

dealers in Europe.

An additional building was used with the Hensley business in the 1930's. It was called the "Skunk House," possibly after Little Abner's "Skunk House." During the 1940's, the "Skunk House" became a first assignment art project for students who could view from the high school across the street. The building maintained its name after the Waynesville School District bought the property in the 1980's. The "Skunk House" was used as a garage for several years. Today, this building and the original store and fur building have all been removed.

Animal ecology itself has changed in the Ozarks. In the 1800's there were not as many trees. In Henry Rowes Schoolcraft's *Ozark Journal, 1818-1819*, he speaks of large open prairies in areas around Pulaski County. Clarence Hensley remembered stories that reported a person could see from ridge top to ridge top without trees. Raccoons were almost rare. Deer in the early 1900's were seldom seen. With the increase of family farms and forestation, animal populations changed. Clarence said he saw no deer in the county until the 1940's. Today, raccoons and deer are plentiful throughout the Ozarks.

Skunks were among the top furs in the early 1900's. Melvin Hensley explains the black furs were called "ebony" in Europe, and were the popular style. As it became known that they were skunks, styles changed. There were actually four grades of skunks: black, short stripe, narrow stripe, and broad stripe. The grade and size of the pelts affected the price. Mink became king in the 1950's. Today, raccoons make up 80 percent of the market. Prices of furs on the fur market depend on the fashion and style of coats being manufactured.

Although many synthetic materials have been developed, animal fur remains the warmest and most resistant coat material.

Hensley's Fur House had many banner years of production. In 1949, 250,000 possums were shipped through Hensley. Several years in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's, over 200,000 pelts were handled and moved through the fur house. In a typical year, family members recall 96,000 coons, 16,000 minks, 8,000 grey foxes, and 122,000 possums being shipped to St. Louis and New York. Separate deals often sent furs directly to Europe.

Several area residents remember the old fur house. Many local hunters and trappers sold fur to Hensley's. The Clarence Foster, Marvin Rose, and Harry Wrench families traded there. Many times, the fur house became a congregation area to tell hunting and trapping stories. A young trapper might pick up a tip on "how to" entice a mink to his trap. Clarence remained an avid hunter and outdoorsman throughout his career.



THE FORERUNNER OF CAMPBELL'S 66. Clarence Hensley behind the wheel of the first truck of the line that later became this famous company.

Dealing in furs, he had a direct relationship with what was happening in the hills.

Stories around the fur business are always interesting. Two young men once sold some furs to Clarence. While one was making the deal, the other located the furnished raccoons in the back of the fur house and threw twenty out behind the building. A routine inventory check later noted the missing pelts, but their fate was unknown until a few days later when the same young men brought the same pelts to the fur house to sell them once again. Immediately recognizing the stolen pelts, Clarence Hensley quietly reached for his double barreled shotgun that hung on the office wall while he conducted small talk with the men.

Getting two shotgun shells out of the desk drawer, Clarence dropped one. It rolled over where one of the fur sellers stood. The young man reached down, scooped it up, and handed it to Mr. Hensley. Once he casually loaded the gun, Clarence explained he was calling the police on them for their crime.

He maintained his community involvement and interest in education as he served on the Waynesville School Board at least three terms. School classes were always invited to take field trips to the Fur House. During the 1950-51 basketball season, he interrupted winter business to watch son Dwight play on the state playoff team. He brought traveling dealers to the gym to help cheer the Waynesville teams.

Clarence ventured into other areas as well. Produce handling, wool, roots and herbs were among examples. Clarence raised turkeys off of T highway near where Long Drive is today. He bought rabbits in quantity from locations like Warrensburg to be packed in barrels with ice and shipped to St. Louis. Handling ice and truck gardening interests were among other small concerns. Clarence was known for his sweet cantaloupes. The trucking business known as Campbell's 66 was operated for some years by Clarence Hensley. It was headquartered in Waynesville, and dispatched trucks originally from St. Louis to Joplin. When there was an opportunity to become more involved in roots and herbs, Clarence sold to the Willard McGee Company.

A SMOOTH BOY

By Georgia Hamel, 1897

The following poem, written after a fun-packed outing by young Lebanon and Buffalo men and women at Bennett Springs in June, 1897, is reprinted here to provide readers a glimpse of the social activities enjoyed by Ozark youths one hundred years ago.

The subject of Miss Hamel's poem was Frank Harris of Lebanon, who took her and six other Lebanon girls to the event. His nickname was "Brown."

There was a young fellow by the name of "Brown,"

Who went to a picnic and took all the girls in town.

Now wasn't he kind? Well, I should say!

To treat the dear girls in such a nice way,

They started out on a morning in

June,

The birds were all singing a joyful tune.

This jolly crowd numbered seven to one,

But that was just enough for fun. The road was rough, but the driver was "smooth,"

And this was a trip their hearts to soothe.

They reached the Spring and the River below,

And found a jolly crowd from Buffalo.

The day was spent as you all know,

For not one of this crowd was at all "slow."

A picture was taken on the sand, And you ought to know that it was grand.

At dinner time there were thirty-nine

That sat them down on the grass to dine.

You never saw a more bountiful spread.

Some of the boys ate till they were almost dead.

After dinner down by the bluff we went

And Oh! such a pleasant hour was spent.

When back they came some songs they sang

And the sounds through the woods so sweetly rang.

About five thirty they started to go

Off to the river toward Buffalo

Where all had supper and said good-bye,

And there was many a tear-wet eye,

For they had made a great deal of fun

For the crowd of girls from Lebanon.

They reached their home about ten-thirty,

All tired and sleepy, dusty and dirty.

But for having gone they did not regret,

And the pleasant time they'll never forget.

The Lebanon girls are still thanking "Brown,"

And all declare him the best boy in town.

They all appreciate the service done,

And he has their hearts completely won;

They'll feed him on sweets the rest of his days,

And give him only the greatest praise.

The other young fellows should take a lesson,

And be to the girls a heavenly blessing,

And if they should the lesson take,

Perhaps they'll come in for a share of the cake.

In addition to Georgia Hamel and Frank W. Harris, the other Lebanon participants included Lillian Fisher, Vic Wickersham, Hattie Hamel, Mae Johnson, Tessa Fisher, Jennie Noel, Adele Papen, Grace Ramsdale, Flora Spiller, Allie Joslyn, Chloe Beckner, Pearl Spiller, Elsie Noel, Will Tayman, Rob Holt, Harry Wright, Solon Manchester, Fred Nelson, L. A. Benoist, George E. Cushing, Dee Noel, Frank Avery,

and George Tayman.

The Buffalo participants were Nelle Pittman, Claudia O'Bannon, Alice Weatherby, Cora Randles, Fannie Pittman, Nettie Evans, Belle Shipman, Myrtle O'Bannon, Nettie Gatewood, Ida Hendrickson, John Randles, Alfred Harris, Vic Proctor, Walter Johnson, Ernest Furth, Clyde Scott, Roscoe O'Bannon, and Louis Brownlow.

The Beaten Path

By Charles Iden Crocker, 1923

There's a beaten path a'winding
From a sunburned busy street
To a willow-shaded valley,
Where the winds and waters meet
In a lazy dance beguiling
Those who loiter in the shade
That is spread so cool in summer
By the kindly Gasconade.
I have followed down the pathway
On a clear, hot August day,
And have wondered at the num-
bers

Who had helped to mark the way
Down a wooded slope a'winding,
Round gray boulders and between
Massive oaks that mark a corner
Where a clearing may be seen.
From the townland to the timber,
From the timber to the vale,
Other feet than mine have followed
Down the worn, alluring trail
To the river where the crappie
Wait for folks to wet a line
In the shadow of the willows
Where I love to dangle mine.

Campbell

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sweethearts were married in Missouri on December 23rd, 1906.

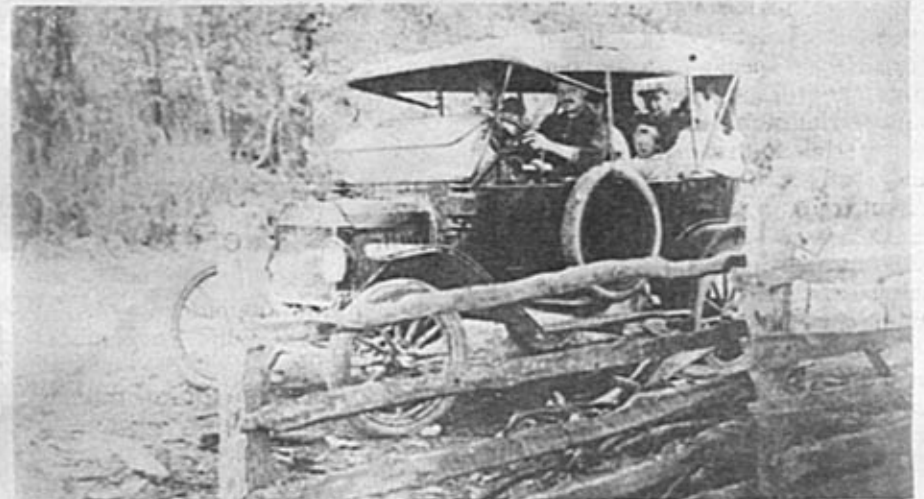
The newlyweds then went by train back to Helix, Oregon, where Alfred went into a harvesting partnership with another man. Indians whooping and hollering as they passed by the Campbell house would greatly frighten Rebecca from time to time.

In the spring of 1912, Alfred and Rebecca with their Oregon-born sons—Otis, Bennie, and Harold—moved back to Pulaski County on a farm about a mile south of Richland. A daughter, Letha, was born while they lived there. After

staying at this location a short while, they sold the property and bought another farm a mile and a half farther south of town. Another son, Harold, was born here in 1916.

Despite the many chores associated with farming, Alfred found time to raise and break horses, something he learned to do well during his youthful days in Oregon. The saddle he used was purchased before leaving Oregon and now belongs to grandson Don Johnson of Richland.

Rebecca Campbell died in 1957. Alfred moved to Richland and died the following year.



GOING TO TOWN, 1926. Photo taken by George Towe, the grandfather of Mike Jones of Dixon. Mary Troupe is the 4-year-old girl sitting in the back seat. Courtesy of Mike Jones.

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