



~Pulaski County in 1903~

By Gary Knehans

Prospects seemed brighter for many Pulaski County residents at the beginning of 1903, especially when contrasted with the lean winter of the previous year. The deadly smallpox epidemic of the year before was little more than a bitter memory by now.

In the Jan. 1st edition of the Richland Cyclone, editor W. S. Needles wrote, "Today marks another mile stone in the flight of time and we stand upon the threshold of another year full of rich possibilities to us all. Looking backward, many of us can see the pathway strewn with the wrecks of blasted hopes or lost possibilities, but hope springs eternal, and the future is as rich in promises as ever before. To what heights may we not climb in the setting of our own capabilities? No position so high nor honor so great but that we might reflect credit upon it, were the opportunity afforded. Nor is this feeling out of keeping, for if the ideal is not of a high order, but little may be

expected of the results. Each of us have our mission to fill, and are given the necessary qualifications. Their use or abuse lies with us, and though obstacles arise to beset us, they should not cause us to despair. That which is worth having is worth striving for. Let us then place our ideals high and strive by all honorable means to attain them. Thus will ourselves and the world be made better, and the close of 1903 will find us nearer the goal than ever before."

Needles' rhetorical question, "To what heights may we not climb?," ironically was to be answered in a physical, if not spiritual, way within the year with the first successful airplane flight that December by the Wright brothers. The aviation age was about to dawn upon the nation!

JANUARY

At least one Pulaski County resident had other concerns that New Year's Day. Charles Mc Donald of Richland found himself nursing the effects of a mysterious

assault that took place a few days earlier.

Chas. Mc Donald is carefully nursing his left eye, which is decorated at present with a beautiful black border, but which has a tendency to mar his otherwise classic beauty. It is the result of an assault by unknown parties who used a strike way in which to make an impression on him.

According to Charlie's account of the affair, he was the only occupant of R. R. Rollins store last Saturday afternoon about two o' clock, and was sitting with his chair tilted against the end of a counter with his feet elevated to a comfortable height on a table near by. He was deeply absorbed in a book which he was reading, and though his back was toward the door, he gave no attention when it opened, supposing it was some customer who would make their presence known. Instead of this, however, the party approached quietly from behind and soon Charlie felt a stinging blow on the head, which rendered him unconscious for about two hours. He was

discovered lying on the floor by some little girls who gave the alarm and brought him assistance. No trace whatever of the perpetrator of this cowardly deed has been found as yet, and Charlie says he can think of no one with whom he had had a recent quarrel or who wished him harm. Nothing was missed from the store, thus eliminating the theory of robbery. The most plausible theory is that Charlie has been making goo-goo eyes at some other fellow's best girl, and the aforesaid fellow was trying to knock the goo-goo out. He nearly succeeded.

-Richland Cyclone Jan. 1st

In the northwestern community of Dixon, citizens were anticipating the Frisco railroad line making some improvements.

The Frisco surveyors, locating the cut off to be made around the Dixon hill, are now here and will run about one mile south of town.

-Dixon correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 9th

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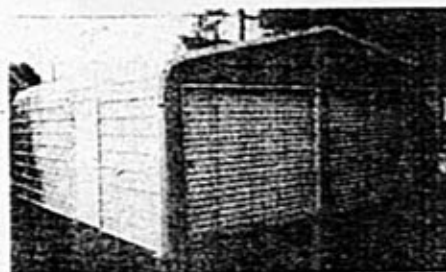
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A shocking crime occurred early in January that crossed way over the line between the merely mischievous and the outright malicious.

Five young men named William Myers, John Myers, Cleveland Myers, Charles Nunn, and William Brandon were arrested and brought before Squire McDonald Monday charged with defacing a church building and destroying church property. They pled guilty and were fined one dollar each and costs, which they will lay out in jail.

It seems these young men got a jug of whiskey and went to the church house to have a good time. They, of course, got drunk, broke the lamps, whittled the seats, vomited in the floor, and did other depredations not fit to mention here.

The severest punishment is not too great for such offenders and it is a pity that the jail yard is not supplied with a rock pile so such people could be made to earn their board while in jail. If prisoners were worked, there would be fewer of them go to jail, thus lessening the expense on the county.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

The crime also prompted the edi-

tor of the Dixon Echo to retort, "Such offenses as this ought to be punishable by the use of the whipping post. If this was the law, we would have less of such done."

With the arrival of the new year, the county courthouse received several newly elected officials. The new judges were George W. Berry, presiding, John B. Harvey, eastern district, and Jesse M. Curtis, western district.

"The new County Court held their first session Monday, all the judges being present," Publisher Nathan Wheeler wrote in the Democrat.

"They took hold of the business like men who had filled such positions before, and a stranger would not have thought they were each acting as judge for the first time. They finished the business before them and adjourned in time to go home in the evening."

There were other new county officials, including Collector Albert L. Matthews, Prosecuting Attorney Charles H. Davis, Surveyor Robert M. Breeden, and Probate Judge Joe McGregor. Pulaski County voters the previous November had re elected George W. Gan, circuit clerk, Edward G. Williams, county clerk, Robert S. Anderson, sheriff, George W. Hendricks, assessor, John L. Mitchell,

treasurer, George W. Bryant, coroner, and William H. Locker, state representative.

Judge Joe McGregor, who assumed the duties of Judge of the Probate Court the first of this month, found himself up against it last Saturday when John L. Marks and Anna Jones, of Richland, very unceremoniously appeared before him and demanded that they two be made as one. But Joe's discomfiture was only for a moment, for he was not long in pulling his thoughts together, and with that easy grace that is characteristic of his nature, he proceeded with the ceremony without delay, and bound them hard and tight in the bonds of holy wedlock and sent them on their way rejoicing.

Mr. Marks is the gentleman who, it will be remembered, some time ago placed an advertisement in a matrimonial journal and received several hundred answers in a very short time. We did not learn whether the bride was one of those who answered this advertisement or not, but be that as it may, they were married and those present say the ceremony was conducted by a veteran at the business.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

Under the headline, "Marks is Married, Pulaski County's Champion Wife Hunter Starts on His Fourth Venture," the Richland Cyclone on Jan. 15th remarked:

"Patience, perseverance and a little soft soap will grease a pig." Of course, this does not apply to the case in hand in its entirety, but is merely quoted to show the wonders which can be accomplished if a man but possesses the stick-to-it tiveness necessary for success. Mr. Marks is determined not to live the life of single cussedness, and although he has been somewhat unfortunate in his matrimonial ventures, he rises manfully to the occasion in every instance and surmounts each obstacle with a courage nothing can daunt.

Mr. Marks has been in single harness this time longer than ever before since he was broke to work double, his last wife having died last July. Shortly afterward he started negotiations with sundry fair damsels in Richland and vicinity with a view of inducing them to share his hearth and home, but apparently to no purpose. Friends were interested in his behalf, and through their influence an advertisement was inserted in an E. St. Louis paper setting forth his many

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charms and advising the young ladies of the land to take advantage of this rare opportunity before it was everlastingly too late. It seems, however, that printers ink was of little avail in this instance, for though several inquires were received by Mr. Marks, it seems that after receiving his reply they failed to proceed further, doubtless realizing their utter unworthiness for so exalted a position.

Turning again to the local field Mr. Marks industriously pursued his request and on Saturday his efforts were crowned with success.

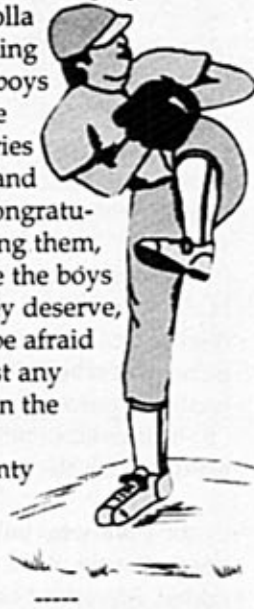
Miss Anna Jones, of Texas county, finally consented to become the blushing bride, and they were united in marriage at the county seat by Judge Joe Mc Gregor. The happy couple returned at once to Richland and went to housekeeping at the groom's home. The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Marks extend their congratulations.

"Cabin fever" must have set in early for some members of the Waynesville community. Despite winter's firm grip, plans already were being made by the "boys of summer."

Albert Matthews and Luther Long,

the battery for the Waynesville base ball team the last two years, have made arrangements to play the same positions for Rolla during the coming season. These boys make one of the strongest batteries in the country and Rolla is to be congratulated for securing them, and if they give the boys the support they deserve, they need not be afraid to go up against any amateur team in the country.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 9th



A number of our citizens and base ball "cranks" have procured control of the island west of town from Collector Wheeler, and will put the same in first class condition for a ball ground the coming season. It is intended to clean up the ground in first class shape, put a fence around it and erect comfortable seats to make it a place of comfort to those who go there to witness ball games and other

amusements. We are glad to note this spirit of enterprise and hope to witness many interesting games there during the summer of 1903.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

There was some preliminary discussion early in the year about the need to expand the school facility in Waynesville. A rumor continued to circulate that some businessmen were going to start up a bank in town.

Only a little over two months intervenes between now and the annual school meeting, and it is due time for the people to begin considering the fact of rebuilding or enlarging the school house. That it is entirely too small for the number of pupils in the district goes without saying and that it is open and unfit to crowd a lot of small children into is a fact equally plain, but the only way to remedy the matter is for the people to take hold of it. Shall we provide more comfortable quarters for our little ones before another school begins or not? Let us hear from you.

The organization of a bank here is

now an assured thing. Ninety shares of stock have already been taken and nineteen of as good men as there is in the county are subscribers. There only remains ten shares and these will be taken in short time.

It will not be ready for business until early spring as there is no building suitable that can be had at present. It has not yet been decided whether they will build or not, but if they do, work will begin as soon as weather will permit it.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

Meanwhile, a couple of prominent county citizens went to Jefferson City to seek higher office and found success in their venture there.

C. H. Colley, who left here on the 3rd of January for Jefferson City as a candidate for Folder of the Senate, was successful in his race, receiving the nomination at the Senate Caucus on the first ballot. His many friends here will be glad to learn of his success, as Charles is a very deserving Democrat, one who never flinches from a party duty. The position of Folder is a nice place to fill and carries with it a compensation of four dollars a day while the Senate is in session.

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Ex-Prosecuting Attorney W. D. Johnson, who was a candidate for Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, was defeated for that position by Mr. Clark, of Morgan county, but succeeded in getting the place of Assistant Doorkeeper, which pays the same salary, that is, \$3.50 a day.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

A prominent county office holder sold his business in town and planned to move out into the countryside.

Sheriff R. S. Anderson returned Tuesday from Springfield, where he has been to close a deal by which he became the purchaser of the D. E. Davis farm on the river near Richland, for \$3000. This is one of the best farms of its size in the county, and was a bargain at that price.

Mr. Anderson has sold his hotel property here in town to Albert Matthews, and will move to the farm soon after the March term of Circuit Court.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

Typical winter weather prevailed in January and there were eight inches of snow on the ground in Hancock on Jan. 10th. Still, the Hancock correspondent of the Pulaski County Democrat commented how much better folks had it early in '03, writing, "Everybody with plenty to eat and wear is not like it was last winter when we all did not know how we were going to make it through."

Not everything, however, was placid in this railroad community.

The people of town were frightened out of their wits Friday night over some shooting, but became more calm when they found it was Vest Goodman and R. F. Perkins killing some rats.

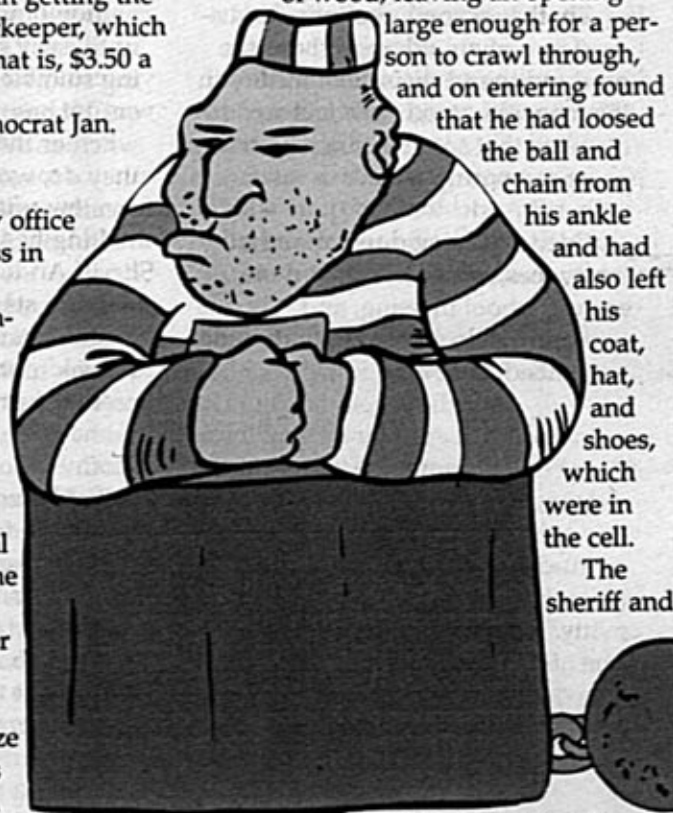
-Hancock correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 16th

There was even greater excitement back at the county seat with an unexpected development in a murder case from the previous year.

Eli Bowlin, who has been confined in the Pulaski county jail, held for the murder of Sol Bates, broke jail Sunday evening and so far has eluded the officers and left little or no clue as to

his whereabouts.

As is the usual custom, the sheriff went to the jail about dusk with his supper and found the bottom of the door had been pried open with a stick of wood, leaving an opening large enough for a person to crawl through, and on entering found that he had loosed the ball and chain from his ankle and had also left his coat, hat, and shoes, which were in the cell.



The sheriff and

deputies went immediately in search of the fugitive, keeping close watch on the Bowlin home all night and following day.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 23rd

At about the same time, a bridegroom-to-be sought another kind of escape with tragic results.

Charles Ray, a popular young railroad man, of Newburg, was to have been married to Miss Ida Warren, of Richland, Mo., but for some reason, remained at home and made no effort to go to his bride elect. Instead, at the appointed hour for the wedding, he locked himself in his room and fired four bullets in his body. It is thought that he cannot recover. Miss Warren is now at his bedside, but he is not able to talk or to give any explanation of the deed.

No one has been able to offer any explanation for the deed. Ray held a good position with the Frisco railroad, and always seemed happy. He is well connected socially, and was liked by all his associates. Mr. Ray is now at the home of his brother-in-law, Lewis Short, at Newburg.

Since his engagement to Miss Warren, he had seemed quite happy and they both looked forward to their wedding day with pleasure. There was absolutely no warning that he contemplated any other than to marry his fiancée. As the hour drew near, he made no effort to get ready. When the clock struck 12, he made

the effort to end his life. The shots attracted the attention of the people of the house, and they rushed to his room, where he was found in a pool of blood on the floor, unable to speak.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 23rd

Meanwhile, citizens in the Dixon area mourned the death of a beloved elderly woman.

Grandma Imboden, mother of J. H., T. V., and B. F. Imboden, of Dixon, died at her home near Grove Dale Sunday at a very advanced age. Her husband passed away last summer.

-Maries County Gazette article reprinted in the Dixon Echo Jan. 23rd

Anyone who believed that last year's "battle of the taverns" had ended was jolted back to reality in late January.

Quite an important suit was filed in the Recorder's office Tuesday evening, in which G. A. Burchard of Crocker, is plaintiff and C. H. Howard, C. Frawley, C. E. Teeple and Joseph Turpin are defendants. The suit is a civil action in the nature of a malicious libel. The damages alleged are \$10,000 and plaintiff asks judgement for this amount.

The cause of this action grows out of certain written statements made by defendants, to the County Court of this county last September, in which they asked the court not to grant plaintiff dramshop license to conduct a dramshop in the town of Crocker.

The reasons set forth in this remonstrance are what the plaintiff founds his libel on. It will be remembered that the license was granted, but was afterward at the instance of the defendants herein as relators, held to be void by the St. Louis Court of Appeals. These parties are all prominent citizens of Crocker and the case will undoubtedly produce quite a sensation.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 30th

Meanwhile in the Richland Echo, prominent citizen J. A. Bradshaw wrote:

I am glad to learn that a small temperance wave is passing over the city. The ladies are to be congratulated for what they are trying to do along that line. But if our ladies hope to drive the liquor traffic out of Richland without the aid of the men, they are mistaken.

There are two reasons why the men who directly or indirectly engaged in the sale of liquor do not

fear the women. First, the women can not vote. Secondly, they can not sit on a jury or occupy the mayor's office.

There are only two ways to stop the sale of liquor in any city like Richland. First, a sweeping revival of religion, one that will reclaim backslidened members of the church, and soundly convert sinners. The second remedy is slower, but a more lasting and effectual one, and that is a consistent opposition to the traffic by the church and Sunday schools. It is useless to expect business or professional men to make an open and aggressive fight against saloon or the whiskey drug store. In fact, it is not their special business to do so for obvious reasons. But it is the duty of pastors of churches, officers and teachers of the Sunday schools to wage an unceasing warfare against the liquor business within their respective churches, because it is a wicked and hurtful traffic; injurious not only to the men who sell and use it, but destructive and contaminating to the whole community. There is not a single argument that can be given in favor of this unrighteous business.

There never was a time when the liquor traffic was more firmly rooted and grounded in Richland than it is today. There are more people making money out of it than ever before. I am glad to know that our local pastors are waking up to the importance of this question, but they should not conclude that they are going to have an easy victory. Before they succeed in driving the liquor business out of this town, they need not be surprised if an effort is made to drive them out. The two resident pastors as well as the two who do not reside here have the confidence and esteem of all good people, and I confidently believe that all Christian people will stand by them if they make a bold and united attack on this unholy business. But in order to succeed, they must strike wherever they find it, no matter where. Their motto should and must be, "Let no Guilty Man Escape."

Now, Mr. Editor, this has not been written with the view of a personal application. I simply desire to call attention to the evil as a business, and suggest a remedy.

-Printed in the Richland Echo Jan. 29th

Few were surprised when the news circulated that the much publicized Marks- Jones marriage turned out to be short-lived.

J. W. Marks, of Richland, was married to Miss Annie Jones on January



10th, 1903, and filed a petition for divorce on the 24th day of the same month. Now, say Pulaskians are slow.

-Waynesville correspondent of the Dixon Echo Jan. 30th

After an extensive manhunt, Sheriff Anderson and his band of searchers finally located the escaped prisoner, Eli Bowlin.

Eli Bowlin, who made his escape from the jail Sunday evening, Jan. 14, was captured and returned to that gloomy bastille Friday night by Sheriff Anderson.

Since his capture, it has been ascertained that he had no assistance in making his escape, he himself prying the heavy iron door open enough at the bottom to allow him to place a short prop and thus make his escape, after he had freed his ankle of the chain attached to the iron ball, which was supposed to keep him secure.

Leaving the jail without hat, coat or shoes, he began his flight by crossing the strip of meadow west of the lane and wading Roubidoux; he thus set off in the direction of home, losing his way he made himself a bed of leaves and passed the remainder of Sunday night in the woods near

town. Monday morning he wrapped his frozen feet as best he could and continued his flight toward his home, arriving in the neighborhood

sometime during Monday night; he there secured shoes, clothes, and gun and took to the woods.

He did not make any effort to leave the community and succeeded in eluding the officers until Friday night, when Sheriff Anderson located him in an old deserted house, where he had built a fire and proposed to pass the night.

After arresting him the sheriff gave the previously arranged signal (firing 3 shots) and those engaged in this pursuit knew that Bowlin was captured, and before daylight he was safely locked in the cell at

Waynesville.

-Pulaski County Democrat Jan. 30th

Sheriff Anderson succeeded after several days hunt to capture Ela Bowlin, the escaped prisoner. He found him in an old house near his home and the scene of the murder of which he is charged. His feet were

jail, he can hardly walk.

Sheriff Anderson had quite a lot of needed repairing done on the jail this week, which makes it more secure.

-Waynesville correspondent of the Dixon Echo Jan. 30th

True to form, "January Thaw" conditions set in shortly thereafter and made travel within the county more problematic.

"Mud every where and the roads have no bottoms in this part of the county," commented the Democrat's Lone Star correspondent in the Jan. 30th edition of that newspaper.

FEBRUARY

Winter weather inevitably returned in February, but its many

hazards failed to discourage Pulaski County's most reluctant prisoner from attempting another bid for freedom.

Ela Bowlan who is confined in the county jail, and whom we have made mention of escaping from the jail twice previous, made another attempt yesterday but was caught before he was out side the incorporation.

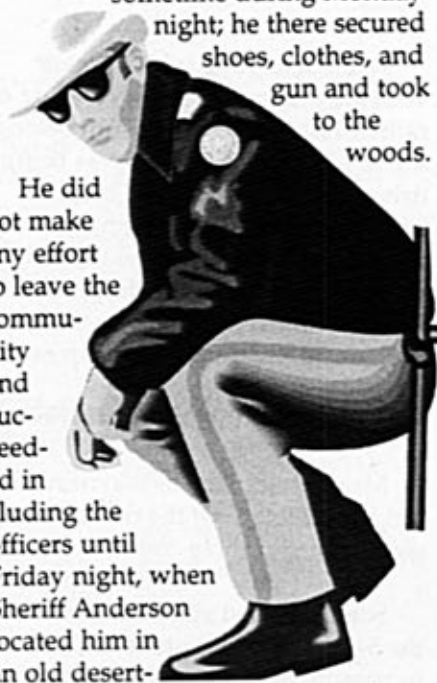
While Sheriff Anderson was cleaning out the jail, the door was left open for a few minutes, and the prisoner thinking he was faster on foot than Sheriff Anderson passed through the door and started up the hill as fast as he could travel, but the Sheriff followed pursuit and soon caught up before the prisoner was out of town, and he was soon returned to his gloomy cell.

"Bob" thinks it takes a faster man on foot than Bowlan to leave him.

-Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 6th

Efforts continued in prosperous Richland to install street lights throughout town. Farther east on the Frisco Line, Dixon benefitted from several good economic developments.

The canning factory meeting held here last Saturday was well attended



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by our citizens and the interest manifested indicates that we will soon have another important industry here. A committee was appointed to secure subscriptions to stock, and they are meeting with good success.

The Dixon Telephone Co. talks of putting in a central office at this place. We are now connected by "phone" with every village and post office within a radius of 15 miles of here.

-Dixon correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 13th

February's harsh winter weather contributed to a family tragedy in the southern part of the county.

The horrible news of the burning of the house and its contents and one of the children of a Mr. Elliott, living on the farm of Mr. Pettit, near Tribune, was received here yesterday. From reports, it seems as if the family had no warning of the fire until it was too late to make their escape from the house with all of their family, and in the excitement a two-year old child was let burn to death.

-Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 13th

A blast of bitterly cold Arctic air overspread the area during the night on Feb. 16th. Early the following

morning, the 17th, Waynesville recorded its coldest temperature of the season, 14 degrees below zero. It was a few degrees colder in Dixon.

William Bailey is this week harvesting the annual ice crop off Lake Frisco. He might also have made a good investment had he stowed away a few gallons of that breeze that passed by here Monday night. It was cold enough to send the thermometer 16 degrees below zero.

-Dixon correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 20th

The frosty weather gave residents a good reason for staying indoors, curling up around a fire, and reading an interesting book.

We recently had the pleasure of reading "The Pioneer Horde," a volume written by one of Pulaski County's rising young authors, and while some may criticize the work, we consider it a fair production for an amateur writer, and only hope that Mr. Vangorden may succeed even better in the new volume we understand he is now writing.

-Gasconade correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 27th

What could have been a tragedy was narrowly averted along the Frisco railroad tracks.

While returning from Crocker Thursday morning, at the crossing of railroad track, the black team belonging to Liveryman Wyrick was being driven by Marlon Forbes, became frightened by a passing freight train and unmanageable, dashed onto the track, the tongue of the buggy hitched to a box car, completely wrecking the buggy and severely cutting up one of the horses.

-Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 27th

Meanwhile, a small Waynesville girl benefitted from the combined surgical efforts of three county doctors.

Sometime last summer, little Edna, the 5-year-old daughter of Allen Case, in passing her mother in some manner ran against a needle which penetrated her arm just below the elbow. No attention was paid to the matter at the time, but shortly afterward inflammation set up and the arm became sore and swollen. Palliative treatment failing to relieve her and on examination revealing the fact that tubercular astitis, or disease of

the bone, had set up, it became necessary to perform an operation on her arm. On last Tuesday her parents brought her to town where Drs. Tice, Claiborn and Howlett made an incision just below the elbow where the needle had penetrated, and successfully removed the affected parts. She stood the ordeal remarkably well and at this writing seems to be doing finely.

-Pulaski County Democrat Feb. 27th

MARCH

A few days later, county residents were saddened to hear of the surprising death of a seemingly healthy boy. This tragedy seemed to set the stage for several other late winter deaths.

A sad and very peculiar accident occurred last Thursday night at the home of George Deberry, five miles west of town which resulted in the death of Jasper, son of Louis Grass. Mr. Grass's boys had gone to Mr. Deberry's to play with his boys. Just before starting home, Jasper Grass and Francis Deberry were wrestling out in the yard. During the scuffle, Jasper pulled Francis down upon him, the latter fall across Jasper's

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10:00 - 5:00	Fort Leonard Wood Static Displays	12:00 - 12:30	Travelers Square Dancers
10:30 - 11:00	Army Band	1:00 - 1:30	Acts of Grace - Grace Covenant Christian Center
10:30 - 10:45	Best Dressed Duck Contest at YMCA Booth	11:00	14th Annual Great Pulaski Co. Duck Race- begins on the Roubidoux. Heat races-11:00,11:30, 12:00,12:30, 1:00 and 1:30. Consolation race and modified race at 2:00 and the final at 2:30.
11:00 - 3:00	Old Fashion Games for Kids - Muzzel loaders	11:00	Candy Cannon - Kickapoo Muzzel loaders encampment. Candy Cannon fired hourly.
11:00 - 11:30	Travelers Square Dancers	1:30 - 3:00	Overflow - Christian Alternative Rock
		3:00 - 4:30	Inner Flame - Christian Classic Rock with special appearance by Elvis!
		4:00	Damsel In Distress Competition.



stomach, causing instant death. The deceased was thirteen years old. The funeral was preached at the Lewis graveyard by Rev. T. P. Shaffer, at 11 a.m. last Saturday.

Mrs. W. A. Bates, of our city, who had been sick for a few weeks with quick consumption, died Tuesday evening. Only a week ago, her four-months-old babe was buried and now the fond mother follows the little one to that home above. Mrs. Bates was a good woman and had a host of friends in and around Waynesville. She leaves a husband and three small children who have the sympathy of the entire community in their sad affliction. The remains were buried at the family burying ground Wednesday afternoon.

I wish, through the columns of the Democrat, to express my thanks for the good people of Waynesville for the kind manner in which they assisted me and ministered to the wants of my beloved wife and babe in their last sickness, and the kindness shown me when death removed them from me. Waynesville contains a noble hearted set of people, and words cannot express the gratitude I feel in my heart toward them. May such affliction as mine never befall them.

W. A. Bates.

J. A. Christeson, a prominent young man living a few miles south of town, died Monday at ten o'clock after a few days illness from cerebro or spinal meningitis. He leaves a wife and one child to mourn his loss. Mr. Christeson was raised near where he lived at the time of his death, and during the years spent in the community had made many warm friends who regret his early death. The remains were laid to rest Tuesday at Cedar Hill in the presence of many friends and relatives.

-Pulaski County Democrat Mar. 27th

The regular election for County School Commissioner produced a surprising outcome in late March. Longtime Commissioner W. A. Lumpkin, principal of the Waynesville School and Normal, was defeated by Dora Miller, 939-to-686. The vote not only represented the largest vote ever polled up to that point in Pulaski County for School commissioner, the winning candidate was heralded as the first woman ever to win a countywide election in the county.

The temperance movement in Richland was beginning to gather steam and to prepare itself for some important future battles.

Richland now has a law enforcement league under the direction of Elder Gaylor. The officers are: Dr. J. J. Harris, Pres.; M. H. Kennedy, Vice-Pres.; Miss Clara Staggs, Sec'y.; and Dr. E. A. Oliver, Treas.

The object of this organization is to stop the alleged sale of intoxicating liquors in the city of Richland. Success to the new organization.

-Pulaski County Democrat Mar. 27th

The school improvement movement likewise began to stir more actively in Waynesville. School and municipal elections approaching in April provided backers with the opportunity they needed to move forward.

Among other things to be voted on at the school election next Tuesday is a proposition to enlarge and improve the school building. This is something that every parent and those interested in the cause of education should be interested in. Our

school house is entirely too small to accommodate the pupils. The ventilation is bad and the house is in some respects unsafe for the crowds of school children that are compelled to assemble there. For a few hundred dollars, another room can be built,

the present ones remodeled and the house put in shape to be both attractive and comfortable. We hope to see this question favorably considered and our town placed at the head of the educational procession in the county. Town pride and a love of education both demand of us that we open our hearts and purses for the common good.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 3rd

Waynesville residents continued to monitor the progress being made on the ambitious project of turning the big cave north of town into a potential tourist attraction.

We failed to mention last week the picture B. F. Scott had made of his cave and club house at the mouth of the Roubidoux. The work was done by Fred Liesman, of Dixon, and is a beautiful piece of painting. It shows the cave and the beautiful scenery surrounding it in a very creditable manner and is worth going to see. Mr. Scott is doing much work on this cave and will soon have one of the nicest summer resorts in the state.



1918 photograph of the Benjamin Franklin 'Sam' Scott Family. Courtesy of Don and Glenna Scott.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 3rd

Pulaski County's primary prisoner was beginning to become more than a nuisance for Sheriff Anderson. A late March jailbreak attempt presented county residents with another opportunity at tongue-wagging and the editor of the Democrat another occasion to try another spelling of the miscreant's name.

Ely Bowlin made another dash for liberty last Friday night but was again unsuccessful. Albert Matthews took his supper to the jail just after dark and when he opened the door, Bowlin darted out and made tracks for liberty, but Albert was pretty fleet on foot and soon run him down and safely lodged him in jail again.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 3rd

APRIL

One of any rural community's most important public officials in those days was its postmaster. Residents of Dixon quite understandably were astonished when there came a sudden change in that position in early April.

The appointment of Atty. T. V. Wilson, the popular young attorney of Dixon, post master of that place, was an agreeable surprise to his many friends throughout the country. Mr. Sherwin's resignation was unexpected, but it would have been hard to find a better man to fill his place than Mr. Wilson. T. V. Wilson has been an earnest worker for his party and is deserving the recognition he received. We wish to congratulate him over his success in securing the appointment.

The men of Waynesville went to the polls in early April to elect a slate of city officials. They were not joined by the womenfolk of the community, as the ladies had not yet secured the right to vote.



At the town election Tuesday the following were elected Trustees for the ensuing year: L. Tice, A. F. Mitchell, A. A. Dodd, John T. Manes, and Albert Christeson. This is a board that will look carefully after the interests of the town and will do their duty as they see it. The old board met Tuesday night and turned the business of the town over to the new members, after they had been duly qualified.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 10th

Property owners were sent scurrying in early April to figure out how much more tax money they would have to pay in 1903, as the result of a decision by the auditor of the state.

State Auditor, Albert O. Allen, has notified County Clerk E. G. Williams that the State Board of Equalization has raised all real estate in this county ten percent. This increases the assessed valuation of the county about \$80,859, making the total land valuation except town lots \$898,595.

The total assessed valuation of Pulaski county, according to the Assessor's books, is \$1,597,590, divided as follows: Real estate, not including town lots, \$998,595. Town lots, \$167,965. Personal property, \$531,030.

Few counties in the state with so small an assessed valuation can boast the internal improvements, with their treasury in as good shape as Pulaski.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 10th

Meanwhile, a local family barely escaped disaster while trying to trim a little traveling time.

Geo. Reed and wife, of Waynesville, were visiting friends in the city Saturday. While coming over, Mr. and Mrs. Reed had a very narrow escape from being drowned while crossing the Gasconade. It seems that in order to make a short cut they attempted to cross at the May's ford, not thinking that the water was too high to allow fording. They were soon in swimming water, however, and had to return to the bank and drive on up to the bridge. As it was they luckily escaped without a dunking.

-Richland Echo Apr. 16th

Reed's mistake was understandable, given the return to a more normal level of the waters after a period of flooding. A more tranquil Gasconade had proven more tempting not only to travelers but sportsmen alike.

The water on the Gasconade is about down to the fishing stage again and those desiring to have a good time fishing can soon have the opportunity of enjoying themselves. Some of our people have already been playing the rod and reel with fair success. As the weather warms up a little, fishing will be more pleasant and we expect many people from the cities and elsewhere to be here soon to participate in that sport.

No place in the state furnishes better fishing water than the Gasconade and Roubidoux and jack salmon, bass, crappie and other game fish abound in plenty in the placid waters of these two streams, and the big red-horse and channel cats are no uncommon catch for our anglers.

B. F. Scott is erecting a splendid club house at the confluence of the Gasconade and Roubidoux and will in a few weeks have one of the most comfortable resorts to be found in the country, situated in one of the most picturesque spots on earth.

It is at the cave at the mouth of Roubidoux, two miles from Waynesville and six miles from the railroad. He will have accommodations for all comers, he has put in telephone connections with both

Waynesville and Crocker and neither time nor money is being spared to make this the best place to spend your summer vacation on the Frisco road.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 17th

Mesdames Allen and Rollins gave their Sunday School classes an Easter treat by taking them to Mint Springs for an afternoon outing. There were about thirty children and each had a large supply of eggs which were roasted or boiled; in addition there was popcorn and through the kindness of J. M. Rollins the children enjoyed a treat of cakes and cookies galore. As may be imagined they all had a big time and were sorry when the time came to disband for home.

-Richland Echo Apr. 16th

Spring's balmy weather also tugged at the heartstrings of all area baseball players, who were raring to get out and enjoy the freedom to their field of dreams.

Waynesville's ball players met last week and organized their team for

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the coming season with the following players: A. L. Matthews, pitcher; W. L. Long, catcher; Enoch Matthews, 1st base; Carroll Underwood, 2nd base; A. F. Mitchell, 3rd base; Tilden Lumpkin, short stop; Bert Burchard, rf.; Mart Long, cf.; and Charles Ousley, lf.

A. L. Matthews was elected captain, Charles Ousley, manager, and Dr. D. Claiborn, treasurer.

The boys propose to play any team that will come to their ground, and are ready to go anywhere else when satisfactory arrangements are made with the manager. They organized for the purpose of playing ball and throw down the gauntlet to all joining counties. If you want to play ball and mean business, write to the manager, Charles Ousley, and you will be accommodated.

The men constituting this team are all good players and if they don't win it will not be because they don't try.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 17th

The dream of the county's main jail inmate, meanwhile, remained freedom. And so, while Waynesville ballplayers were swinging away for the fences, he was just swinging away.

Elie Bowlin, confined in jail for the murder of Sol Bales sometime ago, made another attempt to escape Tuesday night and this time came very near being successful. Not only did he come near making his escape but in so doing tried to add another murder to his list of crimes. When Sheriff Anderson went into the jail with his supper, and when his back was toward the prisoner, he was assaulted with a heavy club, which Bowlin had secreted in the cell, and was knocked down. He was struck three times, each lick making an ugly wound on the head and face, but was not so disabled but what he could give chase and soon overtook the fleeing fugitive.

How Bowlin got the stick into the cell is a mystery but it is thought to have been given him by someone from the outside. It was an oak stick about twenty inches long and two inches in diameter, and in the hands of a strong man was a dangerous weapon.

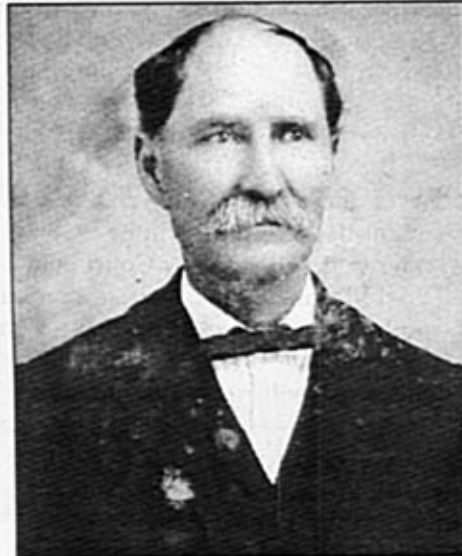
This is Bowlin's sixth attempt at escape and the second time that he has assaulted those feeding him, he having knocked Bud Patton down with a dish sometime ago. His attendants should take warning from this incident and be careful in the future.

-Pulaski County Democrat Apr. 24th

This still different spelling of

Bowlin's first name may have been the editor of the Democrat sixth unsuccessful attempt as well. Was Nathan Wheeler misspelling the prisoner's name on purpose for satirical effect, or did he just not know the correct spelling?

Meanwhile, Waynesville's economy received a shot in the arm with the April 28th opening of the newly chartered Bank of Waynesville. The bank was organized on April 1 with a capital stock of \$10,000, sixty percent of which was paid in.



J. J. Clark of Waynesville. Courtesy of Bob and Geneva Goodrich.

J. J. Clark was elected president, Dr. L. Tice, vice-president, and Sam Rollins, cashier. Directors elected for the first year were J. J. Clark, L. Tice, Sam T. Rollins, W. L. Bradford, W. H. Locker, J. W. Wheeler, and J. R. Burchard.

MAY

Citizens from several other locations in the county petitioned the County Court early in May to improve road and bridge facilities in the county. One group petitioned the court to build a bridge across Riddle Ford.

On May 9th, the movement to enlarge the school building in Waynesville got the decision its membership had wanted.

At the school meeting Saturday, it was unanimously decided to rebuild the school building by adding an addition on the south of sufficient size to make room for four rooms. As the amount of bonds had not been named to the notice, it was decided that the meeting could not vote bonds for the purpose of rebuilding, and another meeting would be called soon at which time bonds will be voted and the contract to rebuild probably let. The work will be in the hands of

a building committee.

-Pulaski County Democrat May 15th



Members of the Scott family pose for the photographer at the entrance to the cave that B. F. Scott developed in 1902-03. Courtesy of Don and Glenna Scott.

Waynesville resident Sam Scott, who had invested considerable time, money, and effort in building a clubhouse at the large cave that overlooked Roubidoux Creek north of town, appeared to have the place ready for the beginning of the outdoor recreation season.

Sam Scott has had a lot of photographs made of his cave and clubhouse at the mouth of the creek. He now has this place nicely fixed up.

-Pulaski County Democrat May 22nd

This new attraction, however, still couldn't compare nor compete with the popular attraction of Schlicht's Mill, where the following week the Pulaski County Democrat reported that Julius Busch of Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company was among the prominent visitors staying with the Schlichts.

"Mr. Busch is drinking magnesia water and pronounces it far superior to his Budweiser lager," bubbled the paper's Schlicht correspondent.

Distinction of another sort was noted about a venerable county official.

Mr. Williams will have the distinction, after having served the term for which he was elected on the 4th of last November, of holding the position of County clerk for a greater length of time probably than any other man in the State. He is now

about to enter his seventh consecutive term of four years each, and the following letter which he addressed to

the Hon. Secretary of State furnishes evidence of some of the peculiar traits of character in the make up of this remarkable one-legged ex confederate soldier.

"On the 12th day of July, 1869, I was appointed deputy Circuit clerk, deputy County clerk, deputy recorder and deputy Probate clerk, and served as deputy in all until 1874, when I was elected clerk of all the courts and served four years. In 1878 I was elected County clerk and have held the office every year since. I now have four years longer to serve."

-Pulaski County Democrat May 29th

JUNE

Primed by copious May rainfall, the county's rivers and creeks were high again in early June. Destructive as the flooding was, it quickly was forgotten as a disaster of more historic nature struck the courthouse square in the early morning hours of June 13th.

The Court House was burned last Saturday morning and most of the contents were lost. Fire was discovered at about three o'clock in the morning and by five o'clock the structure that for the last thirty years has graced the beautiful square in the center of our little city and had been the pride of the county, stood as four blackened walls filled with a mass of ruins and debris. After the fire



reached the roof- which it did before being discovered--it spread very rapidly and soon the top of the entire building was in the flames and any effort to subdue their progress was useless.

the Circuit Clerk's office were all lost, also those in the County Clerk's office except a few that were in the safe. The county bonds and mortgages were in the safe and are supposed to be all right. The tax books

and F. L. Scott each saved their abstract books, which will be found valuable in straightening out the records.

The outer walls of the house stand intact and are supposed to be practically uninjured and if so the loss to the building is fully covered by insurance. The loss of the records falls pretty heavily on the county but the inconvenience to individuals will be much greater than that to the county.

Quite a number of individual losses occurred which in the aggregate will amount to almost as much as that to the county. Among these, M. G. Wyrick, G. W. Gann, J. L. Johnson and W. D. Johnson are probably the heaviest, with a number of others losing small amounts in the way of office furniture, etc.

It is not yet known what action will be taken in the matter of re-building as the insurance will be to look after first. The County Court held a brief meeting Saturday afternoon but nothing definite could be done at the time, but it is safe to presume that the house will be re-built and business will proceed as usual. The county is in excellent financial condition and has sufficient money on hand, with the insurance to be collected,

to re-build in the house and buy a complete new set of records without running the county in debt a cent. Already a move is on foot to move the county seat to Richland which, if it amounts to anything will only succeed in deterring the rebuilding of the court house and heap a big lot of costs on the county.

-Pulaski County Democrat June 19th



Flames roar from the courthouse in the early morning hours of June 13, 1903. Courtesy of the Pulaski County Historical Society.

The origin of the fire is unknown and all opinions are purely speculative, and as numerous as those who offer them; but it is generally believed that it was accidental. The records in

were saved from the Collector's office and all the records, books, papers, etc. in the office of the Probate Judge were saved.

Johnson & Reed, Joe Mc Gregor

The burning of the court house and records is a serious loss to the citizens of Pulaski county, one that will take years to overcome, although we can help improve matters by supplying all the information that we have in our possession.

All who have deeds can have them all recorded by sending them to the Recorder of Deeds free of charge.

It will be sometime before they can get everything in shape to record them. Do not put the matter off, but look the matter up and get everything arranged so you can have the work done.

-Dixon Echo June 19th

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reignited county seat removal talk in some quarters. This, however, proved to be nothing more than a brush fire that quickly burned itself out.

Last week we stated that Richland was making an effort to remove the county seat to that place. We made this statement on what we supposed reliable information, but since then we understand that it is only idle talk and no effort is being made in that direction. We

are informed by reliable authority that the business men of Richland are taking no part in this discussion and will lend no assistance to a move of that kind. The same news comes from both Dixon and Crocker and the court house will be rebuilt at the same place as soon as surrounding conditions will admit. This is as it should be, for it would be a hopeless effort

that any place would make to move the county seat away from Waynesville, and would only retard the re-building, thus working a hardship on the county officials and an expense on the county. We are glad to note this spirit of liberality and good judgment in our sisters on the railroad, and Waynesville will do all in her power to further the best interests of the county and its citizens.

-Pulaski County Democrat June 26th

As members of the county court wrestled with the problems associated with clearing away the charred skeleton of the burned courthouse, there was a concern from some quarters that county officials would pinch pennies and erect a less than suitable replacement.

Pulaski County should not put up a little "one hoss" court house, but should put up a building that will be a credit to the county and one in which the records can be kept without any fear of being destroyed by fire or otherwise.

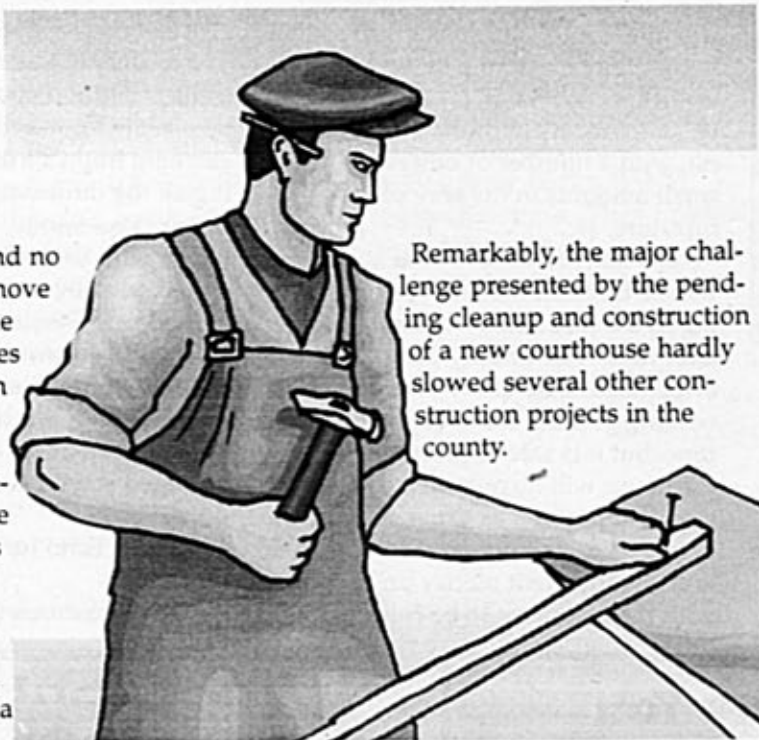
-Dixon Echo article reprinted in the Pulaski County Democrat June 26th

First things first, however. The county could not proceed without col-

lecting funds from insurance coverage on the devastated structure.

Senator Hohenshield of Rolla was here last Saturday to examine the walls of the burned court house and help adjust the loss. He completed his work and returned home Saturday evening.

-Pulaski County Democrat June 26th



Remarkably, the major challenge presented by the pending cleanup and construction of a new courthouse hardly slowed several other construction projects in the county.

The contract for doing the carpenter work and foundation on the school house was let Monday to A. J. Barger and J. M. Bryant of Richland for \$195. Work will begin next Monday and is to be completed by the 15th of August.

Dixon is erecting a canning factory. Sometime ago a charcoal plant was established there. These two industries will bring lots of business to the town and will be of untold value to the business interests of the city.

Dixon is a live little city filled with an energetic class of big hearted people, who look to their own interests and encourage live business enterprises to locate there. The town is surrounded by a splendid farming country and has many natural advantages and next to Waynesville is the best town of its size in the country. The town of Dixon and her citizens will always hold a warm place in the heart of the editor of this paper.

-Pulaski County Democrat June 26th

Despite the fire's major blow to county government, the wheels of justice apparently were neither impaired nor slowed.

Eley Bowlin, who has been in jail here for the last six or eight months charged with the murder of Sol Bales living in the Francis neighborhood, was arraigned before Judge Woodside Tuesday, at a special term of Circuit court, called for the purpose of trying him, and plead guilty to murder in the second degree. He was at once sentenced to serve thirty years in the penitentiary. His wife and children, also the wife of the murdered man Bales, were present. Bowlin seemed very little affected by the sentence and was immediately returned to jail. He will be taken to the penitentiary at Jefferson City soon.

-Pulaski County Democrat June 26th

A late June storm raked through the area, causing immediate concern but little of lasting nature.

Lightning struck a shade tree in Mr. Reaves' yard Sunday night, also the Black hotel, but no serious damage was done.

-Pulaski County Democrat June 26th

JULY

A Pulaski County family that had recently moved to St. Louis were forced to return to the county due to an unfortunate and unexpected tragedy.

Frank Logan, a young man well known in and around Waynesville, a son of George Logan, died in St. Louis Sunday night from blood poison caused by a hurt on the arm sometime previous. The remains were brought here Tuesday morning and taken to the cemetery on Dry Creek near V. B. Dell's place for burial.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 3rd

After exploring all options, members of the county court finally determined that they should go ahead and proceed with building a new courthouse on the downtown Waynesville square.

The County court made an order Monday to re-build the Court House as soon as a settlement is made with the insurance company. It is not known whether the company will pay the insurance or replace the building themselves.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 3rd

The early part of the summer proved frustrating for Waynesville's "boys of summer", whose invitations to schedule games with other area

ball teams went unanswered at first. But then, some acceptances began to appear and the town's new field became busy with activity.

Our ball boys have matched a game with Richland for the Fourth of July. This will be an interesting game. Our nine has played several games with Richland, the last resulting with a victory for Richland. The Richland team is composed of nice gentlemanly players, and will receive fair treatment at Waynesville, but will be defeated if our boys are able to beat them.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 3rd

A more serious game was played out meanwhile within the confines of the county legal system. It was the latest skirmish in the ongoing "battle of the taverns."

County Court met in special session Monday to pass upon the petition of Lee Bohannon to run a saloon in Richland. A large number of the good citizens of Richland, many of whom were ladies, were here to try to prevent the granting of the petition, and

all seemed much interested in the work they had undertaken. We would like to give the names of all who attended, but there were so many we failed to learn the names of all. The petition was carefully examined and compared with the Assessor's books and it was found to lack about six of containing a majority of names of all the taxpayers in the city. The license was consequently refused. The ladies were quite jubilant over their success and believe they now see the end of the whiskey traffic in Richland. It remains to be seen what their work will amount to and all hope for the best.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 3rd

When the results of recent teacher certification testing became known, one of those who passed the test became a subject of curiosity in the community, and afforded the publisher of the Pulaski County Democrat an opportunity to do some bragging.

Virgil Wheeler, 14 and a half year old son of publisher Nathan Wheeler, became the youngest person to receive a teacher's certificate of any grade, and, by odds, the youngest to ever receive a second grade in the county, last week was granted a second-grade certificate.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 3rd
"Wait a minute, not so fast," the editor of the Richland newspaper said in essence in a contentious response.



While conceding all possible credit to Master Virgil in his recent success of which he may well be proud, yet we are compelled by actual facts to challenge the statement in regard to his being the youngest to ever receive a certificate in this county. Richland claims that honor for two of her young people, viz: Miss Amelia Gibbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Gibbs, who received a third-grade certificate during the examination held at this place in 1900, under the direction of Prof. W. A. Lumpkins when L. J. Gladden was County Commissioner, she being at that time 11 years of age, and for Ward Ellis, son of Mrs. M. J. Ellis, who received a second grade certificate at the same examination, his age at that time being 18 years. In so far as we know these have secured for Richland the honor claimed by the Democrat.

-Richland Cyclone July 9th

The Cyclone's editor did not let the dispute with Wheeler to keep him away from the county seat to observe its gala celebration of independence.

The writer spent the 4th at Waynesville, and among other things on the program Judge Joe Mc Gregor made a nice talk in the fore-noon after

which the audience was dismissed until 1 o' clock.

The rain put somewhat of a damper on the occasion and must have drowned out the Waynesville string band and brass band also as they failed to put in an appearance. The lemonade and ice cream stands seemed to have a dull time of it, owing doubtless to the cool weather. Your writer looked all around for some one to tell him they had more grub than they knew what to do with, but finally concluded it would be more in accordance with the scripture to go to Black's hotel. After we had eaten a bounteous dinner we found Sam Mc Millan in the court house-yard with enough dinner for ten men, and only one trying to eat it all. That was Charley Mitschele.

At one o' clock the program was again taken up. Dan Johnson read the Declaration of Independence in a loud, clear voice that every one could easily hear. Judge Mc Gregor made a fine talk on the importance of the day to the American people. At the close of the speaking as your scribe and Judge Curtis were sitting on the speaker's stand talking of Valley Forge and the critical condition the colonies were in at that time, we were startled by a succession of screams,

which we at first thought was the eagle screaming. Then came what we supposed to be heavy thunder. On looking in the direction of the noise, we saw that the black-feathered eagle had attacked the red feathered eagle and they were locked in deadly combat, and no less than six eagles were in the combat before it ended. What we supposed was thunder, was the father of the black-feathered red eagle directing the battle. After peace had been restored we thought we saw blood all over the ground, but upon closer examination it proved to be red hair. And they played ball and adjourned sine die.

-Richland Echo July 9th

There were celebrations of a more threatening nature, which added

more fuel to the argument that law officials should crack down on the possession and use of firearms that was especially popular among young men in the county.

The pistol habit has become entire-

ly too common since the doing away with the Grand Jury and some means should be devised to suppress it. On last Saturday, several shots were fired, some on the streets of Waynesville and some near the picnic grounds. Perhaps this was done unthoughtedly and with no bad intent, and it may have been done simply to show the utter disregard for the law. But in either

case, the pistol habit is a nuisance and should be stopped even though it cost the guilty parties a fine.

They know the law and should be wiser than to be caught with firearms on their person, and a fine or jail sentence is an pretty good cure.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 10th



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County officials at last could breathe a sigh of relief when they finally received information that the insurance company had agreed to settle for the loss in the devastating courthouse fire.

Judge G. W. Berry was down Saturday to sign the insurance papers preparatory to receiving the insurance on the courthouse. The company will pay within the sixty days allowed.

County court met yesterday--Thursday--to consider plans and make arrangements to build a new Court House. Senator Hohenschild of Rolla was here to submit plans of buildings and the matter of size, cost and architecture of the building will be settled at this meeting, but at time of closing the forms no definite statement had been given out. It is however safe to state that the Court will build a good Court House, one that the county will be proud of, but at the same time one that comes within the reach of the county to build without running seriously in debt. The Court is composed of conservative men that

will do what they think best for all the people.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 17th

The serious public nature of activity on the square hardly kept most county residents from enjoying their favorite summertime activities, least of all practitioners of the national pastime.

The Waynesville ball team went to Houston, Texas county, last Saturday and played a game of ball with the team at that place Sunday, which resulted in a victory for Houston, the score being 9 to 11. The boys put up a good game except in the second inning, when, by wild throws, they let the Houstons run in six tallies on them. This gave them such a lead that they were unable to overcome it. They speak very highly of the treatment they received and give the umpire credit for perfect fairness. They blame themselves alone for their defeat and are anxious to get another game with the same team. They say they offered to stay and play another game Monday but as Houston had a game with West Plains Tuesday, they wouldn't play our boys again Monday. We hope to have them visit

us and give our boys a return game in the near future.

Waynesville's second base ball team--the Invincibles--expect to go to Bloodland on the 25th inst. to play a game with a nine at that place. The Invincibles are all boys but put up a pretty fair game for "kids."

-Pulaski County Democrat July 17th

J. S. Van Gorden, author of the Pioneer's Hoard, informs us that his new book, Pomeroy's Vengeance is now about ready for the publisher. This story is based upon facts concerning the early history of this vicinity and will doubtless prove of especial interest to this locality as many of the characters named are familiar to all, even to day.

-Richland Echo July 16th

Over in Richland, a business vital to that community's basic culinary needs restarted its operations when a collapsed oven finally was repaired.

The repairs on the oven of the Bon Ton Bakery are now completed and the bakery reopened for business yesterday. The oven as it now stands is

practically a new one and is one of the best of its kind in the state. The new store room will soon be ready for occupancy, at which time Mr. Coleman expects to establish a dairy lunch in connection with his bakery. The enterprise of A. J. McDonald and others who have made the new bakery possible can not be too highly commended.

-Richland Echo July 16th

Meanwhile, Waynesville city officials pursued their goal of making the community a popular tourist attraction.

The contract will be let for the making of a Wagon Road around under the bluff from Waynesville to Scott's cave on Monday, July 20, 1903, to best bidder. Road to be complete and ready for travel with all bridges and culverts. For further particulars and specifications, call on Nathan Wheeler and J. B. Christeson.

-Pulaski County Democrat July 17th

But would tourists travel to Pulaski County, if they believed there were dangerous elements afoot on the streets? That certainly crossed the minds of many when yet another

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report surfaced concerning the indiscriminate use of firearms.

The habit of carrying concealed weapons, especially pistols, is becoming so wide spread that something will have to be done at once, or this country will soon be worse than the mountain regions of Kentucky. Since the abolition of the grand jury system every boy and about half the men carry pistols on going to town, to picnics and even to church and by promiscuous shooting greatly disturb the women and children.

At the picnic held at Jno. Ballard's last Saturday there were some 40 or 50 shots fired on the ground, some of them over the lemonade stand. There must be something done to repress this. We, the citizens of Pulaski Co., pray for the re establishment of the grand jury system, and would also be in favor of making it a penitentiary offense to be guilty of carrying a concealed weapon, a \$50 fine for carrying one in any manner, and a \$50 fine for selling or giving one to a minor.

-Richland Echo July 16th

AUGUST

Most of the younger population of the county enjoyed more tranquil pursuits. But there were hazards even there.

A party of young people composed of Messrs. Frank Wright, Wm. Morgan, Phin. Storie, Ernest Johnson, Brook Lang and Misses Floe Ervin, Monta Warren, Alma Sellers, Anna Tockstein and Josephine Johnson drove out to the home of Chas. Henry Sunday afternoon and enjoyed themselves immensely for a few hours.

On the return trip the surrey containing Messrs. Wright and Storie and Misses Ervin and Tockstein was completely demolished by contact with a stump in the middle of the road and the occupants thrown into the road. Fortunately, however, no one was seriously hurt and beyond a few scratches were none the worse off for their adventure.

-Richland Echo Aug. 6th

The "dog days" of August apparently kept few from enjoying every outdoor opportunity presented. The cool, spring-fed waters of Roubidoux Creek beckoned to many, apparently

attracting an increasing number of city folks into Waynesville.

Waynesville is becoming very popular as a summer resort and bids soon to become one of the most famous resorts in the State. The Black hotel has for the last month been crowded with city guests who are here to view the pretty mountain scenery, drink the pure spring water and breathe the health-giving ozone of the Ozarks. With a little better accommodations for guests, Waynesville will become a summer resort of world wide fame.

-Pulaski County Democrat Aug. 7th

The Waynesville ball team went to Lebanon Wednesday and played a game of ball with the team at that place and were defeated by a score of 9 to 2. Our boys made a few bad plays and let in several runs which accounts for the difference in the score. Lebanon will come here next week or the week following to play a return game.

There will be a game of base ball played here on Saturday, August 15, that is a little out of the usual. It is a game between the second nine at this

place and a nine composed of the Christeson family. None will be allowed to play on that side except Christesons. There are many good players among those of that name and they promise our boys a warm time.

Another game which is an out growth of the above is to be played soon that is probably more novel in its nature than this one. That is a game between the Christesons and Ousleys. These families both furnish a number of good players, and the game will be eagerly awaited for. It will be announced as soon as the date is set.

-Pulaski County Democrat Aug. 7th

The August 15th game was won by the Invincibles 11-to-7 over the Christesons.

Meanwhile, an important showdown took place in the battle over booze.

Last Thursday and Friday were days to be remembered in our sister villages of Richland and Crocker.

Thursday was the day set by the County court for hearing the petition of Ewel Branson to carry on a dram shop at Crocker, and Friday the peti-

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tion of Lee Bohannon for the same business at Richland was to be presented.

Several citizens and interested parties were here from Crocker to fight the petition and W. D. Rowden and G. M. Reed represented the remonstrators in a legal way while Joe McGregor looked after the interest of the petitioner. The petition was found to contain a majority of tax payers, but it was shown that Branson had violated some section of the dram shop law and his license was refused.

Friday Richland had her inning and early in the morning the clans began to gather eager for the fray. A number of that city's fairest citizens were on hand to enter their protest against the granting of a license, should the petition be found to contain a legal number of signers. Several fine legal points were raised by the opposing council, Reed and Rowden, which had not been sprung before. The petition was carefully examined, but was short of the legal majority and the license was refused.

This was Mr. Bohannon's second application and it is now thought that the matter will drop, for the present at least. The opposition element went home happy and contented.

The failure of Mr. Branson to obtain a license at Crocker cuts the number of the saloons down to two in the County.
-Pulaski County Democrat Aug. 14th

For the second time within a recent date the county court has refused to grant a license for the sale of liquor in this city owing to the lack of sufficient signers to the petition. This will probably result in the abandonment of the attempt, for the present at least, and Richland will remain a "dry" town no matter how much it rains.

-Richland Cyclone Aug. 13th

Meanwhile, the unusual enterprise of a singular Pulaski County businessman proved eminently successful.

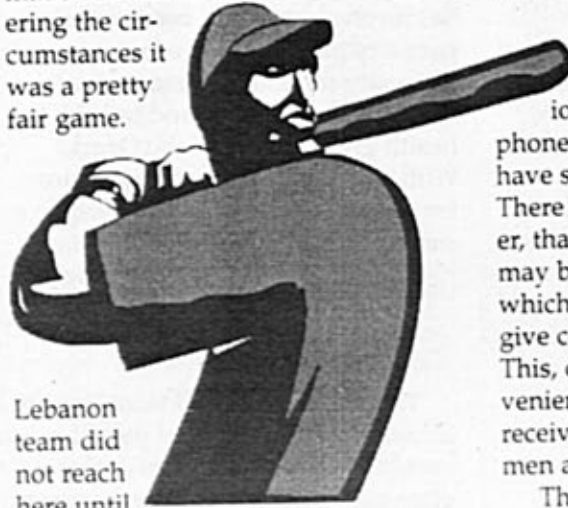
Devor Bohannon of Richland was here Friday with a lot of Indian pennies for sale. They brought from six to twenty-two dollars a head at auction.

-Pulaski County Democrat Aug 14th

August continued to be the busiest baseball month of '03. Neither the heat and humidity nor a rain shower or two stopped Waynesville ballplayers from enjoying their sport.

An interesting game of ball was

played here Wednesday between the Lebanon crack team and the Waynesville boys. Rain interfered with the game and put the grounds in bad shape which caused several scores that should not have been made but considering the circumstances it was a pretty fair game.



Lebanon team did not reach here until after 4 o' clock and rain stopped the game at two innings, but soon the clouds dispersed and the game was resumed at about 7 o' clock.

At first it looked as if Lebanon had a snap and at the end of the third inning the score stood 10 to 1, they having made 4 in the first, 1 in the second, and 5 in the third. But this kind of work did not please the home team and they got down to their old time playing. In the fourth the visitors were shut out, in the 5th they made two runs and in the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth, they were retired in rapid succession without another score to their credit, and their half of the game closed with the same twelve runs they had at the close of the 5th inning.

Waynesville kept hammering away, and succeeded in pounding McBride for seven more runs and while our boys were still at the bats in the ninth inning the visitors declared it was too dark to play longer and quit. It was true it was getting late but our sluggers could still see to gauge McBride's curves and had already pounded him for four runs in this inning, which brought the score to 8 to 12, and had the inning been played out there is no doubt that our boys would have made a few more tallies.

It is to be regretted that the weather was so unfavorable but these things will happen.

Lebanon has a splendid team and they all conducted themselves as nicely as any team that ever visited our city.

-Pulaski County Democrat Aug. 14th

Each community in the county strove mightily to take bigger steps down the road of progress. One of

the most prestigious signs of progress for any town one hundred years ago was the introduction of community-wide telephone service. While there was a scattering of service throughout the county, Richland seemingly led the way.

Numerous promoters have been here in the past with various schemes for installing a telephone system in our city, but they have so far failed to materialize. There is now a good prospect, however, that before the first of the year we may boast of an up-to-date system which will eventually branch out and give connections with outside points. This, of course, will be a great convenience to all its patrons and should receive the hearty support of business men and others.

The promoter, E. E. No-e of Eldora, Ia., was in the city last week and easily secured the number of names which he required for starting and as soon as material can be obtained will start the construction of the line. He intends putting in late improved instruments and will render service which will give perfect satisfaction. The central office will probably be located in the rooms above the Cyclone office, which are well adapted for that purpose. Those wishing to secure phones can arrange for them by calling on C. H. Davis.
-Richland Cyclone Aug. 13th

On August 28th, the Democrat reported that the Roubidoux Bluff Road project was nearing completion. When completed, the improvements were expected to cost the city \$300, along with some county funds.

On August 29th, the Christeson baseball team walloped the Invincibles 28 to-24.

SEPTEMBER

The long, hot summer many times comes to an abrupt end in September. Such was the case in 1903 when a cool front moved in and triggered torrential rain.

Sunday's rain overflowed the ditch in town and for awhile the streets were full of water. It was the hardest rain since the cloud burst of 1895, but no serious damage was done, except washing out a portion of the wall.

-Pulaski County Democrat Sept. 11th

There was a notable September wedding. And, more moderate temperatures proved conducive to continued enjoyment of the pristine Ozarks outdoors.

Surveyor Robert Breeden has at last gone and committed matrimony to the surprise of his many friends here and elsewhere. Well, Robert, we are glad that you have at last seen the error of your way and decided to change your manner of living before it was too late. Here's a health to you and your charming bride. May your lives be one of continual round happiness and your joys know no end. Robert was married Sunday to Miss Etta Dye of Big Piney.
-Pulaski County Democrat Sept. 11th

The Mt. Gibson boys were here Saturday and engaged the Invincibles--our "small" nine--in a game of ball. The Invincibles were somewhat crippled by their pitcher being sick, but Arthur Tice was put in the box and did fair work. Tilden Lumpkin pitched for Mt. Gibson and for six innings it looked as if the boys were going to be shut out, but in the three last innings they succeeded in hitting him for eight runs, which brought the score up to 8 while the visitors had 10 to their credit. Considering the fact that both teams were composed of boys, mostly small, it was a very good game.
-Pulaski County Democrat Sept. 11th

An interesting game of ball was played here last Saturday between the Spring Creek nine and Waynesville's second nine. The game was rapid and abounded in good play, and, while it resulted in a victory for the home team, it



demonstrated the fact that the Spring Creek boys can still play ball. This is the second game for these teams, and each have a victory to their credit.

Burchard and Christeson constituted the battery for Waynesville and Duncan and Ousley made Spring Creek's battery.

-Pulaski County Democrat Sept. 11th



In the rubber game of the matchup between Waynesville's Invincibles and the Christesons, the latter team proved the winner.

The Democrat, meanwhile, expressed pleasure upon learning that a popular Methodist minister had been retained for another year.

The people of this place and Dixon will learn with pleasure that Rev. R. N. Allen has been returned to this work for another year by the Conference of the M. E. Church, South. This is Rev. Allen's fourth year in charge of the churches at this place and Dixon and during the three years past he and his estimable wife have made a host of warm friends who will rejoice at their return.

-Pulaski County Democrat Sept. 11th

After what had seemed like a long wait for payment from their insurance company, and after finalizing architectural plans for the design of a replacement court building, members of the county court finally were able to put things into motion to get the project started.

The contract for building the new court house was let Tuesday to Ed

Long of Rolla, Mo., he having the lowest bid. Four contractors were present and all submitted bids ranging from \$14,229 down to \$10,240.

The bids were as follows, W. V. Whettes, of St. James, \$14,229; George S. Matthews of West Plains, \$11,494; A. H. Davis, of Springfield, \$10,300; Ed Long, of Rolla, \$10,240. It will be seen that the contractors figured very close, there only being the sum of sixty dollars between the bids of Mr. Davis and Mr. Long, and at least three of the bids were lower than it was thought possible to get the house built for. These figures include everything complete with the court room seated and the keys ready to turn over to the County court by the first of February, 1904. The contractor assumes the contract already made with Mr. Mitchell for the brick, and takes what old brick the county has, that are fit to put in the building, at six dollars per thousand.

-Pulaski County Democrat Sept. 11th

It didn't take long for the work to begin.

W. J. Mitchell fired the first kiln of brick last Thursday and the brick will be ready for use in a few days. The



Brick maker W. J. Mitchell, family and workers take a momentary breather from their important task of manufacturing the bricks used in the 1903 court-house construction. Courtesy of the Pulaski County Historical Society.

moulding is going right ahead and another kiln will be ready in a few days.

-Pulaski County Democrat Oct. 2nd

Late September weather proved to be beneficial not only for brick making by Mitchell and his crew, but also

for a continual, almost frantic pace of ball playing.

A part of the Cedar Hill nine, assisted by Waynesville's best players, succeeded in defeating the Bloodland base ball team at Bloodland last Saturday. The Bloodland

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boys will give them a return game.
-Big Piney correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Oct. 2nd

OCTOBER

There were always hazards aplenty for the unsuspecting. Especially vulnerable were active young boys, whose curious, adventuresome nature many times put them in harm's way.

The five-year-old son of W. P. Long, living one-half mile north of town, was kicked by a young horse Wednesday morning and seriously hurt. He was kicked in the face, the bridge of the nose was broken and the flesh badly lacerated. Dr. Tice was called to dress the wounds and declared the little fellow seriously but not dangerously hurt, as the skull was not fractured.

-Pulaski County Democrat Oct. 30th

A serious and what nearly proved to be a fatal accident occurred near the Richland bridge one day last week. Fred Briggs, a 13-year-old son of S. Briggs, was thrown from a horse and sustained a shock, which rendered him unconscious for a period of several hours and inflicted an ugly flesh wound upon his thigh. He was taken to the home of his uncle living near by, and if no internal injuries were sustained, a speedy recovery is expected.

-Gasconade correspondent, Pulaski County Democrat Nov. 6th

NOVEMBER

A prominent Pulaski County doctor took steps this month to move his family to a rather nice farm.

Dr. R. E. Howlett, of Bailey, Mo., was in town Monday and called to advance his subscription to the Democrat. Dr. Howlett has recently bought the Granville Adkison farm on Roubidoux and will soon move thereon, but his practice will not be neglected.

-Pulaski County Democrat Nov. 27th

DECEMBER

The countdown to Christmas apparently did not catch every citizen up in the peace and goodwill spirit. A violent incident on the streets of Waynesville rekindled the hue and cry by some against the dangerous nature of the gun totting habit.

Judge W. L. Vaught and Nathan Ousley became involved in a little dispute on our streets Monday when Ousley pulled his revolver and shot at Vaught twice, one shot taking effect in his right arm, inflicting a painful but not serious wound. A warrant was issued for Ousley's arrest on a charge of assault with intent to kill and he was arrested and lodged in jail until Tuesday when he was able to give bond and was released.

The difficulty arose over some old trouble and from what we could learn but few words were passed until the shooting took place. Ousley's preliminary trial was set for tomorrow--Saturday--before 'Squire' Mc Donald at this place. It is said that another charge of carrying concealed weapons will be preferred against him.

-Pulaski County Democrat Dec. 18th

Judges of the county court kept busy in December to make sure that funds were in place not only for the construction of the new courthouse but also for the improvements on the school house in Waynesville.

A special term of the County Court was held the first of the week to transfer some of the loans of funds to be used in building the court house and the school fund. There is quite an amount loaned that it will be necessary to use in building and in order that the parties that have the money may not be compelled to pay off their mortgages, they are being transferred to the school fund.

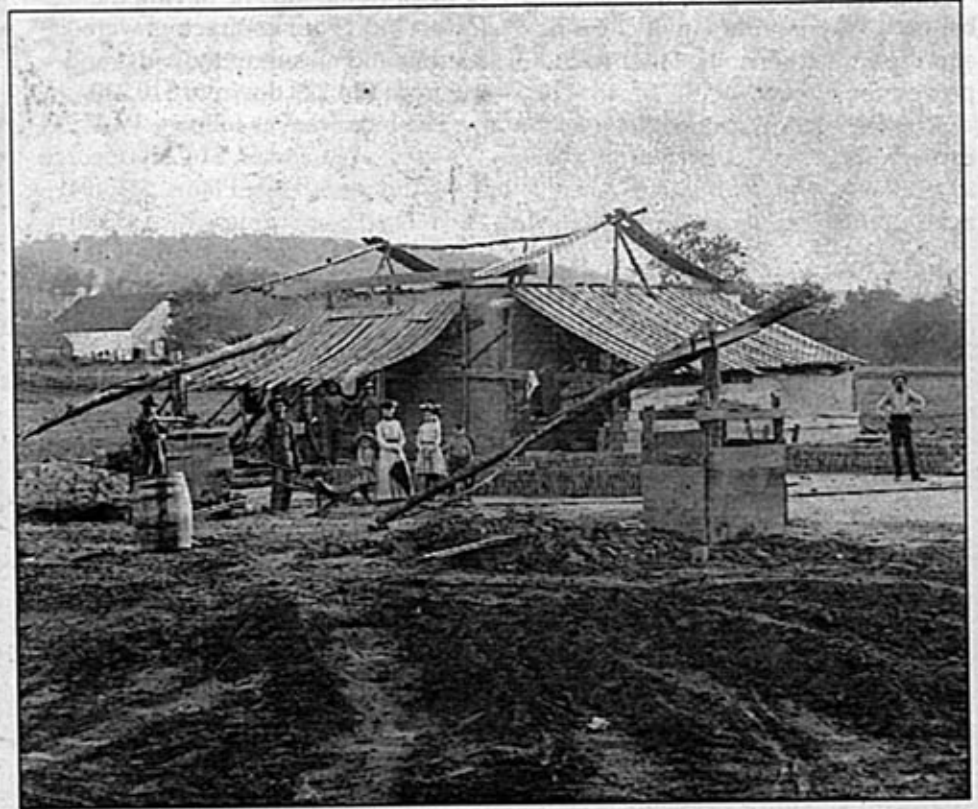
-Pulaski County Democrat Dec. 18th

Some of that money undoubtedly reached the hands of W. J. Mitchell in short order. The brick maker and his crew raced to complete the job before worsening weather interfered. They beat the bad weather by just a single day.

W. J. Mitchell completed brick work last Friday.

-Pulaski County Democrat Dec. 18th

One of the severest storms we have seen in years visited this section Saturday afternoon. It rained, sleeted, and snowed all afternoon and the wind blew a perfect gale. The thermometer on Sunday morning registered two degrees below zero, but it cleared off and has been considerably warmer since.



W. J. Mitchell's brick making operation was situated in an area currently located in the City Park. Notice the stack of finished bricks in front of the building at the center of the picture. Courtesy of the Pulaski County Historical Society.

-Pulaski County Democrat Dec. 18th

More violence shattered what should have been a tranquil holiday season. This time the incident occurred in another community.

A shooting, in which two men both prominent citizens of the town lost their lives, occurred in Richland last Friday evening, and as a result our sister city is enshrouded in gloom, two homes are wrecked and two families are deprived of their head. A widow and small child are left to mourn the loss of their support and protector, another family is mourning the loss of a father while a bright young man with a hitherto unsullied record and untarnished reputation is languishing in the clutches of the law awaiting the action of a preliminary court under the charge of committing one of the gravest crimes on our criminal calendar, that of taking human life.

The circumstances as best we can learn them are about as follows: John Eaton was the city marshal of Richland. Frank Musgrave was a citizen of the town and so far as we know bore a good record, but the two were not on the best of terms, in fact had been known as enemies for some time. Last Friday it is said that Musgrave was drinking a little and Eaton and his son Richard, a young man of 24 or 25 years, attempted to arrest him. Several shots were exchanged and Musgrave staggered into the G. M. & T. drug store where

he expired in a few moments with four bullet wounds in his body, three of which struck him from the rear and one in the front. The elder Eaton was shot in the stomach and was able to walk home, but the bowels were perforated and he died Saturday night. There seems, as is usual in such cases, a difference of opinion as to who fired the first shot and probably on this alone rests the future outcome of the lamentable question.

Richard Eaton was arrested and brought here by Sheriff Anderson to await a preliminary hearing, which was set for Tuesday before Squire Mc Donald at Richland. The case was called Tuesday but a change of venue was asked for and the case was sent to Squire Flynn and will be tried at Richland Tuesday.

This is probably one of the saddest affairs that ever took place in our county and a circumstance that the good people at Richland, as well as all over the county, deeply deplore.

-Pulaski County Democrat Dec. 24th

The year ended on this sad note. But, as Pulaski Countians gathered for the holiday season, much of the problems of the year seemed diminished by the hopeful message of Christmas. Additionally, the dramatic disaster of the year--the devastating courthouse fire--even began to fade in the minds of the citizens, seemingly in direct proportion to the progress being made in erecting a newer, nicer structure on the courthouse square.