cheeky, March 24th datelined story from Waynesville, printed in the "Rolla Herald" under the headline, "Waynesville, Mo., Jail Opened From the Outside," tells the details.

*The five inmates of the county jail were offered their liberty by three unknown parties on the outside, who broke the jail doors.*

The two Purdy brothers, soon to be taken to the penitentiary under a five years sentence for criminal assault, escaped, as did C. S. Craft, under a two years' sentence for perjury.

John Laughlin, three years for burglary, would not leave. Marion Clark, for stealing hogs, had a sure thing for board and lodging for a year and would rather not venture out.

Congressman Hubbard's bid to secure funding for the Osage and Gasconade Rivers was shortlived in the nation's capital. With the defeat of the legislation, Hubbard was left scrambling to try to limit the damage to his re-election chances. Democrat papers quickly wrote scathing accounts of his unsuccessful effort on Capitol Hill. Republican papers, such

as the "Jefferson City Courier," came to his defense.

Congressman Hubbard is censured because he did not secure the appropriation desired for the improvement of the Osage River. Hubbard worked as hard as any other Congressman to that end; but when the Eastern Congressmen hold the power without complete organization, the next can hardly expect to step in and take these appropriations from them. It is wrong, certainly, but Hubbard can not be blamed. He made the effort and failed.

Despite these brave words of support from the "Courier," this episode of ineffectiveness was certainly considered a serious blow to Hubbard's re-election campaign.

However, the major campaign issue continued to be "free silver," a monetary policy of which former Congressman Bland had been, and continued to be, a major proponent. Hubbard was on the other side of the issue, supporting the gold standard forces of "sound money." Passionate arguments could be instigated by just mentioning a stance on either side of the issue to any passerby on the street.

## 1996 OLD SETTLERS' GAZETTE

Publisher: Millie Howlett Brotherton

Editor: Gary Knehans

Sales Representatives: Millie Howlett Brotherton, Annette Hance, Mark Howlett and Debby Nickels.

The Old Settlers' Gazette of KJPW Radio especially thanks Harry Case for providing his mules and wagon for the cover photo in front of the Old Stagecoach Stop in downtown Waynesville.





But at this point, it wasn't clear whether Bland would be Hubbard's Democrat opponent for Congress in November. As a leading "free silver" advocate, Bland was becoming a major Democrat candidate for President. If the effort to obtain his party's nomination failed, of course, he could always fall back on a bid to regain his former seat in Congress.

To some at this point, it appeared that Bland was a "shoe-in" to win the Democrat nomination for President. A prominent St. Louis Democrat, R. P. Smart, predicted, "If the Democratic National Convention at Chicago is controlled by the free silver men, you can put it down that Honorable R. P. Bland will be nominated for the Presidency..."

"Well informed silver Democrats now admit that there is no other silver man in it for the Presidential nomination for Bland. And nearly all the leading silver men in the Democratic party prefer him, though they are working at present more to control the convention than to decide upon a nomination."

An Arkansas Senator added that "Bland will be the ram."

Crocker's Judge W. H. Murphy decided to make another run for office, this time trying to secure the Republican nomination for State



**DOWNTOWN WAYNESVILLE STREET SCENE 1907 OR 1908.** This is a view looking west along Main Street (now Historic Route 66). The first building on the left is the Famous Cash House. The street sign in front of the second building proclaims "Bakery & Lunch". A sign in front of the fifth building on the left indicates it is the office of the "Pulaski County Democrat." Notice the bridges across the creek that bisected Main Street. The creek is now covered by pavement. A wood and wire fence that surrounded the courthouse square can be seen at the lower right of the picture. (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).

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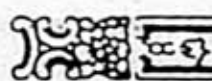
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Senator. Murphy was the party's unsuccessful candidate in 1892 against Congressman Bland, but had waged a very credible campaign.

At midnight on the night of April 21st-22nd, Richland residents had to contend with a fire in the downtown area.

*Fire broke out in the Ike Ellis bakery, and by 2 o'clock nine buildings had gone up in flames. The bakery, shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, the meat shop, Squire Williams' store and opera hall and D. Brock's store were among the burned buildings. The fire was discovered soon after it broke out and the alarm was given, and, although heroic efforts were made to save the building, the wind fanned the flames and it was only by hard fighting that other houses were saved. A small insurance partially covered the loss on some of the buildings.*

*"Richland Register" article, re-printed in the April 24th, 1996, edition of the "Lebanon Republican".*

Unusually severe weather was again on the minds of many in May. The "Marion County Gazette" reported that "movers are passing

through town (Vienna) every day, some going north and some south, a few east and west. It is said that 15,000 newcomers have settled in South Missouri during the past few months, mainly from drought stricken Kansas and wind swept Nebraska." A few of these may have settled in Pulaski County.

Severe storms raked the area in the middle and the latter part of the month. Lebanon was pelted by a terrific hailstorm at 6 o'clock the evening of May 15th. Within a short period of time, hail four inches deep covered the ground. Extremely vicious winds propelled the iceballs to a high level of destructiveness. Nearly every house and business building in Lebanon suffered broken window panes. Some places even reported having every window pane shattered by the flying hail. There was considerable damage to the Laclede County Courthouse. The heavy hail completely stripped several trees of all their leaves.

It is reasonable to assume that the storm subsequently moved into areas of Pulaski County, probably Richland, Swedeborg, Crocker, and Dixon. The extent of damage in these communities can only be surmised.

An even bigger storm cut a devastating path through parts of

Missouri a couple of weeks later. The forerunner of it may have affected Pulaski County in a much less violent manner.

In late afternoon on Wednesday, May 27th, a storm that is still known as the Great Cyclone of 1896 bore down on St. Louis, cutting a 10-mile path of destruction in a short span of 20 minutes. The tornado flattened 311 buildings, heavily damaged 7200 others, and caused considerable damage to 1300 additional structures. It killed 137 people in St. Louis and 118 people across the river in East St. Louis, Illinois.

There was little advanced warning of the storm, although the past three weeks had been unusually stormy, even for May. It was sunny and 86 degrees with an oppressive humidity level of 95 percent at two o'clock in St. Louis that afternoon.

The first sign of trouble was a sudden, rapid fall in barometer readings all over the city, a sure indication of approaching storminess. The temperature began to ease off somewhat. And then, off to the west-southwest, observers could see ominous looking, greenish clouds billow up and approach the St. Louis area. From those threatening clouds, lightning appeared and began to take on terrifying proportions as the

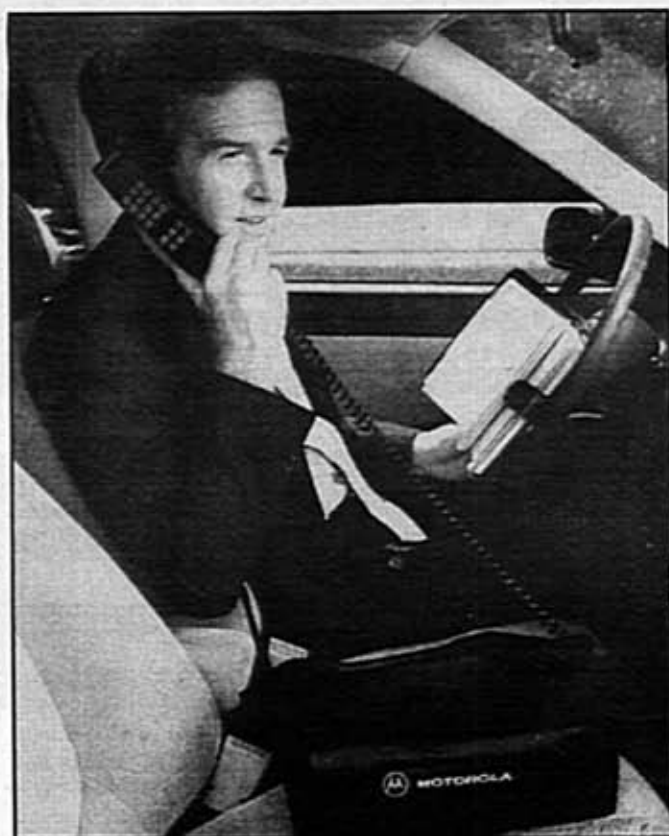
turbulence swooped down on the metro area. Thunder rolled and barometers went into freefall. One instrument plummeted to an incredibly low 27.30 inches, a reading that surpassed the level of many hurricanes.

"Great balls of fire seemed to burst from the clouds followed by flashes of forked lightning, illuminating the whole heavens," the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported. It was said that balls of blue light crackled eerily along some of the city's power lines.

The storm struck at 5:15 p.m.

Across the river in East St. Louis, a former resident of Dixon, John S. Rhea, could see the destructive cyclone approaching. But, like many others who were in the path of the storm that day, he could do little but dive for cover and pray for the best.

*He was crossing watchman near the Relay Depot. When the storm came, he left his house and crossed to another, and just as he entered, the one he left was blown to atoms. The one he was in was blown over but a car loaded with rock saved him. He was caught just below the knees and pinioned there, but succeeded in extricating himself. He crowded over the broken bridge and walked home. He lost his coat, hat and shoes, but is*



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thankful that he escaped as well as he did.

"Dixon Echo" article, reprinted in the June 6th, 1896, edition of the "Rolla New Era".

Meanwhile back in Pulaski County, State Representative J. H. Ross was reported to be on the mend from rather severe injuries inflicted when he was thrown from his horse. He was said to be "improving rapidly under competent medical attendance, and is a fair way to an early and complete recovery."

The accident had occurred in late May while Ross was returning home from Scales' store at Piney postoffice. He received a badly lacerated scalp wound and a torn eyelid, plus other cuts and bruises. When found, Ross was unconscious. Dr. Tice of Waynesville was summoned to attend to the injuries. The good doctor removed the clotted blood from the state representative's head, bathed the wounds, and sewed up the cut on the head. The wound took eleven stitches to close.

The "Pulaski County Democrat" reported that C. H. Shubert and his wife had returned from St. Louis, where he had been confined to the hospital. He was said to be only "slightly improved in health."

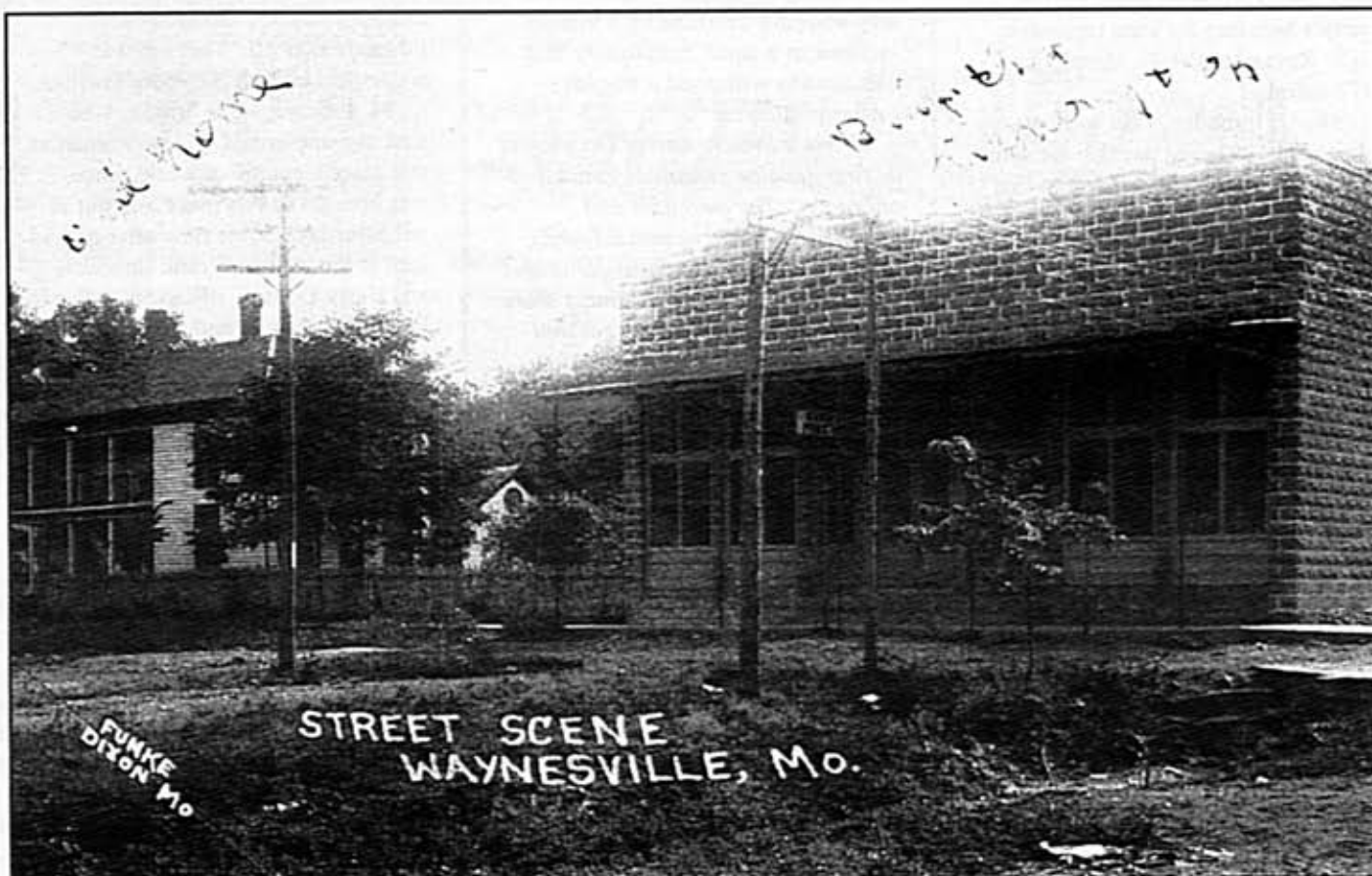
Tragedy struck on the rails on early Wednesday morning, June 3rd, at 3 o'clock at Frank's Station in Pulaski County. An 18-year-old Lebanon youth, "Dode" Booton, had boarded the Frisco with two companions around midnight in Lebanon. The boys were bound for St. Louis to work.

According to Allie Avery and Owen Duvall, they had paid for the ride, but were put off the train.

The story the boys tell is that the brakeman accepted their money in payment for the ride, and then put them off. Just this side of Franks, they attempted to get on again, but Dode was the only one who succeeded; and the last the others saw of him, he was crawling onto the bumpers between the cars. They followed the train and about a mile down the track found the mangled remains.

A coroner's jury investigated the killing on Wednesday and returned a verdict charging a brakeman, supposed to be one George McClellan, with having pushed or forced the boy to jump from the moving train, causing his death. The train was going at a rapid rate down grade. The indications at the point where he was killed were that he alighted outside the rails and fell back under the train.

The body was awfully mutilated, the head being mashed and severed



**NORTH LYNN STREET IN WAYNESVILLE.** Date unknown, but probably in the late 1900's or 1910's. The Stagecoach Stop lookalike on the left was the residence of George M. Reed, which stood south of the famous landmark at the site of the current Jim's Market building. The structure on the right was demolished when Route 66 was constructed. (Photo supplied by Marcy Reed).

from the trunk and an arm cut off.

Undertaker Kapp took charge of the remains and brought them home yesterday morning and they were interred yesterday afternoon.

In their sudden bereavement the mother and sisters of the dead boy have the sympathy of the community. Dode was a good boy and was loved by a large circle of friends. His untimely death has left a vacancy in the home impossible to fill.

"Lebanon Republican", June 5th, 1896.

The Booton boy was the fourth victim since May 30th of "the railroad as the sickle of death," as the Frisco Line was characterized by the "Rolla Herald". The first to die was Isaac Wright, who went to sleep on the track at Newburg. The next was a man in his forties, Martin Wagener of Chicago, who tried to steal a ride at Arlington. He accidentally fell under the train and was truncated by the heavy metal wheels that passed over him. The fourth victim was killed at Bourbon.

Meanwhile, the wet and stormy weather in May proved a blessing for at least one Waynesville business. Flooding on waterways around the town apparently had not been as bad as the deluge on the Little Piney River.

The Roller Mill at Relfe has been

stopped during the recent high waters of the creek. George Diehl, the miller, has become disheartened and rather deserted the mill. J. M. Freeman will have to renew the race and get a new miller before it will be in running condition. The people of this place will have to do their milling at Waynesville until the mill starts.

John N. Jones was milling at Waynesville on Monday last. He reports every thing in a booming condition at that place.

Zohar Doyle was doing up business in Waynesville on Tuesday last.

-Arlington correspondent's report in the June 6th, 1896, edition of the "Rolla New Era".

On June 12th, Republican delegates from Pulaski, Maries, Phelps, Miller, Osage, and Cole met in convention in Jefferson City to select their candidate for 27th district state senator. A hopeful Judge Murphy of Crocker was one of the nominees, as was Dr. J. L. Short of Phelps County. By a vote of 24 to 10, Dr. Short won the nomination.

Murphy did not take the defeat gracefully.

Judge Murphy evidently felt aggrieved over his defeat, and in a speech ascribed it to a false rumor put into circulation to the effect that he is in favor of Sedalia in the capital removal contest.

"Rolla New Era", June 20th, 1896.

A few days later, a substantial storm struck Waynesville.

The dome of the courthouse was struck by lightning Sunday night, shattering one of the blinds. The bolt...cracked the outer layer of brick from roof to foundation, shattering a window sash on the first floor very badly. The rent in the brick work is very narrow.

"Waynesville Democrat" report, reprinted in the "Lebanon Republican", June 19th, 1896.

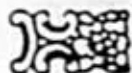
Another kind of storm was brewing in Richland.

F. M. Henry has instituted suit against the town of Richland, in the sum of \$6,000, to recover damage for the imprisonment of Henry's 7-year-old child in the calaboose; and, says the "Cyclone", is based on the ground that the boy's character, by that imprisonment, will bear a stigma through his manhood. The case is expected to be called at the September term of Circuit Court.

"Dixon Echo" report, reprinted in the "Rolla Herald", July 2nd, 1896.

For some reason, Democrats in Pulaski County broke with tradition and held their primary election in July instead of August. On July 17th, the voters selected the injured, but much





improved J. H. Ross again as their party's nominee for state representative. Ross edged H. C. Murphy by 177 votes.

Sheriff Imboden, who was first elected in 1892, had decided for some reason not to seek re-election to that office. Instead he was bidding to become county collector. S. M. Manes ended that bid by a 679-to-535 victory over Imboden on primary election day.

Other victors were M. G. Wyrick, who defeated J. D. Vincent 856-to-343 for county sheriff; J. L. Johnson, who won renomination as prosecuting attorney by a 716-to-484 margin over W. H. Locker; S. S. White, who beat out challengers J. E. Gray, J. N. B. Christeson, and G. W. Sparks, in a close race for assessor; W. J. Barrows, who defeated W. A. Mitchell by 168-votes for surveyor; S. R. Hale, who beat out two challengers for eastern district judge; and J. R. Adkinson, who squeaked past J. H. Johnson by 26 votes for western district judge.



Shortly after this, tongues were sent wagging overtime by a violent incident in a small community that had already witnessed a tragedy earlier in the year.

*Frank's Switch, east of Dixon, had its first genuine sensation Tuesday afternoon. The merchant and postmaster, a man named Edwards, who is a comparative stranger in this section, having been in business there but little more than a year, got into trouble with Mrs. Seamon, a widow living in the "suburbs" of the Switch, over an account. He had several days before threatened to kill her, and on Tuesday took a shotgun and went gunning for the widow. He found her at home, and fired just as she slammed the door in his face, the load piercing the wood but failing to hit the woman. She ran into another room, Edwards following her, and again slammed the door as he fired the second time, also without effect. At this juncture, a man named Jim Rugg, hearing the shots and the woman's screams, ran to her assistance and made the would-be murderer desist. He then turned on Rugg with the gun and told him if he informed on him or appeared against him, he would kill him. But the bluff didn't work. Edwards then skipped, but was caught at Newburg by officer Frank Imboden and brought back.*

"Maries County Gazette" account, reprinted in the July 22nd, 1896, edition of the "Rolla Herald".

It turned out, however, that Imboden had not captured M. J. Edwards after all. That job was accomplished by a Newburg lawman.

M. J. Edwards, of Franks, who shot at a one-armed widow woman at that place a couple of weeks since, was brought to this place and put in jail Saturday. Some time after he had shot at the woman, Frank Imboden and Harry Dodson, of Dixon, drove to Franks in a buggy and stopped in front of Edward's store, with the intention of alighting to arrest him, when he presented a double-barreled shotgun and told them to drive on, or he would shoot them. They took Edwards at his word and left Franks without him. Henry Doering of Newburg made the arrest. It is thought Edwards will be indicted for assault with intent to kill. He bears an unsavory reputation.

"Pulaski County Democrat" story, which appeared in the "Rolla Herald" on August 6th, 1896.

In the early morning on Monday, August 3rd, a stranger appeared on horseback at a Pulaski County store, alighted, and bought a pair of pants and shoes. The merchant thought it unusual that the man, who said he was from southwest Phelps County, didn't just go to Pillman's store, or to Relfe, which was a much shorter distance. Eager to make the sale, however, the storeowner thought it best not to appear overly inquisitive.

Imagine the shock of that mer-

chant when he read the August 6th edition of the "Rolla Herald" and discovered that his strange visitor, Andrew Lawson, and a ten-year-old son, Rack, had been arrested in Phelps County for the brutal death of 11-year-old Frank Wade. Wade's unclothed body was found in a neighbor's pond. His throat had been cut ear to ear.

Law officials theorized that Lawson had purchased the pants and shoes to replace clothing that was saturated with the dead boy's blood.

No motive for the crime was immediately established.

On a more sanguine and less sanguinary note, many people in Dixon readied themselves for an encampment for veterans of the Union Army during the Civil War, beginning on August 19th.

*Dixon is making great preparations for the entertainment of the G. A. R. boys next week, and the encampment promises to be a great success.*

The public well of Dixon is a great benefit, for at this fountain all can get a cool drink to slake their thirst.

There is talk of Mr. Tingle, who formerly published a paper here, coming back and buying the "Echo". Weidner is doing as well as he can with the field, but prefers to get a little more experience.

Chestine Miller is making considerable improvements at his residence on his farm, and for the past month

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the carpenters, plasterers, and painters have been busy.

Gus Sease, the enterprising liquor dealer, is laying in a good supply of beverages for next week, so that none can complain of not being able to get a good, cool glass of Lemp's best next week. He is ably assisted by his brother, Charley.

F. C. Zeigler carries a first-class stock of general merchandise, which he sells at low prices for cash.

The son of Mr. T. A. Jones is very ill of typhoid fever.

The "Echo", with commendable enterprise, will publish a daily during the Encampment next week.

The Frisco House, James Moss, proprietor, rates as one of the best kept hotels in this section of the state, and Mr. Moss will do all in his power next week to take good care of all those who honor him with their patronage. During the encampment, all meals will be 25 cents. He will also feed and take care of horses; can accommodate about 50.

W. W. Howard is as cheerful as ever, and is hopeful that Mc Kinley's election will clear up the doubt that overspreads the financial skies.

Wm. Heller, the active grain buyer, is pushing things at his elevator. He does a large exchange business.

John B. Spradling says that he made a mistake in moving away from Newburg, but hopes for better times after the election.

Mr. J. F. Rhea, the gentlemanly clerk at J. Mc Gregor's is ever ready to attend to the wants of the patrons of that place of business.

A. H. Franklin, our solid Democratic furniture and lumber dealer, carries one of the largest stocks in this section of the country, and is hopeful that the future will still show America standing up for "sound money."

The Encampment will be located in the City Park, where a fine stand has been built, seats prepared for 1,500 persons and an artesian well put down which shows 50 feet of water of excellent quality. Seventy tents are on the ground ready to put up and there is ample room for as many more private tents. Hotels and restaurants are being put up to accommodate all. Nice Grounds on the north and west, in the groves, are being prepared for wagons. Change of program each day. Everybody cordially invited to come and have a pleasant time.

-Published under the headline, "Dixon Echoes," in the August 15th, 1896, edition of the "Rolla New Era".

A grand parade was scheduled for August 20th, beginning at 10 a.m. and travelling all the principal streets of Dixon. The Ransom Howlers of St. Louis were scheduled to provide music for much of the remainder of the day.

On the political front, the Democrat Convention passed over R. P. Bland and picked another "free silver" champion, William Jennings Bryant, to be the party's presidential standard bearer. With little time to waste licking his wounds, Bland sought and secured his party's nomination for the House of Representative's seat he had lost two years ago to Joel Hubbard.

Bland's candidacy was received as an unwelcomed development in the Hubbard camp.

In October, a Waynesville man took a scandalous leap year leap that carried him over the cliff, figuratively speaking. The young man was arrested on a charge of seduction, but avoided prosecution by proposing marriage to the girl who complained against him. She accepted, and wedding bells were quickly sounded. But "for better or worse" quickly became considerably worse in the days after the ceremony. The new bridegroom became at first despondent, and then "violently insane." The new bride had to call on Sheriff Imboden to haul her recently acquired husband to the Nevada asylum for confinement there.

As the general election approached, candidates and their supporters worked increasingly harder to influence the voters. Congressman Hubbard, now an incumbent instead of a challenger, had little in the way of achievements to show the voters for his two years on Capitol Hill. He had not been able to secure the funding for river improvements in the district that he had promised them two years earlier.

And he found it no longer effective to attack Bland's record this time around. Consequently, Bland won back his old congressional seat by a comfortable margin.

There were more disappointments at the polls for local Republicans. The entire Democrat ticket was elected to the county offices up for grabs. The only consolation for the losers was the election of the Republican national ticket led by William McKinley, who beat William Jennings Bryant by a wide margin, for President.

J. A. Bradshaw, chairman of the Pulaski County Republican Committee, still found it hard to conceal his disappointment when he wrote a letter to the "Richland Cyclone" in the wake of the election.

*The Republicans of old Pulaski came out of the late political fight as well or better than any of her neighbors. There were no less than three political parties arrayed against us this year, namely, the Democratic, Populist, and free Silverites, all combined on one ticket. With all these odds against us, we made con-*

*increase of 169 votes over our vote of 1892, or about 21 percent...Add the 100 Free Silver Republican votes to Mc Kinley's vote and this would give us 900 Republican voters in the county, or only 300 less than the Democratic vote.*

...The days of Democracy in grand old Missouri and Pulaski county are numbered.

-Printed in the November 21st, 1896, edition of the "Rolla New Era".

Richland residents of every political stripe had reason to mourn the accidental death of one of their own in Springfield the night before the election.

*L. Pridemore, a tie dealer from Richland, Pulaski county, was run over by a belt line trolley car at 11 o'clock Monday night on Jefferson street near the corner of Pine street. A few hours later he died at St. John's hospital.*

He was taken to the hospital within a few minutes after the accident but never recovered from the shock. The right arm and right leg were terribly crushed and there were a few slight wounds about the head.

At the hospital it was learned that Pridemore had been drinking, but to what extent there was no way of learning.

Mr. Pridemore leaves two grown daughters, who live at Richland. They arrived from their home this morning and will accompany the remains to Richland.

"Springfield Leader-Democrat" article, reprinted by the "Lebanon Republican" on November 6th, 1896.

A political fracas soon erupted over alleged "dirty tricks" made by Republicans against the successful Democrat candidate for State Senator, H. H. Hohenschield of Rolla. Hohenschield's opponent, Dr. J. L. Short of Rolla, and the editor of the "Rolla New Era" were accused of composing, printing, and distributing a circular of malicious lies to the voters. These charges would lead to a sensational court battle in 1897.

With substantial glee, the solid Democrat rival of the "New Era" in Rolla, the "Herald" reprinted an editorial by the "Pulaski County Democrat" in its November 12th edition.

The Waynesville newspaper's editor had used every bit of his considerable talent to write a masterpiece of malediction.

*The editor of this paper has had the idea ever since he was a boy that the Devil was confined to the regions of Hell, but we have just learned that his Satanic Majesty is now in the service of Dr. Short of Rolla, who has kept him confined to the "Rolla New*

*Era" office until but a few days ago when the good Doctor turned him loose with his agents to do their hellish work in this Senatorial District. It seems that the fiend working under the commands of the Doctor, has fallen much farther in degradation than he did when the angels cast him out of heaven.*

This can only be accounted for on the grounds that he has imbibed some of Dr. Short's spirit.

The Devil's work in this matter was to distribute false, lying circulars on the eve of the election purporting to have come from a democratic source. It was nicely worded, accusing Hohenschield of being a Catholic and Short, an A. P. A., and closes with the exhortation to bury Short and his A. P. A. principles so deep that they can never rise.

The whole thing is a lie gotten up by Short.

The Devil's agent in charge of the distribution reached Waynesville Monday evening and the only thing that kept him from being ridden on a rail or receiving worse treatment was the fact that he shook the dust of the town from his feet too rapidly for pursuing horsemen to overtake him.

He was chased six miles east of here where he eluded his pursuers and took to the woods.

*But the arch fiend sits in a Doctor's office in Rolla, bearing the semblance of a man, but in soul so fallen that we doubt whether the demons of the lower regions would ever claim companionship with him.*

Thus vented, the editor of the "Democrat" could only wait for further events to develop concerning the matter in neighboring Phelps County.

A few weeks later, he had to report with sorrow the tragic death of a young mother between Waynesville and Rolla.

*Mrs. Hawkins, living near the mouth of Big Piney, was burned to death on Monday. She had just succeeded in putting her baby to sleep and reached up over the fire place to get a Bible to read. She sat down and began to read and never discovered the fire until her clothes were ablaze. She tried to put the fire out but failed to do so. Then she ran to her husband some distance away, but it was too late. She suffered unspeakable agonies, but death soon came to relieve her of her sufferings.*

-Reprinted in the "Rolla Herald" on December 10th, 1896.

The Dixon newspaper may have changed hands late in the year. Under the name of the "Dixon Echo-Enterprise", the paper reported the following shooting: