

Crocker In 1922

The following was written by an unidentified member of the Crocker High School Class of '23. It is reprinted here for its historical contents, although much of the information was published in earlier Gazettes. We did not change the incorrect spelling of Humboldt, wishing to keep the article as it was written. The last sentence was edited because its dates were hard to read.

Crocker is a very prosperous little town situated in Pulaski county, in the heart of the Ozarks. It is about three miles from the Gasconade river and is on the Frisco railroad. Crocker has a population of about eight hundred and has many good geographical and physical features. It is situated in the midst of a good farming country and owing to its climatic conditions is very healthful.

Before Crocker had its origin there was an old trading post called Humbolt, which stood about one mile north of where Crocker now stands. It was erected in 1854 and was owned by different men, but among the first were Joseph Tiberman and Simon Harris. They were accompanied by Dr. Himan, a country doctor. Close to old

Humbolt or somewhere near the "White Dump" was a saloon where the people met to play cards, drink whiskey and dance.

The roads were few and very rough. The mail was carried on horseback from Waynesville by way of Humbolt. Most of the farmers traveled in ox carts.

In 1868 a company of men decided to run a railroad through this section of the country connecting the road at Jerome with the one at Springfield. This road was surveyed to run through old Humbolt, but the price set on the land was too high, so they decided to run the road farther southeast. So this was the beginning of Crocker.

The name Crocker originated from one of the stockholders of the railroad company, whose name was Eurilis J. Crocker.

Mr. Alexander soon built a small store, which was the first building to be erected in what is now Crocker. This was built on the site where Bostick & Johnson store now stands in 1868. The Bostick hotel and saloon stood where the Crocker State Bank now is and Charles Brown owned a general store where the Sell Drug store is now located.




HOW CROCKER LOOKED AROUND 1922. Photo actually taken a few years earlier during World War One. The crowd is watching a small army tank demonstrating its capabilities. Crocker Lumber Company is the building on the immediate left hand side of the picture. Courtesy of the Old Crocker Depot.

Things now began to move rapidly forward for so small a town. Then, what is now the streets and back alleys, were woods, but these were rapidly cleared away and buildings were erected. Bostick then sold his hotel and saloon to Mr. Lawson and moved to Waynesville. Howard and Colley erected a frame building where the J. L. Hoops store now stands. Dr. John L. Short had his office in the building which is now occupied by the H. Heade store.

So far there had been no deaths in the young town, but in 1881 Dr. Short buried a child and a short time later a Mr. Shelton died and these two were the first to be laid to rest in the Crocker cemetery, which is now almost filled.

After Crocker had grown to be quite a good sized place it was

See "Crocker" Page 52



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One Room School House

Although a thing of the past, the one room school house still resides in a fond place in the heart of those who attended one. These rural centers of learning have faded from the scene, but the Old Settlers' Gazette some years ago happened upon a newspaper article in the Pulaski County Democrat in 1902 that listed Pulaski County schools, teachers, and monthly salaries. A reprinting here of the list not only recalls the names of the schools, mostly of the one room variety, but also identifies our turn-of-the-century educators.

Ralph Hutcheson (Black Gnat) \$32.50, Sam Rollins (Waymire) \$30.00, Jason Stebbins (Hawkeye) \$30.00, Robert Green (Crocker) \$45.00, Effie Phillips (Democrat Ridge) \$30, G. W. Phillips (Bayou) \$40.00, Joseph Coogan (Rolling Heath) \$25.00, George L. Cole (Dixon) \$70.00, W. A. Underwood (Racket) \$23.00, John Ichord (Hopewell) \$20.00, L. J. Gladden (Fairview) \$30.00, Harley Manes (Dublin) \$22.50, Lela Case (Shepherd) \$22.50, W. A. Russell (Dyers) \$30.00, Columbus Christeson (Mossy Springs) \$25.00, Hattie Brambley (Pleasant Grove) \$20.00, Lucy Frock (Swedeborg) \$25.00, Olive King (Hilton) \$20.00, Dora B. Miller (Dixon) \$30.00, Ida Anderson (Shockley) \$25.00, Lizzie Parsons (Lewis) \$27.50, Vesta Lumpkin (Waynesville) \$25.00, W. A. Lumpkin (Waynesville) \$50.00, Bertha Allen (Pisgah) \$30.00, Ida Russell (Franks) \$30.00, Bert Sewell (Burnett) \$30.00, George Johnson (Low Gap) \$20.00, Clara Thornsberry (Miller) \$25.00, Will Ichord (Baldrige) \$20.00, Enoch Matthews (Needmore) \$27.50, William Wood (Mount Salem) \$25.00, S. B. Sneed (Baldrige) \$25.00, Sallie Bradford (Union) \$25.00, Mila York (Moro Castle) \$20.00, Edwin Bryant (High Point) \$25.00, Roy Porter (Kelso) \$27.50, C. W. Steward (Bates) \$25.00, Harley Dye (Mays) \$22.00, Alvah Pippin (Hazel Green) \$25.00, Vivia Anderson (Fox Crossing) \$18.00, William Hess (Cave Springs) \$25.00, Walter Allen (Cross Roads) \$25.00, Lester Bailey (Lone Star) \$30.00, Robert Gray (Cowan) \$30.00, Maggie Thompson (Swedeborg) \$23.00, William Mitchell (Bear Ridge) \$28.00, O. B. Vaughan (Bailey) \$30.00, S. J. Creasy (Swedeborg) \$27.00, A. A. Decker (Brown) \$45.00, David Hand (Dixon) \$30.00, Mattie Patrick (Black Bird) \$25.00, Grace Zumwalt (Eureka) \$20.00, Marion Vaught (Davis) \$29.00, Will La Fever (Palace) \$25.00, Rosco Harrison (Oklahoma) \$30.00, Leona Bracket (Riverdale) \$25.00, George Zumwalt (Buzzard Roost) \$28.75, William C. Black (Hickory Grove) \$30.00, Harry G. Sewell (Hooker) \$33.50, Gus Whittington (Independence) \$35.00,

D. D. Greenstreet (Hamilton) \$30.00, and Frank Manes (Center Point) \$20.00.

These teachers and 16 other people attended the Pulaski County Teach-

ers' Institute in July of 1902. Those listed as looking for a school at which to teach were Cloa Davis, Charlie Case, John Zumwalt, Hattie Mitchell, Edith Hobbs, Charlie Wheeler, Ernest

Christeson, Seba Baker, Livella Breeden, Etta Adkinson, Jennie E. Bailey, James Lane, Lela Davis, Francis M. Gove, Mae Kerr, and Phena Long.

Crocker

incorporated as a village May 18, 1911, and as a city of the fourth class November, 1912.

The first school building was erected in 1870 and stood near where the Ozark hotel now stands. It was a small one room log building

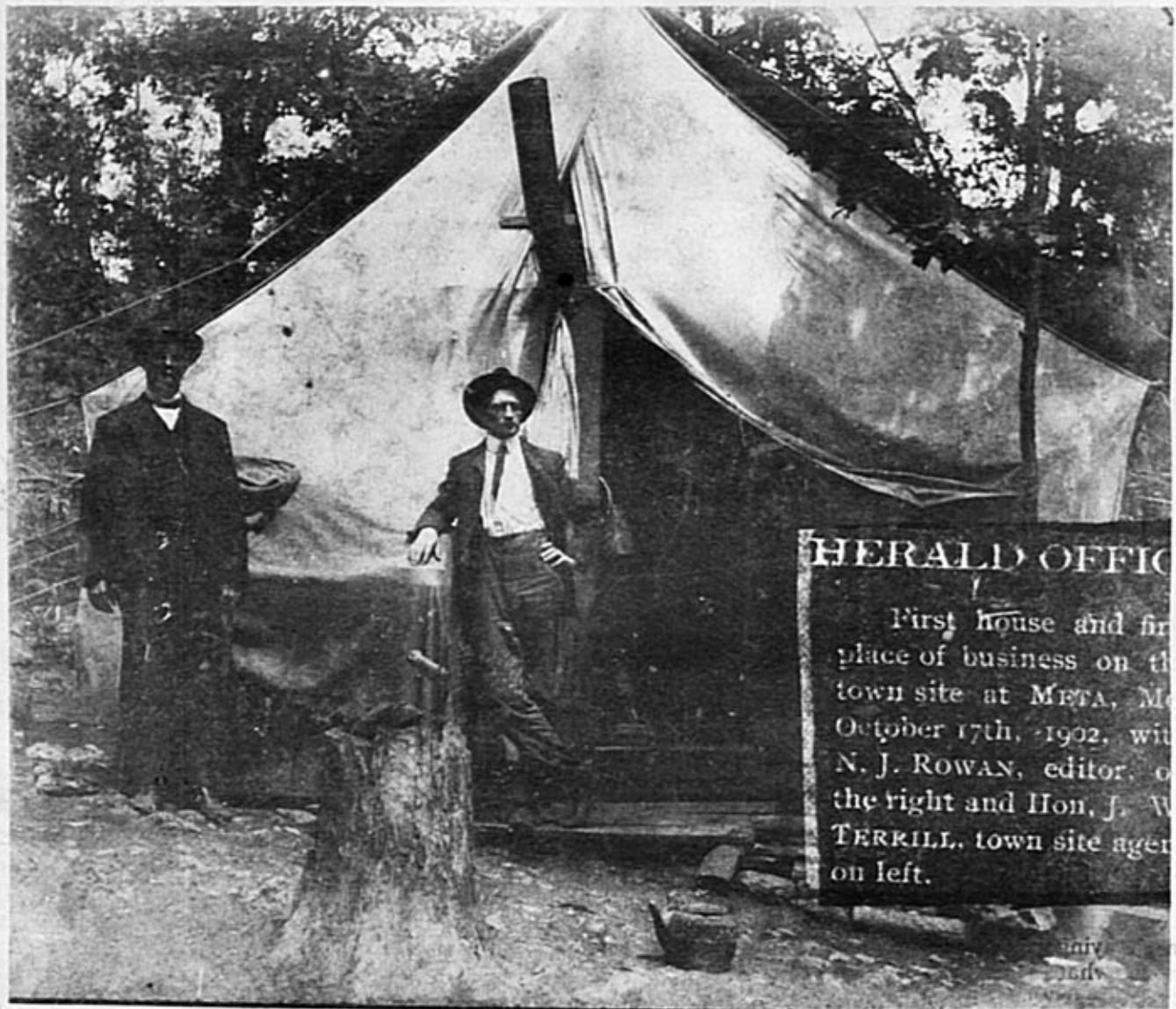
and school was in session about four months of each year. A few years later a two room frame building was constructed in the northeast corner of where the cemetery now is.

Until some 40 or 50 years ago there were no church buildings in

Continued From Page 27

Crocker, meetings being held in brush arbors or log cabins, but as the town grew the people realized the need for churches. The Presbyterian was built first...the Christian was second...and the Baptist (followed).

Meta, Missouri



META, MISSOURI Sign proclaims the tent to be the "Herald Office. First house and first place of business on the town site of Meta, Mo., October 17th, 1902, with N.J. Rowan, editor, on the right and Hon. J.W. Terrill, town site agent on left." Courtesy of Historical Society of Maries County.