One of the best ways to get a feel for what was happening in a particular locality in a given year is to read the local newspaper. What was on the minds of the citizens will appear there. This is particularly true of the Pulaski County Democrat in the fourth year of the twentieth century. The Democrat was not a misnomer. Many newspapers of the 19th and early 20th century made no effort at unbiased political news coverage. The Democrat heralded the virtues of the Democratic Party and bashed the Republicans. Theodore Roosevelt and the Republicans were "evil doers" (it's not a new phrase) in the pages of the paper. The subscription price was $1.00 per year or a cord of wood would suffice.

Nathan Wheeler, editor and publisher of the Pulaski County Democrat wanted his paper to have county-wide appeal and readership. He had "correspondents", called stringers today, in the small communities throughout the county. They reported the news from their enclaves each week. Not every area submitted news every week. Correspondents apparently came and went and some were less reliable than others but coverage of the county was generally good.

Each community correspondent reported who was sick, who visited whom, who sold what, and what was being built. This type of news accounted for about 95 per cent of the ink. We have generally omitted the sick call and the visitation reports. We have gleaned those items that give a sense of the times, the mood of the populace, and the events that had an impact on history. The larger railroad towns (Dixon, Crocker, Swedeborg, and Richland) reported faithfully each week. News from the much smaller communities (e.g. Big Piney, Deckor, Bailey, and Hooker) was reported sporadically. Some of these communities have lost their identity today for the general public (see map). As an example, Golden Center was often cited but we have been unable to pinpoint this area. We hope some reader may have a memory of this community’s location.

The year 1904 had some things in common with 2004. It was a leap year, a national and local election year, and the year of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (St. Louis World’s Fair). References to these last two events appear often in the pages of the Pulaski County Democrat. The completion of the county courthouse, which we commemorated last summer, was also big news during the first part of the year. There was much mineral and land speculation. Citizens of the area had a boom time feeling and optimism about business, inventions, and the good life was apparent in 1904.
January

Pulaski County Democrat January 1

Annual sale now on; don’t go elsewhere to be cheated; come in here.

Local News

The roof has been put on the courthouse this week and the building will soon be enclosed. When this is done the work will then proceed regardless of the weather, which has greatly impeded construction all along.

There was remarkable good order in Waynesville during the Christmas holidays. Very few drunk people in town and they were very orderly and quiet.

We learn from some who were present that the Christmas tree and entertainment at Crocker last Thursday night was a “howling success” with much more howling than anything else. It is said that a drunk man went in and took the house, tore up the tree and stopped the program and a regular riot ensued. If this be true it speaks poorly for the nerve of the law abiding citizens of that town, in letting one man break up a gathering of that kind, as it does also for the morale of the town. Crocker has no saloon but they get drunk there just the same.

BIG PINIY—Big Piney Township reported the tie business was brisk. If you want any ties made call on Wayne Clark and Chas. Page. Lane & Co. have their saw mill near the Ross ford and are doing considerable business.

Pulaski County Democrat January 8

Cold winter weather continues with the Gasconade River being frozen over.

The County Court met Tuesday to make some slight changes in the Court House and to buy some stoves to put up in the offices.

Mr. Martin of Rolla, Architect Hohenschield’s assistant, was here Tuesday to make examination of the courthouse. He ordered a few slight changes in the work but as a whole it was found all right.

The County Court met last Saturday and insured the court house. They insured in the Hartford and took out a policy for $7,000 for five years. W. J. Barrows represents the company and Miss Lela Davis writes the policies in his absence.

The Bank of Waynesville has bought the Joe McGregor property at southwest corner of square and will begin the erection of a substantial bank building thereon as soon as spring opens and the roads get in shape to do the hauling. A brick or stone will be built.

The license of B. F. Scott having expired, he closed his saloon on the first of January and Waynesville is now a dry town. How long it will remain such remains to be seen but we hope it will continue indefinitely. While Mr. Scott conducted as orderly a place as was possible there seemed to be a growing sentiment among all the people of the town to try it awhile without that luxury, so he decided to close out without making any effort to renew his license. We are individually opposed to the sale of liquor but have always preferred saloons to illegal “blind tiger” and if one is started here it will result in an open saloon in a short time.

Correspondents around the County

BAILEY— a neighborhood telephone is being talked up with good hopes of securing one.

BIG PINIY— There are now three large dry good stores in Big Piney now and all have a good trade. Bayou and Democrat Ridge schools will have what is termed “A ciphering match” in the near future. Bayou school stands ready and willing to accommodate any school in the county in a contest of this kind.

HOOKER— Harve Sheldon, the all round fisherman, was casting his rod in Old Shanghai last week. And we are very glad to say that Harve always brings in the game. Berry Hance of upper Piney was buying corn in this vicinity the first of the week.

DIXON— The value of the new safe recently put in by the Bank of Dixon was proven by the fact that the day after its installment the deposits of the Bank exceeded ten thousand dollars, probably breaking all records for this or any other bank in the county.

Work on the court house is progressing nicely. The carpenter work is about completed, except the floors, and the plastering is well along. It will be finished by the March term of Circuit Court.

A Big Organ

One of the most interesting features of the World’s fair will be a monstrous pipe organ, with 145 stops and pipes five feet in diameter.

The Ditch Problem

The ditch running through town has long been a source of aggravation and a problem that has caused our city dads much worry. Frequently people are tumbling into it in the dark and generally coming out much worsted by their experiences. We believe it would be a good plan to put a railing or balustrade Ads
A good view of the ditch that ran through along the ditch where there are no bridges. This could be done with little expense and would prevent pedestrians tumbling into it unaware on dark nights.

*Pulaski County Democrat* January 22

**Around the County**

**Dixon**—A Mr. Gordon of Mansfield Mo. was here the first of the week to organize a company to build and operate a cheese factory. He reports that a factory will be built here in the spring. A telephone line is being put into connect Franks, Fishdam and Hooker with this place. Dixon will be connected with most every town and “cross roads store” in Maries, Miller and Pulaski counties.

**Schlicht**—The steam heating apparatus lately installed in the Schlicht Milling Company’s mill is a perfect success and Boss Miller Lee takes pride in showing it in operation. Land buyers too numerous to mention from Kansas were in the Valley this week seeking homes, ready to leave the windy state. Some trades were made.

**Swedeborg**—Swedeborg is at last going to have a telephone from here to Crocker S. C. Black of this place Tom Turpin and C. W. Farnham of Crocker are the promoters. The work is well under way. This is something that this place has needed for a long time.

**Hooker**—The work on the Big Piney Lodge club house will soon be in full blast, as spring is drawing near and fishing will soon be good. Frank Graham of Spring Creek was buying ties in this neighborhood for John Pillman last week. He is a good buyer and pays the highest prices. There is strong talk of a telephone at this place to connect with the Arlington line. We hope it will be put in as it would be quite a convenience to this neighborhood.

**Local News**

J. B. Christeson, J. J. Clark and W. A. Bates all went to the city Sunday, the first two named to buy goods and the latter to visit his old haunts and see what was going on at the World’s Fair grounds. Architect Hohnenschild and the original contractor Ed Long were up from Rolla Tuesday to inspect the court house and see how the work was progressing on same. They found everything about all right and suggested but few slight changes. The beautiful weather of late was a great help to the court house crew and work has been progressing nicely. W. J. Mitchell, who did the brick work on the court house, is here this week straightening up his business and doing a little work that was not completed. The County Court met Tuesday to examine the court house and issue warrants for part payment of same. The house will probably be completed by the middle of February.

**Notice to Stone Contractors.**

The town board of the town of Waynesville will receive sealed bids for curbing and walling the ditch on Commercial Street at southwest corner of the square up to Monday February 1, 1904. Plans and specifications can be seen by calling Albert Christeson. Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Done by order of the board January 4, 1904.

*Pulaski County Democrat* January 29

**Schlicht**—A telephone line from Schlicht to Crocker will be built. A debating society is in full blast at the Miller school house. The Peterson Brothers have over 500 logs on the ground ready for the sawyer, Frank Walters, to cut into lumber. Bob Black, our bachelor friend, had to put his ferry boat in operation, so he could get his mail, he having wanted to hear from his best girl pretty badly.

**Wheeler**—Quite a snow storm Monday. The river has been past flooding the last few days and quite a few visitors were at Wheeler Sunday.

The state of Georgia will reproduce as its state building at the St. Louis World’s fair the residence of the late Gen. John B. Gordon, at Sutherland, a suburb of Atlanta, Ga. [Ed. Note: Gen. Gordon died this month, being the oldest living Confederate Mayor General.]

They Will All Be There

France, Germany, Mexico, England, China, Japan and Brazil will each spend over $5,000,000 on elaborate exhibits at the World’s Fair.

**Local News**

The coldest weather of the season visit ed this section Tuesday morning, the thermometer registering six degrees below zero. Roubidoux and the Gasconade both got on quite a boom as a result of the rains the latter part of last week, and the road under the bluff, though not in good shape, was found to be a great improvement over the road around the ridge.

Last Friday was a red letter day in the post office at Waynesville. Postmaster Peterson and his assistant W. J. Manes received on the evening mail four large sacks of matter containing over 4,700 pieces of mail, which were properly distributed in sixteen minutes.

*Pulaski County Democrat* January 29

**Schlicht**—A telephone line from Schlicht to Crocker will be built. A debating society is in full blast at the Miller school house. The Peterson Brothers have over 500 logs on the ground ready for the sawyer, Frank Walters, to cut into lumber. Bob Black, our bachelor friend, had to put his ferry boat in operation, so he could get his mail, he having wanted to hear from his best girl pretty badly.
Local News

Work on the court house is progressing nicely and it is expected to finish it in time for Circuit Court. County Court met in special session last Saturday to receive bids for furnishing the vaults and other furniture for the court house. The new addition of Iberia Academy is finished and they have just added two more teachers to their teaching force, giving them a faculty of seven teachers. The spring term will be mighty easily attractive to teachers.

George M. Reed, the newly appointed postmaster of the Waynesville office received his commission Saturday and took formal charge Monday morning and installed his son Guy as assistant.

To the Taxpayers and Others:

The County Court of Pulaski County invites all the citizens of said county to meet them in Waynesville on Monday, March 7, 1904 and examine our court house and finished, the cost of house and furniture will be made public, so all can hear what it cost. We expect prominent speakers to be on hand and address the people on the political issues. Come.

The County Court

Pulaski County Democrat February 26

BLOODLAND—Weather bad-lots of ice and sleet. The Bloodland school was out last Friday. James Lane was the teacher and taught us a good school, and gave us a chance to be in the business. He also carries a line of groceries and serves lunch.

SCHWERT—Capt. Chas. Peterson has at last got him a wagon made from iron.

The Captain makes sure of strength when he is hauling his bride around.

DIXON—George Franklin has bought a horse and delivery wagon and has put them into service. This makes four grocery stores here that use delivery wagons for the benefit of their customers.

BAILEY—The residence of Mr. Kirtsinger was burned to the ground last Thursday night, the family narrowly escaping. All efforts to save furniture were fruitless as the flames were under strong headway before the family were aroused from their slumber. [Ed Note: It seems every other week brings an item about a house fire during the winter season.]

Local News

Frank Bennett, the plasterer on the court house was here the first of the week to complete that part of the work. A. D. Sutton and W. G. White, two Roubidoux citizens, were shaking hands with the boys in town Thursday. They say that if the people on Piney, the wire road and Waynesville will help, that the line will be brought to this place, thus connecting Waynesville with Dixon, Hooker and all the country between these points, which would be a great convenience. Farmers and others along the line may have instruments put in at their homes or places of business at a reasonable cost. We hope to see the people become interested in this enterprise and encourage it.

[Ed Note: The space in the paper for news continues to shrink as there were 48 notices of public sales by the sheriff as a result of delinquent taxes.]

Pulaski County Democrat March 4

Our New Court House.

Some Facts About the New Court House Building to be Turned Over to the County Court and the People Next Monday.

The new court house is completed and will on Monday, March 7, 1904 be formally turned over to the County Court and the taxpayers of the county. The house is one of the neatest in the country and probably the best house, cost considered, that has ever been built in the state. It is a house that everyone should be proud of and one that every taxpayer in the county—if he will lay
his prejudices aside—will acknowledge to be a beauty both in architecture and workmanship. It is built on a foundation 60 feet long by 40 feet wide at the north. On the ground floor are five large office rooms containing probably twice as much floor space as did the offices in the old building. It has a south and east entrance with halls and corridor. The court room on the second floor occupies the same space formerly occupied by the court room and two jury rooms. In addition to the court room this floor has three jury rooms, one for Grand Jury and two for Petit Juries, a consultation room and a witness waiting room.

On the lower floor and conveniently arranged are two large fireproof vaults with ample capacity to hold all records that may accumulate in years to come. The interior of the entire building is finished in a very attractive style, the plastering being of Acme cement with a light gray finishing coat. The wood work is of hard pine finely polished and varnished giving it a finish equal to anything in the country for beauty.

The entire cost of the building including the seats and desks in the court room is $10,240, every cent of which has been paid out of money on hand and insurance received on old building without increasing taxes a penny and no one will ever feel the effects of our recent misfortune in a financial way.

The County Court and other officials deserve much credit for the judgment exercised and economy used in this matter and they earnestly request every taxpayer in the county to be present next Monday at the dedication of the building and make a careful examination of the same. It is expected that the furniture for the offices will be here by that time but if it is not the house alone

Sellers Sexton
Auto Financial
The Shivaree (chivari, chivaree, or charivari)

The shivaree, with various spellings, is a custom from England, Scotland, Germany, and Russia. The ancient French tradition was for family and friends to serenade the newly wedded couple. The Scotch/Irish practiced the prank of a "bride abduction, where rivaling clans would kidnap the bride on the wedding night. As the immigrants moved westward, they brought this tradition to the Ozarks. On a night soon after the wedding, family and neighbors would stealthily gather outside the couple's cabin with cowbells, pots, pans, and guns. The noise would spontaneously erupt and continue until the couple emerged. It was expected that the couple would then invite the revelers inside and provide treats, usually cigars for the men and cake for women, and nonsmokers with a suitable drink. If the couple were unprepared and offered no refreshments, the groom was put on a fence rail, ridden to the nearest creek or pond, and thrown into the water. Treat or not, the groom was usually jokingly threatened with immersion.

In the Ozarks, the phrase "get the bells ready" refers to impending marriage and the resulting shivaree. It appears often in newspaper gossip in the early 1900s and is known to have been in 1950s. The modern wedding with its fast automobile getaway and distant honeymoon has left us with a few modern relics of the shivaree. Throwing rice or birdseed with cheers as the couple emerge from the church is the serenading. Decorating the car with signs and affixing cans and pots to the bumper is the noise. The reception provides the treat. -The Editors

An Account of a Shivaree at Big Piney in the 1930s

It was on Thursday night we had the shivaree—or maybe Friday. Anyhow, after meeting people made as if to go home, but presently we crept back to the schoolhouse where we talked until we were sure the Ashton's (the newlyweds) would be in bed by the time we could make our way by moonlight through the woods. Just as women afoot carried their Sunday shoes and put them on near the church, leaving the old ones hidden in the brush until afterward, so also had pans and buckets and bells and guns been hidden this evening. The deadened timber stood with fiercely raised arms as we walked through the frosty pasture and up the ridge. There was a lamp going down yonder at the house, but it went out even as we saw it. We crept downward. We were almost there when a dog bayed us. Then we started the noise.

Through the gate we went, and around the house. Our shotguns, streaking orange up into the air, deafened us as we jangled the bells and pans. A steel oil drum, the top cut out, was in the sideyard at the butchering place for scalding hogs. Empty, it made a fearful and unearthly din as it was beaten with sticks. After about five minutes, in a hall, we heard the Ashtons urging the young couple to come out. The front door opened. We cheered, and as light was stuck inside we were invited in. They were ready for us. Cakes, of varieties that would keep for a while, had been baked ahead, and George had laid in two cans of penny stogies. The women gathered in the kitchen and the back bedroom, the men in the two front rooms. In the asphyxiating smoke of the stovegas we made talk. The men who had refused the tobacco were given cake, but the platters were not passed to the smokers.

Soon some of the young people were making molasses candy in the kitchen. They boiled it up and buttered their hands and had a pulling, and when the ropy stuff became brittle it was snapped up and passed.

Finally someone near me drawled, "Well, we better mosey... If 'n hit were my shivaree, I'd sho' be mad if they kep' me out of bed any longer 'n this. . . ."

We filed by the bride and groom (after having made a few more matter-of-fact references as to the advisability of ducking George in the creek, even though he had provided treat) and shook their hands and everybody said, "I wish you'uns every happiness," or "I wish you'uns a long an' happy life." This was very well qualified to make a competent sheriff. He will be found an earnest worker and a strong opponent.

A. D. Sutton

In the proper column this week appears the name of A. D. Sutton of Roubidoux township as a candidate for Sheriff subject to the Democratic primary. Dotson Sutton is one of Roubidoux's most popular young farmers. Two years ago he was elected constable of that township and has made a good official. He possesses the necessary enterprise and is well qualified to make a competent sheriff. He will be found an honest worker and a strong opponent.

A. D. Sutton, ca. 1892. Courtesy of Benny Doolin.
Directors and Cashier Rollins deserve much credit for the creditable way in which this institution has been conduct-ed.

DECKER—Decker is on a boom. Two gentlemen from the northern States were here Friday looking out a location for a mill. Mrs. J. E. Lane of Pinney was selling eggs and trading with our merchant Saturday. Mrs. Lane’s yearly income from eggs alone is $50.00. How is that for the Missouri hen?

BAILEY—A. D. Sutton, our local candidate for Sheriff, will be a hard man to beat, while his knowledge of the business of the office makes him thoroughly competent.

April

Pulaski County Democrat April 1

BLOODLAND—Saturday was the banner egg day at Bloodland. Jaspar Bros. bought over six hundred dozen.

Local News

Rivers very high, preventing mail delivery. Many of our people went to the river to view the high water. Charles Page, in crossing the Roubidoux Saturday afternoon, while it was over much of the bottoms, got his boat overturned in the slough opposite the big spring and had to spend several hours on a small island before being rescued.

He was pretty well chilled but was glad it was no worse.

DIXON—Some talk of wanting to raise the incorporation a notch—to a city of the fourth class.

RICHLAND—A minstrel show in town Saturday night. More new land buyers this week—keeps our real estate men busy.

Pulaski County Democrat April 8

Local News

Marshall Mitchell is walling the ditch at the crossing of Maple street and will soon have it bridged and ready for travel.

800 Strawberry Pickers wanted for the Richland and Stoutland Fruit Growers Association. Will commence picking by May 10th, 1904.

HOOKER—Everything is on the boom (not burn). Mr. Cobert is taking in the sights at the Worlds Fair City.

RICHLAND—Richland was full of people Saturday, all the business houses were running over and three persons were calaboosed before the day was over.

Pulaski County Democrat April 15

BAILEY—The recent storms have left the telephone wires on this route in very bad shape. The mail did not reach here last Friday and Saturday on account of high water. The condition of the roads render it impossible for our merchants to keep up a supply of goods.

GASCONADE—Cattle are now doing well on the range. Tom Finley recently bought the John Baker hack and says he knows he can stand in with the girls this summer and buggy ride every Sunday.

Pulaski County Democrat April 22

Local News

The town put a substantial bridge across the ditch near L. N. Hufft’s store last week. The rock is now being quarried for the new bank building, which is expected to be begun in a short time. Only four weeks from today until the primary election, and a busy four weeks that will be. The setting of the primary so soon will prevent candidates going back more than a half dozen generations to look up the records of their opponents.

DIXON—The Dixon cheese factory promoters held a meeting Saturday and appointed committees to superintend the building and secure additional subscriptions for shares. The building has been started and the Company will be incorporated for $2,000. The Wildwood Fruit Farm plantation claims 4,000 barrels of apples will be raised by them this year. The Frisco Railroad Company has added a new employee to the passenger train service. He is called the collector and his duties are to help the conductor “knock down fares” some claim. Under the recent order of no passes and with the “collector system” you have to pay full fare.

Pulaski County Democrat April 29

HOOKER—Harve Sheldon is the cracker jack fisherman this spring.

GOLDEN CENTER—More measles.

Local News

One of the worst rain storms of the season visited this section last Saturday night. The town was flooded with water and the streets were badly washed. Account Louisiana Purchase Exposition the Frisco Railway will sell tickets from Crocker to St. Louis and return, the cheapest being $5.30, with children being one-half of the adult fare.

SCHLICHT—G. W. Lane, candidate for collector, was electioneering in the Valley this week. His weight ought to be sufficient to hold down the office.

May

Pulaski County Democrat May 6

Local News

The County Court visited the Crocker bridge Tuesday to see what repair, if any, was needed thereon. The financial statement of Pulaski County will be...
In the Republican state convention of the Texas Rev. Daniel Abner prayed as follows: "Grant one favor, O Lord, we ask of Thee that you don't let your party be defeated this year!" This is the first intimation we have had of celestial politics.

Local News

Dr. B. N. Pippin came in last Saturday and is doing dental work at the Black hotel this week. Marshal Mitchill with a crew of hands has been cleaning up our streets and done some grading at the mouth of the lane which was very much needed, the damage being done by the recent high water. Mrs. W. J. Barrows, while trying to cross the first ford of the creek on horseback one day last week, got into a drift of quick sand and was thrown from her horse and quite seriously hurt by being struck with the hoofs of the horse in his floundering. The Portals Are Opened.

Saturday, April 30, will go down into history as a red-letter day for St. Louis, witnessing as it did the consummation of four years of unremitting labor in the conception, organization and construction of the Louisiana Purchase Centennial exposition and the opening of its portals to the world....Estimates of the attendance during the day were varied, running 200,000 to a quarter of a million. The actual attendance, according to official estimate, will come within 200,000, which show a new first day record, that at Philadelphia being about 186,000 and Chicago, something over 137,000. The grounds, however, are so vast, that a million people might be within the gates without causing unconscionable crowding except, perhaps, at some special attraction. John Phillip Sousa's band played "Louisiana" for the first time in public...It had been arranged that President [Theodore] Roosevelt should press the [telegraph key] which would officially open the fair...and at approximately 12:15, St. Louis time, the official signal flashed back from the White House and the exposition was officially opened.

HOEKER—Several cases of measles are reported on Gospel Hill. There will be quite a number of St. Louisans out a few days to spend their vacation and enjoy the summer breezes of the Big Piney river. Big Piney needs no recommendation as an ideal summer resort for it is the only place in the southwest to enjoy life.

Pulaski County Democrat May 20

1904 Financial Statement

The financial statement of Pulaski County for the year ending April 30th, 1904 showed total receipts in the General Revenue Fund of $20,470.85 and total expenditures of $10,793.67. This left a balance in the Treasury of $9,677.28.

Local News

Waynesville has no saloon but whiskey was strongly in evidence here Friday and considerable electioneering done by means of that commodity. The defeated candidates have all, so far as we hear, taken their defeat manfully and are now ready to do their part to elect the entire ticket. The ticket nominated last Friday is a strong one and will be elected by the old time Pulaski county majority.

June 24

Pulaski County Democrat

HANCOCK—We understand that Hancock is to have a new school house soon.

Confederate Vet's Reunion

Nashville, Tenn., June 14—Under every condition tending to a successful
GOLDEN CENTER—Mineral wealth has for the lost cause. He seldom misses a enjoys nothing better than to mingle Tennessee. The Colonel belongs to the and Mrs. E. G. Williams are home from tion, “Take good care of yourself, Bill, that fatherly and time worn admo- protection other than the Jefferson guard, Missouri has 78 camps with 36 delegates present. The reunion will run three days and Louisville was selected as the convention city for next year. Local News Dr. Tice went to St. Louis last Friday for a few days stay in the World’s Fair City. Judge Joe McGregor and M. G. Wyrich also attended. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Burchard and Sam Ballard and sister Miss Winnie compose a crowd that went to St. Louis Tuesday to take in the sights of the World’s Fair. G. W. Gan and W. A. Lumpkin are two more Waynesvilleites swelling the thorough- fares of the World’s Fair grounds and St. Louis, they having departed Wednesday evening to do the whole cir- cus. So many Waynesvilleites are in the World’s Fair city this week without pro- tection other than the Jefferson guard, police and perhaps an old umbrella, we cannot refrain from bubbling over with that fatherly and time worn admoni- tion, “Take good care of yourself, Bill, and don’t let the street cars get ye.” The editor, frow [frau] and two kids are see- ing the elephant at the World’s Fair. The Woodmen hall will be ready for the Camp to use it at the next regular meeting July 16th.

GOLDEN CENTER—Peter Peterson will view the lion at the World’s Fair soon. Some of the Centerites are preparing to set a large acreage to strawberry plants. This place will soon be Sarcuxie number two.

DIXON—A freight wreck on the Dixon hill last Friday caused the World’s Fair special to wait at Dixon most of that day and the passengers spent the time taking in the sights of our little village. The stock law question was debated at town hall before the Farmers Association. Some were for restraining the live stock on the city streets while some were for giving all the poor dumb brutes their liberty. After a heated and thorough discussion the judges ren- dered a decision in favor of restraining the stock.

ON THE NILE [Ed. Note:This seems to refer to the Big Piney River and environs]—Several thousand ties were rafted down the Nile last week. A stall fed tramp without brains, baggage or grub was wandering around on the Nile last Sunday in search of work. The Odd Fellows lodge at Big Piney was not very well attended Saturday night on account of the severe electrical storm. Corn in the valley is in good condition. Old corn is selling at fifty cents per bushel.

July Pulaski County Democrat July 1

SWEBERG—Dr. J. B. Ross is going to take a rest and has ordered a Victor talking machine. The Woodmen hall will be ready for the Camp to use it at the next regular meeting July 16th.

GOLDEN CENTER—Peter Peterson will view the lion at the World’s Fair soon. Some of the Centerites are preparing to set a large acreage to strawberry plants. This place will soon be Sarcuxie number two.

DIXON—A freight wreck on the Dixon hill last Friday caused the World’s Fair special to wait at Dixon most of that day and the passengers spent the time taking in the sights of our little village. The stock law question was debated at town hall before the Farmers Association. Some were for restraining the live stock on the city streets while some were for giving all the poor dumb brutes their liberty. After a heated and thorough discussion the judges ren- dered a decision in favor of restraining the stock.

Local News The editor reached from St. Louis Sunday safe and sound without having been held up, locked up or becoming the purchaser of a gold brick. Lucky, wasn’t he? Another very hard rain fell here Monday forenoon, over flowing the ditch through town and putting the creek and river up again. Richland sent another prisoner to jail last Saturday to serve a sentence of thirty days for steal- ing a pair of socks from H. E. Warren’s store. This makes three prisoners now in our county bastille. [Ed. Note: All for shoplifting at Warren’s store.]

SCHLICH—Over one thousand bushels of wheat were bought of Miller county farmers by the Schlicht’s Milling Company one day last week. They have to make room for the large incom- ing crop and are cleaning up.

Pulaski County Democrat July 8

CROCKER—It is rumored that our town has a good prospect for a bank in the near future. There is a splendid open- ing. The Nation’s birthday was rather a quiet day in Crocker. Most of our peo- ple celebrated at Richland, Dixon and Wheeler’s Mill.

GOLDEN CENTER—J. A. McGowan is finding rich mineral deposits on Mullien hill. A large delegation of Centerites enjoyed the rainy fourth at Waynesville and Richland.

Local News It seems that the railroad holds quite an attraction for some of our widower citi- zens and Mr. Bates thinks that ‘Squire McDonald and Judge Wheeler are tak- ing an advantage of him, not letting him into their secrets. Judge Wheeler departed Sunday morning for some- where to spend the fourth and did not return until late Monday evening. Where he went none but himself knows but rumor has it that something beyond Crocker—probably in the Hawkeye or Iberia neighborhood—has an attraction for him that takes him in that direction quite frequently of late.

SWEBEERG—Crockett Strain and Lon Rowen are the champion horse shoe pitchers of this burg.

LAURY—Quite a number from this neighborhood went to Richland for the fourth. Misses Alice and Rosa Warrick are at the World’s Fair City visiting their father and seeing the sights.

TAVERN—Waynesville boys, get your bells ready. Some one from that place is looking across the Tavern for a bedfel-

DIXON—The Dixon cheese factory started to manufacturing cheese Wednesday of this week. The company is incorpo- rated for $2,000 and have about $1,500 invested in the building and machinery. The hail storm that passed just west of here last Friday was so severe that many fowls, grown turkeys and chick- ens were killed. The ground was cov- ered to a depth of six inches and the farmers who came to town the morning following the storm reported hail still on the ground in such quantities that wagon loads could be shoveled up. It completely destroyed the gardens and crops.

ON THE NILE—The Nile is on a high. W. D. Ichord killed a very large rattle- snake in his wheat field one day last week. The wire fence arrived and will soon be erected around the cemetery at Big Piney. Lightning rod peddlers and patent right sharpeners not needing a new suit of clothing, (tar and feathers), are requested to give this place a wide berth.

Pulaski County Democrat July 15

SCHLICH—Schlicht will have a doctor in the near future to attend to the sick and disabled patients. A party from Springfield, Missouri, is negotiating with the Schlicht Milling Company to build a hotel here.

LONE STAR—We have quite a measles scare in our neighborhood at present. The merchants will need a new supply of cow bells if all the weddings expect- ed are pulled off in the near future. Cupid’s work is great.

GOLDEN CENTER—Three new cases of measles in the Center again. J. W. Wheeler of Waynesville is continually passing through the Center drawn by magnetism. This is surely the garden spot of the world, as we have many vis- itors here from the four corners of the earth. They come for recreation and to enjoy our sparkling water, fragrant zephyrs, big red apples, beautiful scenery, shady groves and picturesque spots like the jungles of America. In
good old Pulaski county we have things that attract and interest those who are looking for something new.

Local News
The furniture for the vaults has arrived and when put in use will be a valuable addition to that part of the court house. “Make hay while the sun shines” is the old adage and that is what the farmers are doing. It is deserted around town. For lack of more lucrative employment some of our merchants have been engaged in flying kites for the last few days.

RICHLAND—Richland had the best celebra- tion on the fourth she has had for years, and we believe it was because the drug stores were closed all day.

GASCONEADE—The Sheriff and his deputies passed through with four more prisoners from town. Richland seems to have an over supply of crimi- nals now.

Pulaski County Democrat July 22

In a reminiscence, an old timer tells of traveling the country 34 years ago...and we are at the Blood school house, as it was then known, which name it retained until Rev. J. McCray put the “land to it and it has went by Bloodland ever since...Not many farms of note in the Bloodland country then, just small patches. I believe Johnny Hamilton lived on the tract now occu- pied by the Jaspar mill. French on the Blood land afterward sold to Blood, hence the name Bloodland...

DIXON—Several citizens are “doing the Fair.” Dixon is soon to have a home band. J. J. Grempczynski is reorganizing the old band and getting new members. Dixon cheese has been put on the mar- ket in our grocery stores and is said to be as good as any cheese on the market. The factory is running only about one- fourth the time on account of not get- ting enough milk.

GLOVE STAR—The woods are full of berry pickers now. There is a good crop of ber- ries.

[Ed Note: In this issue, Editor Wheeler gives much space to the Democratic nation- al platform and the speeches of William Jennings Bryan in St. Louis.]

Local News
Mrs. Lane and son Ray departed Sunday for a visit in the World’s Fair city. [Ed Note: Numerous other citizens are mentioned as taking in the fair during this week in July.]

LAQUEY—The blacksmith shop is quite an addition to Laquey, as it was badly needed by the farmers.

SCHLICHT—Threshing machines are in full blast in this neighborhood, but wheat is not very good. Quite a delega- tion of St. Louis ladies are at Forest Lodge for an outing this week. Material is being delivered by the Frisco at Schlicht for a depot, which is badly needed.

Pulaski County Democrat July 29, 1904

LAQUEY—Laquey is still on the boom. C. S. Ott will soon be here with his up-to- date mill. The new Blacksmith shop has been kept pretty well in operation since started, a much needed improvement.

DIXON—Justice Groves’ Court was in session Monday. Three boys were tried on the charge of stealing 4 cans of toma- toes from the Dixon Canning factory. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty and assessed their punishment at 10 days in the county jail.

Big Piney—The meales are holding down their job in and around Newtown [Ed. Note: Newton is the original and still sometimes local name for Big Piney].

Local News
Contrelable Liesman is over from Dixon Tuesday to bring three boys who were sent up by Squire Goves to serve a ten days sentence for stealing tomatoes from the canning factory. This makes seven inmates now in jail, four from Richland and three from Dixon, six of whom are accused of stealing. R. A. Peterson has bought a new set of tools and opened a blacksmith shop in Albert Christianson’s place near Huffit’s store. This is a good location for a shop. Work was begun on the excavation for the bank building. It will be a commodious, two story stone and brick and will be pushed to an early completion.

Sweederburg—Frank Manes was made acquainted with the Woodman goat at the last meeting of that organization.

Pulaski County Democrat August 5

Local News
Ed Cook and T. M. Gardner were awarded the contract by the County Court this week for painting the three county bridges across the Gascogneade river. Work will begin on same at once. [Ed. Note: The three county bridges in 1904 were Crocker Ford, Richland Ford, and Fish Dam Ford. They were to receive a scraping and two coats of Sherwin-Williams paint mixed with graphite and linseed oil.]

Pulaski County Democrat August 12

BAILEY—The merchants at Bloodland and Cookville have closed their stores against Sabbath day trade. Roubidoux townships want a Grand Jury. There are still a few young men who insist in fir- ing off their revolvers around places of worship and we know of no better way of dealing with them than by an appeal to the law. During the last session of court in Laclede county one young man paid a fine of $65 and costs for having a little fun at church.

Local News
Fishing parties have been quitenumer- ous and generally they report fair success. An exchange tells of an elderly Missouri maiden who on being asked if she was going to take advantage of leap year, replied most emphatically, “No, I don’t need a husband. I have a dog that grows, a cat that stays out at night, and a parrot that can swear to beat the band. What use have I for a husband?”

Pulaski County Democrat August 19

LAQUEY—We understand that DelRuein post office has been discontinued. C. S. Ott has arrived with his mill and will soon be operating it at full capacity. C. S. Parson’s new residence is rapidly nearing completing, another addition to Laquey.

Local News
The sheriff has received an appeal against Sabbath day trade. Roubidoux and Cookville have closed their stores and returned the money. A good mill would overcome all this and be worth its cost in a few years to the mer- chants of the town. Can’t we have a good mill here by the time another crop of wheat is harvested? Or will you sit still and see the trade gradually slip- ping away from you.

Whitaker—Elijah McKinnon is working in his mine. We hope for his success.

Pulaski County Democrat September 2

Whitaker—Quite a crowd of young people in and around our town pic- niced at the Bat Cave last Saturday. All report a good time.

Golden Center—Boys, get your cow bells ready. Moses Ray has regular appointments at Peter Roth’s. It is reported there will be a sanitarium built at Schlicht.

Whitaker—The people are expecting a grist mill to move here in a few days.

Dixon—A Mr. Vineyard of Granite City, Ill. has leased the building near the printing office and is now at work put- ting in a bakery oven. He expects to be ready to furnish the town in home baked bread. The canning factory will start Thursday or Friday of this week. The recent rains have improved the tomato crop and the prospects are good for a successful year’s business with the Dixon Canning Company.

What About a Mill?
Although the wheat crop is very light this season we are again impressed with the urgent need of a good flouring mill in our town. Wheat is being hauled to the railroad and while there the farmers sell their eggs, chickens and other pro- duce and spend their money. A good mill would overcome all this and be worth its cost in a few years to the mer- chants of the town. Can’t we have a good mill here by the time another crop of wheat is harvested? Or will you sit still and see the trade gradually slip- ping away from you.

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LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
Pert Paragraphs Picked Up Here and Thereto Pertaining to People of Pulaski and Adjoining Counties—General and Otherwise.

The matrimonial market is on the boom and seven couples have laid down a life of single cussedness since our last issue and will hereafter trot in double harness. Richland is to have a Creamery soon, an enterprise that will add much to the business of that city, as well as being a great source of revenue to the farmers in the county surrounding the town.

LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
Sheriff R. S. Anderson and deputy James Mathews went to Jefferson City Monday with Ike Godfrey and Oliver Newberry to be confined in the Penitentiary. Godfrey serves ten years and Newberry three.

Pulaski County Democrat September 23
SCHLICHT—The depot at Schlicht station is completed and painted and is a fine affair. Quite a delegation of Lower Egypt attended the patent medicine show at Swedeborg this week, laying in quite a supply of Salvation oil.

The attendance at the World’s Fair for the week ended the 10th was 874,954, making the attendance to date 9,994,590.

Pulaski County Democrat September 23
LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
Another delegation from Waynesville will leave for St. Louis to take in the sights Sunday.

LONE STAR—Somebody left their jug at the party Monday night.

Pulaski County Democrat September 30
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SCHLICHT—Quite a delegation of city sportsmen was visiting in the Valley one day this week. They were drinking magnesia water and hunting paw paws.

LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
The bank building is now ready to commence the second story, but work is being delayed waiting on the masons.

Sam Wilson Free.
Sam Wilson, the lone train robber, well known in this county and at one time railroad agent at Hancock, was released from the penitentiary last week, having served eleven years and three months. Wilson was agent at Hancock for several years and married a Miss Tibbs of that town and seemed to be getting along nicely until he took it into his head to rob a train, which he did in a clever style that he became famous all over the country as "The Lone Train Robber." He was sentenced to serve fifteen years. Numerous attempts were made to have him pardoned but all efforts were without effect. Governor Stone, State Treasurer, doned but all efforts were without success. Governor Stone, State Treasurer, doned but all efforts were without success.

Pulaski County Democrat October 14
SCHLICHT—Quite a delegation of city sportsmen is at the Magnesia Spring drinking magnesia water and enjoying a few days outing. C. M. Skinner & Co. are drawing plans and specifications for an air ship. The partner will furnish the capital and we presume C. M. will furnish the wind. Success to the enterprise.

HANCOCK—The boys are training their possum dogs now getting ready for winter.

LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
The odor given out by the cuspidores in the courtroom Tuesday night was something terrible and if they are not cleaned soon we need not be surprised to see the Court House collapse at any time, as no walls are of sufficient strength to confine such a stench long at a time. Some were compelled to leave the speaking on account of them.

Pulaski County Democrat October 21
DIXON—Dixon cheese and canning factories are shut down for the season. So many are going to the Fair from here that we are unable to name all of them. If some of the boys who are engaged in smearing our street corners with tobacco spit and filling the atmosphere with the fumes of cigarettes and foul language could reach 10 or 20 years into the future and hear the experience of such boys, they would no doubt realize the importance of being in school or at work.

LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
Considerable excitement was created lately by the account of several persons being killed by eating cabbage which was said to contain snakes and many startling tales were told with the victims just a little ahead all the time, but scientific investigation has developed the fact the whole matter was a hoax and there is nothing in it. (Ed. Note: Several of the communities previously reported disposing of cabbage by burying or dumping their cabbage in the rivers due to reports of snakes in the cabbage.)

Pulaski County Democrat October 28
SCHLICHT—A large delegation of St. Louis people came out last week to spend some time fishing and camping out on the GASCONADE near this place. If the “Snake in the Cabbage” story was another “kissing bug scare” there will be a good many heave sighs of regret over the loss of their good krait thrown away.

LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
The new bank building has been roofed and will be enclosed in a short time. The first frost of the season was here Saturday morning, October 22nd.

Pulaski County Democrat November 4
PULASKI COUNTY DEMOCRAT
Riff-raff:
Semi-Annual Report of the financial standing of the town of Wayneville, MO., from April 6, 1904 to November 1, 1904:
Amount on hand April 6, 1904...$96.70
By license..........................$32.40
Total receipts..........................$129.10
Marshall for work on street.......$34.25
Team work..........................$7.50
Special work.........................$2.25
Total Expenditures....................$44.00
Balance on hand Nov 1, 1904.....$85.10
Pulaski County Democrat November 11
The Result
Tuesday’s Election a Republican Landslide.
Returns from Tuesday’s election are not complete from all over the State but Roosevelt is elected President of the United States by probably the largest majority ever given a presidential candidate, he having carried every doubtful state.

The Dixon Murder
A Lynching Narrowly Escaped by the Timely Action of Sheriff Anderson and his Deputies.

The murder of James M. Smith, whose name was given last week as James Jones, has created considerable excitement over the country about Dixon and has been the chief topic of conversation for the last few days. The facts concerning the case as we have been able to learn them, are about as follows: Smith was a young man who came into the neighborhood of Dixon about a year ago. He bought a farm near Pisgah and was clearing up the same. Elias Smith, who was in no way related to the murdered man, was employed by him and he and his wife kept house and James Smith boarded or lived with them.

Smith was not seen after Sunday night and Elias told that the had gone back to Atchison County, his former home. On Wednesday afternoon his dead body was accidentally found in a deep hollow about two miles east of Dixon and Elias Smith and his wife were arrested on suspicion. At the Coroner’s inquest it developed that he had been murdered by having his head terribly beaten up with a blunt instrument and the body partly burned. Later Elias’ wife confessed that her husband had committed the crime and when confronted with her statement he too confessed the crime, claiming it was done in self defense. Every indication pointed to a premeditated murder and the story that the killing took place in the woods where the two men were at work and was done in self defense was not believed as Elias had told before hand that he was going to buy deceased out and later that he had bought him out and that he had left the country. This story connected with other suspicious words and actions led to a more thorough examination and traces of the crime were discovered about the premises. An iron rod with hair and blood on it was found, his shoes and a portion of his clothing had been burned, and the shirt he wore was blood stained while...
of hands working on the streets for the
found against them they were released.
He further stated that two young men
produced instant death. He was cov-
the head as he looked up at a tree he
wreaking summary vengeance and had
would have dawned upon his lifeless
murderer. Sheriff Anderson gave out
intention of hanging the self-confessed
bones.
Sheriff Anderson gave out
that the guilty parties shall be punished
be considerable and will be a great
this request. The costs of the trial will
be considerable and will be a great
hardship on those having it to pay. The
be much propor
t the operator allowed here has been “cut
small stations have been taken off and
of most of our business houses. The
over thirty head. Remember that when
the Wye just east of town.
GASCONADE—The river is clear now and
equally as well.
Young Capital—Joe Engel and Frank
Hasenauer are taking in the fair this
week at the St. Louis World’s Fair. An
automobile occupied by a man and
woman was caught attempting to
make a hotel in the woods.
SCHLICHT—Some prospectors for miner-
al were with lucrative results.
No. 2 was pulling into the station, a
resulted in the loss of a human life.
Sunday. It was quite an attraction. A
company extended its line of 10
wires west and the latter are putting in
the first of the New
year.
GOLDEN CENTER—The Center is on the
boom. Walter Roth has caught thirty-
four pounds in the last week.
Hogs are dying with the plauge.
LOCAL RIFF-RAFF
BOYS get your bells ready for
this last week.
Pulaski County Democrat November 25
GOLDEN CENTER—Hogs are dying with
during the week. The farmer was put up a tree and
the cholera is sure to come. The Schlicht Milling
Company has built a concrete office and
substituted steam heat for an old wood
store. Surely, our young generation is
of most of our business houses. The
Frisco is cutting down its force of
employees. All the operators at the
small stations have been taken off and
the operator allowed here has been “cut
out.”
Pulaski County Democrat December 16
CROCKER—There will also be a box supper
at the school house the same night of the
literary and if the weather is favor-
able a good turnout is expected. The
question for discussion at our next liter-
ary will be Resolved: That the right of
spread of the cholera is sure to come. The Schlicht Milling
Company has built a concrete office and
substituted steam heat for an old wood
store. Surely, our young generation is
improving on new fangled things.

CROCKER—The Telephone Company has
done some work here this week. Our
school is moving along nicely with
the sportsmen are quite busy gigging
with small party if they knew it.
CROCKER—Howard Crawford has just
returned from a visit to St. Louis where
he procured a stove mill, which will be
set up and operated in Crocker soon
after the first of the year.
Pulaski County Democrat December 30
The Newberrys Released
The preliminary trial of George and
Andy Newbery and Mrs. Sarah Smith
for complicity in the murder of James
Smith was commenced here last
Thursday and continued until in the
night Friday. About forty witnesses
were examined and all reasonable
means resorted to prove these parties
connected with the crime but after hear-
ing all the evidence the Prosecuting
Attorney decided there was not suf-fi-
cient grounds for holding the defen-
dants and they were all dismissed at
this request. The costs of the trial will
be considerable and will be a great
hardship on those having it to pay. The
people of the community in which the
crime was committed are determined
that the guilty parties shall be punished
and will work to that end, however, we
do not believe that one of them would
seek to secure the conviction of an inno-
cent party if they knew it.
Elias Smith, the self-confessed murder-
er, is still in jail and from accounts
seems to be very unconcerned about his
fate.

[Ed. Note: This will continue to be a big
story through April of 1905]