

1950

All of the following news of 1950 are from the Pulaski County Democrat. The year began with Ruth Long as owner (along with husband V. V., who was the Waynesville Postmaster) and publisher. Ruth resumed her weekly column "Dear Readers..." after suffering several illnesses the previous year. The editorial duties were fulfilled by son Douglas E. Long. The year ended with a change in ownership of the newspaper.

January 5

Hospital Road Route F Under Consideration by State Highway Dept

Mr. J. L. Brown, Division Engineer, at Springfield, Mo., has just been notified that the State Highway Commission is considering the approval of a location for Route F, Pulaski County.

Beginning on U. S. Route No. 66 east of Waynesville, thence south-westerly to Waynesville General Hospital. Length approximately .8 miles.

NOTICE TO THE PEOPLE OF WAYNESVILLE

I have requested and been granted a hearing before the Highway Commission of Missouri, relative to the relocation of U. S. Highway 66 from a point east of Waynesville to a point west of Waynesville. The hearing will be in the hearing room of the Commission at Jefferson City, Missouri on Tuesday, January 10, 1950 at 1:30 P.M. We want as many as possible to go to this hearing. Both the proponents and the opponents may be heard. We understand there are some people in or near Waynesville that favor the change in location, and if that is true you are welcome to be there and be heard. I am sure there are many people in Waynesville that want to know just who you are.

There will be at least one bus and many cars to take those that want to go and all persons desiring to attend said hearing in favor of keeping the

road in Waynesville should contact the undersigned and transportation will be furnished free of charge. Of course those that want the road to go south of Waynesville will have to furnish their own transportation. I feel that there are several people in and near Waynesville that are politically sore at me, and for that reason they refuse to be for us. It is equally true there are some people in and near Waynesville that I do not love personally, politically, or otherwise, but in a time like this we should be big enough to get in and fight for what we know will save our little city and the nice business many of our people receive from the people traveling through Waynesville.

Fort Leonard Wood took the great part of our trade territory, now if we stand by and let the Highway Commission take our road business, property value in my opinion, will decrease fifty per cent in Waynesville and many people who now live here and enjoy a good business will serve out and have to locate elsewhere. We are going to make the fight of our lives before the Commission, if we lose then we will fight any and every other way we can think of. The people who pay taxes to build roads should enjoy some business from them if they desire and should at least have the right of entrance to said super road they propose to build for the rich people, trucks and buses to speed through our state.

Respectfully,

Tom A. Shockley, Representative
[Representative Shockley printed this notice in the December 29, 1949, issue, too, in an effort to get a big group together for the Highway Commission meeting. Shockley argued in a February 24, 1949, article in the Democrat that a Route 66 by-pass could cost the local economy \$648,000.00 a year.]

January 12

HIGHWAY COMMISSION HEARS GROUP OF OVER 100 FROM HERE AND COUNTY
Over 100 citizens of Waynesville

and Pulaski County were in Jefferson City Tuesday to ask that 66 Highway go through the city and not around it.

The delegation spokesman told the Highway Commission that to relocate 66 south of town as proposed would cut the lifeline of the town and affect the county in general adversely.

Representative T. A. Shockley presented the brief for the city, explaining that expenditure of at least \$500,000 additional money on re-routing was unnecessary and that traffic through Waynesville posed no traffic problem either as to congestion or safety during the boom days of Fort Leonard Wood when 50,000 more people were in the area.

Atty. R. A. Bell and others also told the Commission how business and property within the county would be affected should the town be bypassed.

Joe N. Morgan spoke for the County Highway Commission and asked that 66 be routed to give some benefit to the towns.

Spokesmen for other towns in the county also requested that the location be made through town in order that the county might benefit from the proposed super-highway.

A small group residing east of Waynesville and west of town near the junctions of the proposed re-routing presented a petition to

the Commission registering approval of the re-rerouting.

The Commission has taken the matter under advisement and will notify the group of their decision after careful consideration.

January 19

Displaced Family from Yugoslavia To Devil's Elbow

Steve Hersch, a 14-year-old German youth is now enrolled as a member of the sixth grade class in Waynesville school. Steve, unusually small for his age, lives with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hersch and family on a farm in the Devil's Elbow community east of Waynesville. The family arrived in the U. S. five weeks ago with a group of war displaced families coming to this country to make their home.

Steve was born in Yugoslavia and since his home and all their possessions were lost during the war he has traveled extensively. He and the family left Bremerhaven, Germany, for the U. S. by boat stopping in England enroute.

The family is in the U. S. under the sponsorship of Al Bussman on whose farm they reside. There are five members of the immediate family here, and his sister, her husband and their two children will arrive shortly to make their home with them.

Steve is popular with the other



The Bussman farm house is shown in this picture from the 1940s. It was called Meadowbrook Lodge. Al Bussman (1893-1962) was a St. Louis businessman. His company, Bussman Manufacturing, made electrical fuses. Meadowbrook was located on the Big Piney River about two miles south and upstream from Devils Elbow.

children in his room and is putting forth an effort to master the English language at this time.

February 16
ROUBIDOUX TROUT
TO OPEN MARCH 1

Landowners along the Roubidoux, who closed the hunting and fishing along the stream from Waynesville Spring to the confluence with Gasconade here, have revised their signs to prohibit use of firearms only, thus making it possible to again open the trout fishing along this part of the stream beginning March 1st, regular opening date of the Missouri Trout Season in state parks and state supervised waters.

Restrictions on use of guns on land of property owners along the Roubidoux came last year as a result of some livestock being killed due to careless shooters. Thus, the restriction on use of firearms is to remain and will be so posted in the area.

Trout fishing will be unrestricted other than the state regulation to be complied with by fishermen.

The Conservation Commission is stocking the Roubidoux and other Trout Management Areas with the fish surplus from state trout hatcheries.

Because the Roubidoux Trout Management Area is comparatively new among the trout fishing waters open in the state March 1, crowds here have possibly not been quite as large as at other widely advertised spots. However, the annual 1st day crowds have been well into the hundreds and increase yearly as the news spreads. Out of state fishermen have been numerous at opening and during the angling periods.

Creels have been comparable to those in other areas, and in many cases better. Largest fish caught in this area was by Don Finnigan, Waynesville grocer, whose trout weighed more than five pounds. It is mounted and on display in his business here.

NOTICE TO VOTERS OF
PULASKI COUNTY, MO

House Bill 185, passed by the General Assembly, which was referred to the vote of the people by referendum petitions & proposition will be voted on Tuesday April 4th, 1950, at all polling places in Pulaski County. I have been assured that under the Bill, Pulaski County will receive over a ten year period 75 to 100 miles of Rural State Road out of the 1 cent per gallon [gasoline tax]. These roads will be built and maintained by the State. I am of the opinion that this will be a great thing for Pulaski County and the only way we will ever get our Rural Roads made and maintained.

In order that we may learn what the people of the County want, I am calling a MASS MEETING at the Court House in Waynesville, Missouri, for Friday, 7:30 p.m., March 10th, 1950, at which time we expect to organize and lay plans to support

the Bill. All persons in the County are requested to attend this meeting as we need your help.

Respectfully,
TOM A. SHOCKLEY
REPRESENTATIVE.

[The gas tax proposal actually was for an increase from 2c to 4c per gallon. The tax increase was defeated state-wide and lost in the Waynesville precincts by 299 For and 463 Against.]

PERMIT TO INCORPORATE
GRANTED PROMOTERS OF
GREAT SPIRIT CAVE

Permission to incorporate the Spirit Cavern enterprises has been granted by the Missouri Secretary of State and articles of corporation have been filed in Greene County, Missouri.

This is the firm which will operate the Great Spirit Cave which formerly was known as Maxey Cave just west of Waynesville.

Mr. Frank C. Thomas, who will



Maxey Cave was owned by Margaret Tarbell (right, with friend Mrs. Frank Thomas). It had long been a popular place for outings and spelunking. It has a huge entrance, 30 feet high and 70 feet wide. The proposed planetarium would house the telescope built by Margaret's father, E. D. Tarbell, retired architect and advanced amateur astronomer. By the time it opened as a commercial cave, it was renamed Inca Cave. The history of the cave is rich, see 2012 *Old Settlers Gazette* "Inca Cave and Tarbell Planetarium" and 2023 *Old Settlers Gazette* "Maxey Cave As It Is and Was" by C C. Smith. Courtesy of Margaret Tarbell Wehmeyer.

head the group, has planned the construction of the first major planetarium ever built in the U. S.

The firm will have 10,000 shares common stock with no par value, and 1,500 shares preferred stock, \$100 par value.

March 23

66 PROPERTY APPRAISED HERE

The right of way costs for U. S. Highway No. 66 through Waynesville as now proposed was estimated by engineers from the Division Office of the Highway Commission at Springfield and a committee from Waynesville Monday and Tuesday of this week. The survey through Waynesville will run south of the present highway and back of the business row and also south of most buildings along the highway in West Waynesville, after leaving the corporate limits of Waynesville, the road follows the old route to the junction of Road T near Francis Pearson's farm then gets on the right hand side of the highway through the Pearson place then through the Claude Wilson and Henry Hough places to the Dailey place of O. C. Schwarz.

The estimate of right of way costs will be submitted to the Highway Commission for approval or rejection. If approved and the road is built through Waynesville, then the matter will be taken up with the property owners and preparation made for letting the contracts.

All indications are that Waynesville will still have Highway 66 through town, but at a location a little south of the present pavement and at least those traveling the highway can see us and stop if they want to.

The local committee making the rounds with the highway appraisers was: Rep. T. A. Shockley, Claude H. Morgan [*Pulaski County Abstract*], Roy C. Wilson, [*Presiding County Commissioner*], Oscar J. O'Bryant [*Security Bank*], and Ellis Dodds [*Dodds General Merchandise*]. [*The State Highway Department was*

planning to extend the four-lane of Route 66 that terminated just east of town and still does. One proposal was for the new four-lane to bypass Waynesville. Another proposal, backed by most Waynesville city residents and particularly the business owners, would add two lanes behind the row of businesses on the south side of the square. This would have put the businesses in the median of the new four-lane 66.]

April 6

**VITAL STATISTICS
FOR PULASKI COUNTY**

According to the vital statistics record for Pulaski County for the year 1949 there were:

- 608 births
- 150 deaths
- 13 still births

May 11

**NO CHANGE CONTEMPLATED
IN HWY. 66 LOCATION HERE
FOR NEXT FEW YEARS**

Information received from the Mo. State Hwy. Commission this week indicates that no change in location is planned for the next few years due to lack of funds for new construction. [Change would come in just a couple of years with a bypass of Waynesville.]

June 1

**WESTERN AUTO TO HAVE
GRAND OPENING SAT. JUNE 3
Store Located in the Yeary Building
on Main Street**

Waynesville's new Western Auto Store will have their Grand Opening Saturday June 3. The modern store is located in the Yeary Building on Highway 66 street.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Rouse, owners and operators of the business, have moved to Waynesville to make their home. The Rouses come to Waynesville from Bloomfield, Mo., where he served as County Agent in Stoddard County. Previous to his work there he served as County Agent in Crawford County.

A drawing will be held at the store Saturday night and prizes will be

given to those holding the lucky tickets.

**16,095 GUARDSMEN TO TRAIN
AT FORT WOOD THIS SUMMER
Units From Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa Will Participate**

An estimated total of 16,095 National Guardsmen will train at Fort Leonard Wood this summer according to information released by Lt. Gen Stephen J. Chamberlain, Fifth Army Commander in Chicago.

These will include the following units: 34th Infantry Division, Iowa and Nebraska, July 30th-August 13, estimated strength, 7,060; 35th Infantry Division, Missouri and Kansas, August 13-27, estimated strength, 9,035.

These are the two divisions which trained on consecutive two week periods last summer. The two weeks training exercises constitute a refresher course coupled with an introduction of the latest development in the army's combat arms and technical services.

For several weeks preceding the training and during the training period many local people are employed at the Fort.

June 8

Devils Elbow—Two of the busiest in the Elbow or anyplace else around here that we know of are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baker. They are wholesale and retail sellers of live bait here. They furnish the fishermen for miles around all different kinds of bait. They deliver from eight to ten thousand worms to Springfield each week, and believe me that takes some digging for the worms alone.

Mr. [Harry] Rench had ten or 12 floats the past week and reports fishing fair to good. The heavy rains the past week have kept the river muddy most of the time, but in spite of that there have been some good catches.

June 15

**UPHOLSTERY SHOP OPENED
IN WAYNESVILLE**

An upholstery shop has been

opened on Main St. in Waynesville by the Wells Bros. of Hooker, Dallas and Sterling. They operate a garage and service station at Hooker. Dallas will be in charge of the Waynesville enterprise.

**PULASKI COUNTY'S POPULATION SET AT 9,705
Richland Largest City, Waynesville Shows Biggest Gain**

According to information given this office by the District Census office at Farmington, Mo., Wednesday of this week Pulaski County's population will be approximately 9,705, showing a loss of 1,070 population in the county in the past ten years. The 1940 census for the county being 10,775.

Two towns in the county, Richland and Waynesville, showed tabulations of 1,000 or more population. Dixon was reported to have missed the 1,000 mark by a small number. Tabulations for towns having populations less than 1,000 was not quoted.

Waynesville showed the largest percentage growth in population during the ten year period, a 113% gain. The population released for Waynesville was 1,003 with the 1940 population being 468.

Richland's population was listed as being 1,136 with a 15% gain over the 1940 census which showed 985.

	June 22 Population Figures	
	1950	1940
County	9,705	10,775
Richland	1,136	985
Waynesville	1,003	468
Dixon	978	741
Crocker	708	453

**CITY'S AIRPORT FUTURE
IN DOUBT**

The future status of the Waynesville Memorial Airport has caused some concern since it has become known that the government has withdrawn funds from the G. I. Training Program for the Waynesville airport and other airports operated by the Campbell Flying Service.

Although Campbell has released his instructors here and the activity at the field is at a standstill, he is still under a five year contract with the City of Waynesville for the operation of the airport. The contract, dated the first of November 1948, does not expire until November 1953, with a clause stating that the contract can be renewed at the end of that time for a yearly rent of \$1,850 and a two cent fee on each gallon of gas sold at the airport.

Under the present contract with Campbell the city has received approximately \$1250 rental charges and between \$10 and \$20 per month fees collected from the oil company selling gas to the Campbell Flying Service here.

The first year's rent on the airport amounted to \$600, the second year being \$1,250, with some \$625 of the latter being paid at this time. According to the contract, the third and fourth and fifth year's rent will be \$1850 yearly.

A hanger built by Campbell at the Waynesville Airport becomes the property of the City of Waynesville at the end of the ten year period, that is the city acquires one-tenth ownership each year.

The city council plans a meeting with Jim Campbell, owner of the Campbell Flying Service and the lessee of the Waynesville airport within a few days to determine the future plans for the operation of the airport.

[See 1948 News, page 22, in 2023 Old Settlers Gazette for "Airport Dedication."]

**WORKING ON NEW PARK
FOR WAYNESVILLE**

The clearing for a community park is progressing nicely at this time but more help is needed to speed up the project. For the past several weeks the Lions Club members have donated much of their time working at the park after business hours and their last two meetings have been held at the grounds at five in the afternoon with the Lioness serving

a pot luck supper to the men at 7:30. Their next meeting will be held in the same manner.

The community park is located east of Waynesville on the city grounds just east of the Waynesville Airport. The two and half acre strip of land that is being cleared is triangular in shape with the upper end of the tract that connects with the airport grounds level. It is at this section of the tract that the tennis courts, croquets courts and etc. will be built. The club also plans to build fireplaces for cooking, tables and benches for picnic outings.

Most of the clearing of trees shrubs and heavy undergrowth have been completed but much more work will have to be done before the park will be available for community use. As soon as the park is completed the city will furnish water for the fountains and for cooking purposes.

Anyone desiring to contribute funds to be used for this worthwhile project which will belong to the community are asked to contact Dr. C. B. Harley or any member of the Waynesville Lions Club. Those receiving refunds from the previous park project are solicited to make a donation to this park. The money will be used to hire heavy machinery to remove stumps and level the grounds and for construction purposes.

[The previous attempt to construct a city park, to be called the Dr. C. A. Talbot Memorial Park, was begun

in 1946. Dr. Talbot (1880-1945) practiced medicine for 35 years in Waynesville. Eighty donors contributed \$654.50, which is \$8,991 in today's dollars. Clearing on seven acres behind what is now the Pulaski County Justice Center on School Street began in 1946 but languished. Something went wrong and the donations apparently were refunded. The idea was resurrected in 1948 with a new site near the airport but died for lack of interest. Here in 1950, the park was once again proposed and some work was underway.]

July 13

Devils Elbow News—It has been said, “If you see it on a woman, it is a hat, but if you see it anywhere else it could be a coal scuttle, a lost bird

nest or a waste basket,” but if you happen to notice anything peculiar on Mrs. Harry Rench’s head these days it is a bird—no pun intended and answers to the name of Bessie. Bessie is a pigeon of doubtful sex, who unfortunately got caught in the grill of Harry Rench’s truck radiator and which he brought home to recover from its injuries. After being fed and watered for several days, Bessie is becoming quite tame and should he, or she or it persist in using any available head for a landing field—is well on the way to becoming a general nuisance.

July 27

Devils Elbow News—“Bessie” our ubiquitous pigeon, is now a full

fledge citizen of the Elbow. She(?) seems to take delight in swooping down and making a two point landing on the head of some unsuspecting person. In these days of “flying saucers” and atomic bombs, anyone with a weak heart is liable to quite a shock to have a large bird swoop down and land on his head. One day last week she alighted on the head of a man who was walking along and for a moment it looked like he would collapse from the shock, but made a drag for “Bessie” but she was too quick for him, and he had to content himself with shaking his fist at her.

August 3

FORT WOOD IS REACTIVATED BY THE ARMY

Fort Leonard Wood, three miles south of Waynesville, covering approximately 86,000 acres, has been reactivated as an Army Replacement Training Center, officials in Washington announced Tuesday.

It has been reported that some \$1,500,000 will be spent in the reconditioning of the post.

The post is particularly adaptable to infantry and engineer units. Capacity has been estimated at 30,000 troops.

During World War II five full divisions trained at Fort Leonard Wood including the 6th, 8th, 75th, 97th and 70th. Also several engineer and artillery units and other units.

The Mo. National Guards and the Iowa-Nebraska Guards have been



This 1948 aerial view of the airport shows Route 66 running from bottom center to the horizon at upper left. The large white expanse in the center is the runway. The triangular section of woods (arrow) was the location of the proposed park. In 1965, 26 acres of the 160-acre airport tract was sold to the Waynesville R-VI Schools, becoming the site of East Elementary. The triangular section is about where the baseball and soccer fields are now. Courtesy of Missouri State Archives, MoDOT Collection.

Thank You



Daniel Whittle

for allowing me to serve you as Assessor of Pulaski County



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at Fort Leonard Wood for summer training maneuvers the last two years. The Iowa Nebraska division (34th) has just arrived.

Colonel A. J. DeLorimer is the post commander. He has been at Fort Leonard Wood the past 8 months.

Since the end of hostilities in World War II Fort Leonard Wood has been on a standby basis.

I. N. Lucas returned to his home at Possum Lodge July 22nd where he expects to be permanently. He and Mrs. Lucas operate the well-known summer resort. Mr. Lucas has been a pharmacist with Gasen Drug in St. Louis, but has resigned to devote his full time to operation of the Lodge.

August 17

OWENSVILLE MAN LEASES AIRPORT; OPERATIONS RESUMED AT FIELD THE PAST WEEK - TO OPERATE FIELD UNDER CONTRACT CONDITIONS SIMILAR AS FORMER LESSEE, JACK CAMPBELL
Sam Rayburn of Owensville, Missouri, has leased the Memorial Airport from the City of Waynesville and has taken over the active management of the field.

Mr. Rayburn will operate the field under similar contract conditions that Jack Campbell, former lessee of the Waynesville Airport did the past two years.

Mr. Rayburn, who has been in the aviation business for some time, will cater to charter flights and to civilian business. He will also attempt to have the G. I. Training restored to the Airport here.

He and his wife and three children are now living at the airport in a large house trailer.

August 24

2,000 Civilians Will Be Needed at Fort Wood

Jefferson City, MO. August 16—The Missouri Division of Employment Security reported today approximately 2,000 civilians will be needed to reactivate Fort Leonard Wood.



Possum Lodge was located on the Big Piney River about two miles above its confluence with the Gasconade. Possum Lodge was built in 1912 by Wilbur and Henryetta Burness. Wilbur died in 1942 and Henryetta sold the lodge and nine cabins on 175 acres in the spring of 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. George Perkins, who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Slater of Indiana in the fall of 1946. They sold it to I. N. Lucas in 1948.

Of this number, about 400 office workers, 800 skilled and 800 semi-skilled workers will be needed. Job applicants are discouraged in making application in person at Fort Leonard Wood because arrangements for employment of all civilian workers will be handled through local offices of the Missouri State Employment Service in cooperation with personnel offices at the Fort.

Employment of workers for Fort Leonard Wood is now under way in all offices of the Missouri State Employment Service and will continue until all jobs are filled. Great numbers of persons will not be needed immediately, the report stated, due to the necessity of preparation for proper housing and eating facilities. The need for large numbers of persons is expected to develop soon, however. Housing for families is not available at the post and is scarce elsewhere within commuting distance. The rental rate for single workers in dormitory housing is not as yet established.

Other occupational classifications for which there is not an immediate need but which will be required in increasing numbers later, include: steamfitters, stationery engineers, stenographers and clerk typists, shovel and bulldozer operators, plumbers, electricians, pipe fitters,

welders, truck drivers, mechanics, maintenance men, commissary and restaurant workers, janitors, storekeepers and construction trades helpers.

All job openings are Civil Service and all workers desiring jobs at Fort Leonard Wood are urged to make application at the nearest office of the Missouri State Employment Service.

September 7

PULASKI COUNTY DEMOCRAT CHANGES OWNERSHIP; V. V. LONG AND DOUGLAS LONG HAVE PUBLISHED PAPER PAST 36 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Long and Douglas E. Long, who have acted as owners and publishers of The Pulaski County Democrat for the past 36 years, V. V. for 19 years and Douglas E. of the last 17 years, have announced the sale of the publication to J. A. Hanebrink, publisher of The Cabool Enterprise, Cabool, Mo., and John H. McMillin of Willow Springs, Mo. Mr. McMillin will be the new editor of the Pulaski County Democrat.

The Pulaski County Democrat will still continue to be published in the same location, however, because of the rental situation, the entrance to the office will be in the rear of the building as the two front offices have been leased for other types of

business.

A new rear entrance has been completed by Mr. Bob Phillips and Mr. Charlie Walters, local carpenters, who are also laying a three foot concrete walk from the rear entrance of the Long building to the sidewalk at the side of the Waynesville Hardware building. An office has been constructed in the Democrat composing room and new glass doors are also being installed.

Mr. Hanebrink, who is editor and publisher of The Cabool Enterprise, is one of the outstanding newspapermen in this section of the Ozarks. He is past president of the Ozark Press Association, a Kiwanian, a Mason, is a member of the Methodist Church of Cabool, having served for some time as the Sunday School superintendent. He is married and has two daughters, Betty Jo and Edna Mae, and two sons, John Arthur and Joe Lee.

Mr. McMillin, who has been in the newspaper business for the past twenty-seven years, has been operating a job printing plant at Willow Springs for the past six years. He is married and has one son, Lonnie Bill. The McMillins plan to move to Waynesville as soon as they can find a house or an apartment. Mr. McMillin, who is also a former Sunday School superintendent, is a member of the Christian Church at Pomona, Mo. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and is at present master of the lodge at Willow Springs.

Dear Readers...

...I have a feeling of sadness as I begin this paragraph... this week marks the beginning of a change of ownership of this Newspaper... the Democrat, or County Paper as so many call it, after we have owned it 36 years. *[Ruth likes to use the ellipses ... as a pause.]*

We bought the paper from George W. Lane, Sr. in September (about the 15th *[of 1914]*) and have published continuously since that time in spite of a fire the evening of Dec. 21,

1941, which destroyed all the contents except the subscription books and it took six months to really get started again (incidentally, the fire started from an outside trash fire and occurred on a Sunday when no one was working).

In spite of all the hardships and hard work that is never done and a "deadline" that must be met, we have enjoyed your friendship, patronage and goodwill through the years.

You may be sure that this paper would never have been sold if I had been able to go ahead and manage but it will probably be some time before I will be able to work and not at the pace I formerly went. *[Ruth suffered from acute arthritis.]*

Many changes and events have marked the history of the County during the past 36 years recorded in the publishing of this paper and we are proud of having had a part in writing about these events.

I want to recommend to you the new owners of the Democrat, Joe Hanebrink of Cabool who has proved a friend in times of stress and strain, even during the fire I previously mentioned. He is an experienced newspaper publisher and will continue to own the Cabool Enterprise.

John McMillin of Willow Springs is co-owner and is highly recommended.

Both of them have asked me to continue this column as soon as I feel like it and so you will probably be hearing from me from time to time.

You will like Joe and John so get acquainted with them, let them take care of your printing needs.

In closing I again want to tell you how much you have meant to me...you have been and are such wonderful friends.

Ruth Long



V. V. and Ruth Long

Dear Friends:

We wanted to start our column this week with the caption "Dear Friends" because of the many friendly greetings we have received during the past few weeks we have been in your midst. The warmth of your smile, the apparent sincerity of your greetings, has been a determining factor in us becoming connected with the Pulaski County Democrat. Your "Hi Joe" and "Hi Johnnie" has meant a great deal to us, and we appreciate your every kindness.

In assuming the ownership and publishing of The Pulaski County Democrat, we realize we are taking on a responsibility not only to ourselves, to our readers, but also one which the "Longs" have so successfully fulfilled over a long period of years. In our short acquaintance with the Long family we have learned to love and respect them.

Mrs. Ruth Long, who has acted editor for so many years, especially through the years of World War II, and who we hope will continue to write her column "Dear Readers," is one of the best known and best liked newspaper women in the state of Missouri. If we live up to the high standards of journalism she has set for us, we feel that we shall receive recognition, not only from the people of Waynesville and Pulaski County, but from other sections of the state as well.

We had hopes that Nell, Becky, V. V. (Vic) and Doug would be able to stay with us until we could get acquainted with you, but as this is

impossible at this time we hope to do the next best thing: ask you folk of Waynesville, Crocker, Dixon, Swedeborg, Richland and other communities to come in and get acquainted with us, bring or mail us your news items. We need your help badly and we feel sure you will aid us in this manner.

It is our aim to give

Waynesville and Pulaski County one of the newsiest eight-page weeklies in this section and through your help we shall be able to do so.

The new editor of the Pulaski County Democrat was "born and raised" a Democrat. He started his newspaper work under the tutelage of the late W. H. (Bill) Zorn in the Howell County Gazette at West Plains. He was later with the West Plains Journal, the Cabool Enterprise and other Ozark publications. He is married and has a son, 3½ years old.

Mr. Hanebrink, who is co-publisher of The Pulaski County Democrat, is well known in the Ozark newspaper world. He has been editor and owner of the Cabool Enterprise since 1934. He is a past president of the Ozark Press and also past president of the Cabool Chamber of Commerce. He is married and has two boys and two girls.

We want to be friends with every

one, desire to report the news accurately and fairly, wish to be a part of the civic and community affairs of this city and will work for any thing for the upbuilding and betterment of Waynesville and Pulaski County.

Again we invite you to come in and get acquainted and help us keep The Democrat Pulaski County's leading newspaper.

JHM

[John H. McMillin]

September 14

Newburg Believed To Have Regained 1000 Mark in Population Since Fort Leonard Wood Reactivated All Vacant Houses In Town Are Rented

The town of Newburg has shared an increase in population along with other towns in this area since Fort Leonard Wood was reactivated and all vacant houses in the town have now been rented.

A few weeks ago there were more

Sweet Sam's



On Route 66

Ice Cream

Candy



Coffee



Old Fashioned Soda Pop

103 North Benton Street

Waynesville, MO

than ten vacant housing units in the city, the last one was rented last week.

The Newburg census count fell below 1000 this year for the first time in years, but residents now believe the town has regained and passed the 1000 mark. Newburg's count was 1056 in 1940, but the 1950 population was not reported in the preliminary census release because only towns of more than 1000 were included.

Paul Williams Buys Dixon Pilot and Crocker News

Paul Williams of Joplin has purchased the Dixon Pilot and Crocker News from the Zevely Publishing Co. The Zevely Publishing Co. purchased the Dixon Pilot from Mrs A. Goforth in 1942 and the Crocker News from Charles Iden in 1945. The Pilot was founded by the late A. Goforth in 1911.

Mr. Williams,, who took charge of the publications Sept. 1, is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Mr. Williams, who is 29 years old, was editor of the Portageville Review for fifteen months. Prior to that time he was editor of the Northeast Georgian at Cornelia, Ga., for two years.

[The following story of the self-filling barrel near Houston, Mo., has been in the news for almost six months, getting statewide and some national attention. The barrel had been inex-



That now famous Simmons barrel is shown with the owners Mr. and Mrs. John Orr, long time residents on their farm in the Simmons community. So far no suitable answer has been issued to change the "queer happenings" since last May 1950. Simmons is a small community seven miles south of Houston in Texas County. *Pulaski County Democrat.*

plicably filling itself for months.]
24-Hour Watch By Houston Citizens Fails To Change Magic Barrel Story

EDITORS NOTE: The latest information at noon Thursday of this week is the barrel is still full of water, according to an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Orr, who were in Cabool. We are reprinting parts of the story as told by the Houston Herald Editor, who conducted a 24-hour watch with citizens of Houston.

The Herald sponsored the "watch" and a group of men volunteered their services. The plan was carried out like this: At least two persons maintained a constant watch on the barrel for the 24-hour period. Each

30 minutes during that time, a check on the water was made, verified by a minimum of two persons.

In order to maintain a strict account of the water level, a yardstick was placed inside the barrel at the start of the experiment. About 6:15, Herald Editor Lane E. Davis secured permission from Mrs. Orr to remove three inches of water from the barrel, taking the water level down to a point exactly six inches from the top of the barrel.

After the barrel failed to fill Saturday, Sunday and Monday, members of the Orr family constructed a wire cage around it.

The cage is about 13 feet square

and the wire extends around the sides and across the top. A sign on one side says, "Please do not dip water from the barrel."

Mrs. Orr told the Herald that the barrel filled about 7 A. M. Tuesday. She said no one was near at the time. The barrel was about "three-quarters full" Monday night when she last inspected it.

An estimated 2,500 persons crowded their way Sunday to the Orr farm for a glimpse of the barrel.

Cars jammed the highways and overflowed into the narrow country road that leads to the Orr farm. When several cars stalled while fording the river, traffic was routed



In this picture of the Simmons barrel, Denver Chipps of Raymondville is shown tipping the barrel to see that no hidden pipes are connected to the stump. *Pulaski County Democrat.*

Mack Wilkerson
Pulaski County Treasurer

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over the Solo road. Various home-made signs sprung up overnight, directing the cars to the Orr farm. One barrel, similar to the one causing all the furor, was used as a prop for a sign that read, "To the Barrel."

Out-of-state cars were in evidence everywhere.

The traffic jam reached its zenith in mid-afternoon when the lineup of automobiles stretched to a point about one mile east of the Orr farm. Peaceful looking farmyards were transferred into city parking lots.

It was a struggle to reach the barrel in the afternoon. Men, women and children crowded around ignoring the mud, pressing forward to look inside. Several pennies were dropped in the bottom. A few brought bottles to fill from the barrel. The more curious sought out neighbors or persons "in the know" for some explanation. The majority stood with friends at a distance and watched the turmoil around the

barrel. Some men were barefooted. They were among the unfortunates who were forced to abandon their cars between Simmons and the river. Some waded the stream, others hitch-hiked rides with pickups and trucks.

[The phenomenon of the self-filling barrel was never explained. At the end of September, the Orrs put up "No Trespassing" signs around their property and people generally respected the signs but conjecture continued. At year's end, the Houston Herald reflected on the story and its coverage in its December 28 issue.]

After five years of publishing a weekly newspaper, it is our opinion that the barrel story created more reader interest than any story during that entire period. Never before had so many persons been interested in a single story. Despite the fact that the Herald published additional copies of the paper with several barrel stories, all available copies were

sold and we were forced to turn down out-of-town requests.

One morning, in particular, will long be remembered. No less than five long-distance telephone calls were received here from newspapers and radio stations in the space of three hours.

Even now, months after that hot Sunday when nearly 3,000 persons jammed the Orr farm for a glimpse of the alleged self-filling barrel, letters come from various states, seeking information about the barrel.

So, while the mystery of the barrel may remain unsolved, the strange saga takes its place among the never-to-be forgotten stories.

[In April of 1951, someone stole the barrel and the story faded.]

September 21

Devil's Elbow News

The E. D. Tarbells have moved from the *[Hiawatha]* lodge building to the old Harvey house as it is

called and are remodeling the lodge for an up-to-date hardware store. The new store will carry a full line of light and heavy hardware and will open about October 1st. Watch for the notice in this paper.

September 28

Memorial Airport Now in Full Operation

The Waynesville Memorial Airport, which was recently opened in Waynesville, is now in full operation, according to Sam Rayburn, Jr., the operator of the airport.

Mr. Rayburn informs us that he is prepared to give instruction to student flyers and also is prepared to have rentals in readiness and also charter flights.

He has at his field Piper Cubs, Piper Clippers, Aeroncas, Cessna 140, Twin Cessna and Staggerwing Beech. There will be no night flying and no bad weather flying. It is also possible to charter planes to Spring-



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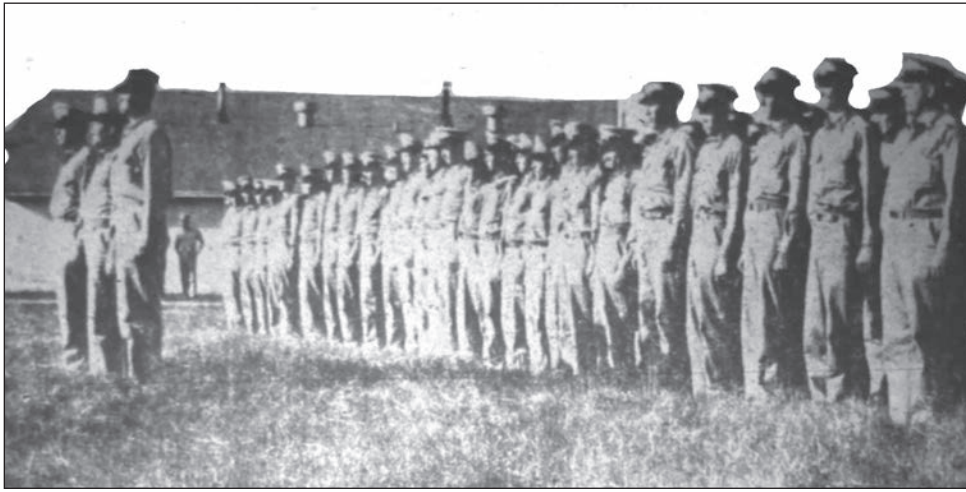
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FIRST TRAINEES—The arrival of this group of travel-weary men at Fort Leonard Wood yesterday afternoon marked the opening of another chapter in the fort's history, for the outfit—the 448th Engineers dump truck company from Carrollton, Ga.—is the first to arrive for training at the newly reactivated post. If the group of less than 90 officers and men—all civilians two days earlier—feels lost all alone on the 90,000-acre reservation, it won't be long because another group will arrive tomorrow, a third Saturday, and more almost daily for some time to come. The company, perhaps a third of whom have had no previous military experience, rolled into the post at 2:30 and immediately tackled a huge fried chicken dinner which was waiting for them. Thus fortified, their morale was quickly boosted even higher by the official welcome given by the post's commanding officer, Col. A. J. DeLorimer.

field, St. Louis, Kansas City and other points.

Devil's Elbow News

Mr. E. D. Tarbell will soon start building the foundation for his observatory where he will install his telescope. Mr. Tarbell will locate his observatory on the lot just south of the Hiawatha Lodge building. He brought the telescope from Kansas City, where he formerly lived and it is one of the largest in that city. The dome is over 17 feet in diameter and is about 17 feet high. The scope is a 12-inch reflecting type. A look through this telescope is a very interesting and educational experience. He hopes to get it in operation sometime this fall.

Mrs. Paul Thompson of the Elbow Inn, is putting in her time at the fort, where she is manager of the C and E Cleaning and Repair Shop.

DO YOU KNOW?

That the post office at Devil's

Elbow is the only post office in the United States and probably in the world by that name?

That it is more than a wide place in the road, that it is a community, a village, if you please, and not just a summer resort.

That it is a place where you can spend a week-end, a week, a month, a year, or live 'till you die in the most pleasant surroundings.

That we have over fifty permanent residents and hundreds of transient tourists here thru the season?

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That we have an up-to-date hardware store where you can get light and heavy hardware at reasonable prices.

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That we will soon have one of the largest reflecting telescopes outside of St. Louis and Kansas City.

That the Elbow was once wild and wooly, but is now one of the most friendly, quiet, and law-abiding villages in the state.

October 5

Devil's Elbow to Have New Hardware Store

New Business To Be Run In Conjunction With Hiawatha

In this issue of The Democrat comes the announcement of the opening of a new hardware store at Devil's Elbow.

The new store, which will be operated by E. D. Tarbell, who will also operate Hiawatha Lodge, the office of the latter to be in the store, has redecorated the Lodge and will carry a complete line of hardware and glassware.

He also stated that he will also handle school supplies, thread and needles and also some appliances.

Mr. Tarbell was accompanied to The Democrat office by "Uncle Cummy" Smith, our efficient reporter at Devil's Elbow, who is also a very ardent booster of Devil's Elbow.

October 12

Devil's Elbow News

C. O. McCoy will start work on the basement of a new five room modern house on his lot just south of the post-office. He has all the material and will not be held up by shortages or restrictions. At the same time, E. D. Tarbell will commence work on his observatory on the lot just south of his hardware store. Both buildings will be a fine addition to our little village.

"Bessie" our ubiquitous pigeon is now one of our permanent residents and while she is well known to the Elbowites, she is a pain in the neck, or shall we say a threat for any stranger in our little village, from her uncanny habit of alighting from a clear sky on the head of some unsuspecting person without warning. She prefers a woman's head for a perch but will not pass by a man, especially a bald-headed man

Mr. Tarbell's announcement of the opening of the new store will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Devil's Elbow News

Dale Hooker, of Dixon, is remodeling the Prewett property that he recently purchased, and is putting in a general business.

Work is going on at Big Piney Lodge on a modern duplex which will be finished in the near future. It will be modern in every respect.

In our last week's write up of the Elbow an error was made which we wish to correct. In Do You Know? we are quoted as saying we have forty cabins, most of them with two rooms and a bath. Evidently the printer mistook our spelling for it should have read, Two rooms and a p-a-t-h, as we are sorry to say that we have not gotten around to the bath as yet, but we DO have the path.



After moving from Kansas City in 1949 to Devils Elbow, E. D. Tarbell converted the first floor of the Hiawatha Lodge into a hardware store. The lodge was a log structure built by his wife's parents, Tom and Matilda Hunter. Tarbell's wife, Katy, grew up here when the area was also called Hunter's Hollow. When E. D. retired as a Kansas City architect, the family relocated to Devils Elbow. E. D. was also an advanced amateur astronomer. He built an observatory behind the lodge for the large telescope he had built. The log lodge still stands as a remodeled residence.

Margaret, one of E. D. and Katy's daughters, had bought Maxey Cave near Laquey in 1944, where the family met C. C. "Uncle Cummy" Smith, who lived near the cave. When Margaret leased the cave for a commercial enterprise, the elderly Uncle Cummy moved to Devils Elbow to live with the Tarbells. The rock castle under construction in the foreground is Uncle Cummy's work. Snapshot courtesy of Margaret Tarbell Wehmeyer.

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October 19

Local School System Makes Arrangements To Enroll Negro Students

With the arrival of Negro troops, as well as other inductees at Fort Leonard Wood, it has become imperative that the Waynesville school system make some arrangements for teaching the children of the Negro families who are living near Waynesville and with this objective in mind Superintendent Cecil A. Elliott of the local school system has received an application from a Negro instructor to teach the children

which are already enrolled or who will later enroll in the system.

The local school system has had an increasing enrollment of from seven to 10 enrollees a day since the Fort had been reactivated and there are at present three Negro pupils enrolled. They have their own room and as the enrollment of the Negro pupils increase, will have a teacher from their own race.

A pay schedule with the government is being worked out for teachers necessitated by reactivation of Fort Leonard Wood, although it is up to the Waynesville school board to arrange for hiring the additional teachers.

So far accommodations are ample with one more classroom in high school and one more in the grade school building available.

Plans also have been drawn for a new building pending federal aid. This structure would include a voca-

tional agriculture shop, two classrooms and a school cafeteria.

New Greyhound Terminal Opened Here

The Greyhound bus depot has been moved from their station on Main street to the building which was formerly occupied by the Ad-

kins Refrigeration and Appliance Co. The building has been reconditioned and finished in knotty pine and ample seating space has been provided for travelers. An up-to-date office has been added and Mrs. Dorothy Cruthers has been employed as ticket agent.



In 1950, the bus terminal was in the middle of the block on the north side of the square and the post office on the corner at right.



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October 26

Toops Exhibits Television Set at Service Club No. 1

Mr. Toops of the Toops Radio and Variety Store exhibited a television set at Service Club No. 4 last night. The set, which had a 16 inch screen, was placed in the Service Club by Mr. Toops in an effort to prove the feasibility of television reception in Waynesville.

According to Mr. Toops, the reception by this television set was exceptionally good and was enjoyed by all who viewed the show.

November 9

CAVE LODGE—One Mile Gasconade River Frontage. A going business with a good reputation. 24 acres of ground, good springs, one of which furnishes water for the entire resort. Large cave with spring flowing from it. 5 Houses, 1 large with 11 rooms and three 3-room cottages. 10x30 porch on lodge overlooking the river. Separate dining room to seat 50 people. Buildings completely furnished. 5 boats, 1 with outboard motor. Priced low. Take No. 17 to one mile south of Crocker and turn on 8 about 2 miles to Cave Lodge. Floyd Davis Realty Co., Webster Groves, Mo.



One of the premier resorts, along with nearby Schlicht Springs, on the Gasconade River during the 1930s, Cave Lodge was put up for sale by Ted English in 1950. His parents, Harry V. and Lona English, had operated the resort since 1918 and they also owned the movie theater in Crocker. Ted operated the theater for a few more years.

November 30

Rent Lids To Be Clamped Back on Housing in Pulaski and Laclede

On orders of Housing Expediter Tigue E. Woods, rent controls are to go back into force in Laclede and Pulaski counties, it was announced in Washington, D.C.

Woods said he acted at the request of local governing bodies of the two counties which adjoin Fort Leonard Wood. Principal towns in the area are Waynesville and Lebanon, both county seats.

The local agencies, Woods related, reported that the reopening of the Army post last September had resulted in "great and excessive rent increases."

Under Woods' order rents are rolled back to those in effect when rent controls were lifted in September, 1949. Landlords, however, will have an opportunity to request revision of rents to care for increased costs and expenses since controls were removed.

Because of insufficient housing on the post many military and civilian employee families are living in Waynesville and Lebanon as well as Rolla.

December 21

Twenty WACs Arrive At Ft. Leonard Wood

Twenty WACs from Nebraska, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Iowa arrived in Fort Leonard Wood over the weekend, bringing the total on the Post to 29.

Pfc. Iris L. Smith, a veteran of World War II, is acting First Sergeant and is in charge of the Detachment, which is a part of the 5017 ASU. Sgt. Smith stated that in all likelihood a WAC commissioned officer would be here early this month. At the present time the WAC detachment is housed in the hospital area.

The WACs now on the post are assigned to the Finance, Signal, Post Headquarters, Quartermaster, Hospital, Special Service and Judge Advocate offices.

Tigers Continue Their Winning Ways; Take Crocker, Phillipsburg

The Waynesville Tigers still continue to be undefeated, having taken two games last week, one from the Crocker five and Friday night walloped undefeated Phillipsburg.

The A team defeated the Crocker Lions 39 to 33. It was a close game all the way with the Tigers never holding more than an eight-point lead. Bobby Dodds, a leading scorer for the Tigers was held to only two points by Big Art Helms of the Lions, who scored 16 tallies to lead

his team in scoring.

Dwight Hensley led the Tigers scoring with 16 counters. The Tigers' offensive game was off, as they only hit 28 per cent of their shots.

The scores in the Crocker contest was as follows:

Waynesville—Foster 9, George 10, Dodds 2, Hensley 16 and Lynch 2.

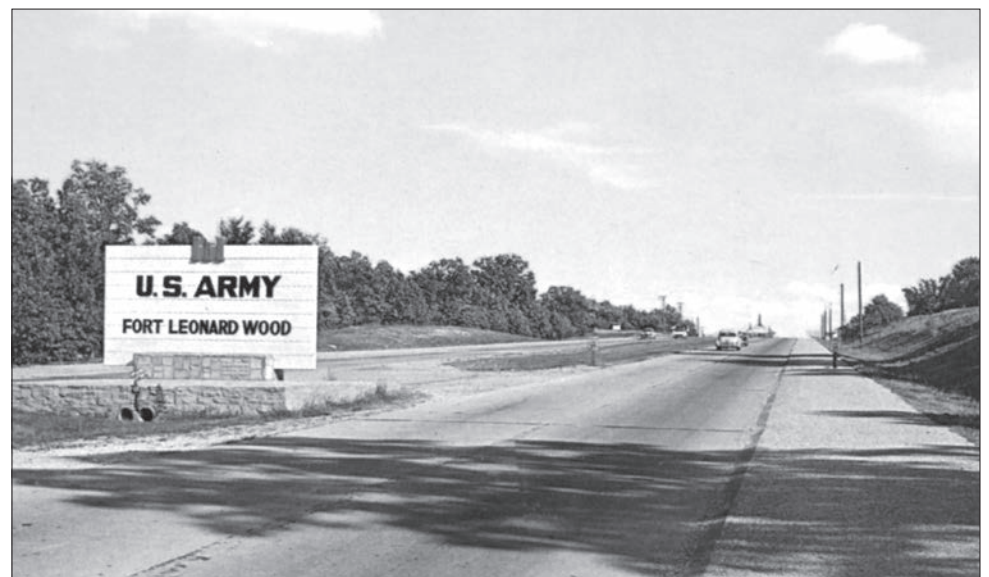
Crocker—Wilkes 3, Jones 6, Helms 16, Caldwell 2 and Albert Helms 6.

The Waynesville Tigers A team remained undefeated by taking the measure of unbeaten Phillipsburg 42 to 25 in the Friday night game. The game, which was very hard fought and close throughout the contest was very interesting, although the two usual leading scorers, Bob Dodds and Billy George were unable to find the bucket regularly. They had able assists from Kenny Foster, Dwight Hensley and Tom Lynch, who all were playing a nice offensive and defensive game. Kenny Foster led the scoring with 12 tallies, Dodds, George and Hensley each had 8 counters, while Lynch contributed 6 points.

Please, Please, Please!

All who have an extra room won't you please let a soldier and his wife use it over the holidays.

Christmas leaves have been canceled for the boys because of the grave national emergency. They are begging for accommodations for their wives, or fathers and mothers.



Entering Fort Leonard Wood, 1950.