

Bickel
Notebook
Collection

Miscellaneous
Volume II

Biographical Sketch of Kathryn Pyle Hart

Born in Gargen Grove, Iowa, moved to Keokuk as a small child with parents. Educated in the public schools of Keokuk and attended the State University of Iowa, and was affiliated with Tau Chapter of Delta Gamma Sorority.

Married Stanley L. Hart in St. James Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, California and lived there three years. Moved back to Keokuk, where Stanley L. Hart has been active in Iowa Republican politics, he having represented the first Senatorial District in the Iowa Senate for eighteen years.

Appointed to the original Mississippi River Parkway Planning Commission, by Governor Wm. Beardsley, in 1945, and have been a member of this delegation ever since, except for a two year interim during a Democratic administration from 1959 to 1961. Appointed Chairman of Historic Sites by Mr. Greensfelder, and served as Vice Chairman of Iowa Delegation for several years.

Currently serving as Vice President of the ^{WOMEN OF THE} Sixth Province of the Episcopal Church of the United States, and President of the Women of St. John's Church, Keokuk. Former Diocesan Chairman of the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church.

Mother of two children: Marilyn, an alumnus of Mills College, Oakland, Calif. and a graduate of the State University of Iowa, who writes T.V., Radio, Newspaper and Magazine copy in Hollywood, Calif. A married son Stanley L. Hart Jr. who is a student at Western Illinois University.

Lives on a farm overlooking the Mississippi five miles north of Keokuk. Amateur artist and President of the Keokuk Art Center. Active in Civic and Social circles in community.

Keokuk's 52 mayors came from variegated backgrounds

By Ray E. Garrison

When Mayor H. A. Stephenson leaves office as Keokuk's fifty-second chief executive at the close of this year, Charles F. Eppers, his successor will head the 124th year of municipal organization which was launched under special State of Iowa charter in 1848.

Disparity between the 123 years and fifty-two individuals up to the present time is due to the fact that 25 mayors served more than one term. Some as many as three to five.

There is one exception. Frank A. Willmering, a one time tea and coffee merchant, served longer than any other mayor with six terms in office for a total of 12 years, beginning with his first appearance in 1932. It is an interesting item in this connection that Mayors John L. Ward, John Bierman and Hubert Schouten were the only ones to defeat Willmering.

Looking backward, the record discloses that Capt. William A. Clark was Keokuk's first mayor. He was a native of Kentucky, known familiarly in his time as "Devil Creek Bill." He came here from Fort Madison in 1840 and entered the river lightering business between Keokuk and Montrose.

In the first city election on Jan. 3, 1848, Clark classified himself politically as a Whig. He was opposed at the polls by one Calohill E. Stone, a Possum Whig. Difference in the names is lost in the dust of antiquity. Clark had a majority of 86 votes of the 175 cast.

Three months later and apparently tired of being Keokuk's No. 1 mayor, Clark resigned his office and headed west for California and the gold country with a party of pioneers that came under attack by Indians, somewhere along the trail. Clark escaped with his life but his partner, James Mackley, was slain by the redskins.

Pioneer political days in Keokuk also proved to be

fretful ones for Justin Millard who took Clark's place and became the second mayor of the town. He remained on the job until Oct. 17, 1848 and resigned to be followed in office by Dr. Uriah Raplee, third head of the settlement. Following the pattern of his predecessors, he resigned in September, 1849.

Matters began to settle down a bit at this point when the fourth mayor was elected. He was John A. Graham, a man of means and good judgment who held office for the next three terms. Then came Barnard S. Merriam, another solid citizen, as the fifth man in office. David W. Kilbourne, celebrated pioneer and head of a notable Keokuk family took the 1855 term.

Samuel Ryan Curtis, hero of the Battle of Pea Ridge in the war between the states was elected as the seventh mayor in 1856. His epaulets as Iowa's first major-general lay six years ahead. After Curtis came Hawkins Taylor in 1857, year of the universal and devastating depression. He had the distinction of inviting Abraham Lincoln, Springfield, Ill. lawyer to Keokuk to make a speech in antebellum days. But the future president said in a letter of reply that he was having a hard time making both ends meet financially. He declined the Keokuk invitation.

Hugh W. Sample, a reaktor, was mayor in 1858, William Leighton, furniture dealer in 1859. Col. William Patterson, native of Virginia, head of a Keokuk pork-packing firm served three ensuing terms, part of the time as Civil War mayor. Patterson's old home still stands at the northwest corner of Seventh and Timea streets. His grandson, William A. Wilkinson, retired, lives today in Pasadena, Cal.

Succeeding mayors included, in this order, J. J. Brice, retail dry goods trade, 1861; Robert P. Creel, brick mason, 1862; George B. Smyth, wholesale grocer, 1863; J. M.

Hiatt, lumber dealer who followed, built the large structure at the southeast corner of Sixth and Morgan for a home for his wife and 12 children. Today this is the Hoerner Building.

William Timberman, pork packing firm head, became mayor in 1867, and again in 1870. Meanwhile, Col. John Adair McDowell, a Keokuk Civil War leader held the mayor's office in 1868. Henry Rothert, hardware dealer, had terms in 1871 and 1872. Daniel F. Miller, Sr., attorney was the 1873 mayor and was succeeded by Edmund Jaeger, lower Main street banker, 1874-75.

John Nichol Irwin, who had five one-year terms as Keokuk mayor, was 28 years old when he was first elected in 1876, had terms in 1877 and 1878 and ten years later was elected to two more terms, 1887-88.

James B. Paul, lumberman was in office in 1879, James N. Welch, dry goods merchant in 1880, Lewis Hosmer, lumber dealer, 1881, David J. Ayres, a jeweler, 1882, George D. Rand, for whom Rand Park is named, 1883, In 1884, Jaeger, the banker, returned for a third term. Then came the fourth and fifth Irwin terms.

John E. Craig attorney, later a District Court judge was in the mayor's chair from 1889 through 1892. Dr. Samuel W. Moorhead, physician as well as editor of The Gate City, was mayor in 1893-94 and 20 years later, held the office under commission form government — 1914 to 1920.

Judge Felix T. Hughes, president of a long forgotten Keokuk railroad company, and grandfather of today's missing millionaire, Howard Hughes, took over the mayor's office for two years, 1895-6, and was succeeded by James F. Daugherty, 1840's pioneer in 1899-1900. Daugherty was a wholesale liquor dealer.

Theodore A. Craig, staunch Presbyterian and member of

Cont. on next page

a family of lawyers was mayor in 1901-2 and years later had 1920 and 1922 terms. Andrew J. Dimond, head of a milling firm near Twelfth and Johnson was a two-term mayor in 1903-4 and had the honor of being host to President Theodore Roosevelt when that colorful world figure came to Keokuk in 1904. Both notables appeared in top hats, swallow-tail coats and striped trousers when they rode in the Main street parade.

James Cameron, owner of a large trucking and fuel firm became the city's 1905 and 1906 mayor, and was succeeded by a lively printer and publisher, William E. Strimback in 1907 and 1908. It remained for Charles Off, German-born West Keokuk bakery owner to become the last of the one-year term mayors.

Joshua F. Elder, Burlington railroad official and husband of John N. Irwin's daughter was the first mayor to serve a two-year term. He was in office from 1910 to 1914 under the adopted commission form of city government. Following this, Dr. Moorhead returned for two additional terms.

Edwin Sheridan Lofton, Lee county clerk of the District Court, and later advertising manager of The Gate City was the city's World War I mayor, holding office from 1916 to 1920. Theodore Craig came back for a two-year term, and was followed by John Rovane, grocer, who entered the political scene to be elected in 1922. He was defeated in a second race by John R. Carpenter, U. S. government river official. On a second try in 1926, Rovane was successful.

Henry F. Krueger, merchant tailor, held the office from 1928 to 1930 and was succeeded by Dr. Frederick W. Long, minister of the First Congregational church for 12 years. He was in office until 1932.

At this juncture, Willmering was elected and served from 1932 to 1940 when Jack Ward, cigar store proprietor became a two-term leader of the city. In 1944, Willmering was at the head of city affairs again but was defeated by John Bierman, National Cemetery superintendent in the 1946 race. The 1948 and 1950 terms were Willmering's last.

Hubert Schouten was mayor for three terms, 1950 to 1956. In October 1953, the city manager plan of local government was strongly recommended but soundly defeated in a special election.

In office with Schouten during his administration were James F. O'Brien and

Ronald Bramhall. O'Brien, a candidate for the mayoral post in the fall of 1956, got the nod from the electorate and served two terms, ending in 1960. In the election that year, LeRoy (Pete) Lofton was elected to the first of two terms. Lofton, older son of Ed. S. Lofton, achieved what no other mayor in more than a century of civil government had done: fought for and won a city-owned city hall after years of rent-paying.

"Pete" Lofton died on May 17, 1963 in the second year of his second term. In a runoff for the post O'Brien was elected and also the 1964-5 term as well.

Kenneth Henke, young business man and a World War II officer was elected in the 1966 and 1968 balloting but resigned near the end of his second term to accept a state post offered by Governor Robert Ray. Stephenson and O'Brien were candidates for the mayor's job in a November special election, Stephenson winning handily. He was elected to his own 2-year term, 1970-71. In the 1971 campaign, Eppers won every ward by a large majority.

The Daily Gate City Keokuk, Iowa
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24, 1955

Chief Keokuk Still Lives But In Person of Great Grandson

By RAY E. GARRISON

Chief Keokuk still lives. It is surprising news, but it is true.

Robert Peyton, Keokuk, great grandson of the original chief, and himself a chief by succession, is alive in the far western part of the United States, and I have just had a personal visit with him and the members of his family.

They extended an invitation to come see them, and I did at the earliest opportunity.

My greatest impression was this: Chief Keokuk of the Indian years would have been vastly proud of these descendants of his. They are well educated men and women of affairs—business people, lawyers, teachers, modern home makers.

Above all, they are something that he was not—Christians and ardent church workers.

Distinguished Family

At grandsons, great, great grandsons and granddaughters, and great, great, great grandsons and granddaughters are in this small but startling and remarkable family today. They talked to me as if they had known me all my life, from the moment they drove to the hotel in a sparkling new super-duper automobile to show my wife and me their metropolitan city which is stretching out all over the landscape.

It was a breath-taking experience. Here were the older and the young matrons quietly and stylishly dressed, with low-pitched, quiet, well-bred voices. Here was the present-day Chief Keokuk in slacks, sport shirt and a Panama hat. They weren't putting it on; they live that way. And I examined my own attire to see if I was somewhere within shooting distance of the correct thing in daytime attire.

Up and down boulevards, flanked by citrus fruit and fine homes, we drove. We talked and laughed and exchanged notes. Then to the new, modern, attractive home of one of Robert's daughters for a luncheon that was correct in every detail.

But to get back: Robert, who is sixty-nine, inherited the lineal title of chief when his elder brother, John Earl Keokuk, died last November in Nevada. John worked in Keokuk in the early 1900's as a clerk, salesman for Joseph B. Weil as a line-man for J. C. ...

Charles Like Grandpa

John and Robert were sons of Charlie Keokuk, who was the son of Moses Keokuk, son of the original Chief Keokuk. Moses, chief by succession, embraced the Christian religion, became a Baptist preacher, built a church. His example in sobriety was lost on his son, Charlie, however, Robert told me. He inherited a thirst for copious amounts of "firewater" from his illustrious grandfather. Despite

his shortcomings, Charlie became a wealthy farmer and cattle-drover in Texas and Oklahoma, driving cattle from the Mexican border as far north as the Canadian river.

Robert told me his father was a man of large frame like Chief Keokuk, and a handsome, distinguished looking man, who wore excellent clothes. He also told me something else for the record that has been needing correction for a good many years: Moses and Charlie Keokuk, father and son, died of pneumonia in Oklahoma in the early 1900's, and not of smallpox. The latter disease seemed to have a somewhat loathsome connotation for Robert, as he told me the story.

Cont. on back...

Quincy, Ill. Family

John Keokuk, his brother, married a white woman school teacher Miss Georgia B. Douglas, a Missourian. Robert's wife, a lovely sweet-faced woman with a crown of beautiful white hair, was Miss Claudia Zimmerman, daughter of a Quincy, Ill. family. She has smooth, pink and white coloring, while her daughters, Mrs. Lucille Keokuk Christensen, and Mrs. Lorene Keokuk Moats are beautiful brunettes with the coloring that Hiawatha's Minnehaha surely had. Friendly, smiling, dark eyes and flashing white teeth. They are married to progressive, up-and-coming young white men.

Robert, Jr., the brother of these two young matrons, is a tall, muscular, good looking Indian, six feet in height or more, and a 200 pounder.

I thought I detected some disappointment on the part of his parents in the fact that Robert and his young wife, who have been married a number of years, are childless thus far.

"But," said his mother, "we can always hope."

Robert Sr. is more philosophical about Chief Keokuk's line ending with Robert Jr., so far as the family name is concerned.

"If our boy is the last of the male Keokuks, that's the way it will be," said he.

Should the son have no male heirs, the name Keokuk will have faded out completely in another 50 or 60 years.

Frank, brother of John and Robert, and Fannie Keokuk Foote, their sister, are both dead. Fannie has a son, John Foote, in Oklahoma, with the Wilson meat packing company. Frank, Robert told me, was the money-maker of the family. He "went everywhere" up to the time of his death at age

fifty, as a decorating contractor. Fannie was a teacher in the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa. before her marriage to Foote. She showed some promise as a writer, although in one of her articles which is in my files, she speaks of her great grandfather, Chief Keokuk, as "black-eyed." She was wrong there: Chief Keokuk was a blue-eyed Indian.

In She-Wolf's Den

Incidentally, when I read a half hour manuscript about Keokuk meeting and defeating a band of hostile tribesmen single-handed, and the story of the she-wolf carrying Keokuk as a baby off to its den, to these modern day Keokuks, they listened politely and laughed merrily at the finish.

Even so, they have great pride in their ancestry and discussed Chief Keokuk and some of the phases of his life with animation.

In these talks with the Keokuk family, I discovered a longing on the part of some of them to return to their old home in Oklahoma. This was particularly true of Robert and Claudia Keokuk. Except for the fact that their son and daughters are living in the far west, they would probably have returned long since to the Sooner state, where many of their old friends still live. Robert, at one time, was an Indian agency head, and intimately associated



ROBERT PEYTON KEOKUK, chief by succession of the Sauk and Fox tribe and great grandson of the first Chief Keokuk is shown at the left with Ray Garrison, Keokuk historian who visited with the Keokuk family in the far west in recent days. At the right is the Keokuk family, left to right, Mrs. Lorene Keokuk Moats,

Mrs. Robert Keokuk, her granddaughter, Diane Moats, great, great, great granddaughter of the old Chief, and Robert Peyton Keokuk, present day head of the family at the age of 69. Inset at the left is Mrs. Lois Garrison who took the pictures.

with tribal matters, where his name is still something to be reckoned with. The advice and counsel of this friendly, thoughtful man are still widely sought by Sauk and Fox tribe descendants. His one complaint about his brother John is that John did not accept responsibilities as head of the family.

It was not easy to find the present-day Keokuks. The question as to where they were and how they were getting on kept thrusting itself into my thinking as historical research proceeded, and in April this year, I decided to find the answers if at all possible.

Robert and Claudia Keokuk and their son come to Keokuk in October, 1937, unheralded and almost unnoticed, when I. L. Younker, retired business man, found them

and served as a one-man reception committee. This was the first visit here of any of the Keokuks since John came here forty-two years ago this autumn to deliver a short but telling speech at the unveiling of the Chief Keokuk monument by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Rand Park. Previously, Moses Keokuk had been here in 1883 at the interment of his father's bones in the base of the monument.

To all intents and purposes then the Keokuk family had faded into mists of other years and if any of them lived, were scattered far and wide.

Sticks To It

I wrote letters to governors, secretaries of state, heads of Indian affairs, principal and sub-agencies of the Indians, several months ago, telling them of my quest. At first, replies came back with little or no information, and, seemingly, the family had vanished or been swallowed by modern civilization. Results were disappointing.

Then one day in May came a letter from one of those out-of-the-way sub-agencies, not far from the Texas Panhandle.

"I think I have what you are looking for," said the agent. "Try

this name and address." He gave the name of a Nevada town, but California as the state. I wrote back and asked him if there was a mistake. He wrote at once, admitting the error: "Nevada is right."

After that, there began a stream of correspondence with Georgia, the widow of John Keokuk—his second wife, whose daughter Dortha, now 44, she reared as she would her own. Dortha's married name is Evans, and she is in charge of the classified advertising department for the Bell Telephone Co. in a western state. She has a staff of eighteen. John's first wife, by the way, was Mabel Hayes, who died years ago.

Georgia Keokuk was helpful, specially concerning facts about John's life: "I married him because he was so polite and well educated," she said. Georgia presently is well into her seventies, but her handwriting is firm. She advised me to follow my project by writing to Robert Keokuk. How right she was, for he had all of the answers to my first inquiries and set them down in clear, concise English. He ended his first letter with the suggestion that if I were coming his way at any time, to come see him. By this time, too, his elder daughter, Lucille (Mrs. Morris Christensen) had joined in the round-robin letter writing, she too saying that a visit to their home would be welcome.

Well Kept Secret

The secret about these preliminary developments was well kept. My wife knew what I was up to, and so did William Talbot, personal friend, and Keokuk business man. In late July, unable longer to restrain the impulse and desire to see the Keokuks in person, and having a business and pleasure trip to California coming up, we boarded a non-stop plane at the Kansas City airport and were "off to see the wizard." A friend, Mrs. Thomas J. Doyle, who drove us to the Burlington airport that morning, won't know until she reads these words, what our objective

Cont. on next page

was. Sixteen-hundred miles and five hours from Keokuk I put in a telephone call to the home of Lucille Christensen. No answer. I dialed the number of Robert Keokuk. No answer. We had dinner at the airport, decided to leave for Los Angeles for we were discouraged at not finding the family at home.

Then I found it always pays to call a number once more. I dialed Robert Keokuk's home again.

"Hello" said a motherly voice at the other end. I explained who I was, and my mission.

"Oh, we've been expecting you," said charming, capable Claudia Keokuk. "We have been out at the store. Lucille is in Seattle attend-

ing a church conference, but our other daughter, Lorene and her family are here."

We made arrangements to see them all early the next morning. As I sat in the hotel lobby waiting for Robert Keokuk, I wondered what he would look like. I had the answer shortly, for through the door came a solidly built citizen, with Chief Keokuk the First, written all over him. Out came his hand in friendly greeting.

"I kind of thought it was you," he said. "The folks are in the car."

Dan Moats, husband of Lorene, is a strapping young construction engineer, with a ready smile and a firm handclasp. Their beautiful little black-eyed Diane is eight-past.

A Great, Great, Great

Morris, husband of Lucille "is just as fine a young man as Dan" the elder Keokuks said with a show of pride. The Christensens have a son, nine and one-half years old, who is "great, great, great" in his relationship to Chief Keokuk, the same as his cousin Diane.

In the days we were there, we spent hours with the Keokuks, dining together, on drives, telling stories, discussing the Indians, old and new, and after a while we were well acquainted, my wife having a field day with my new birthday camera, taking snapshots.

Once when I said to our host in serious vein: "Robert, I'm disappointed in you," he asked with surprise: "Why?" "I thought surely you would say 'How' to me when we met." He nearly went into convulsions laughing. "Next time," he said, "I'll remember to say 'How'."

Robert Keokuk, by the way, has a responsible position with a wholesale hardware firm. Probably five feet nine inches tall, and weighing 180 pounds, he looks healthy and fit and the desert country has agreed with the family, despite the occasional nostalgic feeling for Oklahoma. The young people are prospering.

I asked Robert to describe the social status of his family today.

"We're comfortable middle class," he replied.

Once, Robert was rated as a wealthy man, but he has taken his change in fortunes in his stride and without complaint. He is a man of excellent habits, with an occasional chew of fine-cut tobacco his only vice.

The homes of the Keokuk are furnished in excellent taste—rugs, pictures, electrical gadgets by the score, all the best.

The girls and "Buddy", as Rob-

ert Keokuk Jr. is called by his family, adore their parents.

"They are wonderful people," said Lorene, talking privately with us on one occasion. "We are trying now, to buy the home next door to us where we can have them even nearer." No father and mother were ever prouder of their children than Robert and Claudia Keokuk. They don't say so every five minutes, but the happy glances tell the story.

Gracious Hosts

I think the thing that impressed me most about the Keokuks was their quiet good humor. They could be serious and discuss with superior intelligence the affairs of the day—politics, art, religion, literature. But when there was some laughable little anecdote to be told, it was done with a relish, dark eyes lighting up in amusement.

We were driven to the airport to catch our plane, Lorene serving as our chauffeur, with little Diane as "co-pilot."

"Do let us hear from you," she said, as we extracted the bags from the trunk. "Sorry you can't stay longer, for we've just begun to show you our town." A friendly, smiling wave and she was off to take Diane to a studio for a piano lesson. Which was the reason for the handsome mahogany spinet in the Moats' big living room.

I was touched by two courtesies Robert Keokuk paid me—no three.

He called my by my first name from the beginning as if he had known me for years, this man who looks for all the world out of the eyes like his great grandfather, the Chief.

He asked me to say grace at the table.

When we shook hands at parting, he looked seriously into my face and said:

"Take good care of yourselves, and please let us hear from you along the way, so that we will know you are safe."

Then as an afterthought: "Next time you come back, we are going to take you up to see the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and boy, that's a trip."

The rest of the 5,000-mile journey was pleasant in the extreme, but somehow, we couldn't get those wonderful Keokuks out of our minds—remarkable, admirable descendants of the chief for whom this town is named.

The chief is dead. Long live the chief: Robert Peyton Keokuk, and his extraordinary family. They are America's own.

(Copyright: Use of all or any of the foregoing article without the written consent of the author is forbidden.)

First Justice of Peace—

Samuel Van Fossen

Had Visions Of Waterpower in 1848

An infant still suffering growing pains back in 1848, the year of its incorporation, Keokuk was nevertheless a "Town of Vast Business Importance" according to a letter from the first justice of the peace, Samuel Van Fossen, to his brother.

Some years ago a series of letters from Van Fossen as well as others from his daughter who married William K. Crockett and from their son, David Uncas Crockett, was loaned to Iza Mitchell (now Widdifield) by Mrs. James Madison Offield, the former Margaret Crockett.

Writes to Brother

First of the letters, dated Keokuk May 11, 1848, was written by Samuel Van Fossen to his brother, Isaac Van Fossen in Jackson, Mich. In it he remarked: "My prospects here were very flattering for some time, but I entered into a partnership in a mercantile business with a man who had not the firmness to refuse credits to an extent that I foresaw must, with our means, ruin us, and I sold out, but not in time to prevent a loss of all I had made here in our bad debts.

"I was elected a magistrate in this place about the time I sold out and have since done little else and which has about supported me. My term of office expired on the first of April and I did not think it proper to allow my name to be used again for that place.

"Day before yesterday I received a nomination to the office of clerk of the district court with fair prospects of an election. The office I suppose to be worth between two and three thousand dollars a year. The election comes the first Monday in August.

Suit in Court

I have a suit in the courts of

Cont. on back...

chancery which I suppose will terminate in November, involving about \$6,000 which, if my witness lives, I must gain. If I succeed in both as I confidently believe I will, I shall once more be in comfortable circumstances . . .

" . . . On account of the unsettled state of our land titles here, I have been desirous to leave this place, but if I succeed in the coming election I shall be tied here for two years if I live and shall probably determine to remain. This section of the country is an excellent one, and our town is a point that is destined to be one of vast business importance.

Equal to Rochester

"The time is not far distant when we shall have a water power equal to Rochester, N. Y. with a county unsurpassed in fertility of soil in the Union . . . Our land titles to a small district of the county are in a deplorably unsettled and difficult situation (Half Breed Tract disputes), which up to a very recent date, prevented the improvement of this town, but its important position has at length induced enterprising men to disregard that evil and we are progressing in population and improvement at a rate seldom equalled in so new a country."

Daughter Writes

Another letter dated September 8, 1850 was written by Lizzie Crockett, the former Elizabeth Van Fossen who married William K. Crockett in the First Presbyterian church here September 3, 1848. In it she addresses I. W. Van Fossen as Dear Cousin and tells him that "his uncle, my father, died on the fourth of August after an illness of 11 hours," the victim of cholera.

"You ask about Keokuk and

the business which is done here," Lizzie Crockett wrote. "I do not think it would be profitable to bring dry goods here. The family groceries seem to do a very good business. I think a good business could be done by keeping a store in some of the country towns, and sending butter and poultry, etc. to this town, or, better still, there is a steam ferry just started between here and the Illinois shore.

Vision of Hamilton

"It will not be many months before there will be a town springing up opposite here, so the wise ones say. The traveling backwards and forwards is considerable now and rapidly increasing. I do not think a better business could be done than to establish a lodging house and keep a store that would suit the wants of the country people where the ferry lands. In that way one could buy the country produce and find ready market here. eatables of all kinds bring high prices. At present wheat brings 65-70 cents per bushel, potatoes 40, oats 25 cents. Although for the past year prices have been much higher, I have been here four years and potatoes have sold at a dollar a bushel three springs in succession.

"If you or my uncle think of coming west, I would advise you to at least look at this place. Keokuk at present has 3,000 inhabitants, unimproved lots are bringing from 500 to 1,000 a piece in the business part of town. My husband, Mr. Crockett, has built a market house which he rents to the city for \$500 a year. Other houses rent in proportion. We think money scarce, but those who come from abroad—say Ohio, Indiana or any of those states, say that it is much more plenty here than where they

came from. Money will bring 20 per cent interest here . . .

" . . . I am that younger cousin of whom you speak. I married a Southerner, whose name is Crockett and whose family is somewhat celebrated owing to the eccentricities of Davie . . . As for secret societies the Odd Fellows and Masons have lodges here and turn out pretty largely, but cousin of mine, I have never been initiated and cannot give you particulars."

Her Son Carries On

David Uncas Crockett, born here October 31, 1849 was the son of the Elizabeth Crockett who wrote the above letter, and in his reminiscences says that when he was five years old his father, William Killingsworth Crockett took him to a blacksmith shop and when the smith asked his name, he replied Davy Crockett, so naming himself.

He wrote as follows: "My father, William Killingsworth Crockett must have gone to Keokuk in 1844 when the great rush was on to get up the Mississippi river to the new west. My father was a man of affairs, being active in business and the good of Keokuk, having built the first market house there. He had money and was unfortunate in losing \$90,000 by failure of Parson's bank.

"My father married Elizabeth Van Fossen, daughter of Samuel Van Fossen, first justice of the peace, that the village of Keokuk had—having more Indian residents than white people, the whites living in log cabins and the Indians in wigwams, not teepees (these were of the Sioux and Prairie Indians). He married her in Keokuk in the year 1848. The narrator was born there in a little frame house high on the hill overlooking the most beautiful

clear, sparkling waters of the Mississippi river" (in the days before erosion turned the stream brown).

Chaney Cliff

"In March the year 1858 my father and his family went to live at Chaney Cliff, about a mile north on the river road from Hamilton, Hancock county, Ill." He describes the cliff as the "most picturesque, lovable, charming, natural place on God's earth. A crescent shaped cliff 70 feet, perpendicular to a stream—three-fourths of a mile of said cliff—from a beginning and sloping ending, with two of the most wonderful springs, never ceasing to pour out for all time thousands of barrels of water each 24 hours.

"In that special section—a few acres only right there and Warsaw, Ill — were found round, perfectly round stones, rough on the outside but hollow and filled with diamond sharp pointed crystals which would scratch glass. There were the size, say, of an inch up to six inches in diameter. The Mormons used these for shot for their cannon in the war with the settlers in 1849. These burst open and played havoc with everything they struck.

"Geologists came from England in after years and gathered these, put them in barrels and shipped them to England. For what purpose used I could never find out."

He concludes: "My first employment was as a messenger boy in the banking house of George C. Anderson and Company of Keokuk. At that time I was through going to school. On May 20, 1870, I went to St. Louis, Mo. to work for the St. Louis and St. Paul Packet Company. I never returned to dear old Chaney Cliff but once thereafter." **END**

Symphony soloist

For instance, when she is seated at her grand piano, with sounds of music filling the room — be it a Beethoven Sonata or just a simple folk song — listeners sense her artistry, but only a few have been acquainted with the fact that she once was soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

This memorable occasion, as Mrs. Irwin describes it, was at the time when she was a student at the exclusive Blewett School, just outside St. Louis at Jennings, Mo. The

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA THURSDAY, SEPT. 6, 1962 — 5

A study in contrasts makes for a charming personality

By Dorothy Pickett

"There is something mysterious in being a person" . . . These words of an anonymous writer might well describe a certain Keokuk woman, who, to all outward appearances, is a charming paradox. It is this, perhaps that accounts for her

fascinating personality.

Florence Johnstone Irwin, whose husband was the late John R. Irwin, is a study in contrasts . . . dignified, yet brimming over with care-free buoyancy and love of life; she is gentle, but persuasive; reserved, yet never aloof, and her reticence is but a cloak

that conceals uncommon talents.

Yes, Mrs. Irwin is all of these things within herself and to her host of friends. But, due to her innate modesty, even many of her close associates are unaware of the entire reach of her intellectual and artistic abilities.

Cont. on next page

village itself was small, dominated by the quaint school with its campus enclosed by a huge, white, formidable wall. The young ladies were not permitted outside the premises except by special permission and even then, only when accompanied by a member of the faculty.

It was Mrs. Avis Blewett who escorted young Florence Johnstone to the Ode'on Theater, where she played the Mozart Concerto, Opus 26, with Alfred Ernst conducting the orchestra.

Mixed emotions

This was a stupendous undertaking for one so young, but reports were glowing in praise of the performance of the 54-page concerto, played from memory. As Mrs. Irwin says today, her family expressed mixed emotions over the event — the father, thrilled; but her sister, decidedly worried, feeling it was much too terrifying experience for a school girl.

The young artist continued with her studies at the Spring-side school on Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia, Pa., winning additional laurels in concerts in the eastern metropolis. One such musicale that she remembers vividly is the time she played the entire score of Wagner's "Flying Dutchman."

Music has always been an important phase of Mrs. Irwin's life. Never a day passes, except when out of town, without a bit of playing, sometime for exercise to keep her fingers agile, but more often just for the sheer enjoyment it brings her.

In addition to her pianistic accomplishments, Florence Irwin has composed a number of songs, seven of which were published through the help of the late Professor P. C. Hayden.

Elsa Maxwell

Mrs. Irwin tells a delightful episode of her childhood, at a time when the Maxwell family appeared in Keokuk in a stage production. The company was forced, temporarily, to disband here, due to financial loss, so the Johnstones took Elsa Maxwell into their home for a stay of some three or four days until her parents were able to send for her.

"What a frolic we had," recalls Mrs. Irwin today, "Elsa was so full of fun and being

quite musical, taught us some lovely little songs." And with that, Florence Irwin played and sang bits of them, with probably much the same glee as she felt when Elsa was there.

Mrs. Irwin lives in the family home that houses many rare mementos having to do with the family names "Irwin" and "Johnstone," both of which have played important parts in the history of Keokuk and the state as well.

Her husband's father, John N. Irwin, was appointed governor of Idaho in 1883 by President Chester A. Arthur; governor of Arizona in 1890 by President Benjamin Harrison, and U. S. minister to Portugal by President McKinley in 1899.

These documents with the presidents' signatures, hang on the walls of the back library. Autographed photographs of the King and Queen of Portugal, and also a replica of the queen's regal bedspread, may be seen in the front parlor.

William the Conqueror

Another item of interest is the Chart of Royal Oescent, which goes back to William I, the Conqueror. Close by is the document signed by President Herbert Hoover, appointing her husband postmaster at Keokuk, a post he held for five years. Following this he was Speaker of the House in

the state legislature in Des Moines.

The library proper fairly breathes with mementos of both the Civil War and Revolutionary days — one being the document signed by Abraham Lincoln which appointed John W. Rankin, to a captaincy during the Civil War.

One of even rarer distinction, is the framed parchment signed by George Washington, which declared Henry Vanderburgh, Mrs. Irwin's first American ancestor, a member of the exclusive "Society of the Cincinnati," a club composed only of officers under Washington's command. There is another Washington autograph nearby, in bold script following an "corner" are to be found in various parts of Mrs. Irwin's unusual home, such as the Major Montgomery Meigs family photos, and oil paintings of the ancestors of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin.

Devoted to travel

In direct contrast to her great love of home, Mrs. Irwin is a travel devotee — she calls it her hobby. However, at times it takes on such proportions that it might be considered the principal activity of her life.

She has visited lands of almost every continent, not only once but many times . . . and always returns with a new lilt and an even greater

enthusiasm for life. She usually acquires several novel intellectual interests which immediately embark her on some unusual pursuit, such as one time, upon returning from France, with its language fresh in her mind, she formed a beginners' French class.

Mrs. Irwin, at one time, was prominent in the Keokuk Y. W. C. A. work, serving as an officer over a period of years. She is active in the Community Concerts Association, being a member of the board of directors. She is also an active member of the D. A. R.

Yet, with all the varied experiences that come into Mrs. Irwin's crowded life, her greatest joy might well be compared to that described by the early 17th century essayist, Robert Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy."

Sons come first

He tells of the arrogant Roman matron who boasted of her many jewels, but Cornelia, a fine lady of Rome, pointed to her children just home from school and said, "These are my jewels."

So it is with Mrs. Irwin's two sons. They come first in her life. Alexander, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army for eight years, served in several out-of-the-country posts. More recently he has been quite successful in seeking out rare

Cont. on back...



MRS. JOHN R. IRWIN, seated at her grand piano in her home at 633 Grand Avenue.

THE DAILY GATE CITY
July 30, 1966

Cornelia Meigs recalls girlhood on river

relics having to do with the early circus days era. He then restores these with most painstaking care.

John also served in the army as a Colonel, then was in diplomatic work with the State Department, working in close conjunction with the late Mr. Dulles, secretary of state. Many honors and decorations have been bestowed upon him in governmental, civic and business circles.

Yes, "There IS something mysterious in being a person!"

Editor's Note: With the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrating its centennial on the upper Mississippi next month, Miss Cornelia Meigs, noted Keokuk-born author and daughter of Montgomery Meigs, long time engineer at the Keokuk office has written the following recollections on life in the Keokuk area during the 1890's and early 1900's.

Actually the first government exploration of the Upper Mississippi was made by Zebulon Pike, then, I think, a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army, but later General Pike. He was killed in the War of 1812 at what was then called York, Canada, which is now Toronto. In 1805 he was sent out by President Jefferson just after the dispatching of the Lewis and Clark expedition which explored the Missouri river. Pike was to do the same thing for the Mississippi and to find its sources.

His expedition started from St. Louis and went as far north as Leach Lake in Minnesota, which he mistakenly concluded was the original source of the river whereas Lake Itasca has since been agreed upon instead. His Journals were published and are most interesting. Both his difficulties and his valiant perseverance were great. He was also to challenge the British fur-

THE DAILY GATE CITY
September 28, 1965

Mary Calhoun writes new children's book

Mary Calhoun, a native of Keokuk and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Clark Huiskamp, has written a delightful new book for readers in the eight to twelve year age group.

"The House of Thirty Cats" will please all youngsters who love cats and grown-up readers too. It tells the story of lonely, shy Sarah Rutledge, a middle child who makes friends with Miss Tabitha Henshaw, the crazy cat woman.

As the story unfolds we learn of the garden just for cats with catnip and tansy leaves, of the mystery room upstairs in Miss Tabitha's house, of mean Col. Mace who wants the poundmaster to get rid of the cats and the mousy librarian, Miss Thelma Jones who understands the day dreaming of Sarah.

Looks for good

Miss Tabitha teaches Sarah that one must never fear or avoid the possible good rather than a certain evil. In looking for the possible good Sarah comes out of her shyness, gains many friends and saves the cats for Miss Tabitha.

This charming story is beautifully illustrated by Mary Chalmers, and the drawings of the cats add immensely to the pleasure of reading "The House of Thirty Cats."

A former resident of Mt. Vernon, Washington, Mary Calhoun now lives in Rangely, Colorado, with her husband,

the Rev. Leon Wilkins also formerly of Keokuk. Other books by Mrs. Calhoun include the Katie John series also for young readers.

THE DAILY GATE CITY Sept. 28, 1965



Mary Calhoun

Cont. on next page

trading establishments, illegally operating on United States territory. His journals may be in the Rock Island or the Davenport Library; I know they are in the State Library of Iowa, at Des Moines, for I have borrowed them several times. They are well worth reading.

A little girl

My personal memory goes back to the middle 1890's when I was a little girl growing up in Keokuk where my father was by that time in charge. He had succeeded Major Stickney, and people seemed to think that the man who held the office must be a Major, so he was always called Major Meigs, a purely courtesy title. As United States Civil Engineer he had no such military title; he never spoke of himself as Major Meigs, but popular usage was hard to argue with, and Major Meigs he remained. He had a long, and I am glad to say, very happy connection with the Government work at Keokuk. He had always had a special interest in boat building — one would call it now, marine architecture — and he superintended a great deal of the building in the drydock which was from the first attached to the system of locks and canals which bypassed the Des Moines Rapids. Their title is a little misleading. They were so called because they were just above the mouth of the Tributary Des Moines river.

As you know, of course, the canal was not a dug ditch like other canals, but a section of the river itself, cut off by an embankment seven and a half miles long, built before cranes and concrete were available, and faced on both sides by blocks of cut sandstone. When the canal was finally submerged by the power dam, some of this stone was brought away to build a house for the local government officer. My father lived in it, renting it from the Government, for about five years before he retired.

Lumber rafts

The early commercial activity on the river had passed by at the time when I can begin to remember, but the rafting of lumber was still very much in the ascendend. Almost every town had its sawmill, and its lumber yard along the river front, where tall piles of yellow cut lumber stood in endless rows

drying and waiting to be purchased and shipped. It was a feature in the history of nearly every such town that at some-time or other the lumber yards burned in terrific and unforgettable conflagration.

Rafting was a form of navigation entirely peculiar to itself. As of course you know, a log raft is nothing but a frame work of logs pinned together and with the whole cargo of logs floating loose within its confines. For a man to walk from one side to another was a special accomplishment for each log, when stepped upon, immediately ducked under water and an instant's pause meant being submerged. Some rafts had a solid platform aft with a flooring of bricks upon which a fire could be made and cooking could be done.

A raft was, of course, an extraordinarily awkward thing to handle in the river

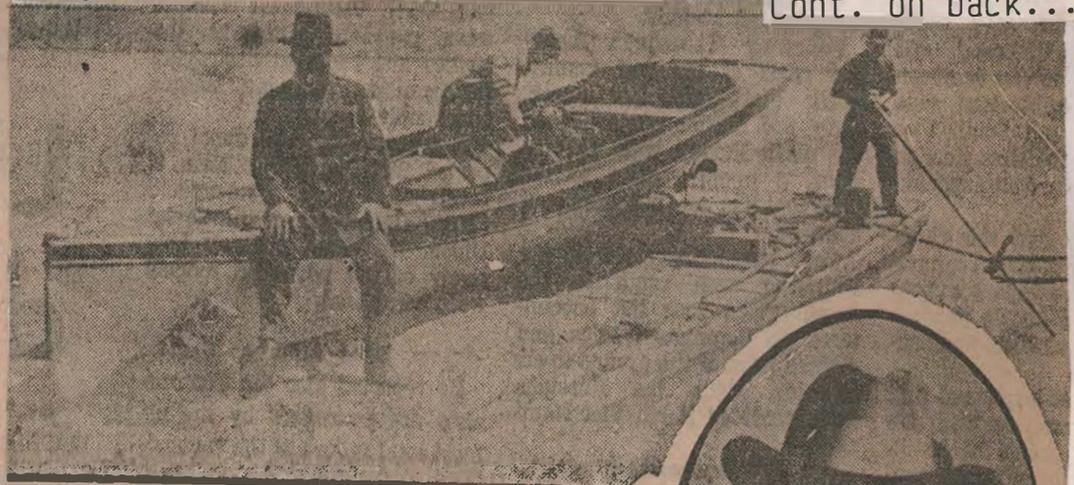
here below the rapids was swift, there was still danger even after the great reassembled craft had left the lock. To make this next part of the passage safer there was a large floating boom reaching from the lower lock gate to the bridge. This was built in sections and had to be taken in for the winter after navigation closed, for when the ice in the river went out toward spring it could sweep away the boom, snapping like packthreads the heavy chains that held it together and hurling the whole structure against the piers of the bridge.

The big raft boat which pushed her great tow downriver usually had a small steamboat as a tender, which helped to separate and reassemble the sections of raft locks. Sometimes when the water over the rapids was higher than usual some raft boat captain would seek to save time by running the

ing and readily lending itself to the cutting into blocks and storing in the dark ice-houses, smelling of wet sawdust. When warm weather came on, the rough and varied white of the river ice would begin to change. One could realize that it was softening and growing rotten, and then some day, all of a sudden, the whole vast surface would break up, bright blue water would appear, and the whole mess would go sailing downstream, an enoromus jostling and tumbling mass to disperse finally in the wider reaches of the water below.

For the removing of what was a great hazard to navigation the Rock Island District office had its own snag boat, which served the whole upper river. The first was the General Barnard, succeeded by the General McKenzie. A great tree or a ragged stump, carried down in a flood and caught by some rocky crevice in the river bottom could be a fearful menace to passing

Cont. on back...



MAJOR MONTGOMERY MEIGS, a U.S. civil engineer, was in charge of work on the Mississippi river in the Keokuk area for many years and is shown here in two poses familiar to old timers, with his pipe at the right and on the bow of one of his launches at the top. The launch is probably one of the old naphtha powered type described by his daughter, Miss Cornelia, in the accompanying article.



currents, and, before the canal was built many of them went to pieces on the rapids. With the coming of the canal such hazards were eliminated, although it took an immense length of time to get the clumsy structures through the canal and the three locks. The rafts were built in sections, each just the size to be held by the lock, and thus had to be taken apart and reassembled when it has passed through the final one. The lower lock ended some hundred feet above the Keokuk bridge and, since the current

rapids, which, if luck failed in the slightest degree, could end in disaster. I myself have seen the whole river dotted with little piles of logs, caught on the various reefs after the ill-started raft had gone to pieces.

Dazzling ice

In spite of the swift current, the whole river could freeze over in winter a mile-wide expanse of ice rough and uneven, but dazzlingly white. The ice in the canal was smooth, splendid for skat-

boats, appearing suddenly and splintering the shallow-draught wooden bottoms. Some snags were so big that they could only be dislodged by dynamite. Their final elimination after long effort was a great service to navigation.

Snags and rapids, however, were not the only threat to the safe passage of the river. Islands would come into being, rapidly and totally uncharted. A big tree might lodge against a shallow bar, silt would wash up against it and make a patch of solid soil, birds would drop seeds and willows and underbrush would grow up. Then with a sudden flood or a roaring storm of wind and angry water, the whole would wash away.

Shifting sand bars

Sandbars were constantly forming and shifting their shape and extent, the twisting channel would alter without warning and what was once a safe crossing would be safe no more. It is an unrecorded part of my father's work that he had the whole picture of the river channel so fully in his mind, with his almost day to day information as to what the mighty Mississippi was about that he felt himself able, where other men would be in doubt, to take the wheel of the big passenger and cargo boats, carrying several hundred people, and pilot them himself down through some treacherous reach of the channel, often rising from his bed at night to do so. He was accepted as a welcome aide by the regular pilots who must know the long stretches of the river but could sometimes not be quite sure in the particularly difficult and rapidly changing channel.

The boat-of-all-work under the command of the Keokuk office was the Lucia, built under the incumbency at Rock Island of (then) Major Alexander McKenzie and named after his daughter. A small, rear-wheel steamboat, she was capable of every task in the administration of her section of the river. She moved dredges and barges, she got in the boom in winter, always a precarious task. She brought in the quarter boats, she transported bargeloads of sandbags in time of floods to raise the level of submerged levees or to close some roaring crevasse in a broken one; she carried distinguished visitors. In that period of the river's history floods came often and with devastating results. The northern stretch of

the Mississippi is in many places bounded by bluffs, but just below Keokuk, was the Des Moines, a wicked little river running through fertile bottom lands and bringing down flood and silt and refuse into the Mississippi.

Alexandria flood

At Alexandria, the small town at the mouth of the Des Moines, many houses near the water were built on pilings in resigned recognition to the fact of what the Des Moines and the Mississippi between them could do in flood time. Every household owned a boat, moored ready in the back yard to be at hand in such time of need. It is quoted concerning a not very highly educated visitor that he declared the scene reminded him of "Venus, with its little goldarners everywhere." But I remember sitting on the Lucia's deck near a house where people were still living and seeing the building teetering on its piling, just ready to float away. Nor could I ever forget seeing, a few moments later, a rowboat go by with a little white coffin laid across the stern. A child had died, probably with scant chance of any medical attention, and was being rowed away to some spot dry enough for burial.

In times of flood, appalling as they are, people are singularly reluctant to leave their homes. There is always the hope, uncertain but obstinately pursued, that the rising waters will stop when it reaches their own doors. Women are unwilling to leave their household goods to the mercy of the muddy waves, farmers are brokenhearted over leaving their stock to possible drowning. Horses are not difficult to rescue. A long line of them, headstall fastened to the tail of the one ahead, will follow, swimming as a boat leads them to safety. Cows are, however, a very different proposition. They thrash from side to side when tied behind a rescuing skiff or, if at a shallow point, they chance to get their feet on the ground, they immediately attempt to climb into the boat.

Lucia to rescue

The little Lucia was at the height of her usefulness as she would go up and down the inundated area, rescuing people from windows or the tops of their houses or from the roofs of sheds. Rowboats would follow and bring their refugees to her safe but very crowded deck. She

had as tender a very early river boat, a "naphtha launch," which sputtering away, could stem currents and reach difficult places where an oarsman alone could not stem the fierce current. Once my father, in this small boat, came across an elderly farmer and his wife, who had been obliged to abandon their house, shaking on its foundations, and to take refuge in a huge tree in the dooryard. The tree was a locust of the variety that bears enormous thorns on its trunk and branches, but in spite of these the two had clambered up to scarcely comfortable safety. When my father came below and wanted to rescue them, the woman flatly refused to get down and her husband would not leave her. The reason, she pronounced, was that "them kind of boats ain't safe." At night, when darkness came down on a great waste of waters with every landmark obliterated the Lucia would lie as close in as was safe and would turn her searchlight straight up to sky as a beacon to those little boats which were going about here and there doing their rescue work in the blackness.

The Lucia was of such moment in the work of caring for this section of river, that she came to be greatly beloved and almost assumed a personality of her own. Her pilot-captain Billy Adams and her engineer Tom Noonan, had served faithfully for 20 years, but without speaking to each other in all that time for they were sworn enemies. In one of the very few tornadoes which ever hit Keokuk, the Lucia was capsized just above the bridge. Billy Adams happened to be safely absent, but Tom Noonan died at his engine trying to keep up power enough to get her to the shore.

Dam changed picture

The building of the power dam at Keokuk finally changed the whole picture of that stretch of the river. There had had been long talk of such a scheme, since the rapids were a very obvious source of possible hydroelectric power. Nor were there any great physical obstacles in the way of construction. But there had been much resistance to the idea, on the ground that it would fatally obstruct river navigation. Opposition, therefore, was very great, even though, by that time, the old glories of the early river traffic had

waned and the amount of transport was of no large proportions. The Power Company made faithful undertaking that navigation would not only be not harmed, but that it could go on steadily even during the construction of the dam. The largest problem was the building of the new lock which was to supersede the old three which would be submerged. It would have to be carried through in one winter, between the closing of the navigation of one season and the opening of the next. For building the power house the whole surface that it was to cover was laid bare by a great cofferdam, which at one terrifying moment was furiously threatened by ice and flooding and had to be built up several feet higher with sandbags. It was curious to see that bare base of smooth limestone, planed by a glacier and scratched where harsh boulders had scraped along it. When construction had proceeded far enough the cofferdam was blown up with a tremendous eruption and the river bottom disappeared into ancient history again.

In the end the Power Company paid damages to one of the lines of river packet boats for a week's delay in the opening of the lock. Reducing the process of three lockings to one, even though it meant a far higher and lower lift and descent, made, however, for much greater simplification of the whole process. And presently after the dam was built and operation had begun there emerged another quite unheralded advantage. If, in a season of low water, a steamboat got stuck on a sandbar downstream, a message of distress to the operators of the dam would open extra sluiceways and release a wave of water which, after a few hours, would reach the vessel in trouble and set her afloat.

Hugh Cooper

The carefully arranged provisions to insure the non-interference with steamboat traffic were fully obeyed. Mr. Hugh Cooper, the very distinguished engineer who had not only designed the dam but had promoted the whole enterprise, was faithful in carrying out the agreements. It was my father's not very easy responsibility to see that this was done. In spite of some reasons rather to the contrary, he and Hugh Cooper be-

Cont. on next page

came fast friends. There were some occasions when the hazards and unexpected complications of construction made for delay and for problems in performance but they were all brought under control in the end. There were consequently a few hot moments of criticism and insistence on one side, and vigorous protests on the other. But the friendship did not falter, and when my father died in 1931 Hugh Cooper and Mrs. Cooper came all the way from New York to attend his funeral.

Many changes have followed this very great one. The Middle West was just coming into a period of prosperity unknown before. It became apparent that, as business on the river increased, the freight rate for railroad carriage north and south in the Mississippi Valley was considerably less than east and west across-country, owing, obviously, to the competition of water traffic. New ideas, new experiments burgeoned. The old raft boat model gave way to something more adapted to general traffic. The diesel engine succeeded the old steam boilers with their constant stoking. But there have been lost nothing of the dignity and majesty of a great boat breasting all the forces that Old Man River can bring against her.

Last living graduate of Keokuk Medical college

By Ray E. Garrison

Keokuk's multiple medical college establishment closed its doors forever sixty-five years ago this coming May after graduating 3,500 students in the 58-year period between 1850 and 1908. Research of the records of the original College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Keokuk Medical College, established in 1890 reveals that one and only one graduate is living today. He is Dr. Willis S. Bennett of San Diego, Cal. who will be 91 years of age this coming July.

The writer, at a disadvantage because of distance, requested Truitt P. Richardson, a native of Keokuk who has been a resident of the California community for many years, to accept the assignment of calling on Dr. Bennett. The result follows in Richardson's report under a Feb. 21 date:

"This morning at 10:30 I visited Dr. Bennett in the Point Loma area. Mrs. Bennett welcomed me in after I had explained my mission. She took me to the doctor's bedside and I introduced myself, following which we had a half hour visit.

"The doctor is quite deaf and has arteriosclerosis. He does not read printed matter and does not walk. Mrs. Bennett has him in a wheelchair, later in the day, and he sleeps from 2 to 4 p.m. each day. I read your letter to him which he seemed to enjoy.

"Dr. Bennett recalled such old time Keokuk physicians as Jenkins, Ruth, Hughes, Dorsey and others. Dr. Bennett told he he had typhoid fever in 1907 which caused him to graduate a year later from medical school instead of with his own class."

Richardson reported that Dr. Bennett is

Years afterward Bennett joined a medical clinic in Los Angeles, where he remained until 1950 when he retired, nearing his 70th birthday.

Within the last two or three years several other graduates of the Keokuk medical institutions have been reported as the "last living" members. Among these was Dr. William Rankin, who for years was hailed as the leader of his profession in this area.

The father of Keokuk's Dr. John W. Saar, Dr. Jesse Saar of Donnellson, Ia. attended medical college here but completed his medical education elsewhere because of the local school's closing before he had completed his course. Some time ago he was reported to be living in southern California.

The last large reunion of Keokuk medical college graduates took place in 1930 when more than 100 physicians and surgeons, including 30 from Keokuk, were



Dr. Willis S. Bennett

"mentally alert and requested me to visit him again."

In a letter received within the last year or two, Dr. Bennett said: "I matriculated on Sept. 12, 1903, but fate decreed that I should graduate a year late." He continued: "After graduation I located at Bradyville, Page county, Iowa, where I soon discovered that the practice of medicine was too empirical, and that practice in a small town was a rather thankless procedure."

There upon Bennett took an examination for physicians in the U.S. Indian service. He remained in this service for about a year, then asked for admission to the U. S. Army with a medical commission. I was turned down on physical examination, which I knew was a fake, so I went to a recruiting office where I passed 100 per cent and was assigned to heavy artillery." Later he reentered Indian service.

attendance. By the late 1950's, attendance at these reunions had been reduced to a handful.

Incidentally, Dr. William J. Harter, graduate of the medical college here, who died in California within the last year or two, was the next to last surviving member of the Keokuk medical school. He was in the vicinity of 100 years in age at the time of his passing.

12

Famous Keokuk author, Cornelia Meigs dies

Cornelia Lynde Meigs, former Keokuk resident and famous author, died at her home, Sion Hill, Harford County, Maryland, Monday, Sept. 10. Word of her death was received in Keokuk this morning.

She was the author of more than 40 books for children and several works of history and biography. She was professor emeritus of English from Bryn Mawr college and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. She taught for one year at the New School for Social Research in New York City.

In 1926 she won the Little, Brown Company prize for "The Trade Wind," and in 1933 the Newberry Medal for the "most distinguished children's book of the year, 'Invincible Louisa,' a biography of Louisa May Alcott."

Her historical works included, "The Violent Men," the story of the Continental Congress, published in 1949, and "The Great Dsign," a history of the United Nations, published in 1964.

She was born in Rock Island, Ill. Dec. 6, 1884, fifth of seven daughters of Montgomery and Grace Lynde Meigs, and granddaughter of Civil War general, Montgomery C. Meigs. The family moved to Keokuk when she was a month old. Her father, Montgomery Meigs, was an engineer who devoted his life to construction of dams and structures controlling the waters of the Mississippi.

Ms. Meigs lived mostly in Keokuk and taught English at St. Katherine's school in Davenport, until her father died in 1931.



Cornelia Meigs

Her mother initiated the formation of the kindergarten system in Keokuk. Later, she (Cornelia) lived and wrote in a rural setting at Brandon, Vt. and later at Havre de Grace, Md.

She is survived by eleven nieces and nephews for whom she was a center for many years; and by 29 grandnieces and grandnephews.

THE DAILY GATE CITY PAGE 2 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1974

Couple finish Australian, New Zealand tour

by Karen Ball

Richard and Alice Bowers are a couple who enjoy the midwest flavor of their surroundings, yet are cosmopolitan enough in their thinking to find a visit half way around the world to be as comfortable and as friendly as home.

Bowers is a soft spoken insurance salesman who successfully sells his product at the rate of more than \$1 millin a year. His wife, Alice, likes making art somewhat more than a serious hobby.

At the request of the Life Insurance Underwriters Association of Australia and New Zealand, Bowers and his wife toured 15 major cities in the two countries.

Bowers' assignment was to give lectures on the concepts, philosophies and professionalism of the insurance salesman and in general to upgrade the knowledge and image of the salesmen in those countries.

Alice was asked to speak at womens' clubs, her husband's seminars and even Australian television talk shows. Her husband's busy itinerary was more than adequately intersperced with side trips for him to accompany Alice through the nearest art galleries and museums to get an idea of Australian and New Zealand art on the contemporary scene.

Half way around the world, the Bowers won the hearts of their foreign hosts with no difficulty. One Tasmanian admirer wrote, "I would not have thought it possible for two 'foreigners'...to so quickly and effective-

Cont. on next page

ly infiltrate our hearts and minds."

Budget Saver (Daily Gate City Supplement)

And the Bowers found their foreign hosts equally agreeable. "They are generally very proud people and real free spirits...a bit impulsive, and thoroughly likeable," Bowers said.

"They're forgetful of America's part in the war and at the same time intrigued with us. They are great imitators in both language and dress, but are not quite as style and design conscious as the U.S. Though the average income is slightly lower in New Zealand than Australia, both countries still consider quantities such as central heating, television, washer, dryer and two cars to be luxury items," agree the Bowers.

Bowers recalled the beauty of the bright foreign coastal cities set against blue ocean as "comparable only to San Francisco." He found it interesting that they are very environmental conscious. Almost every coastal city is bordered by a protected section of natural vegetation and animal life.

Alice was so intrigued with the lush exotic plant life that she bought several seedlings back home. In her search for contemporary Australian art the ever-present selections of aboriginal art began to catch Alice's attention and eventually turned it to keen fascination.

Many of the Bowers' souvenirs consist of intricately hand-painted tapas of black, browns and tan, ornately carved native wood and boomerangs. Alice laughed about carrying home, by hand, a musical wind instrument several feet long to keep luggage weight down. The

Bowers' love of books made up a great deal of the luggage weight. They brought back scores of books on Australian, New Zealand and island culture.

Million dollar salesman

At his seminars abroad, Bowers, who firmly believes that insurance significantly raises living standards, advised fellow insurance salesmen to urge the passing of a bill currently before their Parliament which would require the licensing of insurance agents. As Bowers put it, "Even their jockies are licensed, but not so insurance agents. Anyone could become an agent."

Bowers spent much of his time speaking on this issue to entire associations as well as many company presidents. At present the bill now has the support of life officers of various large insurance companies in Australia, as well as the Underwriters.

Bowers' success, which has qualified him for 21 consecutive years of membership in the Million Dollar Round Table (an international organization whose main requirement for membership is the sale of \$1 million worth of life insurance yearly), comes from rigid personal guidelines set up early in his career.

In the seminars he advised his audience that self analysis is one of the "building blocks" to success. He also advised careful selection of an insurance market. In his own career, he realized he was most at home in the business insurance market and the tax and real estate planning field. Therefore he concentrated his efforts in those directions.

Self discipline and knowledge are other key guidelines. Knowing his product is as vital to Bowers and knowing himself. Careful of his time, while driving he plays tapes of the latest lectures on insurance.

While Bowers continued with his talks, his wife, Alice, feeling that a topic on the role she played in her husbands' success was a "bit presumptuous," spoke to the women on the philosophy of their lives and the activities to which it led them.

"It's a philosophy of being involved, of knowing people," she said. "I have to be sold on what Dick's doing in order to go along with him. Insurance makes possible education, bread and butter, possibilities to expand business and allows more freedom for a person to advance in whatever they're doing."

She accompanied her talks with slides showing the uniqueness of living in a mid-America town; distributed picture prints of George Catlin's famous "Chief Keokuk;" and handed out literature from Keokuk's Chamber of Commerce.

Now at home, the Bowers have been described as able ambassadors of America.

Robert A. Brown, American consul in Melbourne, Victoria, wrote, "The Bowers were a delightful couple — really excellent representatives, not only of America, but of the insurance industry as well."

See related photo
on back... 2...

Denholm: a name behind food for 50 years

by Karen Ball

When you have a name like Denholm, you manage your family's food store, you join the market business at the age of six, you take time out for school and the service and a family and you cultivate a talent through which you can channel the artier side of your nature. This axiom goes double for Jim Denhom and his son, Charlie.

And when Jim and Charlie say "family" business they mean family — sons, daughters, wives, mothers, grandfather, grandmother, etc. The name Denholm has been connected with the market business for 50 years in Keokuk, but associations in that area go back even further.

Charlie operates Denholm IGA Foodliner, at 13th and Main. His father operates Denholm IGA at Boulevard Road. His grandfather operated a meat market in Keokuk. His great-grandfather operated a meat market in Hamilton. And his great-great-grandfather was a cattle buyer from Kentucky.

Great-grandfather James Hurlburt Berry opened up Berry's Meat Market in 1890 in Hamilton. It was the logical move since his father was a cattle buyer. Berry's daughter, Inez helped him in the market and soon met and married James McKnight Denholm I, a conservative Scotsman who had come to Keokuk to help build the dam. When the dam was done, James and Inez worked together in Berry's Meat Market.

By 1925, Berry had died and the Denholm couple sold the meat market and opened "Model Meat Market" at 1122 Main in Keokuk. The store moved to two other locations, also under the

Cont. on back...



ART SOUVENIRS displayed by Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Bowers, represent a portion of those acquired in their recent visit to Australia and New Zealand. Mrs. Bowers holds an ornately carved piece of wood used to adorn the walls of meeting houses of the Maori Indians in New Zealand. Bowers holds a digeradoo, a wind instrument made by Australian aborigines out of a hollowed-out tree branch. Gate City photo by Jim Ebert

name of Denholm, one at Fourth and Main and another at 24 South Fourth.

The couple soon began instructing their young son, James Berry Denholm, in the market business. What do you do at the age of six? "You trim meat, run errands, sweep the sawdust and look for lost coins," Jim remembers. He added that you get paid a glorious 5 cents a day and it comes in change. At that age paper money doesn't quite look that good.

Growing up wasn't all work and school. In the 30s Jim began to take trumpet lessons from retired musician Bill Bower who had played with the traveling Buffalo Bill Circus. "He could tell the tales," Jim said. "His best story was about a railroad wreck in Horse Shoe Bend, Pa., causing the lions to get loose. He had a lot of stories. They

were all good. I don't know why he ever settled in Keokuk. I think his home town was Jamestown, N.Y. That's where he's buried."

Besides providing a generous supply of tales, Bower cultivated Jim's talent on the trumpet that enabled him to play "semi-professionally" with a dance band in the Tri-State area. Coincidentally, most of the old group was back in Keokuk this past weekend to brush up these talents.

Jim attended Hamilton High School and the University of Illinois, taking time out for a stint in the service. In the late 50s Jim moved the store to the Boulevard Road location. The empty lot was purchased. Building which began in August of 1965 was completed by January of 1966.

Jim and his wife, Clarajo, have four children, Charlie, 31; Debbie Denholm Shaffer, 29; James McNight Denholm II, 27; and Gina

Denholm Stromberg, 25. All four gained experience in the market business with their father. But it was Charlie who remained to take over management of the second Denholm IGA Foodliner, the former Paetz Supermarket, purchased in May of 1972. His brother Jim joined Armour Dial.

"I began at six, just like Dad," Charlie recalls. "The pay was a nickle a day, just like in Dad's day." The first job title he owned was "soap stacker." Given six crates of soaps with 144 bars of soap in each, young Charlie set to work. He also ran errands and at the seasoned age of eight learned how to make bologna and weiners.

The two Denholm boys interrupted their jobs at the store to serve in Viet Nam. Charlie was wounded on Hamburger Hill in May of 1969 and spent several weeks recuperating in Japan before returning to fight. He was a member of Bravo Company Third Batallion of the 187th Airborn Infantry and later returned as company commander of Charlie Company, 54th Infantry.

He came back to the states with over a dozen medals including two Combat Infantry badge, two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars for Valor, Silver Star, and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

His brother Jim, member of Fox Trot Company First Aircab Division, served as point man and radio telephone operator for the company commander. Wounded in Cambodia, he was hospitalized in Cam Ron Bay before returning to Vietnam for three months as company clerk. Jim's medals when he left Vietnam included, Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge. After returning to Keokuk he and his brother worked with their father until he joined Armour Dial Company 1 1/2 years ago.

Charlie and his dad were now ready for business expansion and bought the Paetz store. This addition combined with the Boulevard location added up to 29,000 square feet of shopping space, a sizeable increase over great-grandfather Berry's 800 square feet.

And whereas a meat

market provided the extras of ketchup, mustard and bread, today's over-all market adds frozen foods, fresh vegetables, non-food items and more. "When we started combining grocery with meat, we had to get bigger.

Like his father, Charlie had another talent. Majoring in art at the University of Iowa, he is now director of the Keokuk Art Center. He also taught his mother to make all the advertising displays for both stores.

"The more competition you have the better you get," Charlie said. "Extras include the fresh bakery at the downtown store. Everything is made from scratch there. Nothing is from a pre-mix or frozen product." Another extra is the downtown store's 40-car covered parking lot, the only one of its kind in Keokuk.

Father and son feel that business is very competitive in Keokuk, but good. Most commodity scares are created with "over buy." "People remember the depression, the post-war shortages," said Charlie. Prices are actually quite reasonable when one considers a single apple, for instance. An apple from Washington State is picked, washed, waxed, wrapped, boxed and shipped and arrives on the shelf a few days later. Store specials match many prices of the 30s.

The food business depends on a myriad of factors, shipping, fuel costs, weather. An early freeze in Minnesota can kill a third of a tomato crop over night. The freeze is felt clear down to the shopper's purse. This is true of most canned fruits and vegetables.

Some predictions say that rising power costs may dent the frozen food industry as it takes increasing costs to maintain refrigeration. Fresh or canned fruits and vegetables will move again to the top.

Not all the predictions are theory at this point. Jim and Charlie feel that the latest innovation in food stores will be the use of a computerized "scanner." For example, a can of cat food contains a

Cont. on next page

15

regular label that is marked with a special magnetically printed tab. As the check-out person passes the can over the scanner, the tab is automatically picked up and the charge appears on the computer. The scanner saves not only the time of checking out the groceries, but also the hours spent by clerks who must mark prices in the store. The margin of error is also eliminated. The computer also takes inventory and automatically makes orders when it is time to re-stock.

The use of a scanner may not be seen for a few years, but the Denholm stores, already geared for modernization and changing times, will probably be among the first to use them...if the time

is right. Grandfather Denholm was so conservative he once hung a used tea bag on a spindle for his grandson Charlie's first "tea break." "It was a joke, of course," laughed Jim. But he also remembers the time when Grandfather Denholm took his first vacation in 20 years. "He was in Canada when he heard from the Associated Press that a backfiring car on the streets of Keokuk caused a horse to bolt through the front glass of Denholm's Meat Market. He didn't call. He just inquired when he returned. He knew the store was in good hands...and he was a Scotsman."



Father and son

A Scotsman with the name of Denholm added his name to the Keokuk market business, but his descendants, Charlie (left) and his father, Jim, have carried it on to the 50-year mark. The men are pictured in Denholm IGA Foodliner on Boulevard Road_DGC photo by Karen Ball

Daily Gate City
ONDAY JULY 7, 1975

Ray Garrison honored on his 85th birthday

Nearly 80 persons attended an informal birthday reception Saturday for Ray Garrison, veteran newsman, at the First Congregational Church. Born July 5, 1890 in Keokuk, Garrison was observing his 85th birthday.

Present for the occasion was Garrison's daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Tolar, Birmingham, Ala. Surprise visitors were Garrison's grandson, Robert Tolar, and his wife, who live in Kansas City.

Garrison, the dean of Keokuk journalists, was educated in the Keokuk schools and went to work for the Daily Gate City as a reporter. From Keokuk he went to Clinton where he worked for the Clinton Herald. Next was a

stint on the old Des Moines Capitol, where Garrison was one of the editors. (The Capitol was eventually merged with the Des Moines Register).

From Des Moines, Garrison went to Chicago where he worked for many years for the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Tribune. After leaving the newspapers, Garrison was one of the editors of the Chicago Journal of Commerce. In 1948 he retired from that job and planned to move to the west coast. He stopped in Keokuk to see old friends and has lived here ever since.

Garrison is the author of several books and occasionally contributes articles to the Daily Gate City.

Members of the McFarland Ten assisted Mrs. Garrison in serving refreshments. Mrs. Ray Peters, Congregational Church organist, was in charge of the music. Robert Gowing and Mrs. Birdwell Sutlive, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lofton sang duets. Sherri Gowing and Susan Reem were in charge of the guest book with Mrs. Paul Van Zant and Mrs. Lee Reem serving as greeters.

THE DAILY GATE CITY
August 29, 1975

Former Keokuk journalist dead at 79 ^{8/29/75}

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles E. Honce, who rose from a \$14-a-week reporter to become an assistant general manager of The Associated Press, died today in Lenox Hill Hospital. He was 79.

During his news career, he directed coverage of such famous stories as the St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago, the Lindbergh baby kidnaping and the Morro Castle ship disaster.

Honce was a noted bibliophile and wrote seven books.

Honce, born in Keokuk, Iowa, entered AP service in Chicago in 1919.

After serving eight years in Chicago in jobs of increasing responsibility, Honce was named central division news editor of the AP and held that position for three years until he moved to New York and was put in charge of AP's day news report.

Honce was AP general news editor from 1937 until 1944, and from then until he retired in 1953, he was assistant general manager in charge of AP Newsfeatures, Wide World Photos and other special services.

Honce was widely known in newspaper circles through his activities in the Associated Press Managing Editors Association. He edited the APME Red Book from 1948 through 1952.

Honce is survived by his widow, the former Emanuella Flood of Keokuk; and a sister, Bess Harrison, of Peoria, Ill.

Clyde Thornton, 86, of 1117 Des Moines, who retired as Daily Gate City advertising manager in January of 1963, says of Honce: "He started at the Gate City as a cub reporter. He was a real go-getter when it came to the news. Worked there two or three years. Although I hadn't seen 'Charlie' for 20 years or more, I know he did an outstanding job as a reporter.

Thornton remembers Honce as "a fine sort of young man...everybody liked him."



Miss Keokuk steps out

Suzie Miller has two more days as the reigning Miss Keokuk before she crowns her successor Thursday night. She joined the contestants and their chaperons Monday to model fall fashions at a dinner for 140 guests at the Gypsy Dell. Story and photos on the Family Page.

DGC photo by Jim Ebert

Artist paints Keokuk's origins on huge canvas

by Loren Van Abbema

While Keokuk celebrates its 125th anniversary, a world-traveling, award-winning artist is hard at work putting symbols of the city's origins on a huge piece of canvas

The State Central Savings Bank has commissioned John Wheat to paint a 13-foot, three-inch by eight-foot, eleven-inch mural to hang on the west wall of the high-ceilinged bank.

Wheat began historical research for the painting while at his residence in San Miguel, Mexico, then came to Keokuk Sept. 18 and spent another three days digging into the city's past.

A week ago, he started making half-size charcoal and pencil sketches, each more detailed than the one before. He is now on the fourth, done in ink, which he thinks will be his last preparatory drawing. From it he will render the vast work of art.

The painting will show Chief Keokuk, a plainsman, and the explorers of the Mississippi, Marquette, Joliet and DeSoto standing behind the steamboat Keokuk.

Beneath them flows the Mississippi. Heading upstream toward the rapids that today are stilled by the Keokuk dam are the steamboat Missouri, whose men named the city, and a less luxurious craft, the raft of Tom Sawyer and Huckelberry Finn.

Near the center of the canvas is an eagle. "I use it as the Americana symbol," Wheat explained, and added that in his research he discovered that eagles fly over and nest in the Keokuk area.

Wheat expects to be finished in about a month. Then the canvas, which should now be on its way from New York, will be rolled up and taken to its permanent abode. That will only be a short trip next door. Wheat is using part of the former Daily Gate City building as his studio. He sleeps next to his work in a small room decorated in Midwestern bohemian with second hand furniture.

This is not Wheat's largest painting. He once did one 30 feet long and ten feet high. "I was a kid then and willing to tackle anything," he said. "A year later I was still working on it."

A graduate of the Yale School of Fine Arts, Wheat, 52, has won more than a dozen art awards and has traveled and painted in India, China, Africa, Egypt and a half-dozen other countries.

Under the auspices of the U.S. Army's Chief of Military History, he went to Vietnam in December of 1968, when U.S. involvement in the war was at its peak. He spent a month tromping through rice paddies and jungles making sketches and shooting 74 rolls of color film to use in later paintings.

Many of the photographs, unlike the paintings that followed, look deceptively peaceful. Explaining a photograph showing a rear view of GIs facing a panorama of thick Vietnamese foliage, Wheat said, "Those guys are firing point-blank into the enemy with a 105 mm. howitzer. You wouldn't think so, but they're getting shot at. Every once in a while, one of



OUT OF THE PAST—Artist John Wheat points out details on the half-size ink drawing he will use to paint a mural showing the symbols of Keokuk's origins. Gate City Photo

them would drop over."

Wheat spent a year doing the Vietnam paintings. They are now part of the U.S. Army Historical Collection in Washington, D.C.

October 13, 1975

John Wheat murals

honor nation's bicentennial

by Jim Ebert

Two John Wheat murals which depict scenes honoring the nation's bicentennial celebration were unveiled Sunday in the State Central Savings Bank, 601 Main Street.

Over 225 persons attended the unveiling which took place during a three-hour reception held in the bank's community room.

The murals, each nine feet wide by 12 feet high, now hang in the main room of the bank with another of Wheat's murals done several years ago.

Together, the three murals present a symbolic and figurative historical outline showing the development of

Keokuk by local and national events. The paintings depict a time period spanning the Spanish expeditions in the 1500's to the present.

Wheat was commissioned by bank president William Logan to do the series in connection with the bicentennial year.

A noted artist and worldwide traveler, John Wheat was commissioned as the Army's official combat artist during the Vietnam Conflict. His paintings of Vietnam have been placed in the U.S. Army Historical Collection at Washington D.C.

Wheat's art has been exhibited in New York's Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum and Chicago's Art Institute. His paintings are in 15 permanent public and many private collections throughout the country.

Wheat came to Keokuk in January where he made his living quarters and working area in the Knights of Columbus building on Sixth Street. The high ceilings of the studio room were needed due to the large size of the murals. For the first month and a half he was here, Wheat did historical research.

The murals were composed and designed on smaller canvasses, Wheat explained. Once these were done, they were photographed and projected onto the murals, Wheat said this was

Cont. on next page

THE DAILY GATE CITY SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1975



Bank mural

Artist John Wheat works on one of two murals that are to hang in the State Central Savings Bank in Keokuk. Wheat had been working on smaller scale mock-ups of the murals and now is doing the foundation work for the actual murals.

DGC photo by Jim Ebert

October 13, 1975

THE DAILY GATE CITY

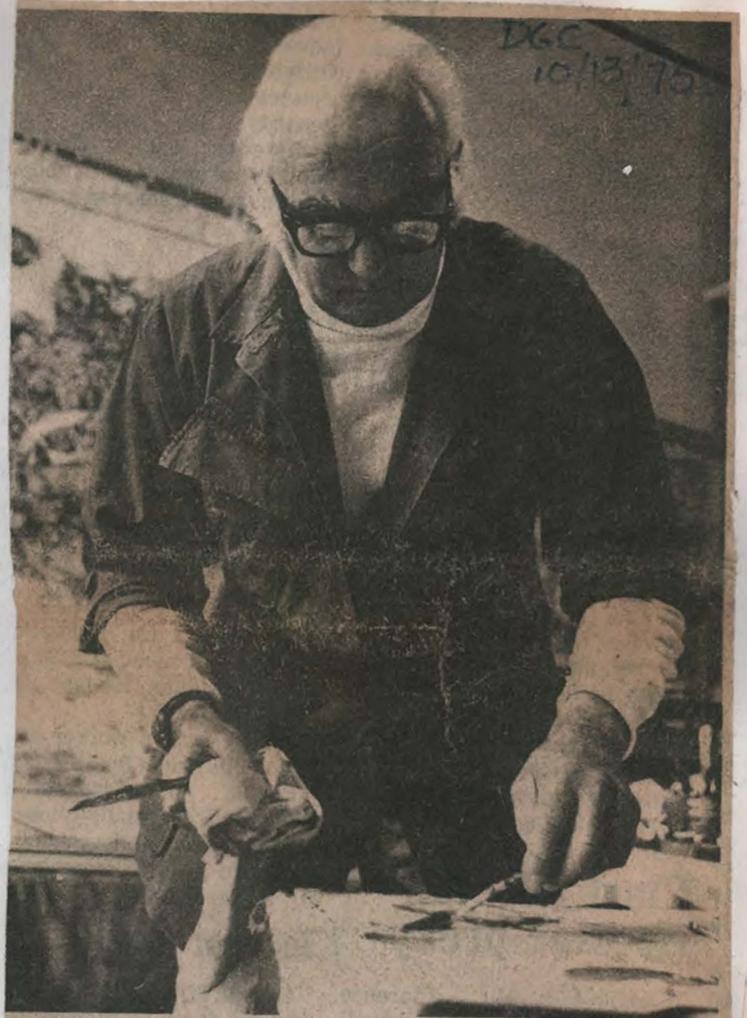


Bicentennial paintings

William Logan, left, president of the State Central Savings Bank, with artist John Wheat, whose murals at the bank were unveiled Sunday. . . DGC photo by Cathy Breitenbucher.

necessary due to the large sizes of his works. "When the artist works up close to the canvass, perspective can be altered. Also mistakes on a canvas of this size are very costly," Wheat added.

Beginning Monday of next week, the public may view the murals during a week-long open house, Logan announced. The event will run daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the State Central Savings Bank.



Artist John Wheat working on the murals. Left, Wheat mixes colors to be used on small paintings where he formulated the colors and composition. These small paintings, right, were photographed and projected upon the 9 by 12 foot canvas. His

Cont. on back...



Paintings of history

Two 9 by 12 foot murals painted by John Wheat were unveiled Sunday afternoon in the State Central Savings Bank, 605 Main Street. Painting at right titled "The Good Life" depicts Keokuk from 1908 to the present. Painting on the left il-

lustrates Keokuk during the Victorian Era, 1858 to 1908. Center painting is the first mural that Wheat painted several years ago symbolizing the early history of Keokuk from 1541, during the Spanish expeditions to the new world. All three murals depict events that shaped this city and nation.

10/13/75



studio was on the second floor of the Knights of Columbus building, 6th and Main. See additional photo, story page two. . . . DGC photos by Jim Ebert and Cathy Breitenbucher.
10/13/75

21

A tribute to R.N. Hoerner Sr.

by Joe Malkin

"The bell tolls not for Dick Hoerner, Sr. It tolls for our town, for his family, for his friends, for all those he touched during his fruitful lifetime. Sing no sad songs for him; sing them for those he left behind. A shadow has fallen on many places where Dick Hoerner brought sunshine."

This poetic tribute to Richard N. Hoerner, Sr. was written by a friend shortly after the death of the industrialist-philanthropist on August 14, 1972. The true meaning of these words is reflected in the association of his name to that of Keokuk's new YMCA which opened this week, and for which a public open house will be held this Sunday.

The beautiful, functional structure which will serve the people of Dick Hoerner's home town and the surrounding area, would not have been possible without his generosity.

Of all his civic endeavors, probably his favorite was in connection with the development of the Keokuk YMCA program. He had served as president for 17 years, and his efforts reached an

apex with his plans for a much-needed new facility.

Mr. Hoerner reached deep into his own pocket and came up with a challenge to the citizens of his home town. He pledged to match every two dollars given by the community, with one dollar of his own, up to \$600,000.

At the time of his death, the fund drive was still short of the goal, but sufficiently close to lend confidence that the necessary funds would be raised.

The building that stands today is a tribute to the faith of Dick Hoerner in the people of the town he called home.

After his death, when the goal did fall short, the torch he carried for a new Y was picked up by his widow, Kathryn, his daughter, Suzanne Jackson, and his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Hoerner, Jr. Among them they made up a sizable amount of the needed difference to bring to a reality Mr. Hoerner's dream.

Dick Hoerner, Sr.'s philanthropies have been felt not only by those with whom he had

personal contact, but among people more than half way around the world.

A great advocate of education, he was responsible for setting up

the Hoerner foundation. This allowed many talented people who could not otherwise afford it, an opportunity to get a college education. He was very active in his alma mater, Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

He was president of its alumni association, served as alumni trustee, trustee-at-large, director of the Earlham Foundation, chairman of the development committee and served on the board of trustees for 12 years. In 1960, Earlham awarded him a Doctor of Laws degree.

He also served as a member of the board of trustees of Parsons College in Fairfield, Ia., from 1943-1963 and for seven years, was chairman of the board. In 1956 he was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree from Parsons.

Mr. Hoerner, for many years, has personally provided scholarship funds to enable foreign students to attend colleges in the United States.

When learning from a friend of the need for a Christian children's school in the friend's home town in India, he became interested and five years later, the Hoerner School was opened in Lucknow, India.

Named in honor of Richard Hoerner, Sr. and Richard Hoerner, Jr., who jointly provided the major portion of funds, the school had an enrollment of 350 children at the time of Richard Hoerner's death.

In Keokuk, he served on the board of directors of Graham Hospital, Community Chest, Chamber of Commerce, and Planned Parenthood. He was an elder of the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, and had served as president of the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce and the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

The beautiful lodge he built at Camp Paquotce in Illinois, the

summer camp for the Keokuk Y, is another example of his interest in this organization.

A week ago, the Keokuk Jaycees presented the Humanitarian Award to the R.N. Hoerner Sr. family for their efforts in making possible a new Y and recreation center in Keokuk.

The new Hoerner Y and Civic Recreation Center will stand for many years as a service to the people of this community, and as a tribute to the man who did most to make it possible, Richard N. Hoerner, Sr.



R.N. Hoerner Sr.

This bust of the late Richard N. Hoerner, Sr. stands in a glass case in the lobby of the new Keokuk Y, named after the industrialist-philanthropist whose generosity made possible the new Y and civic center.

AVERY[®]
POLY-VU



Hughes Children Springboard from Life in Keokuk to World Fame in Chosen Fields!

Shoppers Free Press January 4, 1978

Shoppers Free Press Jan. 4, 1978

"Loving Memories of Felix Hughes"

-- by Ruby H. Hughes

(Copyrighted by Ruby H. Hughes, 1977, All Rights Reserved)

Published Exclusively by the Shoppers Free Press, with the Express Permission of the Author, Ruby H. Hughes)

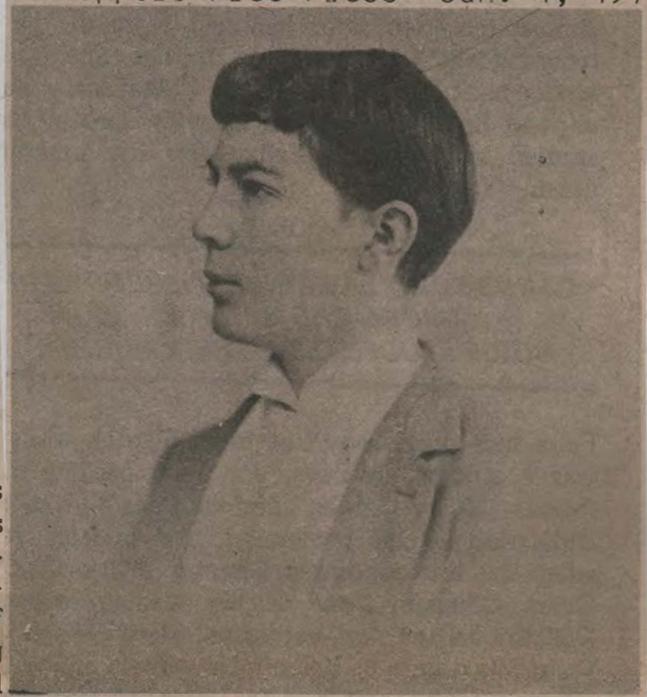
PART II

Life in Paris was a glorious adventure for this "young man from Keokuk." The Louvre, Paris Opera House, Opera Comique, and the other artistic and historical land-marks were visited frequently. Jean Amelia had instilled this love of beauty and Felix took advantage of this fascinating city. He lived in Paris for eight years and learned to speak and read French fluently. He studied with the most famous voice teachers of that era. He learned operas and although a baritone could sing both tenor and baritone roles. He could sight-read the most difficult music, and his acting ability was developed for operatic roles. This talent was also carried on in his personal life in a very subtle way. He had a great wit and charm, and his demonstrative way of telling a story was always fascinating and appreciated by his listeners.

Later on, Felix went to Berlin to study music of the great German composers. After Berlin he spent considerable time in London, England, studying oratorio with the famous conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Henry Wood.

After having completed ten years of studies in Europe and England, Felix returned to the United States. As a baritone, he spent several years singing in concerts and recitals, and as soloist with the leading orchestras in this country. He shared concerts with the great diva Schumann-Heink when she was touring the United States.

During World War 1, Felix moved to Washington, D. C., where he served as Captain in the Military Intelligence Division of the Army of the United States. He also served as Head of an Entertainment



FELIX HUGHES, husband of author Ruby Hughes, became a brilliant singer and eminent teacher. He is shown above at age eighteen, shortly before leaving Keokuk for ten years of study in Europe.

Committee for Exhibition of War Department Films. Later, not wanting to pursue a career in Military Service, he applied for and received an Honorable Discharge from the Army.

After his return to civilian life, Felix decided to give up concertizing and started his career as a voice teacher.

"ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE THAT 4 CHILDREN BROUGHT UP IN THE SAME ENVIRONMENT WERE SO UNLIKE ONE ANOTHER"

Rupert often said, "It was almost unbelievable that four children having been brought up in the same environment and conditions were so unlike one another in their approach to their chosen fields of endeavor."

Howard in his inventive achievements was quite removed from the artistic achievements of the other three children. Felix had devoted his life to music; as a brilliant singer and eminent teacher. This differed from Rupert's and Greta's approach

Cont. on next page

to music, Rupert's inclination was towards composition and lyrics; and Greta's was solely as a singer. Felix loved to teach. Neither Rupert nor Greta had the ability or patience to do this, and Rupert always expressed some amazement, and some awe, that Felix had chosen teaching as his profession.

Felix would often remark, "I do not believe that any man can become a master of his selected profession unless he loves his work." Perhaps, this love of teaching had been inherited by Felix from his mother and father who had been teachers in their early years.

Eventually, Felix opened a studio in New York, and his recognition and success in this field established him as a renowned voice teacher in this country.

"THE FAMILY COMMUTED BETWEEN KEOKUK AND NEW YORK AND NEW YORK AND KEOKUK"

Rupert was also making a success in the literary field during this time and residing in New York, and with Greta also living there the family was commuting between Keokuk and New York, and New York and Keokuk.

Felix was a handsome, desirable, knowledgeable and charming person, and soon established an exciting social life along with his success as a teacher. Among his friendships included some of the interesting and famous people of that time: John McCormack; Geraldine Farrar; Melba; Mary Garden; and Enrico Caruso and his wife Dorothy, who

GRETA HUGHES' first marriage was to a Keokuk newspaper editor. After divorcing, she studied voice in Europe and later was acknowledged as "one of the world's greatest female singers." studied singing with Felix after her husband's death.

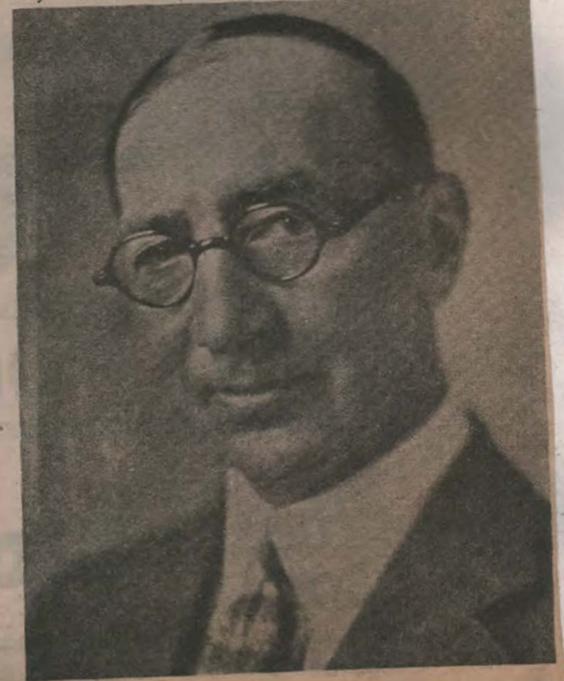
CARUSO AND LAWRENCE TIBBETT WERE AMONG THE MANY VOICE STUDENTS OF FELIX HUGHES

Felix had previously met Mary Garden while he

Cont. on back...



RUPERT HUGHES was so studious while attending Keokuk schools, his classmates nicknamed him "History". He later became a writer for Samuel Goldwyn and director for MGM pictures.



HOWARD ROBARD HUGHES, SR. was an inventive young man in Keokuk, and founded Hughes Tool Co. in Houston with the diamond-tipped oil-drill patented here. He later fathered Howard R. Hughes, Jr.

was a student in Paris, and they became close friends. Mary Garden admired Felix's voice and dedication to his profession, and in later years when she was appointed Director of the Chicago Opera Company, one of her leading sopranos, Dorothy Jardon, lost her voice. Mary Garden sent the prima donna to Felix in New York, and within a very short time he had her voice restored so she could resume her roles with the company. The singer had been singing in a very breathy way with relaxed vocal cords, and Felix taught her how to sing on the "ring of the voice" which reduced the friction on the relaxed vocal cords, and enabled her to continue her career. Dorothy Jardon acknowledged her gratitude to Felix to her last days.

Lawrence Tibbitt also studied with Felix before he made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company. He had been a successful young singer in California when Rupert first heard him. Rupert was so impressed with his voice he offered to help him financially so he could go to New York and further his career. Rupert also prevailed upon Felix to give Tibbitt lessons. Between Tibbitt's coaching for operatic roles with Frank La Forge, and Felix teaching him how to perfect the sus-

taining of his high notes, and correct some of his vocal inaccuracies, Lawrence was an over-night sensation in his debut with the Metropolitan Opera Company.

Shoppers Free Press 1/4/78



MARTHA AND JOSHUA HUGHES originated the Hughes family in the tri-state area when they settled on a land grant in Scotland county, near Arbela, Mo. in the 1840's. One of his sons, Felix Turner Hughes later sought greater opportunity in Keokuk, becoming a prominent attorney, judge, and mayor here. As grandparents, they had billiard tables. He Howard, Jr., baptized in Keokuk's St. John's Episcopal church.

SHOPPER'S FREE PRESS January 11, 1978

The Hughes Family's Years in California

"Loving Memories of Felix Hughes"

-- by Ruby H. Hughes

(Copyrighted by Ruby H. Hughes, 1977, All Rights Reserved)

Published Exclusively by the Shoppers Free Press, with the Express Permission of the Author, Ruby H. Hughes)

PART 3

Now, we shall move on to the years in California.

"Mimi" (the children's affectionate name for their mother), and "Daddy" had visited Rupert in Los Angeles after Rupert was engaged by Samuel Goldwyn as a writer and subsequently a director and producer for the Goldwyn Motion Picture Company

In 1924, after the death of their son Howard, the parents decided to move to Los Angeles. Felix was still teaching in New York, but he, too, had been making trips to California to visit Rupert and his parents, and a family reunion would be

held.

"Mimi" fell in love with California, and with the Judge's sanction, purchased a lovely Mediterranean home on Rossmore Avenue, in Los Angeles. The first thing she did was to build a wing on the house so Felix and Rupert would always have a place to stay when she visited her and "Daddy." Felix was then prevailed upon to close his studio in New York and establish himself in Los Angeles. This he did and made his home with his mother and father until their demise.

The studio in Los Angeles, and later in Hollywood, became one of the most successful vocal studios in the city. The "talkies" had arrived, and every actor and actress had to know how to sing or read lines and use their voices correctly. Singing and diction lessons were given by Felix and some of the famous names of the twenties and thirties were among Felix's pupils: Nancy Carroll; Madge Bellamy; Anita Page; Claudia Dell and Marie Wells, who were the female leads in the original film of "The Desert Song"; Jean Harlow "The Platinum Blonde"; Hoot Gibson, the internationally known Cow-Boy star; and many, many more whose names I cannot recall. Recently on a television talk show, the well-know actress and comedienne, Betty White, stated she had studied voice and operatic singing with Felix Hughes.

Cont. on next page

One of the bits of advice I often heard Felix give to his pupils was, "That which counts most in successful singing is not so much to have a song in the soul - as it is for the singer to be able to put soul into the song."

Felix was a vigorous, physical person. He played championship golf, and I still have the trophies he won at various club meets. His vigor and enthusiasm for golf and athletics kept him physically fit with a very slender body, and his weight hardly varied from his younger years to this later days.

He was very bright and intelligent, learned and with a delightful sense of humor. Innately, he was very shy and sensitive, but if he liked some one there was not anything he would not do for them. His generosity in trying to help pupils who were struggling financially was always extended, and time knew no limit in the teaching hours he would give them.

It was on October 22, 1943, that Felix and I were married. We were married for eighteen years until the time he passed away. (By a strange coinci-



FELIX HUGHES, son of a former mayor of Keokuk and husband of the author, is shown photographed at the piano in the living room of the Hughes home in Los Angeles. An internationally known singer and voice instructor, he tutored many of the famous opera singers and movie stars of this century.

dence, Rupert and Felix both passed away on September 9th; Rupert in 1956, and Felix in 1961).

I was younger in years than Felix, but ours was one of the most beautiful, contented, inspirational, and happy marriages any one could desire or hope to

have in their lifetime. He was my whole life, and anything that either of us could do for the other was a beautiful, worthwhile fulfillment. I took an interest in his work and pupils, and fortunately Felix was able to teach up until the last few months of his life.

There was a great admiration, love and devotion between Rupert and Felix as brothers. In the early days when Felix was getting established in his teaching profession, it was Rupert who was successful who helped his younger brother, and in the later years of Rupert's life after his wife had died, it was Felix who opened his heart and our home to Rupert.

Devotion, love and gratitude were qualities which made Felix the lovable, treasured person he was, not only to "Mimi" and "Daddy"; his sister, and brothers, his friends - but to his adoring wife.

While Rupert was living with Felix and me, he and Felix collaborated on two songs. One night, Rupert returning home from a dinner engagement heard Felix playing one of his compositions. Stimulated and eager as he always was when inspired, Rupert told Felix he would like to write the lyrics for the thought which inspired Felix to compose the beautiful melody. Felix outlined the phrases and entitled the first song, "Soul of My Soul", and the second one, "Tomorrow." Both songs were dedicated to me. During the past two years they have been performed by two of our Los Angeles Symphony Orchestras, as well as having been sung in concerts.

In the Columbian of Memory section in the Great Mausoleum of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California, Rupert's remains are in a niche next to those of his beloved wife, "Patty."

Not too far from the Columbian of Memory the world famous stained glass window of "The Last Supper" is located in the Memorial Court of Honor section. Beneath the window enclosed behind a facade of golden-toned bronze are interred the remains of such famous people as the composer

Carrie Jacobs Bond, Rudolph Friml, and the immortal Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of Mount Rushmore, who created the mountain into a "Shrine of Democracy" by carving the four heads of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt from the granite.

Rupert's tribute to Borglum, which is inscribed on the plaque, reads as follows:

GUTZON BORGLUM
1871 SCULPTOR 1941
HIS BIRTHPLACE WAS IDAHO. CALIFORNIA FIRST TAUGHT HIM ART. THEN FRANCE WHO FIRST GAVE HIM FAME. HIS GENIUS FOR THE EXQUISITE AS FOR THE COLOSSAL GAVE PERMANENCE IN BRONZE AND MARBLE TO MOODS OF BEAUTY OR PASSION, TO FIGURES OF LEGEND AND HISTORY. AS PATRIOT HE STRIPPED CORRUPTION BARE. AS STATESMAN HE TOILED FOR EQUALITY IN THE RIGHTS OF MAN. AT LAST, HE CARVED A MOUNTAIN FOR A MONUMENT. HE MADE THE MOUNTAIN CHANT: "REMEMBER! THESE GIANT SOULS SET AMERICA FREE AND KEPT HER FREE. HOLD FAST YOUR SACRED HERITAGE, AMERICANS! REMEMBER! REMEMBER!"
RUPERT HUGHES (Signed)

Dr. Hubert Eaton, the founder of Forest Lawn, requested Rupert's permission to have his remains interred in a crypt in the Memorial Court of Honor when he died. Rupert refused to accept this great honor; instead he chose to have his remains interred in the niche he had selected at the time of his wife's death.

Felix's last resting place is the "Gardens of Memory" in our family plot in Forest Lawn. My angel Mother, Father, Sister, and other members of my family are also interred in this peaceful, garden sanctuary.

The plaque I had placed on Felix's grave is inscribed:

FELIX HUGHES
Adored Husband of Ruby
Soul Of My Soul
"Lo, I Am With You Always"

THE END

A Look at the Life of Warsaw's John Hay

Keys of Keokuk



*Reflections for Now
from Out of Our Heritage*

Copyright, 1978

by Francis J. Helenthal

PART II

Last week this writer took a close look at the singular and intimate part John Milton Hay had in the diplomatic maneuvers which permitted the United States to build and control the Panama Canal. The "Hay-Bunau-Varilla" treaty of 1903 is being seriously challenged in the U. S. Senate today. This is in response to President Carter's belief that the "in perpetuity" agreement, arranged by Hay, should be revised.

The Panamanians have complained for years that John Hay negotiated the treaty with a Frenchman, Philippe Banau-Varilla, and this was a "Treaty No Panamanian Signed". Many Latin American nations have long frowned at the presence of the U. S. in the Canal Zone, citing "American Colonialism".

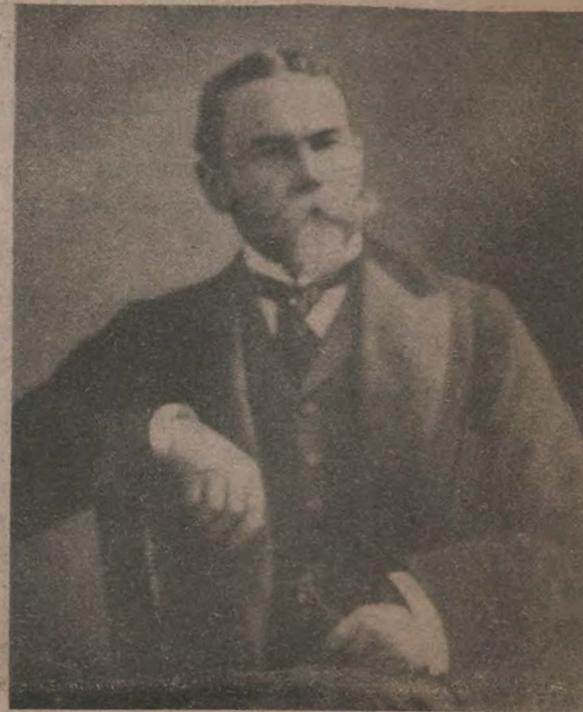
But this insight and hindsight -- whatever the outcome of the debates -- should in no way discredit John Milton Hay, who left his boyhood home in Warsaw, Illinois, to rise to distinction through the inherent force of character, through the recognition of opportunity -- and to a greater extent, through the unflinching devotion to duty and to high ideals of citizenship which were ever recognized as among his most salient characteristics. He was one of history's most outstanding American diplomats, and a close advisor to Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Had it not been for John Hay, who judiciously directed the "Big Stick" diplomacy of Teddy Roosevelt, perhaps the Panama Canal would have



Dr. Charles Hay

HAY'S FATHER moved to Warsaw, Ill., when John was but a three-year-old boy. Dr. Charles Hay enjoyed a large medical practice in Warsaw, but was generous to friends with his money, which was cause for John to work intervals during his educational years.



John Milton Hay

BEFORE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK for the canal, John Hay enjoyed a long, successful diplomatic career ranging over a half century -- from Presidents Abraham Lincoln to Theodore Roosevelt.

been built and controlled by some foreign and unfriendly power. The value it has provided, both for this country and the world throughout the Twentieth Century is undebatable. One can only wonder what would have happened to the sea lanes; one can only speculate the outcome of World War II had the operation of the canal been otherwise.

John Milton Hay was the son of Dr. Charles Hay. Born in Salem, Indiana, October 8, 1838, he was but three years of age at the time his family moved to Warsaw, Illinois. There he began his education in the "Little Brick" schoolhouse on Fourth street, which is preserved as a landmark in Warsaw. During his early school days he was a diligent and studious boy, with a taste for languages, composition and versifying. He attended the Little Brick schoolhouse until he reached the age of thirteen, learning literally all there was to learn from Mr. Holmes and his successors. He supplemented his studies with lessons of Greek and Latin from his father.

As a youth, John Hay accepted a position as newspaper carrier for the Warsaw Signal, and his first literary productions, written when a boy, appeared in that paper, he being encouraged to do the work by its editor, Thomas Gray.

At the age of thirteen he was sent to Pittsfield, Illinois, to attend a private school for a year and a half as a preparation for entrance at Brown University. When fifteen he became a student in that

institution, where he passed his examination in Greek and Latin so creditably that his examiner made special inquiry as to where he had received his preparation. He answered with great pride that his tutelage in ancient languages was from his father!

Although his father enjoyed a large medical practice in Warsaw, Dr. Charles Hay generously gave monetary assistance to his friends, which often left him in a somewhat crippled financial condition. This lack of funds was cause for various interruptions in young John's education, and after graduation from Brown University, in 1858, he returned to Pittsfield where he worked for some time in the newspaper office of John Nicolay.

Although he was raised as a Baptist, young Hay had leanings toward the Presbyterian faith and for a time entertained the idea of entering its ministry. When his family continued to encourage him to become a student of law, he said to one of his intimates: "They would spoil a second class preacher to make a third class lawyer out of me."

John Hay took up the study of law in the office of his uncle, Milton Hay, one of the most distinguished attorneys that ever practiced at the bar of Illinois -- and a law partner of Abraham Lincoln in his office at Springfield. This acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln developed into a close friendship, and Hay worked vigorously in the support of the Illinois candidate during the presidential campaign of 1860.

Shopper's Free Press, February 22, 1973



THE HAY HOME was one of the show places of Warsaw 125 years ago at Second and Clay streets. The Hay's family lived in the west half of the duplex, which has in recent years been made into an apartment house.

Cont. on next page

Mr. Lincoln, as president, invited Mr. Hay to come to Washington as assistant secretary, under John G. Nicolay. Although a warm admirer of Abraham Lincoln, it was with a certain reluctance and regret that he turned from law to enter politics. The leader of the Republican party had recognized his discernment, his judgement, his tact and discretion, and Hay agreed to go after Lincoln convinced him that his services would prove of utmost value in Washington.

John Hay was constantly with President Lincoln throughout the four years of his administration, except for a brief period when he served as Lincoln's personal representative on the staffs of Generals Hunter and Gilmore, for which he was commissioned as an Army officer. Referring to this period in the life of Mr. Hay, Grandon Nevins wrote "No man in the president's official household was more overworked than the young major. He slept when he could and ate when he had the chance, and when he was not at the front he lived at the White House always at the call of the president."

He was but twenty-six years of age at the time of Mr. Lincoln's assassination, but so thoroughly had he proved his worth that President Andrew Johnson decided to retain Hay in government, and he was sent to Europe. There he was secretary of the legation at Paris (1865-1867), and the following year was appointed charge d' affaires in Vienna, after which he was transferred to Madrid, Spain, where he served until 1870.

Upon return to private life, John Hay was connected for a time with the Springfield (Ill.) Journal, after which he succeeded Charles Dana as editor of the Chicago Republican. He then accepted an offer from Horace Greeley to become an editorial writer for the New York Tribune, and it was during this period he took a wife.

Although he accepted an appointment as first assistant Secretary of State (1879-81) during Rutherford B. Hayes' administration, he devoted most of fifteen years of his life during this period to writing about Lincoln. The compilation, done in collaboration with John G. Nicolay, is ten volumes entitled, "Abraham Lincoln: A History". Published in 1890, this is considered a most exhaustive, most accurate and authentic biography of Lincoln, and was a brilliant financial success.

In 1897, Pres. William McKinley appointed Hay ambassador to Great Britain, where he was exceedingly popular, both socially and officially. Perhaps one secret of his success lay in the fact that he recognized while handling the affairs of international importance, he had to consider the individual. He displayed a courtesy and a deference for

the opinions of others, while rigidly upholding his own honest convictions and views. This won for him the warmest personal regard and esteem.

Hay was named Secretary of State, Sept. 30, 1898, a position he held until his death seven years later. He managed international affairs during the Spanish-American war with a delicacy and tact combined with force and discretion that gained for the United States the support of England, while England held in check the other powers of the world.

In 1899 Secretary Hay effected a settlement of the Samoan Islands dispute whereby England withdrew her claims, and Germany and United States amicably divided jurisdiction of the islands. In the fall of 1899, European powers and Japan were persuaded to recognize the principle of the "open-door" policy in China, which meant the absence of discriminatory regulation of shipping and commerce within their spheres of influence. After the Boxer Rebellion, 1900, Hay tenaciously and successfully sought the adherence of the powers to their previous agreement.

After McKinley's assassination, President Roosevelt kept Hay on as Secretary of State, and he devoted much of his time during these years towards helping Teddy fulfill his dream of building an All-American Panama Canal. He died, long before the canal was completed, at Newburg, N. H., July 1, 1905.

Cont. on back...



DR. HAY'S OFFICE was but a block from the residence, between Second and Third on the southside of Warsaw's Main street. It is now empty and in a state of disrepair.

There was perhaps no man in Washington or in diplomatic circles more greatly loved than John Hay. Nevins wrote, "To know John Hay was to love him. His was one of those extremely sensitive natures, which, when combined with firmness, go to make up the ideal man."

He was fortunate in that his youth and boyhood, in Warsaw, Ill., were passed amid the environments of a home of culture and refinement, his parents typifying the very best in manhood and womanhood. They realized the value of education and spared no effort or expense on their part to provide their children with every advantage in this direction.

His father, Dr. Charles Hay, on his seventy-fifth birthday, said: "I have never been conscious of but one ambition and that I have had all my days. I have always wished to found a family. I mean this of course not in any aristocratic, still less in any plutocratic sense, but I have hoped to leave behind me children and children's children - and the greater the number the better I would be pleased -- with whom intelligence, honor and thrift would be matters of instinct and tradition. I would prefer a certainty of this in the future to any amount of personal distinction for myself, if the choice were left to me."

Reared in a home where all that is ideal in the family relation found exemplification, it was not surprising that John Hay, like his father, found his greatest source of pleasure at his own fireside. He was married in 1874 to Miss Clara L. Stone, daughter of a wealthy and prominent family of Cleveland, Ohio. They had four children.

One of their greatest personal sorrows occurred over the death of Hay's son, Adelbert, who was killed by falling from a window in New Haven on the eve of the Yale commencement. This was a loss from which John Hay never recovered. He withdrew himself from social life from that time save when it was demanded in his official capacity. He spent his evenings with Mrs. Hay, between whom there existed a most ideal companionship. For several months prior to his demise, Secretary Hay was in ill health and sought relief through travel and medical attendance in Europe. Just before his death, he had returned to take up active work in Washington, when he was fatally stricken at his summer home in New Hampshire at the age of sixty-seven.



LITTLE BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE, on Warsaw's Fourth street, has been preserved as a historic site - where John Hay received his primary education.

Sister Laurentia Welcomed Back After 23 Years!

Shoppers Free Press

Mar. 22, 1978



MAYOR CHARLES EPPERS greets Sister Laurentia upon her return to Keokuk.

EDITOR'S NOTE: -- Holy Week and Easter is the most important, most significant period on the calendar of the Christian world. For this occasion we know of nothing more appropriate than our feature story today. The Sisters of Charity have been in Keokuk for over a century and a quarter providing quality education and offering religious example to many generations of local youth. More than 800 children were taught here by Sister Lucretia during the forties and fifties, and after an absence of 23 years, has recently returned to the community to teach her children's children. In a time when prayers can no longer be offered in many classrooms, Keokuk is fortunate to have continued guidance such as provided by this capable, dedicated nun. The Shoppers Free Press is in turn indebted to the principal of St. Vincent's school, Sister Lucretia, for the following contribution.

BY SISTER LUCRETIA

In our times and in our culture there are few, if any, areas of social activity where one returns to a scene of occupation after an absence of twenty-three years. This, however, is precisely what Sister Laurentia Feltz, D. C. is doing in returning to St. Vincent Grade School to resume teaching duties there. What is equally phenomenal is the zest and enthusiasm that characterize Sister in the resumption

of her role of teacher. To the many who knew her "when" this is neither surprising nor unusual; for these very characteristics, along with her warmth and compassion, endeared Sister to the Keokuk community years ago. The twenty-three-year interim has not altered the affable nun's youthful spirit nor has it lessened her abiding affection for the people of Keokuk.

The beloved primary teacher returned to Keokuk March 7 to reside with her religious community, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who work in the Keokuk Catholic School System serving St. Vincent Grade School and Cardinal Stritch High School. It is with exuberant delight that Sister Laurentia recognizes her "little boys

and girls" of yesteryear, now the fathers and mothers of students in both schools. These offspring she fondly refers to as her "grandchildren" and often she can identify them immediately through the recognition of a characteristic, a stance, or a gait inherited from her "little boys and girls" of '41!

During her fourteen years at the old St. Vincent School, it is estimated that Sister Laurentia taught 800 or more children in combined first and second grade classes. And from 1941 to 1955 these impressionable youngsters were constantly exposed to an influence as stimulating as it was enriching. The patience and the warmth radiated by this first and second grade mentor touched children

Cont. on back...

and parents alike -- and the impact was indelible. Few of us can, or have reason to remember details of our first and second grade teacher's personalities. In many cases, they are best forgotten; in others, they are recalled ruefully. Not so Sister Laurentia's -- the memories are distinct, happy, rich, ineffaceable.

To give all the first and second graders of 1941 to 1955 the opportunity to relive for a brief happy hour those joyful experiences with their beloved teacher, a reception was held in her honor Sunday, March 19, in the St. Vincent School cafeteria following the eleven o'clock Mass at St. Peter Church. The reception was planned by the St. Vincent P.T.O., who extended a special invitation not only to all of Sister Laurentia's former pupils now living in the tri-state area, but also to all her Keokuk friends as well.

Sister Laurentia's affinity for Keokuk may have its roots in generations past, since her grandfather, Dr. Florenz Feltz, graduated from medical school at the U. of I. Medical College located in Keokuk long long years ago. Her aptitude for relating superbly with youth probably began in her own home where she was one of nine children who were reared in Perryville, Missouri, and where her father was a practicing physician. The Feltzes are now scattered, though the medical needs of Perryville are still being served by a son who continues to practice medicine there, and the Vincentian community has an additional daughter in its ranks, Sister Dorothy Feltz.

Beginning her career in religious life in 1926 at Marillac Provincial House in St. Louis, Missouri, this active Daughter of Charity has accumulated a volume of experience as productive as it was varied. She brings to Keokuk a wealth of experience, ready and willing to share this treasury and to expend her energies in a community she has always loved. Her activities span a period of over fifty years.

Upon leaving the novitiate, Sister was sent to St. Vincent de Paul School in San Francisco where her work in teaching the very young began. This experience continued and expanded in her next two assignments when she was sent to St. Mary Home for Girls in Mobile, Alabama, and from there to St. Mary Archdiocesan Home for Girls in St. Louis, Missouri. In both institutions, the vibrant teacher not only held her usual day classes but tutored special students and counselled as well. To each job Sister Laurentia brought her special gifts of mind and heart, expending them lavishly in the manner that has immortalized her in the memories of her students. It is not insignificant that in the orphans -- teaching, tutoring, counselling -- was termed the Angel. Sister Laurentia truly was.

Her adaptability made this religious a pliable instrument in the hands of her superiors, for after her fourteen years in Keokuk, she was sent to a newly built school, St. Catherine Laboure, in a



KEOKUK'S BELOVED primary teacher was given a reception in her honor Sunday, March 19, in the cafeteria of St. Vincent's school.

South County suburb of St. Louis. This was followed by another tour of duty in San Francisco.

From this flourishing metropolis, the energetic Daughter of Charity was sent to West Plains, Missouri, where she assumed the duties of teaching along with that of religion coordinator of five rural parishes. When the Community of the Daughters of Charity opened a house in Poteau, Oklahoma, Sr. Laurentia's experience was again utilized and she was sent to be the religious education coordinator for two counties. Here she was again engaged in the work of teaching as well as that of parish visiting. Through her ministry, she contacted many families and became involved in many problems of the human condition, bringing to each, understanding, compassion, and solace.

Temporary ill health forced Sister to relinquish her work in Poteau and she was recalled to the Provincial House two years ago where she has since been in residence. With characteristic resiliency, Sister Laurentia bounded back to the status of

active employee and at her request was permitted to work several hours a day in Kinlock, Missouri, a black ghetto within reasonable distance from the Provincial House. Here she was engaged in a wide variety of activities which included home visiting, tutoring, adult education, and working with youth. During her last year in St. Louis she volunteered her services to the nationally known reading program, RIF, Reading Is Fundamental. Because of her impressive qualifications -- having taught two summers in Dallas in a remedial reading

Cont. on next page

clinic and holding life-time teacher certificates from many states -- her services were immediately accepted. During this period she employed her reading expertise in the public schools of St. Louis.

In welcoming back Sister Laurentia, the Keokuk community is welcoming a gifted teacher, a compassionate humanitarian, and a loyal friend. And thus, Keokuk becomes richer.

The Daily Gate City
April 29, 1978



HELEN BODDY and her guide dog Voulder. DGC photo by Penny Richtman

A Keokuk dog attends church

By Penny Richtman

His name is Voulder. He may be the only dog in Keokuk who goes to church. But he does go and the church is the First Lutheran Church in Keokuk.

Voulder, at the time of the interview, was still a newcomer to Keokuk, having been here for less than a month. He is a guide dog living with Helen Boddy at 1222 Orleans Av. in Keokuk.

The dog paced and sniffed nervously as the interview started. Satisfied with the smells, he suddenly settled down at the feet of his mistress.

Many people think of guide

dogs as Seeing-Eyedogs so Boddy explained the difference in names for guide dogs.

"Seeing-Eye," she said, "is the name of one guide dog school that's located in Morristown, N. Y. Voulder is not from Seeing-Eye. Seeing-Eye is just a general term used for one school."

Guide dogs

She explained that in 1926, J. L. Sinykin of Minneapolis trained the first guide dog in this country.

"During the depression," she said, "he established Master-Eye Foundation of America. A group of Minneapolis business men underwrite these dogs although now

they do receive money from all over the country. But they don't have the big advertising campaign that Seeing-Eye does."

How did Voulder receive his name?

"The puppies at Master-Eye Foundation are all AKC registered. You know when you have so many dogs, you kind of run out of names. We (she and her husband) like to think Voulder was a Norwegian hero. Whether he was an explorer or not we're not sure but we like to think he was something like that."

Boddy said that Voulder is her sixth dog from the Master-Eye Foundation. She was in high school when she trained for her first guide, she said.

"When my last dog Lucky passed away," Boddy explained, "my Sunday School class at the First Lutheran Church were very concerned because I didn't have a dog. They didn't realize I had made an application to Master-Eye Foundation and that it just takes time for the money to be gathered and for the processing."

"Also," she added, "winter was coming and a dog and I couldn't train up in Minneapolis in bad weather any more than we could here because we do have to be outdoors some of the times during training."

"So the kids (she teaches seventh and eighth graders) were very concerned and they got together with their confirmation teacher who is Ruth Neve and wrote a letter to the church council asking how they could help me obtain another guide dog."

"The church council decided to use the white gifts that are selected at Christmas toward a contribution to Master-Eye Foundation. So I used some of the money they collected for transportation, air-fare and gasoline and then I gave the Foundation the rest of the money they collected."

Dogs are invaluable

Boddy estimated the cost of a guide dog would be in the "thousands of dollars" barring any illness if you figured their feeding, care and training for the two years before they are released to an owner.

"Then there's the three weeks training that the dog and student go through together. It takes about seven months for a dog to learn the actual obedience and obstacle training."

"You can then count on 10 years service," she said.

Boddy said she has taught Sunday School for the past three years. She started out as a co-

Cont. on back...

teacher, she said, with Mary Lou Brunstein. The next year she "took over the eighth grade."

"This year," she said, "we have a combination class of seventh and eighth graders."

"The lessons," she continued, "and the teacher's guide are in Braille so I have the same material that the youngsters are reading."

She pointed to a large, thick, dark-green book and said, "The book beside you is one volume of the Bible in Braille. I think there are 14 volumes."

"Some of our congregation people also made a contribution to American Bible Society who sponsor these books in Braille."

She was asked when it's time for a new dog if she makes the choice.

"No," she answered. "I've known the trainer ever since I was in high school and he pretty

well knows what kind of a dog will be suitable for me. Since this is the sixth dog I have had, why you know I've had quite a few training sessions with him."

"When the dog is chosen, the trainer tries to match the characteristics, physical ability and temperament of the dog and student."

German shepherds

"The dogs at Master-Eye are all thoroughbred German shepherds," Boddy pointed out. "Mr. Sinykin has been breeding them for about 60 years."

"I've had very good luck with his dogs."

Boddy was asked when she goes to church if a guide dog accompanies her. Her reply was:

"Definitely. Just as an example. We've been in Keokuk for four years. The first time I went

down to communion one member of the congregation for some reason didn't particularly pay any attention to me but noticed the dog walking down to communion. They tell me the look on that man's face was worth several pictures!"

She laughed.

"But it's old hat now. People are used to seeing me with my guide dog."

She added, "I have taken Voulder down to communion with me. But he's not crazy about the music. In fact he hates it."

34

Daily Gate City
June 3, 1978

Father Diamond will retire

By Penny Richtman

Father Martin Joseph Diamond, 75, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Keokuk since August of 1963, will retire on July 1.

After his retirement, he said, he will take up residence at St. Vincent Center, 1706 Gains St., Davenport, Ia.

"The main thing in our retirement," Father Diamond explained, "is retirement from administrative work. Of course we are never retired from our primary work...the spiritual work. The spiritual work after our retirement is looking out first of all for our own spiritual welfare and as the good Lord gives us the Grace, to help others in their spiritual welfare."

He was asked which town he calls his hometown.

He said, "Well, I really am a forgotten man, I think. I was born in Elizabeth, N.J. and was raised in an orphanage for seven years in New York City. My mother and father died of consumption when I was three years old. My aunt and uncle came to get me from the orphanage when I was about nine or 10 and took me to live with them in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Where I was, they called it the Little Rockies. The hills are much smaller, though, and they're black hills because in the evening the pine and spruce trees make

the hills look black."

Going into the ministry

He said he thought his association with other priests after he went to live with his aunt and uncle might have influenced him most towards the ministry.

"I was an altar boy in the church after I went to live with my aunt and uncle. I watched the priests work and then one of the priests influenced my aunt and uncle to send me away to school."

"That's when I was sent to Dubuque, Ia. to attend what then was St. Joseph High School. I went on to Columbia College and graduated and then went to the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn."

He was asked if at any time in his life he felt that God had rejected him.

"No," he said. "I've always had faith in God."

Father Diamond says he has always been an athlete and still was kicking a ball at the age of 73.

This is the incident he tells.

"I went to a baptismal supper and the kids were playing football. I've always been an athlete. I was a kicker. I used to drop-kick a lot. So the kids were playing and I got up from my chair and told them that I could kick that ball like they were doing. So I took the ball and kicked it and I got a charley horse and I limped around for a while."

The idea of football filled his mind.

He continued.

"When I was a young assistant priest here, that was in 1930 right after I was ordained, I came to St. Peter's for two years. I told some of the boys here that I could kick a football over the church. And I did."

He said it is ironical that his first placement was in Keokuk after being ordained and now he is closing out his priesthood career in Keokuk.

In the Army

He told of other locations where he has served his priesthood. He was in Iowa City for six years, then Solon, Ia., and from there he went into the Army as a first lieutenant chaplain and came out as a major. He said he spent time in New Guinea where he developed a skin disease and was eventually sent back to the States to convalesce.

"I was in New Guinea for three and one-half years before I developed the skin disease. The people that were taking care of the disease stole my watch and sold it for cigarettes," he said.

He convalesced in Clinton, Ia. and then went to the St. Elizabeth parish at Harper, Ia. and was there 14 years before coming to Keokuk.

Do you feel the schooling priests now receive is different from the schooling you received?

"Very much so," Father Diamond said. "It's different now due to the Vatican II changes of the liturgy and the different out-

Cont. on next page

look we have on the ministering of the sacraments. There have been changes somewhat in different ways with the liturgy and the Mass. Of course, the schooling of the seminarians would be somewhat different.

"Changes," he continued, "are needed in everything. And it's well, I think, to have changes in a church. You know so many people today are condemning some of the changes but all the changes the church makes are in the long run pretty good."

Retirement, he said, is mandatory at the age of 75. The memories he will take with him from his priesthood career he said, will be how people really look upon a priest.

"The priest gets so much attention from his people," he said. "It's not like other vocations. I think the spiritual enters in all this...the attention that people give to their pastor...for example myself, the attention and care that I receive. I think it is one of the greatest assests for young people wanting to become priests. That is the thought that they are always taken care of. There's no financial worries when you look at the material side of things. Now that I am retiring I am being taken care of by our Diocese."

Father Diamond told of two members of his congregation who went on to priesthood.

"It was when I was an assistant pastor here. I had two boys who played basketball for me who are priests today. It seems they were the last two priests we've had in this parish. They are Father Kenneth Martin, brother of Warren Martin and Father Francis Marlin who is related to the Marlins in town but I don't remember which. They played basketball for me when I was coaching in the 1930s."

In completing the interview, Father Diamond said, "I think I would like to say that my time spent here in Keokuk has brought me closer to God. I feel that I have made many mistakes. I've asked God to forgive them and I know through his forgiveness and knowing Him as I do that it has brought me closer to Him.

"In knowing Him better...loving Him more...I'm perhaps serving Him much better than I ever did in my life.

"I feel that is what being here at St. Peter's parish in Keokuk has done for me."



Priest to retire

Father Martin J. Diamond, pastor of St. Peter's Church, will retire on July 1. DGC Photo by Penny Richtman



Miss Keokuk

Susie Underwood, 20, of Keokuk, models the white summer suit she chose to wear in the seven-minute judges' interview Wednesday night at the Miss Iowa Pageant. DGC

Bing Toy, Chinese Prodigal Keokuk Son, Now Serving His Country as Organic Chemist in Washington.

Keys of Keokuk



Reflections for Now
from Out of Our Heritage

Shoppers Free Press June 14, 1978

Copyright, 1978

by Francis J. Helenthal

Strategically located as it was at a crossroads of a migrating, developing America, Keokuk was a pivotal and host city to a wide variety of nationalities and races. As an early railroad center, trains brought some of everyone; as a Mississippi river port city, steamboats docked newly-arrived immigrants from most countries on earth. Teams of oxen and horses brought others westward across the prairies. The Daily Constitution gives evidence of such activity in this report of October 29, 1863: "Main Street, broad as it is, and we believe it is about the broadest street in any city in Iowa, during these days is a perfect jam of teams. Occasionally it is blocked up so that one cannot get along!"

Most early accounts clearly identified residents by their origin of birth or religion, such as "a German" or "a Catholic" or "a Frenchman" or "a Hebrew" or "a Colored". For many years the place was a melting pot that had not yet jelled into a cosmopolitan community. Everyone was associated with their faith or origin. Many of the Irish settled in West Keokuk, while many of the Germans grouped together on "Goat Hill" on South Fourteenth, and the Coloreds formed neighborhoods along Morgan street. They were not so much minorities as they were elements of the population.

The majority of these minorities has intermarried and blended together into undistinguishable community life, but other ethnic groups left the city or greatly diminished from the strength they once were here.

On April 28, 1855, the Jews of Keokuk met and organized the Benevolent Children of Jerusalem for the purpose of securing a Hebrew cemetery.

SHOPPERS FREE PRESS -6/ 14/78



BING TOY WAS WELCOMED back to Keokuk, after 30 years by many of his friends and classmates. He is shown being greeted here by Fran Helenthal, publisher of the Free Press.

In the mid-1800's, those of the Benai Israel church held religious services in the Odd Fellows Hall on the corner of Seventh and Main at 9 a.m. every Saturday. The Jewish cemetery was established on Carroll street between 19th and 20th. By the turn of the century they boasted of their own Temple B'nai Israel at Eighth and Blondeau and their numbers supported its own society, Keokuk Lodge No. 179 of I. O. B'RITH which met regularly in the Jewish Temple.

Blacks numbered many more than they do today, and as early as 1864, they had their own place of worship -- the African Baptist church located on the north side of Johnson between Second and Third. By the turn of the century they filled two churches, the Colored Baptist at 729 Concert and

the Pilgrim's Rest Colored Baptist church at 14th and Exchange. In the 1860's the Colored School was located on the east side of Eighth between Main and Blondeau -- and numbered 300 pupils!

Others were just passing through. On April 1, 1853, two hundred Mormons arrived on the steamer Hindoo, enroute to Salt Lake. They came from England and Wales, leaving Liverpool on February 18. Two hundred more arrived in Keokuk on April 10, and "the whole outfit camped out."

On July 10, 1870, five hundred Chinamen arrived here on the railroad and changed to the steamer Phil Sheridan to go to Chattanooga, Tenn., to work upon a railway.

Of all the races, Keokuk has probably seen fewer Chinese than any other.

A notable exception was . . . Bing Toy.

This exceptionally bright Chinese American spent most of his formative years in Keokuk and was a student at the old St. Vincent's Convent, graduating from St. Peter high school in 1941. Now a brilliant organic chemist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D. C., last week he re-visited his old "home town" for the first time in thirty years. In his brief three-day stay, he did his best to look up some of his old friends and schoolmates, and the writer was happy to spend an hour with him just before his plane was to take him back to the nation's capitol to resume his important work.

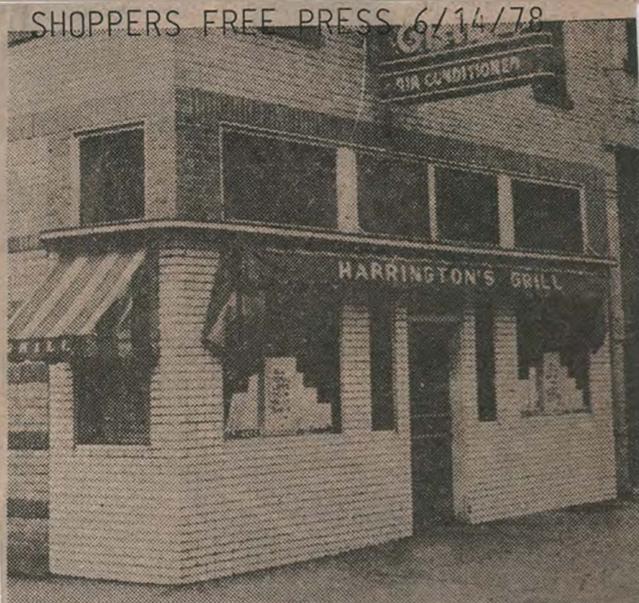
Bing Toy came to Keokuk as a baby in the mid-twenties, when his father located a Chinese Laundry here. Known as the "Iowa Laundry", it occupied the building at 19 South Fifth, where Walker's Barber Shop is today.

This was before the days of coin-operated laundermats; before automatic washer and dryers; before detergents, bleaches, fabric softeners and starches that guarantee impeccable results. Commercial laundries flourished as they rid the housewife of her most unpleasant chore. But fortunate was the town that was lucky enough to have a genuine Chinese Laundry, for, instead of using water and steam machinery, the Chinese did most of the laundering and ironing by hand. Although the quality of the work was unchallenged, the little slip of paper you received when you took your clothes there meant nothing to the typical customer. Marked with Chinese characters to serve as an identification check, the words written were usually a Chinese proverb, or sometimes a casual remark about the weather or even a comment on some peculiar characteristic of the customer.

As a boyhood friend of Bing's, the writer was inside the Chinese Laundry many times, but our most memorable recollection happened in a little area just behind it. Max Baer had put on a boxing exhibition the night before at Harrington's High-Life Gardens. The gloves he had used were given to Joe Harrington, and our group of friends were trying them out in an improvised ring behind the laundry. One of our buddies was too big for his age, and a haymaker landed on my jaw which reeled me against the "ropes" as the barbed wire painfully stripped the skin from my bare back!

Tutored by the good Sisters of Charity, Bing Toy became so "Americanized" he even had a commu-

nications gap with his own family. Bing could write no Chinese and did not speak the language very well. On the other hand, his dad could speak not a word of English! This handicap was emphasized even more when his father took Bing Toy on a extended trip to China in the early 30's. Undoubtedly longing for the comfort and dialogue of others of his race, Bing Toy's dad decided to sell the Iowa Laundry in the mid-30's. He left to re-settle and open another laundry in San Francisco - but Bing Toy stayed in Keokuk.



A POPULAR ALL NIGHT RESTAURANT - Harrington's Grill was one of the earliest air-conditioned buildings in the city, and featured both American and Chinese foods.

His older brother was a full time cook here, and Bing Toy worked here also to help pay his way through school. Located at 3rd and Main, the Grill was a popular place for all, and also served as a sobering up place at the head of one of Keokuk's most infamous streets.

Although he had good friends in the Harringtons, times were not always easy for Bing Toy. To help support himself, he worked a great deal at Harrington's Grill, a popular restaurant on Third and Main, and lived part of the time above the Grill and some of the time at the High-Life Gardens on Third and Johnson. The good work habits he developed then, along with his advanced education, serve him yet today in his important medical research in Washington.

Bing Toy attended St. Ambrose College in Davenport from 1941 to 1943. On the way to San Francisco, his letter from Uncle Sam must have followed him on the same train. With the Corps of Engineers and the Infantry in France and Germany, he served with the U. S. Army from September, '43 to February, '46.

After the war he went back to college, this time at the University of California at Berkeley from 1946 to '48. He then attended the University of Colorado ('48 to '51) where he received his PHD in Organic Chemistry.

Bing Toy worked for an independent company,

Cont. on next page

Allied Chemical, from graduation until 1965, and has been at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research for the past thirteen years where he is in the Division of Experimental Therapeutics. There he works on methods of experimental drugs - specifically anti-malarial drugs.

Malaria is the world's No. 1 parasitic disease, and the Army is especially interested in finding a sure cure for it for two reasons: Independent drug firms are not doing much research on it, and the Army is especially anxious to give its troops protection against malaria which is still quite prevalent throughout much of the world.

Remembering my experiences in the South Pacific, I asked him: "What ever happened to Atabrine? When I took it daily in New Guinea, I looked more Chinese than you do."



BING TOY - - Inset is a photo taken during his high school days at St Peter's in 1940.

Bing explained that Choloquine took the place of Atabrine, but this proved inadequate in the '60's against a resistant strain of malaria. Right now he says the best bet is Mefloquine, which the World Health Organization (WHO) is working with in other countries, and is being used experimentally by the U. S. Army at the present time.

He says, "We can find plenty of different compounds which will cure malaria in mice. Normally a mouse will die of malaria in six days - if we can get it to live for 60 days, it's considered a cure. Then we try it in monkeys. But the trouble is, monkey malaria is different from mouse malaria - and then, both are different than malaria in humans . . ."

Bing lost me for awhile with a lot of technical talk, but then we got back to Keokuk:

"The town has changed quite a bit . . . especially downtown".

"I was disappointed to find that Marchefke's Candy Store was closed. (This was located 507 Main). I wanted to see how that would compare with some of the nation's best candy . . . I think it would have compared very well."

"Also I was disappointed with no fried turtle . . . they used to serve it lots of places around town."

"I did enjoy some catfish, though -- first time since the forties!"

He explained that his brother and sister, who also lived in Keokuk, were still alive:

"Helen, who worked at the laundry is in San Francisco, and Bing Jow, who cooked at the Grill, now lives in Cleveland."

Then he added, "You know the Grill was unique in two ways - it was the first place in town to be air-conditioned, and it served REAL Chinese foods . . . right here on the Mississippi."

Who else was he able to see in his short visit "back home"? Well, there was Lillian (Harrington) Eller - "You know she is my Godmother", and "RePete" Williams, Joe Whalen, Jim Kavanaugh, Jim and Vivian Gredell, Paul McDonald, Maxine (Kiser) Welch, Mary Alice (Sohl) Skyles, Maxine Wells, Mary Dunn

There may have been others whom he forgot, and I'm sure there are others who will be disappointed they didn't have the chance to visit with Bing Toy while he was back - for he is a fine prodigy son of Keokuk, and a man of Chinese extraction who is serving America well.

Perhaps Richard Nixon was right. And perhaps Zbigniew Brzezinski, Pres. Carter's national security advisor, is right in exploring the possibility of better relations with the Chinese. If there are any more around of Bing Toy's caliber, maybe we should get to know them better.



Ilya Goldburd

In Keokuk

Russian family finds home

By Paula Cohen

It took patience and some cheating, but after six months Ilya Goldburd, a Russian Jew, managed to get himself and his family out of their native country.

Goldburd, his wife Lubov and their eight year-old daughter Natalya, who now live in an apartment at 800½ Morgan St. in Keokuk, came to the United States a year and four months ago.

"About four or five years ago, I did not think of even going out of the country, but it was because I did not believe it could be much better anyplace else," Goldburd said. "About three years ago, I got quite disappointed with Russian life, with politics and with the system."

Conditions in Russia are not good, according to Ilya.

The Goldburd's lived in a cramped apartment in Odessa, a city of approximately a million population on the Black Sea. The family shared the two-room basement apartment, badly in need of repair, with Mrs. Goldburd's mother, father and two brothers. Ilya said that there was not even a bathroom in the apartment. "A toilet, but no bath or shower like in American

bathrooms."

"In Russia, you cannot say what you mean, you cannot choose a place to live without special permission, and you cannot live in any place that you choose.

"Many people were under discrimination. Especially people that were not pure Russian. For instance Georgian, Ukranian, White Russian and Jews. Especially Jews.

"Jewish people are under the most strong discrimination. If you want to go to some kind of school or college and wanted to get a good education, and you are a Jew, it is hard for you to get the good education you dream about.

"Each college has special regulations. It is not regulations on paper, but it is underground regulations. It says that this college can take a certain percentage of Jewish people. Maybe this is one percent or two percent of the total amount of students. Especially, it is very important to get an education, like schools for relations between USSR and other countries, art school or a university to learn to be a journalist or correspondent.

Goldburd obtained a degree in engineering in Odessa and worked there as a construction

engineer.

"And I started to think about getting out of Russia all of the time. If you want to go out of the country, you have to have an invitation from relatives in Israel or another country. Most Russian's relatives live in Israel, so that is where they have to go.

"I did not have relatives in Israel, so I cheated. I got an invitation by people I did not know, and I told Russian authorities that these were my relatives. Many people cheat this way and tell them that people they don't know are their relatives."

"About eight years ago, there was no way for anyone to go out of the country for any reason because there was an iron curtain. It was very real. Also, there was no way to find out the truth from newspapers. If you are educated, you want to find out the truth about government. If you are not educated, you have a hard time telling what is truth and what is lies."

Ilya turned in documents asking permission to leave Russia. He and his family waited for four months to hear from the government. When the call finally came, Ilya was called in for an interview, and was refused permission to leave Russia. Ilya asked why, and he was given

Cont. on next page

what he called an "insensitive answer. I was told 'You should not want to leave Russia. You have freedom, all rights. Right to work, right to rest, rights for everything, so there is no reason for you to leave your native country.'"

About a month later, Ilya received another call from the government board and was given permission to leave Russia.

Goldburd commented that maybe there was "a delegation or other governments' people that came to talk to Soviet officials to persuade them to let people out of Russia, as they often do."

When Ilya and his family left Russia, they went to Vienna, Austria. A Jewish delegation from Israel is stationed there to persuade Russian immigrants to go on to Israel, because "people are needed there to help the country grow stronger and bigger. If you decide you do not want to go to Israel, they send you to Rome, and there you wait for permission to enter the country you want to go to."

Religious freedom is a 'fairy tale' in Russia. "I have never myself been in a Jewish temple. I have been in a Christian Church, just to look around. I did not trust in God. This is the Russian system of education. A sort of atheist doctrine. They tell you all the time in school that there is no God, and that religion is all a fairy tale."

"In Rome they asked us where we wanted to live, and I said the United States. I also said it didn't matter where in the United States as long as I could get work in my profession."

Since the Goldburds had no relatives in the United States, and did not know any English, they were invited to live in St. Joseph, Mo., by the Jewish council there. They resided there for a year and three months. Ilya worked as a machine operator for Meade Container Corp. for the year they lived in St. Joseph.

As soon as he learned enough English to be able to communicate in technical terms as an engineer, he sent a resume to Johnson Brothers Corp., which is building the Keokuk Gateway Terminal.

He is now employed by Johnson Bros. as an engineer and has been living in Keokuk for a little over a month.

Life is not easy in the United States for the Russian family. They are still in the process of learning English, and it is not easy when a new language has to



DGC

Natalya Goldburd

6/21/78

be learned. Communication is hard.

"My wife does not know many people in Keokuk, and she does not have any friends here. She cannot learn to speak English if she has no one to speak to. But my daughter has had little trouble learning your American language. It is hard for us to communicate with her teachers. Sometimes they sit and stare at us as if they do not understand, and we do not know how to make them understand us."

Goldburd is 37, his wife Lubov is 32 and their daughter Natalya is 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Goldburd are expecting a second child sometime this summer.

Charlie's a collector

By Paula Cohen

Ever wondered where people get their precious antiques?

Charlie Wellington, proprietor of Wellington's

Furniture, can tell you. He has been collecting, buying and selling antiques for many years, and has collected so many — at work and at home — that his personal collection and business ran

over into another shop.

"I don't recall exactly how many years I've been collecting, but its been a long time.

I remember I started by buying old estates. My first

one was No. 5 Park Place, and the antiques came with the house. Since then people have sold me things and I sell to them, too.

"People on 'the Avenue' sell me a lot of antiques,"

Charlie said.

Charlie Wellington seems to be a man who doesn't say much but when he does, he has a lot to say. Just having him show his antiques seems to satisfy the nostalgia in-

side you, and you see a person who loves what he does.

He said he actually started by collecting canes. "I found canes in that house, and I had some anyway, so I just started a collection.

"I have over 200 canes in my collection now. That was the last time I counted, anyway. My daughter recently brought me home a cane from the Phillipines, and it has inlaid Mother-of-Pearl. I have a glass cane and, a balancing (sitting) cane too," he said.

If you were to go see his collection at his home in Sandusky, though, he would show you one of his most

prized possessions, a picture of Keokuk in the early 1800s. Seven buildings in Keokuk stood at that time, and Keokuk's name was spelled Keokuck. Also in the collection is a map of Iowa when it was just 15 counties. It, too, is an antique.

The biggest estate that Wellington has ever bought was the Judge Mack estate in Carthage. He said that the estate was one of the few treasures he has come across in his antique collecting days. Many, many antiques were included in that find, he said.

Antiques are harder to come by now than in the past. "Years ago, I bought an elephant bell from a man for \$15. You couldn't buy that from me now with a \$100 bill. Things weren't near as expensive in the 40's and 50's as they are now.

You could buy a good antique for \$15 or \$20. Now they sell for hundreds of dollars," he said

An antique melodeon, music box that plays five tunes and a Steinway upright piano fill his living room, along with antique marble end tables, tiffany lamps and spring rocking chairs.

In his daughter's old room is an antique bedroom set in dark wood. Wellington, chuckled and said that his daughter used to ask him why she "couldn't have a hollywood bed like everyone else."

Bookcases and hutches are filled with crystal and dishes depicting cities and events. Hanging on his wall are two plates picturing Keokuk's old places of importance. They are the old high school,

Cont. on next page

Budget Saver "Gate City" Supplement
July 26, 1978



CHARLIE WELLINGTON and his bell collection.

which is now Washington-Central elementary, the medical school and the old Westminster Presbyterian church, which burned years ago.

His pride and joy, though, is his bell collection. Included in this collection are over 2,000 bells.

"I have a town-crier bell, elephant bells, camel bells and sleigh bells. I also have servant call bells from the 17th century, the kind that were bolted to the gate or door and rung to announce a visitor. I have servant call-bells and toy bells, but the oldest bell I have came from an old estate. It is a hand bell with a leather and silver handle. No one knows how old it is, but I would guess it's a 17th century piece," he said, his eyes twinkling.

"Between my wife and I, we've given over sixty bell-

talks around the country," he said.

In a huge case in his home, the camel bells and elephant bells are shown like a shrine, and another case is filled with his other approximately 2,000 bells.

Charlie said that he had other collections besides just the antiques around his house. He collects rings, hatpins, coins, watches, clocks and stickpins.

A smaller, yet even more personal collection, is that of his two horses. One is a two month old filly. "I haven't thought of a name for her

yet, though. I'm still looking. Say, what's your first name?" he asked with a laugh.

Keokuk stacks up quite well'

By Penny Richtman

"We brought our dog Max with us when we moved to the midwest in March," Ray (Bill) Galler said.

Galler is manager of the J. C. Penney store in Keokuk. When he was transferred to

the Keokuk store he moved to Hamilton, Ill. from Hillsdale, Mich.

Galler said his dog is known as a schnoodel.

"A schnoodel," he explained, "is a combination of a schnauzer and a poodle. He's a household pet. If you're familiar with the dog Benji on the Walt Disney program, he looks just like him. Max has been with us

Cont. on back...

THE DAILY GATE CITY JUNE 21, 1978
Supplement (Budget Saver)



RAY (BILL) GALLER, manager of the J. C. Penney Co. in Keokuk, is enjoying the many activities available in this area.

about two years. We found him at a dog pound in Toledo, Ohio."

Galler said he had been with the Penney company for 21 years.

"In our particular company, I would have to say, my transfers have been below the average if there is an average for these things. We began in Racine, Wis. There were two stores there so my first transfer was from one store to the other. Then we went to Milwaukee and lived in a suburb. Milwaukee was only a 30-minute drive from Racine. Really, that wasn't much of

a transfer. Then we were transferred to Hillsdale in 1973. So, you see, that hasn't been too many transfers."

Hobbies

He spoke of his hobbies.

"I dabble in several different hobbies," he said. "In the summer time I enjoy playing tennis and a little bit of golf at Deer Run. I'm not very good at golf but we play as a family because it is a family type sport. We used to do a lot of skiing in Hillsdale but I don't think we'll be able to participate in that around here.

"I have a little work shop

I'm trying to put together now in my garage but it all takes time. There's still so many boxes to unload from moving. But when the workshop is put together I'll find time to do odd jobs in regard to woodworking. Nothing in the fancy nature, though. But we do have a lot of repairs with four boys around the house."

Galler said his sons include Christopher who is a sophomore in college, Greg, a senior in high school, Douglas, a freshman in high school and Eric who is in the seventh grade. His wife's name is Sandra.

Keokuk-Hamilton bridge

Speaking of his wife, he was asked what his wife's reaction has been about crossing the Keokuk-Hamilton bridge.

He said, "Well, I'd have to say, if we were going to have an election we would certainly cast our vote for a new bridge. But I would also mention that my wife is a free spirited person and she was told when we first came to the midwest looking for a home, that we would never like living in Illinois because of the bad bridge. I guess that kind of set off a trigger

with her and no matter what was said she was bound and determined that the bridge wouldn't bother her. So she went over the bridge two or

three times with a real good attitude and got over any fears of driving across the bridge. It really doesn't bother her at all.

"As for my personal experience, probably I've been very fortunate, but I have not been caught on the bridge but probably two or three times. Maybe my hours are a little bit more flexible because we have so many people in the store it isn't required I be there exactly at a certain time. If I am 15 minutes late it would create no great problem. Our store would open and things would get done without me here. So probably in that situation, the bridge is not going to be

There are many more alternatives in this area. The river itself obviously is going to afford itself to boating for us when we get around to that. Probably, then, a boat will be one of the things that will be in the future for us.

"I think the arts event Keokuk had is something that is unique in this area.

It's a wonderful thing for the sponsors to do. It shows they are well aware of a great community pride when they are willing to donate their time and their monies for all of us to enjoy.

"My wife and children are really enjoying the area as much as I am. We find that the YMCA is an excellent facility, and we're making use of that as a family. There just seems to be a lot of community concern in Keokuk that sometimes if you're a native you might not necessarily recognize. But when you've lived in other cities and see the facilities they have to offer you see that Keokuk stacks up quite well."

quite as much a concern to me as it would be to someone else."

Galler said he likes Keokuk.

"We are really enjoying the many things they have to offer in this area. Coming from a smaller town, we find there are a lot of things going on here. A lot of certain things you're a part of.

**By Brent Schondelmeyer
City Editor**

Each snip lengthened the cut into the metal box slowing revealing a bundle covered with brown wrapping paper and tied with binder's twine.

Those present were attending to the Caesarian birth of a premature time capsule whose parents had intended to be opened in "anno Domini 2187."

No one minded.

No one objected.

In fact, if it had not been for Mary E. Davis of Fairbury, Ill., by the time "anno Domini 2187" rolled around any knowledge of the box could well have been forgotten — given that even few in present had remembered the box's existence.

For it was Mrs. Davis's search for her "roots" that she had practically rediscovered the box which years ago had been placed in the base of the pillars at Rees Park.

It was there that her great-grand uncle Thomas Rees had a box buried in October 1921 containing various items which the newspaper at the time said included picture postcards of Keokuk, books, newspapers,

The Rees family box: A bundle of history



Pictured is the family homestead of the Rees. In the background the two pillars are the park entrance can be seen. There had been some hope of restoring the home, but the effort was given up because the lack of good logs. Photo courtesy of the Keokuk Public Library. (Right) This is the front of a campaign brochure used by Thomas Rees in a campaign for U.S. Congress. It was one of the items found in the box.

speeches and a family history.

It was her family's history that Mrs. Davis had hope to find and happenstance made it possible.

While in Keokuk for a visit and research at the library, Mrs. Davis visited Rees park.

Upon returning home, she wrote a letter to Mayor Chuck Eppers inquiring about the pillars at the park and the whereabouts of the box.

The twin seven-ton pillars had been lowered during the widening of S. Seventh St. and Mrs. Davis wanted to know if they would be set back up after the construction was completed.

She also asked about the box which she had read about in newspaper accounts.

"Do you know the whereabouts of this box and its contents, or can you tell me who would know about it?," Mrs. Davis wrote the mayor.

After receipt of the letter Assistant City Engineer Bill Richards went out to Rees Park to investigate. With a hammer and chisel, he busted out about four inches of concrete and found the box, verifying the newspaper accounts.

Eppers then contacted Mrs. Davis that the box had been found.

By mutual agreement, it was decided that the box should be opened now rather than waiting until "anno Domini 2187" given Mrs. Davis's interest in the family history and also because there had been some apparent moisture seepage into the container.

This morning the box was opened in the mayor's office.

Once the box was opened, another reason which made the early opening seem entirely acceptable was discovered.

Part of the materials put into the box were gathered for Thomas Rees by Keokuk City Clerk B. Walter Barr.

Included in the box was a letter from Barr to Rees. It said that he had included "things easily available which will be of the most interest to the people in anno Domini 2187, or what ever year the pillars fall and disclose the box of documents to the curious of that time."

It had taken a construction company, a women's interest in her family history, a hammer and a chisel but the pillars were down and the box disclosed. Historical curiosity of the present preempted whatever interest there might have been over two centuries hence.

Many of the items centered around Thomas Rees himself



A metal box containing a number of historical items about Keokuk and the Rees family was opened this morning in the office of Keokuk Mayor Chuck Eppers. The box was located following an inquiry by a relative researching the family. Among the items in the box were travel books by Thomas Rees, a newspaper publisher in Keokuk and Springfield, Ill. DGC photos by Brent Schondelmeyer.



who had presented his old family homestead to city in 1921 for a park. In 1924, Rees had two granite pillars from the old city hall in Chicago brought to Keokuk to be erected at either side of the park entrance. On each was placed a Bedford stone cap and base.

The names of his parents — William and Mary — appear on either pillar. In the concrete base

of one of the pillars the box was buried.

Thomas Rees had grown up on the homestead and was the publisher of the Keokuk Constitution, where at the age of 13 he had started as an apprentice printer.

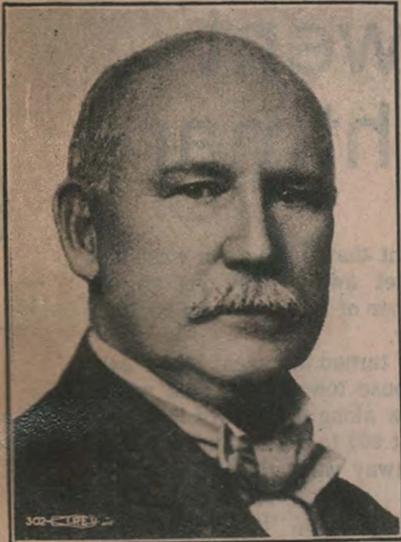
Born on Mary 13, 1850, he had moved to Keokuk with his parents from Pittsburgh, Penn., to Keokuk at the age of three.

Cont. on back...

In 1881, he moved to Springfield, Ill., and was the publisher of the Illinois State Register for over 50 years. During that time he was elected to

The Daily Gate City

"He Does Things" ^{8/7/78}



THOMAS REES

Nominated Democratic Candidate for
Congress (21st Illinois District)
Without Opposition.

Self-made business man; able legislator; staunch friend of labor; ardent supporter of President Wilson; candidate whose constructive record is a safe guarantee of future service.

Friend of People; Foe of Privilege!

the Illinois State Register as an unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Congress in 1916.

There had been some hope to restore the old Rees homestead in the early 1980s but not enough logs could be salvaged from it.

At the time, the paper lamented: "Mr. Rees will regret the demolition of the old log house in which he lived as a boy, but the logs were so badly rotted that there seemed to be no way by which the main building could be restored and preserved as hoped."

Other articles extolled his father, William Rees, as an early visionary in city planning. When he came to Iowa, William had initially purchased 50 acres of dense forest which the family cleared.

He sold parcels of the land but each block had a rectangular common area (150 feet by 200 feet) in the middle for use as a playground or garden plot. The family kept a 10-acre site for itself which later became the park.

The box contained a history of William Rees as Mrs. Davis, a great-great granddaughter had hoped.

Plans are to make a copy of the 200-page history for Mrs. Davis. Other articles within the box will be displayed in the Miller home owned by the Lee County Historical Society.

Items in the box, included three travel volumes by Thomas Rees titled Sixty Days in Europe, Egypt and The Holy Land Today and The Making of a Newspaper. There are many items from the publisher's town of Springfield.

Also included are old postcards of Keokuk, a book on the Keokuk water power installation, city council proceeding, the traffic rules and regulations of Keokuk in 1924, facts about the bond issue for the new high school, Wells-Carey and Torrence schools and other items.

The items were shuffled from one person to another with great interest as the "curious" of "anno Domini 1978" looked on, the open box set aside.

46



Farewell visit

Members of the Ambassadors Club of the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce paid a farewell visit this morning to Postmaster William L. Talbot who is retiring today. From left are Talbot, Darrell Rodger, executive director of the Cham-

ber and David Leonard of Burlington who will serve as officer in charge at Keokuk until a new postmaster is appointed. DGC Photo by Rita Nee

The Daily Gate City Aug 19, 1978

Keokuk man writes book

Questions energy crisis

By P.L. Fooker

Walter M. Johnson, 59, 119 Blondeau St., has an argument with the government.

It's not an energy crisis that the people in this country are facing, but what he calls a "fuel dilemma."

Energy, Johnson insists, is the ability to make motion, whereas fuel is a combustible material that is burned to create heat. What he is saying is that he believes the country is wrong to be looking for more fuel sources, when it really should be looking for more sources of motion.

An engineer and architect, he has written a book, "Our Energy Crisis: Or Is It a Fuel Dilemma," of about 200 pages to support his view.

"Man started out on the right road," Johnson says, "when he began inventing things that used motion as a source of energy, like the sailing ship, windmill and watermill."

But when man switched to steam engines and internal combustion engines is when he started going in the wrong direction, according to Johnson.

The reason he has written this book is because he believes that the government should be

spending more time looking for ways to harness more sources of motion, like the ocean or the sun ("the great-granddaddy of all energy"), than in searching for more sources of combustible materials, like oil and coal.

"We've gotten to used to taking a car and pouring fuel in it; instead, we should be using our brains to figure ways to use kinetics or motion as sources of energy," Johnson says.

Taking the ocean as an example, he points out that it has the ability to raise or lower an aircraft carrier 30 feet every 24 hours with each tide. One square mile of ocean weighs 11 million

Cont. on back...

tons, he says in another way, and the weight of 100 square miles of ocean if it could be harnessed and put in motion would solve many energy problems.

"It's funny, but even with the waves going up and down, we never think of the ocean in terms of horsepower," Johnson says.

Horsepower and not BTU's (British Thermal Units) is how this country should be measuring its energy requirements, he thinks.

Atomic power another form of combustible material or fuel in Johnson's view.

Despite his technical background, Johnson has attempted to keep the language of his book as simple as possible so the man in the street can understand his viewpoint.

"I'm not what you call an author, I'm an engineer, but I am interested in putting down something that people can understand in two-cylinder words," he says. "The average person on the street, when you talk about energy will just shake his head and walk away."

Johnson has served as a resident engineer at both Iowa State and at the University of Iowa.

In Ames he worked on the Iowa State Center project, which included the C.Y. Stephens Auditorium and the Hilton Coliseum.

At Iowa City he worked on the \$14 million Basic Science Building.

He has also done extensive design work on bridges, highways and sewer and water systems throughout Iowa, New York, Florida and California.

Johnson came to Keokuk in 1974, after suffering a severe

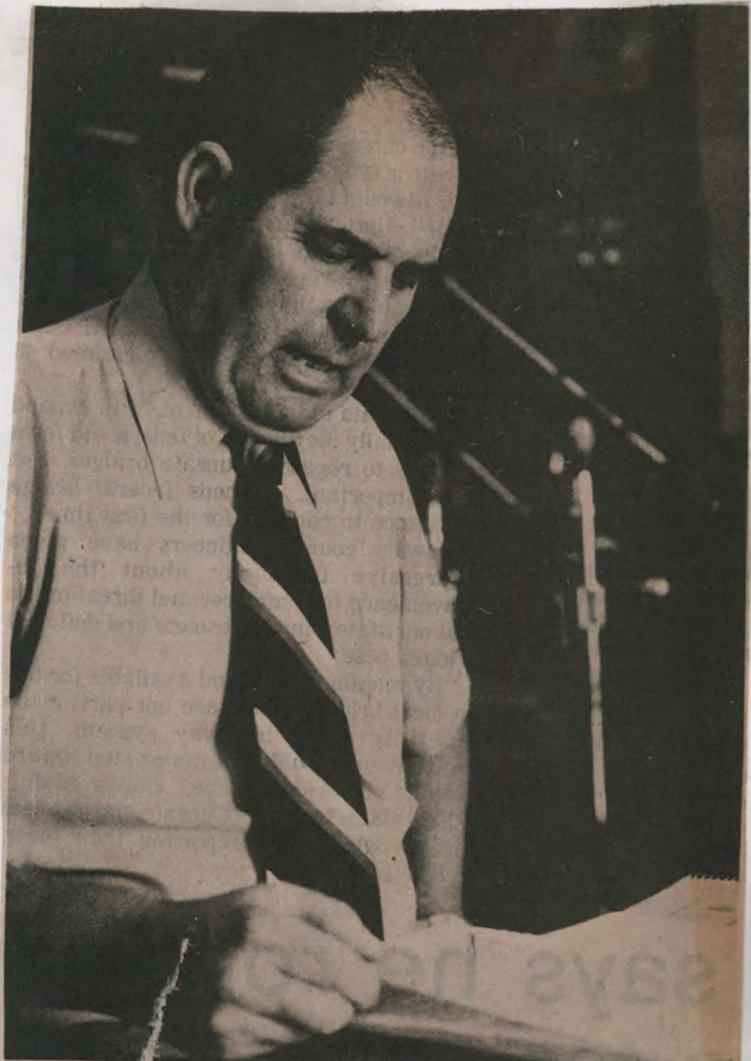
spinal fracture while working on the science building that forced him into early retirement.

"I'm trying a hand at writing as a hobby to fill in time," he says.

Finished with his first book, he has already begun a second. This one is more technical. It concerns the application by architects and engineers of the hyperbolic paraboloid to roof and building design.

"But that's too technical, for most people. I'm more interested in people understanding what can be done about energy and fuel," he says. "People are turned off when you talk about energy, because there doesn't seem to be any answer to it, but there is."

Johnson will appear at 11 a.m. tomorrow on WGEM-TV to express in person some of his views



DGE Keokuk author 8/19/78

Walter M. Johnson reads a passage from the book he has written, under the pseudonym, Johan Retlaw, "Our Energy Crisis: Or Is It a Fuel Dilemma?" LDGC photo by P.L. Eoken.

and answers to the energy question or the fuel dilemma.

"The most ridiculous thing we do is to burn fuel, making heat to make electricity to run air conditioners to make us cool," he says. "If we have motion, though, we can make heat."

Ralph Christy Tells of His Life and Experiences in "33 Years of Show Business"

Keys of Keokuk



*Reflections for Now
from Out of Our Heritage*

Shoppers Free Press September 20, 1978

Copyright, 1978

by Francis J. Helenthal

There's stardust in sawdust. For centuries the Big top was always the big show of the year. The enchantment of the circus has captivated the imagination of young and old alike since the days of the Roman Empire. All circus troupers seem spangled with glamour to the audience, but the dream to actually become a star with a spectacular act of one's own was to most but a fascination formed by a fantasy that could never come true.

This unreal world was a reality, however, to one Keokuk couple. Not only did they make their mark in the amusement world with their own act, Ralph and Sylvia Christy for years considered the Big Top "home". Sylvia, who was born to a circus family, was doing a rolling globe and slack wire act at the tender age of seven and trouped with circuses for twenty-four years. Ralph, who was born on a farm six miles south of Nauvoo, Ill., chanced into circus work, then traveled with them for twelve years. He did his act singly for two years, then spotted Sylvia under a spotlight in Texas -- and took her as his bride in Oklahoma. That was fifty three years ago -- and today they are still as interesting a team as ever!

Ralph Christy is now eighty years old, but young in both body and mind. Long retired, his training in trouping keeps him restless and mostly on the go. He shops for his wife, loves to browse about town and makes almost daily visits to the Keokuk library. Sylvia, who is three years younger, keeps busy at home scheduling Ralph's present day tours and can just about set the clock by him. Bright, charming and witty, she says, "I plan to make it to ninety!"

They left the Big Top behind and in 1930 bought a billiard room at 310 Main street which also provided living quarters upstairs. A year later, Mary

Lou, their only child was born, and she joined the troupe as a five-year-old. Operating out of Keokuk, they maintained and enlarged their act playing for fairs and celebrations for the next twenty-one years.

Ray Gilpin, now a resident of Hamilton, Ill., was trained by Mr. Christy in 1948. He learned quickly and performed with them for two years until he joined the Navy. Later he purchased the tight wire rigging from Christy's and traveled with his own act of note which included the Hagen Bros. Circus. (Coincidentally, two years ago Ray was booked for the Bicentennial celebration in Hamilton. Desiring "assistants" to add color to his act, he took my two daughters, Teresa and Barbara, and in two weeks had them trained well enough on the tight

wire that they were able to perform with him in the act!).

Ralph Christy was caught in a somewhat similar circumstance back in 1952. They were contracted to play fairs that year, but Ray Gilpin was in the Navy and their daughter, Mary Lou, was attending the University of Iowa. The two of them alone could do fine with the juggling and globe acts, but Ralph explains, "we didn't have much of a tight wire act."

"So I broke in two boys, Floyd Bradbury and Sonny Scott. After we played the season, I got Floyd a job with the Anderson Brothers Circus. Floyd is still in show business while Sonny was killed in a car accident." Bradbury's still have the Christy's inside-globe . . . "it hinges open and Sylvia used to get inside of it and roll it up and down an incline by shifting her weight." To the best of his knowledge, Ralph believes the inside-globe to be the only one of its kind in the United States. (Old timers will remember when the Christy's played the "World's Largest Street Fair" -- back in 1938).

Their final performing season was 1953, an all-family year. Mary Lou was back, and her husband, Dave Schlotterback, also accompanied them -- they even took along their new granddaughter!

Although memories of circus life are still vivid, they have never been mesmerized with it. They realized there was a time to quit. A tight wire walker for years himself, Ralph Christy told this writer: "Carl Wallenda should never have been killed falling from the wire . . . he should never have been up there at his age! In his earlier years, when he had better coordination and reflexes, he

Cont. on back...

could easily have grabbed the wire and saved himself!"

He explains, "when I was fifty I realized I was almost finished as a performer. My legs were giving out. Fifty is the old age of youth and the youth of old age." In the writings of his memoirs he also tells why Sylvia needed to give up performing: "That fall (1953) Sylvia had a major operation in Rochester, Minnesota. She had cancer in her left kidney. Dr. Culp of the Mayo Clinic operated and it was a complete success. The surgery took over five hours -- the slowest five hours of my life!"

They have experienced tragedy in their own family. Sylvia's sister, Mary Solt, an aerialist, was killed in Detroit, Michigan while performing at the Shrine Circus with the Solts Trapeze Artists back in 1931. She fell thirty feet from a trapeze with no net below.

For the past several months Ralph Christy has kept busy recollecting and writing the highlights of his life. This was prompted by the urging of Rev. Robert Burkhart, pastor of Emmanuel/Sandusky United Methodist Church, who recognized the

interest and importance of recording the colorful events of a passing era. Entitled "Thirty-Three Years of Show Business", he has sent manuscripts to Variety and other publications, but as yet has not heard back from them. He has given his story to the Shoppers Free Press, with the hope that area readers will be entertained by it. Sharing this belief, we will publish substantial excerpts from it in this, and forthcoming issues:

"I was born in 1898 on a farm six miles south of Nauvoo, Illinois. At the age of twelve I saw my first circus, LaMonte Brothers of Salem, Illinois. From that time on I practiced juggling and magic.

"After finishing the eighth grade in a one-room school, I worked in a stone quarry for 15c an hour, then in Hamilton, Illinois, at a brickyard the following year. There I earned 30c an hour and saved enough money to attend Rahe Auto School in Kansas City, Mo.

"While in Kansas City I spent most of my evenings at the Y.M.C.A., wrestling and boxing. My original plans involved becoming an auto repairman and owning a garage some day.

SHOPPERS FREE PRESS

September 20, 1978

Cont. on next page



"ALL THAT WE HAVE LEFT FROM SHOW BUSINESS are memories, pictures, and some press revues", writes Ralph Christy. He and his wife, Sylvia, are shown at their dining room table looking through a photographic scrapbook. They make their present home at 23 North Third street, where they moved in March of 1965. The Main street building where they had operated a business for thirty-five years, with living quarters upstairs, was demolished as part of the Urban Renewal program of the mid-sixties.

"Immediately following the First World War there was a short depression and thus no jobs were available. I earned a few dollars working at carnivals, wrestling and boxing all-comers for the athletic show.

"In 1920 a small circus, the Lucile McClenden Shows, came to Ferris, Illinois. The show featured a wrestler who met all-comers in an after-circus performance. I stayed with them for two days, wrestling in Ferris and Basco, Illinois. Their wrestler was leaving the show, so I joined them. My salary was \$5.00 a week, plus one half the athletic show, three meals a day, and I slept in a circus wagon.

"We always had oatmeal for breakfast. It was cooked in an iron pot over a wood fire. About daylight the cook would holler, 'Come and get it or I'll kick ashes in it -- besides wrestling and boxing all-comers!' (51)

I performed two acts -- juggling and magic -- and helped set up and take down the show tent. The show closed in November in Arkansas. The next March (1921) I was back with them at \$10.00 a week and one half the athletic show.

"I left them in August and joined Lockery-Brothers' 'Uncle Tom's Cabin', playing the parts of Haley and Scaggs. I also performed a juggling act and was the drum major in the parade. It didn't take long for me to discover that I was no actor!"

Thus from the grunt and groan of carnival wrestling and the bloody noses of the square ring -- to a bad experience in drama -- Ralph Christy made his way into the entertainment business. The next installment will relate some of his experiences in the sawdust rings of circus life.

CIRCUS PEOPLE CHEATED -- AND WERE CHEATED --

P.T. Barnum Said it ... "There's a Sucker Born Every Minute!"

Keys of Keokuk



*Reflections for Now
from Out of Our Heritage*

Shoppers Free Press October 4, 1978

Copyright, 1978

by Francis J. Helenthal

Part III

The Christy's have been out of circus work since 1932, although they continued to play fairs and celebrations for twenty-one years after leaving the sawdust ring. Ralph Christy reflects on it:

"Circus life was not all glamorous. It was hard work! We went to bed late and got up early. Many people asked, 'when do you sleep?' We had a standard answer . . . 'Next winter!' Of course we had Sundays off. Our salary was about the same from 1925 to 1932 -- \$50 a week, gas and oil for our house truck and three meals a day. We always made extra money, sometimes more than our sal-

ary! Some of what we did to make extra money included Sylvia running a 'Cat Rack' -- three balls for 10c, and if the player knocked off the three cats he got 25c. If he missed, he got nothing.

"I sold prize candy for 10c a pack and received 10%. Several seasons I did a magic act in the sideshow for the privilege of selling small magic tricks. Two seasons Sylvia and I did the sword box illusion in the sideshow. I would put my wife in a box, then run fifteen swords through it, open the lid and let the audience walk by to see how the illusion was done. For the view, a donation of usually five or ten cents was paid.

"Sylvia was a real trouper. She was reluctant to quit the circus. I was happy to quit. I would rather play poker and billiards than walk wire. I was a good 'house' poker player, and I won two Moose Lodge state championships playing billiards -- and have two large trophies to prove it."

Perhaps Ralph Christy developed his poker-faced skills as a result of his circus training. It was often necessary for them to "fake" or bluff their way in a given situation, like in this story he tells in his "Thirty Years of Show Business":

Cont. on back...

"One season I ran the girl show, called the Cooch Show -- men only! We had only one dancer -- and he was a female impersonator! He made a good looking girl and he was a good dancer. I announced, 'She dances not with her feet but with the muscles of her body. She shivers and shakes like a bowl full of jelly on a frosty morning . . . admission only twenty-five cents!'

"After the first show we put on a second show -- same dancer -- but I promised more than the dancer could deliver -- since 'she' was a man! When we started the second show I would duck out with the money -- we knew the 'towners' would be sore but they wouldn't bother the dancer as they thought he was a girl! Later we hired a belly dancer who was also a stripper. That ended the trouble -- and I could stay with the money and see the show. The suckers went home happy."

And then there is this one:

"For two seasons, 1929 and '30, the show carried a pitchman from Ada, Oklahoma. He was a con man, and I helped make his pitch. After a circus performance he would gather a crowd around him by waving a corn knife in the air -- the knife was around three feet in length! He would holler, 'It's free . . . come on over!' He would then give some 'slum' away -- worthless merchandise that looked good.

"The high pitchman would then say, 'I am not the salesman . . . I'm the advertising man! Then he would charge \$1.00 for a fountain pen. I would buy the first one. I was the come-on buyer -- a 'shell'. He would then give the dollar back to the buyer, and sell another article for \$2.00 -- and, as with the dollar merchandise, return the money. Each time he would return the money, he would say: 'Folks, I am doing you good.'" He sold the \$5.00 merchandise next, and then moved to selling the 'Sante Fe' watches, twenty-one jewels which sold for \$10.00. They look good, but wouldn't run a week!

"After selling all he could, the high pitchman would ask: 'Are you satisfied?'" I would say 'YES', along with some others -- who were sure they were going to get their money back again. He would say, 'You're all satisfied . . . I can give your money back to you . . . or keep it'. He would then put the money in his pocket, pick up the corn knife and leave. (I always left before this, as by this time the 'marks' realized they had been had."

Many circus people worked hard at justifying their reputation, but many times they found themselves on the short end, as in these stories Christy tells:

"In 1926, Bob Atterbury took out a ten-truck show. We joined him in Sioux City. Mr. Atter-

bury would start ahead of us and mark the road so we wouldn't get lost. He drove a Ford. One day he pulled into a filling station and asked to have the tank filled. A Ford tank was under the driver's seat and held ten gallons. The station put TWELVE gallons of gas in Bob's ten-gallon tank. He squawked long and loud, but he paid. In those days filling stations used hand pumps and many owners ran a copper tube from the pressure chamber back to the supply tank. So they always pumped a short gallon -- how short depended upon the size of the copper tube!"

"Circus people were marks, too, when off the circus lot. Curly, out pitchman, would get a bankroll and then get drunk and go broke. One fall we came to Nauvoo, Ill., with \$1,500 in our pocket. A banker sold me \$1,000 worth of Chicago apartment house bonds. I didn't know he received a percentage for selling the bonds. Later, we recovered only \$75. P. T. Barnum said, 'There's a sucker born every minute!'"

Sometimes circus workers were short-changed even by the circus owners, as in this case Ralph writes about:

"A show was losing money, so it closed. The owner said to the performers to line up alphabetically, and we will pay in that order. 'Zohn', the juggler was out of luck -- they ran out of money before they got to him. The next spring they were able to reopen again, and Zohn rejoined. The owner saw him and said, 'Hello, Zohn, nice to see you. But Zohn replied, 'My name is AARON!'"

Gambling was part of circus life. Ralph tells about it:

"Many shows had a gambling car, called the 'Privilege' or Pie Car'. There the hired circus people gambled against the circus-owned games. They had two chances -- slim and none! The owners got back a lot of money they paid out in salaries." This story is typical of the way many circus people ended a summer of long hard work:

"A performer lost all his money in the 'Pie Car' the last day of the season. He said to the owner: 'Mr. Wallace, I lost all of my money . . . how am I going to get home?'" Wallace asked, 'What do you do?' He replied, 'I am a wire walker'. Wallace pointed to the top of a telegraph pole and said: 'Those wires run to every town in the United States . . . walk a wire home!'"

There were other risks, as well, and they all did not pertain to losing your money or performing in the center ring. Constantly traveling over bad roads, every curve, every railroad crossing presented a danger.

"Sylvia drove our Ford pickup, and I drove a truck behind her. We were close to Casper, Wyoming,

53

when she hit a patch of loose gravel and lost control. The pickup left the road, rolling over. Luckily, Sylvia crawled from the wreck without a scratch." And then there was always the wild animals:

"In 1930, I was the 'Barker' for the sideshow -- I made the opening 'spiel'. We featured feeding the lions raw meat. I got a young working man, named Steve Clark to feed the lions, and called him 'Captain Clark from Cape Town, South Africa', adding that he speaks very little English. I didn't pay him any money -- he liked the job -- it made him feel important! One night he got too close to the small door at the bottom of the lion's cage where he put the meat through. A lion got his claws in the sleeve of Steve's jacket and was pulling him into the cage. I managed to get Steve free from the grasp of the lion -- but his hand was clawed. A doctor dressed his hand, but two days later he got blood poisoning. We put Steve in a hospital in

Omaha, and a week later he was back with us. I asked him if he wanted his job back. He said, 'Get yourself another boy' -- so for the rest of the season I was the lion feeder!"

"In 1929, while on the Russell Circus, I got the scare of my life. Dick Hughes had a 'Pit' or grind show. He charged 10c admission. He had one snake, a python, 20-feet long. One night after he had closed the show the snake escaped. It was a cold fall night so the snake looked for shelter. Our sword box was sitting by our house truck with a tarpaulin over it and the python had coiled up under it. The next morning I picked up the box to load it -- and I stepped on the snake. It was sluggish from the cold night, but it coiled around my left leg. I jerked free, losing my shoe. Pythons are harmless, when not hungry, and luckily they eat only a few times a year. This one lived on hamburger, around 20 pounds per feeding. But they will put up a fight if you hurt them. In this case I got Dick and several show folks and we picked it up and put it back in its cage -- and I even managed to recover my shoe!"

NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK --

I'm Not Proud of Some of the Ways I Earned Money in the Circus ...

Keys of Keokuk



Reflections for Now from Out of Our Heritage

Shoppers Free Press October 11, 1978

Copyright, 1978

by Francis J. Helenthal

PART IV - CONCLUSION

Today, at the age of eighty, Ralph Christy is a devoted church man and a student of the Holy Bible. He has traded Variety, the bible of the entertainment world, for the Good Book along with a Bible dictionary, a concordance and a Bible hand book. But for years he was part of a business that possibly would not have thrived, perhaps not even survived, had it not been for its unique methods of skinning a gullible public.

P. T. Barnum said, "There is a sucker born every minute." W. C. Fields said, "Never give a sucker an even break!" Mr. Christy gives us an inside look from his writing, "Thirty Years of Show Business:"

"Most of the shows we were on carried ticket sellers who were expert short changers. These men were called 'grifters'. In those days a grifter wouldn't cheat a woman, a child, or a handicapped person. Once in a while there was trouble with a man who had been short-changed. If a victim started trouble it could usually be fixed by giving him his correct change. Sometimes a few young men would get drunk and come to the circus lot to start a fight or trouble. This was called a 'Hey Rube!' When 'Hey Rube' was shouted, the working men, called roughnecks, would come carrying tent stakes. Many of the performers carried knucks. I was only in one where anyone got badly hurt. In North Dakota one of the boys hit a mean drunk on the head with a stake and fractured his skull.

Cont. on back...

"From P. T. Barnum on, many shows carried '40 Thieves' . . . short changers, pitch men, pick-pockets, and con men operating skin games such as 3-card Monte, and the 3-Shell Game. Anything to make a buck - these were called 'Grift' shows. Those that carried no 'Grift' were called 'Sunday School' shows.

"Because Ringling Brothers advertised 'Wait for the Big One', circus people called it the 'Wait Bros.' show. When Germany was bombarding Paris with the Big Bertha cannon in World War 1, Barnum and Bailey combined with Ringling Brothers - it was then nicknamed the 'Big Bertha'. For many years it has been called the 'Big One'. They had three trains, 100 cars, 1,000 people, 400 horses and 50 elephants. They did not carry any gamblers. The customer got his money's worth . . . no squawks!"

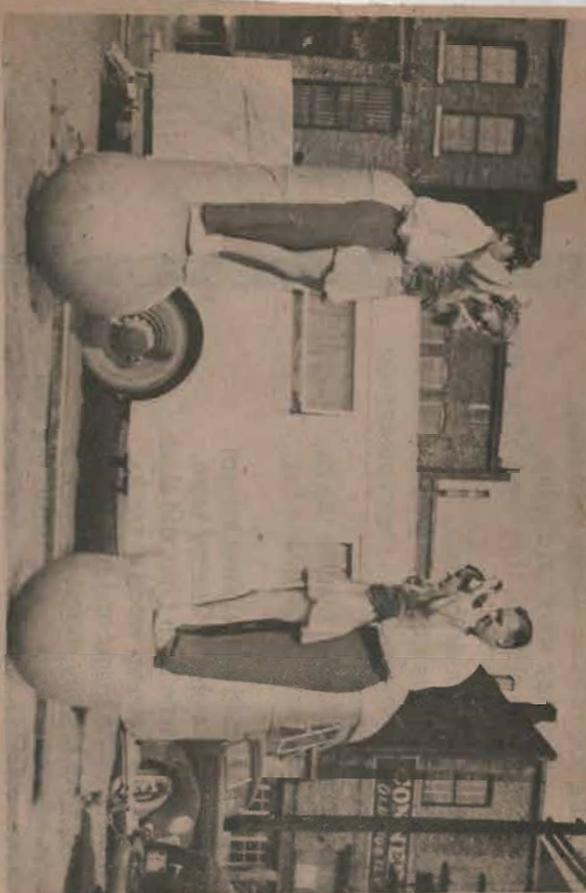
In his reminisces, Christy recalls some circus jargon:

"Because the Sells Flote was painted white, it was called the 'White Show' . . . Buffalo Bill and the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show were the 'Bills Show' . . . Mighty Haag was the 'Hog Show' . . . shows owned by the American Circus Corporation were called the 'Peru Shows' because they wintered in Peru, Indiana. Jerry Mugivan, Bert Bowers and Ed. Ballard owned the Corporation - 5 railroad circuses!

"In 1929, John Ringling bought the Corporation. He now owned all the major circuses in the United States. That fall the Stock Market crashed - the Great Depression was with us! By 1932 most of the circuses had closed. Ringling lost his shows to a bank. Later he regained control of the Big One.

"Some of the closed circuses came to rest in Lancaster, Missouri, called 'Halls Farm'. Several wa-

RALPH AND SYLVIA are shown on the rolling ball at the right, daughter Mary, and Ray Gilpin are on the left.



SHOPPERS FREE PRESS October 11, 1978

(54)

gon or truck shows survived but the going was tough. I loaned the Russell Show money to open in 1930, also in 1932. They paid 10% interest.

"The circus owner was called 'Governor' . . . the children were 'Punks' . . . town people were 'Yokels'; 'Rubes' or 'Townners' . . . workmen were 'Roughnecks' . . . beginners in show business were called the 'First of May' . . . restrooms were 'Donnikes' . . . all overland shows were 'Mud Shows' . . . performers were 'Kinkers'. If a man loaned money to a show he was called an 'Angel' . . . wine was called 'Mad Dog'. Circus people pronounced calliope . . . 'Kal-ee-op'.

SHOPPERS FREE PRESS 10/11/78



THE CHRISTY TROUP practiced the act behind their building in the block now occupied by the Keosippi Plaza.

"One show that never existed was most famous among circus people. Whenever a showman told a 'tall tale', he would add, that was the year I was on the 'Windy Van Hooten Show!' An instance of this would be the story of the elephant hunters in India, who almost caught an elephant that weighed over 16,000 pounds; was 16 feet tall and had tusks 14 feet long! Had they caught that elephant, he would have went to the 'Windy Van Hooten Show'.

"The year we were with the 'Windy Van Hooten', we lived in a small tent and carried our equipment in a Ford pickup truck. We had a small dog. The butcher shops gave bones away, and everyday we got a bone for him. He would chew it for a while, then bury it under our truck. The next day he spent a lot of time digging under the truck for the bone he buried yesterday in another city!"

As Ralph Christy looks back, he says:

"I'm not proud of some of the ways I earned money. I was money hungry!

"Sylvia and I knew what it was to be poor. Times were hard and there was no Social Security or welfare. People were proud and would rather go hungry than accept charity. Some older folks even starved to death. In our young days, kids didn't go to school long. Fourteen-year-old boys often worked for farmers for \$10 a month. Young girls got \$2.00-a-week working for farmer's wives -- always up at daylight. My mother-in-law, when only 12 years old, got \$1.00 a week. Many of the young workers never saw the money they earned -- as their parents collected it.



INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN, this billboard shows the Christy's playing Vaudeville in Winnipeg, Canada.

"In 1933, we bought a three-story building, located at 316 Main in Keokuk. On the first floor was a barber shop. Haircuts or a shave were 25c. Also on the first floor was a cigar store and seven pool, billiard and snooker tables. In the back was a large garage where we could practice our acts. We lived on the second floor and rented out sleeping rooms on the third floor. We charged \$3.00 a week for a sleeping room . . . 5c for rotation pool and 8-ball . . . 60c per hour for call shots and billiards.

"On one window I had 'Home of the Christy's, Wire and Globe Artists'. Many show people saw the sign and stopped by to see us."

Cont. on back...



SHOPPERS FREE PRESS OCTOBER 11, 1978
THE CHRISTY'S BOUGHT THE BUILDING AT 316 MAIN in Keokuk during the Great Depression. The first floor consisted of a barber shop and a pool hall. They used the second floor for living quarters, and sleeping rooms were rented out on the third floor for \$3.00 per week. This location was part of the 4 1/2-squard blocks on lower Main street leveled to make way for the Keosauqui Plaza.

The Christy's act has been seen in every state in the union; also in Canada and Mexico. After they stopped playing circuses, in 1934 they played a circuit of fairs in Canada. In 1936 they went back to Canada, this time playing Vaudeville. Other times they played night clubs. In 1942, they played the fair season with the WLS Barn Dance.

If Ralph Christy is not proud of some of the ways he earned money, this obviously is equalled by the pride he has in his accomplishment - developing and owning a circus and entertainment act of his own. He admits:

"Applause feeds the ego and makes it all worthwhile."

He cites the time, back in 1928, when they were playing with the Zelmar Brothers Circus at Crawford, Nebraska. C. A. Caylor, a newspaper editor and former owner of one of Ralph's circuses, saw the show and later sent them the following poem:

We went to Crawford, Nebraska today
Where the Zelmar Brother' Circus held sway.
We saw the acts as they went on display
And the people were pleased, they were blithe and Gay.
We saw elephants do their stunts.
We heard the bears give out their grunts
And the goats and the dogs and the monkeys too
Did their acts so amusing to you.
Many aerialists did fearful feats in the air,
The lady acrobats were graceful and fair.

But the pair that held our highest esteem
Were Sylvia and Ralph the Christy team.
They walked the wire both tight and slack.
They rolled the globe up wooden tracks.
They mixed it with magic and juggling too.
Their acts were knobby, novel and new
To those who would give their patrons the best
This team we acclaim with our highest zest.
As troupers there were far ahead of the rest.
We tried them and know they stand every test.

Ralph and Sylvia Christy retain a mental attitude with the zest of youth. Their values and goals are different now, but in pursuing them they are better performers than ever. Ralph philosophizes:

"I believe that all golden ages should belong to and attend the church of their choice. Go to church Sunday . . . you will come away feeling better. Read the Bible. If you give it a chance it will grow on you and make old age worth living.

"Sylvia and I are old, but in good health. Three thousand years ago Solomon wrote: 'A hoary head is a crown of glory'. Old age comes to everyone who lives. We accept it and live one day at a time!"



Swimsuit

Lori Froehling, Miss Keokuk 1979, begins her walk down the runway during the swimsuit portion of the Friday pageant.

Miss Keokuk 1979

(57)



THE DAILY GATE CITY

Talent

OCT 4, 1978

Miss Froehling, daughter of Jean Froehling of 106 Navaho Dr., played Mozart's Concerto in major on the flute during

the talent portion of the Miss Keokuk pageant. Fifty percent of the judging is based on a contestant's talent.



THE DAILY GATE CITY

Critics

OCTOBER 4, 1978

Judges watch a contestant walk the runway. All judges have spent years in pageant judging and choose winners on the basis of an interview, swimsuit appearance, poise and

personality, and talent. The sound system for the pageant was supplied by Southeastern Community College.



Disco dancing

Miss Keokuk of 1978, Susan Underwood, performed a disco dance with Jay Hoskins, a student at SCC.



THE DAILY GATE CITY 10/4/78

Second runner-up

Lisa Skiles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Skiles, 728 N. 12th St., was second runner-up in the Miss Keokuk 1979 pageant.



First runner-up

Lori Shaffer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Shaffer of 302 High St., sang a medley from the musical "Oliver" for her talent, accompanied by her instructor Mary Jane Goeke. Miss Shaffer was first runner-up for the title.



Poise and personality

Lori pauses at the end of the runway after being introduced during the poise and personality portion of the Miss Keokuk pageant. The Keokuk Junior High stage was decorated with sunbursts, bamboo and wicker screens with ferns.



OCTOBER 4, 1978 THE DAILY GATE CITY

Moment of triumph

Miss Keokuk of 1979 was announced by emcee Dick Partridge, and this was her reaction. Fellow contestants from left

are Mariys Brown, Lisa Randolph and Shelley Woods.

Keokuk Man's Invention Provides Better M-16 Rifle Training at a Savings of \$37,000 a Day!

Keys of Keokuk



Reflections for Now
from Out of Our Heritage

Shoppers Free Press November 8, 1978

Copyright, 1978

by Francis J. Helenthal

Defense appropriation ever . . . to meet the new "Russian threat" . . . it is exciting and noteworthy to learn that yet another young Keokuk man has come through with an important contribution for the military. With the Soviet Union leading the U. S. in intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched missiles, tanks, surface combat ships, and with twice the number of troops under arms - it seems significantly important that American servicemen receive the best of training at the most efficient expenditure.

A 1978 invention of Keokuk's Ronald E. Elbe has provided both - better training for less money!

Veterans Day (Armistice Day) is this coming Saturday. Along with Memorial Day, it commemorates something very personal and dear. It is one of the most "American" of days after Independence Day. After being kicked all over the calendar for seven years, count this writer among the many who are pleased to see the observance back on the traditional November 11th!

The original Armistice Day was the climactic end to one of the most emotional periods in history. Feelings ran so high during World War I, the word "sauerkraut" sounded too German and was changed to "liberty cabbage". Even German measles was called "liberty measles". Most every family in the tri-state area was personally affected. Processions of men filled Keokuk's Main Street on their way to the railroad depot and training camps. Casualty lists were published daily. When the Armistice came, Keokuk went wild. For twelve hours a delirium of joy continued in one of the greatest demonstrations ever seen here.

But Keokuk has always been a patriotic town.

During the Civil War it was the embarkation point for all troops entering service from the State of Iowa. And Keokuk enlisted more of its own than its share. Five Civil War Hospitals were established here, and residents donated most of the provisions needed to care for the sick and wounded. Keokuk's own Annie Turner Wittenmyer established the famous "Special Diet Kitchens" to improve sanitation and food in U. S. Army hospitals.

And of course we had our share of enlistees, draftees, participants, heroes, and casualties in WW-II, Korea and Vietnam.

At a time when U. S. military budgets are being strained . . . when Congress has voted the largest

The Keokuk man's invention is a new ammunition adapter assembly for the M-16 rifle, and according to "Soldiers", the U. S. Army's official magazine, it will "save taxpayers up to \$37,000 a day!"

Ron's new adapter allows the 5.56mm M-16 rifle to fire .22 cal. long rifle rimfire cartridges. One of the benefits of the modified rifle is lowered cost of ammunition. The 5.56mm military ammunition costs 8 cents per round -- while the .22-caliber substitute (used with Elbe's invention) will cost less than a penny. According to Soldiers Magazine, "if the adapter is used for only half of the basic training program, training ammunition costs will be reduced \$6 million annually!"

The Air Force has bought 1,070 of Ron's adapter for use in the Tactical Air Command (TAC), and reports an annual saving of more than \$1 million in ammunition costs alone.

That isn't the greatest advantage of the rimfire adapter. "When you're trying to teach someone to shoot a gun," says Ron Elbe, "it's easier to teach him with the .22. It has much less noise than the 5.56mm ammunition and no recoil at all."

The Air Force Training Command has begun training some new recruits to fire the M-16 using the adapter, and has ordered 12,000 adapters for that purpose. Because of lowered ammunition costs, they have upgraded the 70-round M-16 familiarization course to a 150-round qualification course.

In addition, the Air Force will expand rifle training to many people, including some women, who previously would not have received it. The net result will be more people trained to a higher level of skill with the M-16 rifle, while reducing training costs.

Cont. on next page

The Tactical Air Command reports a malfunction rate of less than one half percent and no cases of runaway firing, in the time they have used Elbe's newly invented adapter. (6)

Elbe invented the .22 cal. rimfire adapter while working for Rodman Labs, as an engineer at the Rock Island (Ill.) Arsenal. A number of other adapters were already on the market, but all suffered from defects which made them unacceptable to the U. S. Army.

"Improved readiness is really the significant aspect of this invention," Ron Elbe notes. "People don't have to travel to a full-sized range. You can train them on an indoor range if that's all you have. And they can fire the weapon more often, so they can become more proficient."

Previous adapters were rejected because the modification had the potential for "runaway firing" of the weapon. This resulted when the lower powered .22 cal. round provided enough power to put a new round in the chamber, but not enough power to cock the hammer. The hammer was only partially cocked which followed the bolt forward, firing the round just put in the chamber. With this problem, the cycle would start again, and often ended only after all the ammunition in the magazine had fired. The full-automatic, uncontrollable firing was very dangerous, and made prior designs unacceptable.

So there you have it. Yet another important contribution to the defense of the United States of America by another of Keokuk's native sons.

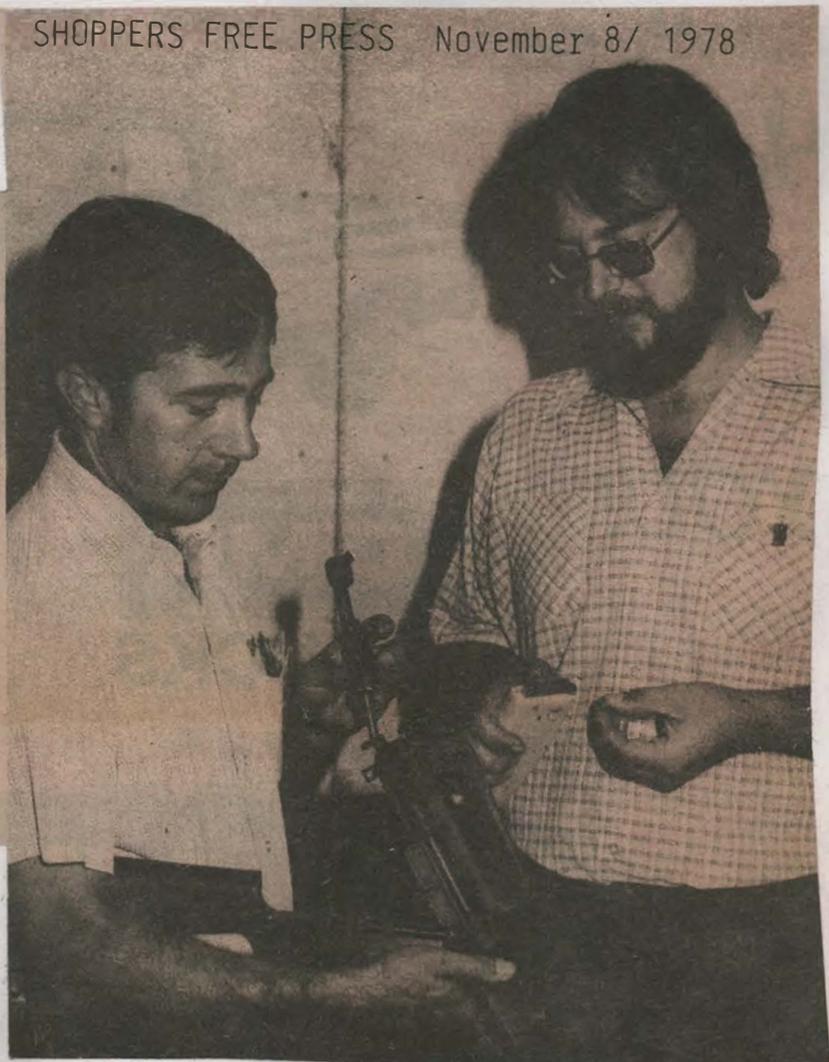
And for years to come, military recruits can thank Ron Elbe for more thorough training in firing the M-16 rifle - and American taxpayers can thank him for saving millions of dollars in doing it!

Ron Elbe corrected this problem by designing the adapter to first cock the hammer. Only after the hammer is cocked does a new round enter the chamber. If the hammer fails to cock, it falls on an empty chamber - annoying, but not dangerous.

SHOPPERS FREE PRESS November 8/ 1978

RON ELBE (left) is shown with his new invention that will provide better training, and save taxpayers \$6 million or more a year. Here he inserts the rimfire adapter modified bolt into the M-16 rifle, demonstrating it to Phil Vernon, who was his supervisor at a lab in the Rock Island Arsenal.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Elbe, 761 Eicher, Keokuk, where he graduated from KHS in the class of 1964. Ron attended SE Iowa Community College at Keokuk for two years, and received a degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Iowa in 1968.



Antiquing for fun

By Penny Richtman

William (Bill) Patchell of 1909 Lofton Drive, Keokuk, and his wife, Mary Jane, have been collecting antiques since 1964.

Bill explains it this way.

"My mother was quite a collector of antiques back when everybody considered it plain old junk. At that time I thought it was junk, too.

"Then when we were married in 1964, we were living in Omaha, Neb. and we automatically saw what the cost of furnishing a new home (apartment) and starting a family was going to cost.

"That's when I think Mary Jane and I started taking a great interest in antiques. We saw it was cheaper for a young family to buy antiques that were not refinished and in rough shape and take them and work on them and very reasonably have a usable piece of furniture that would appreciate in value. Besides an antique piece of furniture had a lot of possibilities. We could talk about it when people were visiting us."

Patchell arrived in Keokuk in 1973 and started working for the Keokuk Gas Co. In April, he became a partner in the Hays Realty Inc.

"My interest in antiques grew and grew," he continued. "My knowledge increased as to what was good and what was bad. Finally my interest mushroomed until every piece of furniture in our house now is an antique."

From Pennsylvania

Patchell said he is originally from Philadelphia, Pa. He learned much about refinishing antiques from his mother. She learned it from her mother.

His grandparents, he said, lived in Altoona, Pa., up in the mountains and they had to do a lot of things for themselves.

"My grandfather was a greenhouseman and he did a lot of furniture refinishing and he just taught it to my grandmother."

How did Patchell happen to come to Keokuk?

"The company I worked for was a consulting firm that worked for the gas industry and I was familiar with the Keokuk Gas Co. because it was one of my clients."

Because Patchell did a lot of traveling during the first part of his married life, it was easy for him to find antiques.

"I found things anywhere from someones front porch to their basement. I'd spot something on the front porch and I'd get out of my car and go ask the person if he wanted to sell the item. Then I used to do a lot of safety inspection for a commercial establishment and that would take me down to a basement which maybe was filled with antiques. I'd ask the owner if he wanted to sell any of it. Maybe it was a chair or a round table and he'd price it at \$2.50. Sometimes I'd find things in antique shops, too."

Kids today, he noted, are paying as much or more for a reproduction of an antique which isn't a smart investment.

Refinishing

The 38-year-old businessman said there are two ways to go about refinishing furniture.

"There's the commercial dipping method and there's the method I use... that of using a commercial product and stripping by hand."

Patchell said, "I use the commercial strip-it to remove the paint. I gauge my own work level. I take a section at a time. At times I may be working on 10 or 12 pieces at one time."

He estimated since he first started he has probably refinished 30 or 40 pieces which ranged from clocks up to larger pieces like war-

drobes.

Patchell is methodical in his work.

"There's a quick way of refinishing, he says, and then there's the right way. He likes refinishing the "right way."

He said first he puts on the stripping and lets it bake, lets it sink into the varnish or paint so it loosens up from the grain. After he has taken that stripping off, he may put on a second coat of stripping.

When he's working he puts drop cloths down because papers are "too messy and start moving all over the place."

"The best way to strip," he explained, "is to hold a rag in your left hand and get a dull, narrow scraping knife, like a putty knife and scrape and dap it onto your rag. That's so you don't step in it and walk into your house and get it into your rugs.

"When the rag gets full, throw it away and get a clean one."

First, he said, he gets the bulk of the furniture, then he "floats it" with another coating of stripping to get what's left of the old finish. That's when he uses steel wool. He makes the next coating sloppy so he can get that steel wool in the nicks and cranies and then he rubs it to get everything clean. After that he washes it with a solution of baking soda and hot water. He cautioned about using this method on veneer because if water gets under the veneer "it pops". After washing, he lets the piece dry in the shade. He never quick dries it in the sun because it would warp the wood. He lets it dry for maybe a day or a day and a half. Then he sands it by hand, using the very finest sandpaper. After it's sanded, a tack cloth is used which picks up all the sand and dust particles. Then its time for the final coat of varnish. After the first coat has dried he rubs it with 4-0 steel wool, that's the finest steel wool you can buy. Then he uses the tack cloth again and puts on the second coat of varnish.

He spoke of another method his mother handed down to him that gives the piece a hand-rubbed effect

and cuts out a lot of steps after you have the antique ready to varnish.

"You work up a concoction of one-third turpentine, one-third linseed oil and one-third varnish and rub it into the furniture with a clean rag. You do not use a brush. It's important that you let it set in for a bit then rub it out with a clean rubbing rag. That's a very famous East coast quickie. Let it dry real good then do it again, then rub it out with 4-0 steel wool."

Patchell says his wife helps with the refinishing.

"She does the tedious work," he said, "that drives me crazy."

Patchell has been interested in woodworking since he was in school.

"I've always been good working with my hands. But I couldn't afford one of these antiques if I didn't buy one that was pretty shabby but basically intact.

Young couples

"I've been observing," Patchell said, "that young people today seem to be investing in small antique pieces like clocks, and music boxes."

He feels they would do well to look at good purchases of quality antiques rather than buy some of the "ticky tacky" furniture they "pay an arm and a leg for" today.

"Antiquing," he said, "is a heck of a lot of fun."

See related photo
on next page...

(62)



BILL PATCHELL, of Keokuk displays an antique oak fill cabinet from Pennsylvania which he refinished and uses in his office. The rare cast iron clock is beautifully

viewed from on top of the cabinet.

Photo by Penny Richtman

Costumes present a challenge

BUDGET SAVER DECEMBER 13, 1978



By Penny Richtman

Carolyn Smick and her daughter, Megan, both of Keokuk, stood amidst boxes and racks of clothing at the Costume Closet, 111 North Fifth in Keokuk. The garments date back to the '40s and '50s.

"I started collecting clothing about three years ago," Smick said. "I kept hanging the clothes around in my basement on the light wires and from the water pipes. Finally my husband told me if I hung much more stuff around the house would either blow up or the water pipes would break. So that's when I started casting around for a place where I could display the garments better. Then, too, the high school (Keokuk Senior High) had their costumes stored in a very unsuitable place. It was a basement too, that was very damp. I started asking everybody I knew where I could find a place."

Finds location

"Then one day I remembered what had been an apartment above Hill Printing. That's when Gene Lucas' said I could use the space for free."

Smick said she visits all kinds of rummage sales.

"Really," she said, "I just couldn't believe the things that were being given to rummage that wouldn't sell because they were out of date."

She said people find out about the costumes mainly "from me begging and borrowing clothing."

"Then, too, I also have a list of people who have things they don't want to give away but yet if I need something they are willing to loan it to me. For instance like a hoop skirt or a lion head or something of this sort."

Her Costume Closet caters to adults.

"Usually," she explained,

Megan Smick of Keokuk models a gown at her mother's Clothes Closet located above Hill Printing Co. in Keokuk. Garments hanging on the rack behind her date from the 1940s and '50s. Photo by Penny Richtman

Cont. on next page

"mothers can make costumes for the children or cut something down to make it suitable."

Smick first became interested in the good outdated clothing during the summer musical of "Show Boat" three years ago. She was helping with the costumes geared for the 1890s and 1900s.

"Tony Calumet, drama coach at the high school, has been a big help to me and lately we've been discussing about possibly setting up something where I'll rent the costumes for a small fee. Like if you take something out that does not need dry cleaning, a cotton dress, a hat, a purse, I'll charge a small fee and when it's returned the money will be refunded. If it's something that has to be dry cleaned, I'll have it dry cleaned. Up to this time I've just requested the garments be cleaned before returning."

Boxes were setting everywhere and clothes were hanging about the apartment so she laughed when she was asked about how many garments she has.

"I started trying to catalogue everything and went through 180 catalogue cards. That was just the garments you see on these two racks and in the closet. It didn't include all the things still laying around."

What type garments?

Smick was asked what type garments she has at the Costume Closet.

She said, "Well I have taken anything anyone has given me up to this point but soon I'm going to have to be more selective because I'm going to run out of space. Anything like in the 40s or 50s...pleated skirts, old fashioned nylon cardigan sweaters. If anybody has garments they think I can use I'm always glad to pick them up."

She said during the Show Boat production she outfitted a lot of the members in the chorus because all the girls had to have long dresses with bustles.

"I'd take one basic pattern and tried to see how many types of dresses I could create from it.

"Then we needed hats, big picture hats with flowers and we couldn't find any,

One of my good friends neighbor died and members of the family had put a huge box of hats in the alley to haul away and she called me up and I went after the box.

"I've just continued to pick up hats here and there until now I have a pretty good selection."

Family helps

Smick said her family helps some. Megan especially.

"My husband is good to do the lugging of the heavy boxes up these stairs.

"I keep a box at home and whenever anyone brings me anything I put it in the box."

She continued, "We loan to anyone who wants an item. A lot of people thought in the beginning the Costume Closet was just for high school but it isn't. We want to loan to anybody who has a need. That includes churches, clubs, and organizations."

She said she has a file system she uses to keep track of the loaned items. She writes down what somebody borrows and what they borrow and puts it on a file card and then when they return it, she marks it off.

"They can keep the garment as long as there is a necessity," she said.

Amusing incident

Smick has had amusing incidents occur since the Costume Closet was started.

"I think one of the funniest things that has happened is the phone call I got one day with a voice on the other end

solicit as a Salvation Army person.

"We ordered poke bonnets and were going to fashion them into Salvation Army bonnets. But when the merchandise arrived they turned out to be big pioneer checked bonnets and we couldn't use them. The dress rehearsal was just a week away.

"I kept thinking what is that shape. Then I remembered Streeters had some cardboard paint buckets about the right shape for a Salvation Army hat. So we bought cardboard buckets and cut them off and then reattached part of it for the brim and spray painted them black and added black taffeta to make the ribbon. We put the dark red marking on

them and they were fantastic."

Smick uses her ingenuity in supplying costumes. She borrows books from the library to get her ideas.

"In the production 'Take Back Your Mink', a strip tease number, I had 10 girls to outfit," she remembered. "The script called for break-away dresses and gloves. The costumes rented for \$17.50 each and that was much more than the school budget could afford.

Anyway, I wasn't too sure mothers of high school girls would want their daughters down to their camisoles. I ended up using eight different colored leotards with long sleeves and round necks for the base, then we used black satin removable skirts and black opera hose for gloves and had big feather things in their hair and it really worked out cute. It was strip teasy enough and I think the audience appreciated it. I don't think anyone was offended."

Smick said you lose things at the last minute during a play production.

"Megan lost her mink just before the act came on one time and I ran home and ripped the collar off my aunt's coat and she used that.

"It's fun," she confided.

"I don't suppose I knew more than two dozen kids in high school before I started the Costume Closet. It's really heartwarming to see the great bunch of kids that I work with. I'm on speaking acquaintance with probably 150 that have been in the summer musicals. It's really been rewarding."

Smick said if you're in need of costumes she can be contacted at her home, 820 North Ninth, Keokuk, or phone 524-5784.

Circus life

By Penny Richtman

It was just before her 19th birthday when she first joined the circus.

Elsa Berry, 726 No 8th, Keokuk, said she had been working in a little depot cafe at Emerson, Neb.

"The circus had been in town on Saturday and since I worked nights at the cafe I didn't get to see it. It was a two railroad car show. I think it might have been the first or second year that the Howard and Floyd King Bros. circus was on the road.

"Anyway a lot of the circus people kept coming in to eat before going back down to the cars.

"I don't remember how many of them asked me if I didn't want to go along with the circus. Pretty soon I started wondering what was going on but I just kept refusing. Finally Prof. and Mrs. Burkhart came in. He was a magician and she was a fortune teller in a side show with the circus.

"The first thing they said was 'We could sure use you in our side show. You can be our lady floating in the air'. I told them I wasn't interested. Then before you knew it, some other circus people came in and wanted to know when I got through work that night. I told them an hour later than when I really got off because I thought that way I'd sneak out and avoid them. You know those folks showed up way early and they were still there when it was time for me to leave. They kept telling me that Prof. and Mrs. Burkhart had sent them to see if I wouldn't just come down to the cars and talk to them.

"So I did. I went down to the cars and talked to them. They showed me where my berth would be, right across from theirs, if I decided to join the show and they promised to take good care of me and they said they'd see that everything was

alright. They also said they'd give me \$12 a week pay.

"I told them I'd at least

think about it. But when I went home they sent a man with me to help carry my luggage to the train. First I stopped at the depot cafe and told them I was leaving to join the circus. I remember I had a weeks salary coming but I didn't take it. That was about 10 a.m. on Sunday and shortly after I got back to the cars, the train started out.

"I remember our first stop was in the town where my sister had a cafe. She was really mad at me."

Circus life

Her first day, she said, was uneventful. The Burkharths went through the routine of showing her how a lady floats in the air.

"My costume was yellow satin pantaloons with a beaded top and a beaded gir-dle. That's what I wore when I sat outside the tent. But when I was floating, I took the beaded belt off. The act was sort of routine. Prof. Burkhart put me to sleep on the stage and I'd float up in the air, then he'd put the ring around me. It was very effective."

Later Mrs. Berry joined the Christy's Wild Animal circus out of Houston, Texas. The circus had 25 or 30 cars, she said. Then when she was with the Honest Bill circus out of Ada, Okla., the group traveled by trucks and cars.

Circus season started the last of March or the first of April and continued until November. It was common to "jump" towns leaving a distance of 75 to 100 miles between the towns where they appeared.

Berry said her son was born in Keokuk in 1925 but it wasn't until after the birth of her daughter in 1938 that she gave up her circus life career.

"I looked forward to traveling with the circus each year. I loved my work there. I loved everything I did. I think that's why I practiced a lot and put my heart and soul into it.

"But the children didn't like show business," she explained, "so I got out of it."

Performing years

During her performing years, she said, she did a "little bit of everything." She learned how to walk the



ELSA BERRY of 726 No 8th, Keokuk, reminisces.

wire, posing with two beautiful white horses, managing the swinging ladder, she became a manager, she learned to jump through a hoop with an umbrella and to jump through fire.

She said she practiced about two weeks on wire when Howard King announced 'She can do better if she's out in front of an audience. She'll learn faster than just practicing behind the scenes'.

"So they put a rigging up about five and a half foot high," she said. "I was scared to death. When I practiced I wouldn't prac-

tice at that height. But I went right ahead in front of the audience. And that's how I started. I just kept learning and learning. The other performers were always encouraging me to do more.

"My first year with the circus, I was cautioned to save enough money for my train fare home. So I saved enough money to buy a nice pair of new shoes, a new coat and my train fare back to Norfolk, Neb."

She was married the second year and she and her husband traveled the circus together.

She continued to practice

Cont. on next page

on her wire work and Mrs. Christy gave her a black boy to take care of "her riggings".

"I thought he was just a boy but he turned out to be 39 years old and was a grandfather. His name was Charlie Williams. He'd faithfully set the riggings up for me every afternoon so I could practice."

She said she's traveled in every state with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii.

She reminisced over the time the train went off the track in the mountains in South Carolina.

"We were making our Sunday jump," she said. "Luckily the train didn't tip over. The men just took big crowbars and worked the

wheels back onto the track and we went on."

She continued, "One time the rope on my swinging ladder broke and the ladder with me on it went around the pole and there was only one thing I could do. I just hung on and when the ladder stopped swinging I went out and made my style and that was it."

Call of the circus

Berry recalls when she was a little girl if she heard carnival or circus music it did something to her.

"It seemed like the music told me I wanted something I didn't have but I didn't really know what it was.

"When my family lived in Norfolk, I guess I was

around 14 or 15, we lived about two blocks from the circus grounds. When I heard the circus music I'd sit in the house and cry.

"After I joined the circus that emptiness inside of me, that reaching out for something unknown, seemed to be filled. Circus music just became a part of me.

"I used to always have a couple potted plants with me when I traveled and people couldn't understand why I drug them along but that gave me a feeling of home wherever I was."

Amusing incident

She giggled as she related an amusing incident she

remembers.

"One time I was doing my fire jump. We had a packed house (tent). The fire was in front of me and the boy didn't get the fire away fast enough. As I did the jump, I grabbed my seat which was pretty warm and the house just roared and applauded.

"I wouldn't have wanted to miss my life with the circus for anything!"

(67)

BUDGET SAVER WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 1979

Glass work is fun

By Penny Richtman

"Like everything else, every time you order material, the price has gone up."

William Shaffer, 302 High Street, Keokuk, was speaking of his art glass work which he started as a hobby during the summer of 1975. Shaffer is a power plant operator at the Union Electric Co. in Keokuk.

Shaffer's interest in glass work was triggered through his brother who had worked in glass "for a number of years".

"My brother," he explained, "teaches the mentally retarded in San Francisco and I was on vacation visiting him during the summer of 1975. That's when he showed me the ins and outs of his work. I became interested and brought some materials home with me and started in."

Can be expensive

Shaffer said his hobby can become an expensive one.

"I mean you can start out cheap and practice on regular glass but as you go into the colored glass bit you can get quite a sum of money invested into a project," he said.

"For instance when I first started making lamps and designs for windows, I was able to get solder for \$2.29 a pound and now it's gone up to \$6 a pound and each time I

order colored glass, it's gone up, too."

Shaffer said most of his glass is ordered now from Moline, Ill.

"I find the glass I get from Moline arrives here in better shape because I go after it myself and buy pieces from 24 inches by 32 inches...just a nice size to haul home in my trunk. This way I can see what I'm getting and I have a great choice. I would say the last I bought, which was in October, the price was \$3.75 a square foot."

He told of the bad experience he had which soured him on having glass shipped from California.

"I've had a lot of wreckage problems in shipping. The last batch of glass I ordered from California came in bad shape and I filed a claim. The next process in the claim, I got a letter from the Chicago circuit court saying the trucking outfit was filing bankruptcy. So...there I was."

Shaffer has no idea how many swags, lamp shades, lighted planters or artistic windows he has made.

"I have things scattered around the house and people come in and look at them and if they like what they see, they'll buy it. Most of the things I make up ahead. If somebody likes it fine but beyond a doubt they'll want a different color."

He gets most of his designs from books, he said,

but sometimes people may bring a specific design they've created for a particular spot in their home.

Machine rolled glass

He uses machine rolled opalescent and cathedral glass.

He explained what he meant by "machine rolled" glass.

"The glass is molded in a furnace at the manufacturer and it comes out and is pressed between two rollers which gives it a rough texture on one side."

Shaffer said the hobby is painstaking work.

"You can start out with a small planter. They're pretty simple. You can make one of those in a day or two but then when you go into a lamp like this (he pointed to an exquisite bit of art work) I put in better than 40 hours on that.

"But," he continued, "it's a hobby where you can get off by yourself and you can think about anything. You can just let your mind wander on and on. It's something you don't need to really concentrate on and you can stop at any time because there's nothing to spoil or go to waste while you've been gone."

Different processes

Shaffer said there are two completely different processes used in stained glass work.

"One," he said, "is using lead came and the other is

using copper foil

"Most of my work is done with copper foil," he said. "Copper foil is what I used to when I was learning. It seems to be more delicate, I think, than the came although they tell me the came when you really get into it and used to it is much faster in making a window or stained glass work."

Shaffer was raised in Kahoka, Mo. and came to Keokuk 20 years ago. Besides his wife, he has two daughters.

His greatest admirer, he chuckled, is his eight-year-old daughter, Lee Ann.

When he shows his work to her she says, "Oh Dad, that's beautiful."

It's true. His work is delicate and beautiful.





Glass art

WILLIAM SHAFFER of Keokuk finds making delicately fashioned lamp shades, swags and custom-made colored glass windows a painstaking but fun hobby.

69

'We didn't do it for praise'

By Penny Richtman

The story about Gary and Steve Boatman of Keokuk may restore our faith in our fellowman.

Gary and Steve sat around the breakfast table at Steve's house at 302 Exchange Street and told about their part in the recent 1979 paralyzing weekend winter snow storm.

Gary said the four-wheeled Chevrolet one-seated pick-up truck he used in his snow assistance belonged to him. He

described a four wheel drive as a vehicle with four tires that "bite and pull" where, he said, with a single action you just have two wheels working together.

"I drove and Steve shoveled," he said.

Why he did it

Gary, who works at the Midwest Carbide and lives in Apt. 2 at 718 Morgan, added "I'm not trying to talk myself up or anything like that but when I was in the service I was a military policeman and I remember we had a real bad snow storm where I was stationed one time and I spent something like 16 hours doing the same thing Steve and I did over this past weekend. Helping people."

Gary, who is 27, said, "This is the worst storm I've

ever seen. I figured helping people in a snow storm like this, was just a civic duty. So after helping some of my buddies get home from the midnight shift, I stopped by the police station to see if they needed any assistance. It was really snowing hard then. Like a blizzard. Then I stopped by my folks house and asked Mom if she'd call the radio station and put it out I had a four-wheel drive and I'd help people if they needed help at no charge at all."

First call

"Then I got to thinking maybe I'd get out somewhere by myself and get stuck and that wouldn't be any good. That's how I came over to my brother's house to see if he wanted to

ride along with me. While I was here, we got the first call.

"That call was out at the Shady Acre Trailer Court where a family with three babies needed milk and food. I asked Steve if he wanted to take a ride with me. Then after that it was just non-stop for both of us until Sunday afternoon...when the pick-up was wrecked"

Twenty-nine-year-old Steve said, "Mainly when Gary and I first started out, I figured we'd get calls mostly from the elderly. You know, I've never seen a snowfall like this in my lifetime and I've lived in Keokuk all my life.

"People just weren't prepared for it," he continued. "I have four children of my own and it bothered

me when I thought I could do something to help someone else instead of just sitting around."

The brothers said they gave assistance to 231 persons who called.

Gary said, "The first day and night when the snow was

Cont. on back...



January 24, 1979

The '79 blizzard

by Keokuk Cablevision Inc., and Gary is employed by the Midwest Carbide Corp. Photo by Penny Richtman

The Daily Gate City

STEVE (left) and GARY (right) BOATMAN, both of Keokuk, put 325 miles on Gary's 4-wheel truck helping 231 persons in need during Keokuk's recent paralyzing snow storm. Steve is employed

coming down really heavy we didn't see any other vehicles around but on Sunday morning, when the streets were being cleared, we saw quite a few cars."

Car buried

Gary remembers one time during the storm of crowding eight persons in the cab of his truck.

"That was when we got a call from a man saying he and his wife and children were stranded on Valley Road, about 12 miles from town. There were three children. The oldest looked to be about four and the youngest perhaps nine months old. They'd been sitting in their car for a couple of hours with the engine running but finally they ran out of gas. The guy had his car radio on and heard about us, so he walked about a mile to a farm house and

called us. We were told it was out by Bob Seabold's farm.

"We litterly used the front end of the truck to find them at all.

Hospital calls

The men told of a call they received from the hospital asking if they would bring two pregnant women in. But first they were to go after Dr. Robert Kemp.

"Going after the doctor took us two hours," Gary said. "One way we went there was a car stuck in the middle of the road that we couldn't get past. So we went around past Hawthorne school and that's where I got high centered. By that I mean the snow built up under the truck so much that the wheels wouldn't touch the ground." Some fellow came up and helped us and we were so intent trying to get to the doctor we forgot to

thank him. But I want to thank him now.

"One of the women had already reached the hospital and she had delivered before the doctor got there. It was her third baby.

"We stood by to make sure the other woman arrived at

The Boatman brothers are both six foot tall.

Steve said one time he

received a call from one of the radio announcer's whose car was stalled on south Seventh Street.

"When we got as close to the house as we could we honked for the fellow but I guess he didn't hear us so Steve started through the snow to get him. I was watching him. He went in back of the truck a little ways. About that time all I could see was his hat fly up in the air, then I didn't see him anymore. I wondered what had happened to him. About that time he got up and he looked like a great big snow man."

Steve explained, "What happened, there was a fence buried in the snow and my foot caught in the fence and that threw me down. I had

snow down my shirt and in my boots."

The accident

Folks first learned about the accident that put an end to the Boatman brothers assistance service on Sunday afternoon.

Gary said, "It was 12:58 p.m. Sunday (Jan. 14) and we were driving down Washington Street. A gentleman was trying to get into the Holiday Terrace using the wrong lane and he kept sliding backwards. Just as we got behind him he slid back into our wheels. We skidded and ended up in a snow bank and I couldn't move the truck. All the wheels were locked and there was oil dripping. We had to be towed away.

"Since then I've received a lot of calls from people we helped.

"There have been people offer to take me to work at midnight and come and pick me up at 8 a.m. and there have been offers of the use of cars until the truck is fixed."

The brothers said they put 325 snow miles on the truck and used probably about 60 gallons of gasoline.

Steve said, "I want to thank the people and we appreciate what they have offered us one way or another but we didn't do what we did for money, for praise, for a spot on the radio or a strip in the newspaper, we did it because we wanted to help. Now we figure we have 231 new friends.

"Really we were just a cog in the wheel. Sure we were out there digging, pushing, hauling, pulling,

walking and carrying but if it hadn't been for the combined efforts of my wife, and my mother doone would have known about us and if it hadn't been for the local police giving us the gas the last time we probably couldn't have kept going and if it hadn't been for the guys at the radio station, people wouldn't have known we were out there ready to help.

"I would do it again." Gary said, "I think the whole thing was worthwhile. I knew that weekend there must be a lot of people in Keokuk who were probably in the wrong place at the wrong time and I'm glad we were able to help them."

Former council member, chamber president dies

F. Huston Taylor, 1023 Orleans, died Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Burlington Medical Center. He had been ill for the past few months.

Mr. Taylor was born Dec. 19, 1897 at Chillicothe, Mo., the son of Frank E. and Byrda Martin Taylor. He lived his early life in Rolla, Mo., where he graduated from the Missouri School of Mines as a Chemical Engineer. He came to Keokuk in 1924. He married Mildred Graham in 1925, and she preceded him in death in 1951. He married Helen Wylie in 1954, and she survives.

For many years, Mr. Taylor was employed by the Midwest Carbide Co. He retired as works manager on Dec. 31, 1962. He was an active member of St. Johns Episcopal Church where he had served on the Vestry as Junior and Senior Warden at various times and for many years was the Sunday School superintendent. He was active in civic affairs in Keokuk and was one of the original members of the Keokuk City Council, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Rotary Club, a life member of the Salvation Army board, on the Board of Directors of the Keokuk Savings Bank, active in the work of the Boy Scouts, and was a member of Eagle Lodge No. 12, A.F. & A.M.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, one son, F. Huston Taylor, Jr., Parsippany, N. J.; one daughter, Mrs. Richard W.



Huston Taylor

(Margaret T.) Kane of Alexandria, Va., and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife.

Funeral service will be held on Friday at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Johns Episcopal Church with the Rev. Don Baustian officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery.

Visitation will be after 2 p.m. Thursday with the family meeting friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday. Maasonic services will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at the DeJong Funeral Home

BUDGET SAVER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1979

By Penny Richtman

"I've been thinking about this nurse referral service in Keokuk for sometime," Daisy Leggett of 211 South Eighth Street, Keokuk, said during an interview.

"I didn't actually start on the idea until about a month ago though. I was talking to someone who is knowledgeable in hospital care and she thought it would be a very good idea for persons in Keokuk to be able to receive this type of care.

"Now I'm in the process of writing to the doctors, the welfare office, the mental health and the hospital explaining the service that is being offered. I have 16 ladies at the present time who will be working for me whose ages range from 23 to 66 who are qualified as aides, LPNs or RNs. Some

will work for \$3 an hour, others for \$25 for eight hours and still others, the LPNs for \$30 to \$35 for eight hours and the RNs for \$40 to \$45 for eight hours. The way the referral service works is that if the patient isn't satisfied with the patient care I will replace the person assigned immediately even if it means that I have to temporarily take over the assignment.

"My plan is to take the worker to the patient's home myself. I will introduce myself and the worker and then leave.

"Wages are paid directly to the worker and not to the referral service.

"The service includes whatever the person needs, baths, special tender care, something prepared to eat, private nursing, private sitting, private convalescent care or companionship, or

caring for a bedfast patient."

She added, "With this service I feel there will be a lot of people who can stay in their homes instead of going to a nursing home. There's a lot of people that need private nurses, aides or sitters in their homes and I hope this service will be that kind of help to the community."

Experienced

Leggett said she is operating the Keokuk Referral Service from her home. She said she has had 14 years experience in the field of nursing. She first took her training under Esther Clark and Marj Leonard in 1965, she said. She also

took some training in St. Louis and some at Quincy, Ill., she added.

"I really love nursing. I took all the training to be an RN but before I finished the

course my daughter became quite ill and I had to give up my training. That's when I went into private duty. I am called a private sitter. I can take blood pressures, you name it and I can do it, because I've had a lot of training under different nurses and they've been real good to teach me what they know. Then, too, I keep attending classes.

"One time I did private duty for four and one-half years straight without taking any time off. From 1975 to 1977, I worked on the floor at Keokuk Area Hospital East unit."

Leggett said the Visiting Nurse Association is "very interested in the new service."

"I talked to Michelle Montalone, social worker, and she works through the hospitals and the nursing

Cont. on back...

73



A living heritage

Rose Tertichny of Keokuk shows some of the Easter eggs she dyes in a technique learned from her mother. The craft,

which came from Russia with Mrs. Tertichny's family, keeps her busy year-round.

DGC photo by Rita Noe

AVERY®
POLY-VU



McNamara's band is everybody's favorite

By Lee Bonorden

McNamara's Band performed Sunday afternoon at Busch Memorial Stadium in St. Louis prior to the Cardinals' baseball game against San Diego. Actually, the St. Louis date before thousands of people was only a warmup for the band's "toughest" gig of the season.

McNamara's Band opens the 81st World's Largest Street Fair tonight in Victory Park along the Mississippi River. Come early, bring the kids and sit on the grass. Jack Roan will wave his baton in the air promptly at 7 p.m. to open the free concert. The band is a street fair tradition.

For 27 years, there has been a McNamara's Band in Keokuk. The original group of 12 musicians has grown to 50 members. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, McNamara's will kick-off the week-long Street Fair celebration tonight with a concert of their own brand of march-cum-popular music. Keokuk Jaycess who are sponsoring the Fair claim they

wouldn't have a Street Fair without the band.

Three bus-loads of band members, family and friends made the Sunday trip to St. Louis. It was the band's fourth appearance at a Cardinals' baseball game. McNamara's performed there in 1955 and 1956. Then, the members rested for 22 years. Their next appearance came in 1978 followed by the Sunday performance this year.

The band consists of male and female members and several familial combinations of husband and wife, father and daughter or others. Dr. and Mrs. B.J. Williamson and their twin sons and three daughters represent one of the largest family memberships in the band, which also includes at least 10 charter members who have played with the band for its 27-years of existence.

Members rehearse twice a month at the Knights of Columbus Club building at 11 north 6th street for an upcom-

ing engagement. The band is a fair-weather group preferring the summertime, outdoor season for demonstrating its musical expertise. Jim Goodell plays bass drums in the band and serves as the organization's booking agent.

Although they have not made the cover of Rolling Stone magazine, Goodell has booked the band at a variety of places where McNamara's has won friends and fans including West Point's corn festival, Montrose's watermelon fest and the Lee County fair.

McNamara's traditionally plays its first concert of the season at American Legion Memorial Day services at Keokuk National Cemetery. Among other appearances booked this year are the opening of the Iowa Gateway Terminal in July, the Elks club Flag Day celebration later this month and LaHarpe, Ill. Of course, the band will perform at the annual Keokuk Puck-she-tuck Days celebration late this summer.

Band director Jack Roan claims that in addition to the fun members enjoy each season, McNamara's Band also serves to give more experience to high school musicians who aspire to further their careers in music each summer. Keokuk no longer has a municipal band to gain this kind of experience.

However, even band director Roan cannot help but smile and talk jovially about the band which indicates the good times enjoyed by all. If their music cannot be called high-brow, neither should it be called low-brow. It's somewhere in between, according to Jack Roan.

Music-lovers can discover just what kind of music McNamara's Band performs these days at the World's Largest Street Fair tonight. Be sure to request John Phillip Sousa's "King Cotton".....it's the number the band performs best.

Lori Froeling crowned Miss Iowa

By Sharon Younggren
Family Page Editor

The whole state's aware of Keokuk, now that native daughter Lori Jean Froeling has been crowned Miss Iowa.

That happy event occurred at about 11 p.m. Saturday night at the conclusion of the Miss Iowa Pageant in Davenport, when former Miss Iowa Mary Beth England relinquished her crown to Miss Froeling, Miss Keokuk 1979.

She'll be welcomed home Tuesday night. Lori will be escorted down Main Street to special festivities at 8 p.m. at the Keosippi Mall. Details of her homecoming are still in the planning stages and final details will be released later.

"It's really great," said Lori, Miss Keokuk 1979. "There aren't words to describe how I feel."

She credits her confidence on stage and the support of friends with her victory. Next to her self, she thinks the Miss Keokuk Scholarship Pageant Committee, who supported her and told her what to expect at the pageant and provided her with a chaperone, helped her to gain the crown.

I wanted members of the audience to have a good time and to enjoy the show," she said of her winning performances. "And I wanted to be kind and considerate, and to enjoy the other girls. I think these personal qualities helped me win."

Are pageant contestants representative of young women today? "Definitely, yes," she said. They come from a variety of schools and families, and they have a variety of views and ambitions."

What about the charges that pageant participants are paraded like cattle?

"No," she said firmly, "that's not so. Most people who say that are talking about the swimsuit competition, but, really, what I was showing was a well-cared-for body, full of vitality and energy."

The most rewarding thing about her pageant experience was meeting the other contestants, she said. "We became really close," said Lori. "We had a blast — especially preparing for the production numbers."

Saturday night's activities began with a production number, after which the ten semifinalists were announced. "Being a semifinalist gave me a real incentive to do well during the rest of the show," Lori said.

After another production number on a Roaring Twenties theme, the

semifinalists were presented again in evening gowns and then each performed her talent. Lori played "Carnival of Venice" on the flute, and the audience responded with pleasure. "I could feel the audience moving with me," Lori said. "When I performed in the talent competition on Friday night, they even clapped in the middle."

"Carnival of Venice", which Lori had learned to play a few years ago, was suggested by her sister Crista. "It's one you can hum along to," Lori explained.

Does a Miss Iowa candidate lose her individuality? "Definitely not," Lori said. "Competing strengthens your individuality. You have to keep a sense of yourself under pressure. You can't be distracted or swept away by the glamour."

On Sunday and today, the new Miss Iowa met with the Miss Iowa Pageant Board for planning sessions and will have interviews and official photo sessions Tuesday. She will arrive back in Keokuk tomorrow in the late afternoon.

Miss Iowa is an economics major at the University of Iowa, and hopes to attend law school there. She thinks the Miss Iowa experience will help her law career. "I'll have to stand in front of people and make speeches, and I'll have to meet a variety of people," she said. "It'll be great."

She'll take off a year from college for her Miss Iowa activities. "I want to make Miss Iowa more visible," she said. Lori has already received requests for bookings and will attend another pageant Friday. The Miss America Pageant will be in Atlantic City, N.J. Sept. 4-8.

To future pageant participants, the new Miss Iowa gives this advice: "Confidence is the most important thing. If a girl knows her talents are good, she will be poised, and poise comes from confidence. Keeping your body and mind to your potential is important, too."

To the 1,200 persons out front at the pageant, Miss Keokuk may have seemed to be the crowd favorite, but Lori sensed support from backstage workers and hostesses who she said encouraged her before she went onstage.

One person who was behind Lori from the beginning was her mother, Jean Vermillion of Main Street Road. "She's sky-high now," Lori reported after the pageant.

As the new Miss Iowa, she will receive a \$1,500 scholarship, a trip to Hawaii,

the use of a Datsun SX-70 during her reign, an Accutron watch, two necklaces and a year of beauty and skin care advice.

Pam Edwards, who served as Miss Keokuk's chaperone during the festivities, was still recovering today. "The whole experience was exciting, but I do want to tell about something that will explain what Lori is like. There are winners at the pageant, but there are losers, too. There were about 60 persons from Keokuk and Iowa City rooting for our girl, and there were a few tears being shed by some of the other contestants. Lori asked us to keep our cheering to a minimum until we got back to our rooms because there were some unhappy girls there. That's just how Lori is."

Lori's stepfather, Sam Vermillion, said he'd known she'd be Miss Iowa since December. "He said that about Miss Keokuk, too," Lori said with a laugh.

There have been Miss Keokuk pageants held locally by the Keokuk Betterment Committee for several years. The pageants were eventually taken over by the Newcomers Club, and the Miss Keokuk Scholarship Pageant Committee developed out of their work.

The first Miss Keokuk to go to the Miss Iowa pageant was Barb Harshbarger, Miss Keokuk 1975. Others to represent Keokuk at the pageant were Mitzi Nelson, 1976; Susie Miller, 1977; and Susie Underwood, 1978.

Lori Froeling, however, was the first Miss Keokuk to ever become a semifinalist at the pageant, and she went on to win the title of Miss Iowa.



Miss Iowa was crowned at Davenport Saturday night before a crowd of about 1,200 people. Her royalty is (above, left to right) Rosemary Uchytíl, Miss Tama County, fourth

runnerup; Kathleen LaRae Frazier, Miss Nishna Valley, first runnerup; Lori Joy Squire, Miss Valley Fair, second runnerup; and Karen Loree Keefe, Miss Mahaska County, third runnerup. More photos on Page 4.

DGC photos by Don Black



Miss Iowa, Lori Froeling of Keokuk, greets guests at sendoff festivities held in Davenport Thursday night. She's wearing the white gown trimmed with satin ruffles that she'll wear for her on-stage evening gown competition. In the foreground is Mary Longley of Davenport, who assisted Lori in selecting her wardrobe. Her mother, Jean Vermillion, is seated just beyond Lori.

DGC Staff Photo

78



DGC

Playing for friends 8/27/1979

Miss Iowa, Lori Froeling of Keokuk, played "Carnival of Venice" on the flute for about 300 persons at send-off ceremonies held in her honor in Rand Park Sunday afternoon. She played the selection during Miss Iowa competition and will perform it again for the Miss America Pageant at Atlantic City, N.J.

DGC Photo by Rita Noe

THE DAILY GATE CITY
September 22, 1979



Debbie Sohl won the Miss Keokuk title and a \$1,000 scholarship at last night's Miss Keokuk Scholarship Pageant in the auditorium of Middle School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Sohl and a senior at Keokuk Senior High School.

1979 DGC Photo by Don Black



Miss Iowa, Lori Froeling of Keokuk, beams (above) as she and her court are presented, and shares her joy with her mother, Mrs. Sam Vermillion, after a quick embrace before the coronation ball.



Checking on his namesake

Bill Talbot of Keokuk checks out the tugboat, the Wm. Talbot, following its launching at the Iowa Marine Repair Corporation. Known for his knowledge of the history of Keokuk, Talbot has the honor of having the ferry named

for him. The Talbot and its accompanying ferry barge, the Gurena Johanna, is scheduled to begin service between Montrose and Nauvoo over the historic Mormon Trail next week.

DGC photo by Rita Noe

80

Deborah Sohl crowned Miss Keokuk

By Sharon Younggren
DGC Staff Writer

An intricate piano solo, "Toccatà" by Khachaturian, carried Deborah Lynne Sohl, 17, to the title of Miss Keokuk at last night's pageant in the Keokuk Middle School auditorium.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Sohl, 1800 Grand Ave. and a senior at Keokuk Senior High School.

"Music is the most important thing to me," she said after receiving her crown. "I work really hard at it."

First runner-up was Donna Hovermale and second runner-up was Cheryl Ward.

Miss Hovermale, 19, sang "What I Did for Love" from the Broadway musical, "Chorus Line". She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Hovermale, 2012 Meadow Lane, and is a political science major at the University of Iowa. She will receive a \$300 scholarship.

Miss Ward, 18, played "Muskrat Ramble" on the organ. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ward, 510 Hickory Terrace, and a nursing student at Southeastern Community College. She will receive a \$200 scholarship.

Participants Dawn Buckner and Mary Jo Baum, who performed jazz dances, will receive \$50.

Miss Iowa Lori Froeling sang "Try to Remember", a song which recalls previous Septembers, and then recalled last year's September when she was crowned Miss Keokuk. She thanked the crowd for their support when she was in Atlantic City for the Miss America Pageant. "When I returned to my hotel room after a hard rehearsal, the flowers and cards made me want to do my best for the people who were pulling for me," Lori said.

Debbie Sohl has studied piano for 10 years and will seek a master's degree in music education. She is five feet, four inches tall, weighs 105 pounds, and has reddish-brown hair and green eyes. She attended Interlochen National Music Camp

for one summer.

Former Miss Keokuks in the crowd were introduced. They were Vickie Scott, the first Miss Keokuk; Susie Miller, 1977; and Mitzi Jo Nelson, 1976. Also in the crowd were Miss Scott County, Miss Emmett County, and Miss Muscatine. Twenty future Miss Keokuks, young area girls, took bows.

Last night's pageant began with a production number, "If My Friends Could See Me Now," by the contestants, Miss Iowa, and Merel Young, vocal music instructor at Southeastern Community College. Young, in his first pageant appearance, later sang "The Impossible Dream" and a new song, "Miss Keokuk".

Lori Froeling's performance of her Miss Iowa flute selection, "Carnival of Venice", was a dazzle of runs, and Lori was visibly touched by the crowd response.

Judging was done on the basis of talent, which received 50 percent of the points; swimsuit, 25 percent; personality and poise, 12½ percent; and judges' interview, 12½ percent.

"You told us you were talented, and you were right," a judge told Debbie after the pageant.

"They asked me to describe myself in three words," the soft-spoken winner explained. "Talented was one of them."

Five judges came to Keokuk for the Miss Keokuk Scholarship Pageant. They were Jim Hawthorne, producer of the 1979 Miss Missouri Pageant; Tom Scriven, charter member and executive director of the Miss Iowa Pageant Board; Sheila Menke, who has judged at three state pageants; James Dye, who has judged over 50 local pageants and three state pageants and is a member of the board of the Miss Missouri Pageant, where he was a former producer; and Kelly Deaver, a director, producer, judge and emcee of local and state pageants in Missouri and Illinois.

How Keokuk Shunned Both Pres. Roosevelt and J.C. Hubinger

Keys of Keokuk



Reflections for Now from Out of Our Heritage

Shoppers Free Press October 3, 1979

Copyright, 1979

by Francis J. Helenthal

PART IV



JOHN C. HUBINGER

When President Theodore Roosevelt visited Keokuk in 1907 he was riding high. He had become president in 1901 through the assassination of William McKinley, but by now he was no longer an "accidental president." For his second term he had been swept into office by a plurality of more than 2,500,000 votes. The people liked his policies. He was forceful, but could be a peacemaker as well as a warrior. In every way as he paraded through the streets of Keokuk, he was "America's No. 1 Citizen!"

Twenty years earlier, in 1887, there returned to Keokuk a former resident dedicated to making this city in the extreme southeast corner of Iowa the finest in the land. During his hey day in the intervening years:

1. J. C. Hubinger bought both sides of what is now Grand Avenue from Eighth to Fifteenth. On this property he built a palatial mansion at 1219 Grand; in the area between 13th and 15th, and from Grand Avenue to Seymour, he built Pastime Park, a wonderful amusement and entertainment center which included the 8000-seat Casino, a large building used for musicals, lectures and public gatherings.
2. J. C. Hubinger led the way in promoting the construction of fine buildings in the city. His real estate holdings were extensive, and he encouraged modernization of the downtown business district.
3. J. C. Hubinger helped to found Keokuk's largest industry. He also owned and operated the Keokuk Brick Co.

4. J. C. Hubinger provided Keokuk with electric power. He replaced those "damable" arc lights with an incandescent plant which he built directly down the bluff from his home, the Keokuk Electric Light and Power Company.
5. J. C. Hubinger bought the horse-drawn trolleys, established the Keokuk Electric Railway Co., and provided the city with the nation's finest electric street car system.
6. J. C. Hubinger helped to form the Keokuk Opera Company, and owned the Grand Opera House at Sixth and Blondeau.
7. J. C. Hubinger built baseball and football fields; he built artificial lakes, and artesian wells were sunk to furnish them with a constantly changing supply of pure, clean water. Sandy beaches for public use were built along the water's edge and bags of ocean salt were dumped into the water for a touch of realism. On other lakes he provided free rowboats. And a fine racetrack was built which attracted horses from miles away as entries to compete for the big purses offered.
8. J. C. Hubinger established the Mississippi Valley Telephone Co., and was determined that his Keokuk-based system could out-distance the Bell Telephone Company. He started this city's first exchange and had lines stretched as far as Minneapolis.

The mark John C. Hubinger made on Keokuk was

Cont. on next page

(83)

still very much in evidence throughout the city when Pres. Roosevelt arrived for his second visit here on October 1, 1907. The commercial buildings he had constructed were landmarks, and his Opera House and many-gabled mansion were show-places. The beautiful street cars he had purchased were carrying thousands out to Rand Park to hear the president speak, over lines built by J. C. when the service of the Keokuk Electric Railway Co. was extended to carry passengers to Pastime Park and the Casino.

Teddy remembered on his first visit to Keokuk four years earlier, how he had thrown the switch to start the machinery humming in the "largest starch plant in the world" - an industry which J. C. Hubinger had served as president.

As he was introduced and shook hands with endless civic celebrities, Pres. Roosevelt wondered when he would have the opportunity to meet the man who was responsible for so many of the community improvements which were being pointed out to him.

Most of the important civic leaders were riding in the carriages in the presidential parade:

Carriage No. 1 included Roosevelt, Iowa Gov. Cummins, and Keokuk Mayor W. E. Strimback.

Carriage No. 3 had Keokuk's Rev. E. B. Newcomb, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian church and a personal friend of Roosevelt's.

Carriage No. 4 had the Hon. E. P. McManus as a passenger.

Carriage No. 5 included Father George Giglinger of St. Mary's Church, another friend of the president.

In Carriage No. 6 rode Wells M. Irwin along with former Keokuk Mayor and attorney Felix T. Hughes.

Others included A. L. Parson, John E. Craig (No. 7); W. J. Roberts (No. 8); E. S. Baker, J. B. Weil (No. 9); Louis Stern (No. 10); C. R. Joy (No. 11); James Cameron and R. A. Dollery (No. 12); T. J. Hickey, A. C. Wustrow (No. 13); H. G. Seemann and Charles Off (No. 14); Alonzo Bryson, Emil Lindstrand, P. Tigue, Jr. (No. 15); A. E. Johnstone (No. 16); William Logan (No. 17); Hon D. J. Ayres (No. 18).

Members of various committees for the presidential welcome were filled with familiar names. There were Alderman Talbott, Wustrow, Lindstrand, Karle and McCormick, along with L. A. Harnill, Hazen I. Sawyer, Major M. Meigs, William Sinton, Frank Griffey, John Cosgrove and John Nagel.

Clarence Dickey, Bert Smith, J. R. Hayden, Ed F. Carter, D. J. Hemmy, C. Ewers, John Rovane,

H. E. Alton, T. H. Rollins, E. F. Renard, John M. Kenney, A. J. Hardin, E. W. Monogue, J. F. Lutz, A. J. Leake, C. P. Skirvin, A. C. Decker, W. J. Roberts, W. S. Phillips, Jacob Springs and W. T. Chambers were all also recognized for the event.

BUT WHERE WAS KEOKUK'S NO. 1 CITIZEN

John C. Hubinger died, living alone in a boarding house at 616 High Street. This was at the age of 57, on January 27, 1908 - just a few months after Roosevelt's second visit to Keokuk.

KEOKUK SHUNS ROOSEVELT 6 YEARS AFTER HIS VISIT

Just as Hubinger had been Keokuk's most energetic citizen, Teddy Roosevelt was this country's most energetic president. His power, prestige and popularity continued. The Teddy Bear, a fuzzy stuffed animal inspired by the President's love for big-game hunting, became popular as well.

He chose not to run for a third term, and personally selected William Howard Taft as his successor in the election of 1908. Four years later he tried to take the Republican nomination away from Taft but failed. As a "Bull Moose" candidate on the Progressive ticket, he lost the 1912 campaign to Thomas Woodrow Wilson, and began to fade from public life.

The most important thing Roosevelt did for Keokuk was not in honoring it with two official visits - but rather, his signing of the bill that permitted the construction of the dam and power house here.

A great celebration was held in August of 1913, and there was world-wide publicity over the official dedication of the Keokuk dam and hydroelectric plant.

35,000 attended, including many noted engineers, officials and politicians.

\$2,500 was spent for fireworks alone. Hugh L. Cooper sent best wishes from Europe.

President Woodrow Wilson was invited, but declined.

Yet the committee that so carefully planned the commemoration completely ignored the man who made it possible. President Roosevelt, who had slipped from power, was not officially invited. By now Roosevelt was considered a sort of controversial character. Conservative Republicans wished he would go back to Darkest Africa for another game hunt. He was both hated and loved. He was dreaded not only by those whose illegitimate privileges he lopped off, but by many who honest-

Cont. on back...

ly believed his violence and disregard of precedent constituted a menace to the country's institutions.

Years later, when the U. S. entered World War I, Roosevelt offered to raise and head a division of volunteers, and was greatly disappointed by President Wilson's refusal to accept his services.

Just as J. C. Hubinger had to watch the presidential parade from a secluded window, Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt watched the dedication ceremonies of the Keokuk Water Power from an ob-

scure point of vantage. Roosevelt's last visit to Keokuk was unofficial:

Corey McFarland, who owned and operated a local paper company, lived high on the bluff overlooking the dam and power house, at High Street. Regretting the fact that Teddy Roosevelt had been overlooked for the dedication, McFarland invited the ex-president to be a house guest during the event. The invitation was accepted, and Roosevelt watched the proceedings from the back yard.

DURING ROOSEVELT VISIT --

How Author Rupert Hughes Saw the Shun of Keokuk's J.C. Hubinger

Keys of Keokuk



*Reflections for Now
from Out of Our Heritage*

Shoppers Free Press October 10, 1979

Copyright, 1979

by Francis J. Helenthal

PART V

The paternal kindred of the multi-millionaire recluse, Howard R. Hughes, Jr., first struck it rich in Keokuk, Iowa, and for years was one of this city's most prominent families. The patriarch was Felix Turner Hughes, who moved here from Lancaster, Mo., to do legal work for railroads which were thriving in this area with Keokuk as an important center of activity.

Felix rose quickly in his profession here, and became a prominent attorney and judge. He served as Mayor of Keokuk in the mid-1890's, and was active in many community affairs. With his demanding wife and talented, ambitious children, the Hughes' family lived well within the city's inner circle. They were thoroughly informed and had a good feel of the pulse beat of the community.

One of Judge Turner's sons took books seriously in school here and was so studious his classmates

nicknamed him "History." Even at an early age, life was one big drama to Rupert Raleigh Hughes and he closely analyzed everything he saw, read and heard.

When the White House announced that Pres. Theodore Roosevelt would visit Keokuk in 1907, his father, Judge Hughes was named to the reception committee and was honored to ride in one of the parade carriages. It was a much discussed event in the Hughes' household and author-to-be Rupert carefully weighed everything he learned.

It was ten years later, in 1917, after Rupert had gained much fame as an author, that he wrote about the affair. The following is taken from a chapter in his book, "In a Little Town." (It is only necessary to substitute J. C. Hubinger for the story's "Luke B. Shelby," and Keokuk for "Wakefield," to appreciate his impressions:)

"One day a greater than Shelby came to Wakefield.....it was no less than the President of these United States. As his special train approached..... the President studied up so that he might make his speech enjoyable by telling the citizens the things they already knew. He had learned that those are the things people most like to hear.

"His encyclopedia informed him that Wakefield had a population of about fifteen thousand. He could not know how venerable an estimate this was, for Wakefield was still fifteen thousand - now and forever, fifteen thousand and insuperable.

Cont. on next page

"He was met at the train by the usual entertainment committee, which in this case coincided with the executive committee of the Wide-a-Wakefield Club.

"Mr. Pettibone, the town's most important paper-hanger, was again chairman after some lapses from office. Joel Spate, the Bon-Ton Grocer, was once more Secretary after having been Treasurer twice and President once. The One-Price Emporium, however, was now represented by the younger Forshay, son of the founder. Soyer, the swell tailor, had yielded his place to the stateliest man in town, Amasa Harbury, president of the Wakefield Building and Loan Association. And Eberhart, of the Furniture Place, had been supplanted by Gibson Shoals, the bank teller.

"To the President's surprise the railroad station proved to be, instead of the doleful shed usual in those parts, a graceful edifice of metropolitan architecture. He was to ride in an open carriage, of course, drawn by the two spanking dapples which usually drew the hearse when it was needed. But this was tactfully kept from the President.

"As the President was escorted to his place he remarked that a trolley-car was waiting at the station.

" 'I see that Wakefield boasts an electric line,' he beamed.

" 'Yes,' said Pettibone, 'that's some of Shelby's foolishness.'

" 'What a wonderful building!' said the President as the parade turned a corner. Nobody said anything, and the President read the name aloud.

"The Shelby House. A fine hotel!' he exclaimed, as he lifted his hat to the cheers.....

" 'And the streets are lighted by electricity! And paved with brick!' the President said. 'Splendid!

Splendid! There must be very enterprising citizens in Gatesville -- I mean Wakefield.' He had visited so many towns!

" 'That's a handsome office building,' was his next remark. 'It's quite metropolitan.' The committee vouchsafed no reply, but they could see that he was reading the sign:

The Shelby Block

- Shelby Independent Telephone Company
- Shelby's Paradise Power Company
- Shelby Artesian Well Company
- Shelby Pastime Park Company
- Shelby Opera House Company
- Shelby Street Railway Company

"There were heartaches in the carriage as the President, who commented on so many things, failed to comment on the banner of welcome over Pettibone's shop; or the gaily bedighted Bon-Ton Grocery with the wonderful arrangement of tomato-cans into the words, 'Welcome to Wakefield'. The Building and Loan Association had stretched a streamer across the street, too, and the President never noticed it. His eyes and tongue were caught away by the ornate structure of the opera-house.

" 'Shelby Opera House. So many things named after Mr. Shelby. Is he the founder of the city or -- or --'

" 'No, just one of the citizens,' said Pettibone.

" 'I should be delighted to meet him.'

"Had the committee been able to imagine in advance how Shelbyisms would obtrude everywhere

Cont. on back...



RUPERT HUGHES grew up in Keokuk. His father was a judge and the mayor of the town, and his family was part of the inner circle. When he grew up, he became a famous writer living in London, New York, and Hollywood. He wrote hundreds of short stories, books and movie scenarios. One of his stories was "In a Little Town," and in it he drew upon his impressions of the Teddy Roosevelt visit to Keokuk, and memories of the great industrialist, J.C. Hubinger.



RUPERT RALEIGH HUGHES

upon the roving eye of the visitor.....they might have laid out the line of march otherwise.....but it was too late to change now.....

" 'Why this is magnificent! This is an estate! I never dreamed that -- er -- Wakefield was a city of such importance and such wealth. And whose home is this?'

"Somebody groaned, 'Shelby's.'

" 'Ah yes; Shelby's, of course. So many things here are Shelby's. You must be very proud of Mr. Shelby. Is he there, perhaps?'

" 'That's him, standing on the upper porch there, waving his hat,' Pettibone mumbled.

"The President waved his hat at Shelby.

" 'Tell me about this Mr. Shelby,' said the President.

"Looks were exchanged among the committee. All disliked the task, but finally Spate broke the silence.

" 'Well, Mr. President, Shelby is a kind of eccentric man. Some folks say he's cracked. Used to drive a delivery wagon for me. Ran away and tried his hand at nearly everything. Finally, him and his two brothers invented a kind of washing powder. It was like a lot of others, but they knew how to push it. Borrowed money to advertise it big. Got it started till they couldn't have stopped it if they tried. Shelby decided to come back here and establish a branch factory. That tall chimney is it. No smoke comin' out of it today. He gave all the hands a holiday in your honor, Mr. President.'

"The President said: 'Well, that's mighty nice of him. So he came back to beautify his old home, eh? That's splendid -- a fine spirit. Too many of us, I'm afraid, forget the old places when ambition carries us away into new scenes. Mr. Shelby must be very popular here.'

"There was a silence. Mr. Pettibone was too honest, or something, to let the matter pass.

" 'Well, I can't say as to that, Mr. President. Shelby's queer. He's very pushing. You can't drive people more'n so fast. Now, that trolley line -- he put that in, but we didn't need it.... same way with the electric light. People that had gas hated to change. He made it cheap, but it's a long way from perfect. He put in an independent telephone. The old one wasn't much good and it was expensive. Now we have telephones at half the old price. But result is, you've got to have two, or you might as well not have one. Every-

body you want to talk to is always on the other line.'

" 'Shelby built an opery-house and brought some first-class troupes here. But this is a religious town, and people don't go much for shows.....then he laid out the Pastime Park -- tried to get up games and things; but the vacant lots always were good

enough for baseball.....folks here like to sit on their porches when they're tired.'

" 'Mrs. Shelby.....she thinks her husband is mistreated, too; but -- well, Shelby's eccentric. He says we're ungrateful. Maybe we are, but we like to do things our own way.....'

"The President's curiosity overcame his policy. He asked one more question:

" 'But if you citizens didn't help Mr. Shelby, how did he manage all these -- improvements, if I may use the word?'

" 'Did it all by his lonesome, Mr. President. His income was immense. But he cut into it something terrible. His brothers in the East began to row at the way he poured it out. When he began to draw in advance they were goin' to have him declared incompetent. Even his brothers say he's cracked.....'

" 'He won't last long. Health's giving out. His wife told my wife, the other day, he don't sleep nights. That's a bad sign. His pride is set on keepin' everything going, though, and nothing can hold him. He wants the street-cars to run regular, and the telephone to answer quick, even if the town don't support 'em. He's cracked -- there's nothing to it.'

"Amasa Harbury, of the Building and Loan Association, leaned close and spoke in a confidential voice:

" 'He's got mortgages on 'most everything, Mr. President. He's borrowed on all his securities up to the hilt. Only yesterday I had to refuse him a second mortgage on his house. He stormed about how much he'd put into it. I told him it didn't count how much you put into a hole, it was how much you could get out. You can imagine how much that place would bring in this town on a foreclosure sale -- about as much as a white elephant in a china-shop.'

"The lust for gossip had been aroused and Pettibone threw discretion to the winds.

" 'Shelby was hopping mad because we left him off the committee of welcome, but we



thought we'd better stick to our own crowd of represent'ive citizens. Shelby don't really belong to Wakefield, anyway. Still, if you want to meet him, it can be arranged.'

" 'Oh, no,' said the President. 'Don't trouble.'

"And he was politic - or politician enough to avoid the subject thenceforward. But he could not get Shelby out of his mind that night as his car whizzed on its way. To be called crazy and eccentric and to be suspected, feared, resisted by the very people he longed to lead - Presidents are not unaware of that ache of unrequited affection.

"The same evening Shelby and Phoebe looked

out on their park. The crowds that had used it as a vantage-grounds for the pageant had all vanished, leaving behind a litter of rubbish, firecrackers, cigar stubs, broken shrubs, gouged terraces. Not one of them had asked permission, had murmured an apology or a word of thanks. (87)

"For the first time Phoebe Shelby noted that her husband did not take new determination from rebuff. His resolution no longer made a springboard of resistance. He seemed to lean on her a little."

(Editor's Note: - J.C. Hubinger died at the age of 57, living alone in a boarding house at 616 High street, on Jan. 27, 1908 - - just a few months after Roosevelt's visit to Keokuk).

88

SEPTEMBER 5, 1901.

THE GRIM REAPER

His Scythe Enters Many Keokuk Homes.

YOUNG AND OLD FALL BEFORE IT

Death Touches the Loved Ones of Several Families in Keokuk

Recently.

The death of William P. Tucker occurred at 1:10 o'clock Monday afternoon at the home of his father Samuel W. Tucker, 603 Fulton street. He was 50 years, 9 months and 8 days of age.

His birth occurred in St. Louis, November 24, 1850, but when a small child, he came with his family to Keokuk. His youth and early manhood were spent here. His first business experience was in the Hamden Buel Hardware company, and for many years he was manager in the firm of Stafford & Rix. His business ability was great and his methods were characterized by the most rigid integrity and uprightness. About twelve years ago he removed to Denver, and had been summoned here on account of the death of his mother about five weeks ago. His death was the result of Bright's disease. He is survived by his wife and daughter Miss Hazel Tucker. He was married about twenty years ago to Miss Heacock, a daughter of Dr. Heacock of St. Louis. In addition, he is survived by his father and two brothers, George S. Tucker and Delange Tucker, all of Keokuk.

He was a prominent member of Damascus Commandery, Knights Templar, and was very active in Masonic circles. He had a large number of friends in Keokuk where the greater part of his life was spent and they unite in extending sympathy to the grief stricken family of the deceased. The funeral will be in charge of Damascus commandery and the burial will be conducted according to the Masonic ritual. The funeral will be held at 4 o'clock this afternoon from the family residence 603 Fulton street.

HELEN FRANCES ANDERSON.

The death of Helen Frances Anderson occurred at 1:15 o'clock Monday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson, 17 North Sixth street. She was aged only 8 months and 2 days. She was the daughter of William Anderson. Her mother's death occurred at Slater, Mo., when the little one was only 8 days old and since that time her home has been with her uncle and his wife. She became ill with cholera infantum on Saturday and in spite of all that love and care and skill could do, the little life faded away.

She was a bright and beautiful baby girl, carrying light and sunshine and laughter with her. It seemed that her little life was too bright and pure for this world and before the sorrows of life could touch her she was gathered unto the bosom of him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me and forhid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Funeral services were conducted at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon by Rev. Dr. E. B. Newcomb of Westminster church. Several vocal selections were rendered by Mrs. J. D. Rubidge and Miss Webb. The little casket was covered with beautiful flowers, only less sweet than the little child they covered. The remains were taken to Decatur, Ill., this morning for burial, accompanied by her father, William Anderson, her brother Herbert Anderson, Mrs. John Anderson, Mrs. Louis Yager and Miss Georgia Anderson.

PATRICK JOYCE.

Patrick Joyce, a well known citizen of Keokuk, passed away Sunday afternoon at Hillsboro, Iowa, where he was engaged in construction work on the Chicago, Fort Madison and Des Moines railroad. His son John Joyce, was with him at the time of his death and the remains were brought to Keokuk Monday and taken to the home of Thomas H. Joyce, 625 Exchange street.

Mr. Joyce was in his sixty-fourth year and was born in the County Galway, Ireland. He has been a resident of Keokuk and Lee county for thirty-one years, coming to this country when a young man. For a great many years he has been engaged in contracting and teaming in this city. He was a man of great business capacity and indomitable energy and was a large factor in many important enterprises. His loss is mourned by four sons: Thomas H., John, Patrick W. and James M. Joyce and two sisters, Mrs. Hannah Boyle and Mrs. Thomas Foley all of this city. In his death there passes a man who had the respect and esteem of his fellow men, an honest and upright man, a valued citizen and a warm friend. To his sorrowing family is extended deep sympathy.

The funeral will be held at 9 o'clock this morning from the residence of Thomas H. Joyce, 625 Exchange street, with services at St. Peter's Catholic church of which he was a consistent member for many years.

MRS. NELLIE MURPHY.

At the home of her mother and brother, Mrs. Anne Tuohey and John Tuohey on Sunday, occurred the death of Mrs. Nellie Murphy, beloved wife of E. V. Murphy of Chicago. Death was the result of inflammation of the bowels. She became ill about five months ago and about three weeks ago she came to her mother's home in this city.

She was married in 1880 to E. V. Murphy in Keokuk and is survived by him and the following children: John,

George, May and Vinnie. The family home has been in Chicago for seven years, and prior to that was in Milwaukee. Mrs. Murphy was born in Keokuk 37 years ago and is affectionately known by many friends, who sympathize with the bereaved relatives. She is also survived by two brothers, Patrick and John Tuohey, her mother, and one sister, Mrs. Mary Collins of Nenaha, Wis. She was a woman of beautiful character and her death is a personal loss to many friends.

WRAY BROWN.

A former resident of Keokuk, Wray Brown, died Saturday at his home on his farm near Hannibal. He was 67 years of age and for a number of years was bookkeeper for the old Keokuk firm, Cox & Shelley. He leaves one daughter, Miss Addie Brown, a teacher in the Hannibal schools, and two brothers, James Brown of St. Louis and Alex. M. Brown of Washington, Pa. The funeral was held in Hannibal Monday afternoon, and was attended by Hon. John E. Craig, a cousin of the deceased.

A DISASTROUS RUNAWAY

A Man Injured and a Horse Killed Yesterday Morning on Third and Main.

A team attached to one of the Hawkeye daily wagons, belonging to J. H. Coleman, had stopped opposite Mr. Coleman's livery stable while the driver went in on an errand. He had just entered the stable when the team took fright and dashed down the hill toward Main street. John Casey, a truck gardener, who was driving a one-horse wagon ahead of the runaways, heard them coming and pulled over to the east side of the street. The end of his wagon was struck by the runaways and he was thrown with the wagon seat over on the sidewalk, the seat striking him on the side of the head. He lost consciousness for a short time, but was removed to the livery stable and medical aid summoned and his injuries given attention.

The horses continued on their mad career and tried to pass the Curtis statue. One horse struck the pedestal and had a front and hind leg broken. The other struck on the stone corner of the pedestal and had a hole torn in its breast. A veterinary surgeon arrived on the scene at once and pronounced the first horse so badly injured that it would die. Officer Grimm was summoned and with one shot put the animal out of its misery. The tongue of the wagon was smashed and the vehicle itself slightly damaged. The team was an especially fine one.

Merchants complained of the blood on the street where the horse was shot. Marshal Hennemann secured a section of hose from the Young America engine house and took it to the scene, where he and Assistant Chief Nichols of the fire department washed the street clean.

WERE MARRIED FRIDAY EVENING

Dr. Henry E. Radasch and Miss Lucy B. Turner United in Marriage.

A quiet wedding occurred Friday evening that is quite a surprise to friends in Keokuk as it was unannounced, but they will be all the more ready to hasten to extend their congratulations and best wishes.

Dr. Henry E. Radasch and Miss Lucy B. Turner were united in marriage at 7:30 o'clock last evening by Rev. Dr. W. C. Williamson, pastor of the United Presbyterian church, the ceremony occurring at the residence of the officiating minister on Eighth and Franklin streets. The license had been issued late in the afternoon.

The groom is well known in Keokuk, being a member of one of the most prominent families. He was born and reared in Keokuk, graduating from the Keokuk high school in 1892, where he had shown a remarkable aptitude for the sciences. He attended the State University of Iowa and was for a time during his residence there connected with the faculty. He became professor of chemistry in the College of Physicians and Surgeons here, and more recently has been assistant demonstrator in the histological laboratory of Jefferson Medical college in Philadelphia. He is a Keokuk young man who is rapidly advancing in the scientific world, and has a brilliant future before him. His bride is a resident of Philadelphia, but has visited here and has won a large number of warm friends by her graciousness and charming traits of character. She was a niece of Dr. Turner, so well known here, where he lived for many years. The best wishes of a host of friends are extended to the newly wedded couple.

A Communication.

Mr. Editor—Allow me to speak a few words in favor of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I suffered for three years with the bronchitis and could not sleep at nights. I tried several doctors and various patent medicines, but could get nothing to give me any relief until my wife got a bottle of this valuable medicine, which has completely relieved me.—W. S. BROCKMAN, Bagnell, Mo. This remedy is for sale by all druggists.

FELL OFF A BRIDGE.

Kahoka Courier: Last Saturday as E. H. Williams and Rev. Wm. Martin were driving out of town north, the horse shied on the bridge just beyond C. C. Brotherton's place, running the buggy off the bridge and falling on top of it. Mr. Martin was caught beneath the horse and suffered a broken collar bone and badly sprained neck and shoulder. Mr. Williams fared somewhat better, but is somewhat bruised.

General Uribe Uribe seems to have doubled on himself.

All from Daily State City
September 5, 1901

Mormon massacre at Haun's Mill, Missouri in 1838 recalled

The Daily Gate City
KEOKUK, IOWA — 5
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1968

By Mrs. Ida Blum

NAUVOO, Ill. — Interest in the Haun's Mill Massacre of 1838, published recently has jumped across the western prairies and the Rocky Mountains to Lancaster, Calif., bringing another version of that important event in the history of the mid-west that occurred 130 years ago this month. Byron Lloyd Benner, Lancaster, Calif., a native of Sonora township Hancock county, Ill., writes, "My mother's people, the Bolton's, came from England in the 1840's and settled in Sonora as did my father's people the Bradleys and Goldens. Abram Golden was very prominent in Sonora township during the pioneer days. My folks moved to Lee county, Iowa, in 1910."

Mr. Benner writes, "In the Kingston, Mo., courthouse yard is a large plaque and a part of the inscription reads 'A massacre occurred in Caldwell county in which 17 men of the Mormon or Latter Day Saints faith were killed.'" He adds that his great grandfather was killed in this encounter during the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1838, during the Mormon War in Missouri.

Excerpts from the article written by Burr Joy in the Globe-Democrat many years ago, follow: "The massacre was perpetuated on the very day that the militia arrived in Far West, with orders from Gov. Boggs to expel the Mormons from the state or exterminate them. At Haun's Mill, near Breckenridge, about 20 Mormon families had collected. Haun was a Mormon. He had a very good mill and clustered there were a blacksmith shop and half a dozen small houses,

"The alarm that troops were moving against them had sent nearly all the Mormons in Caldwell county to Far West for safety. A dozen or more living in the vicinity repaired to Haun's mill located 20 miles east of Far West. As there were not enough houses at Haun's Mill, some were living in tents and temporary shelters. About four families had come in on the eve of the 29th from Ohio and were in their emigrant wagons.

"When word came that they were to be attacked about 25 men and boys, indifferently armed, organized at the mill. North of the mill was timber half a mile wide, beyond was prairie. The mob, about 200 men, set out Oct. 30th for the doomed hamlet at Haun's mill. All of the Gentiles mounted, they went through the timber right up to the border of the settlement and speedily began the attack. The air was filled with shots and shouts—the battle was on! The Mormons huddled together in the blacksmith shop and were easily killed or wounded. The women and children ran to the timber for shelter.

"The door of the shop was thrown open and some tried to run to other shelters and were easily shot. Cap't Evans was so excited he ran all the way to Mud Creek, seven miles, with his gun loaded, not having used it. The Gentiles then perpetuated some terrible deeds — at least three wounded men were hacked to death with corn knives, or finished with rifle bullets. Charles Merrick, a small boy, hid under the bellows and when he ran out received a lot of buckshot

and a rifle ball. Thomas McBride, aged 70 years, a soldier with Washington in the Revolution, was shot down and lay helpless and a man, Rogers, killed him and then hacked his body. The Gentiles lost not one man but three were wounded.

"The Mormons killed, numbered 17, among them being Elias Benner, great grandfather of Byron Lloyd Benner. The bodies of the slain men were left to fester and putrify in the heat. The widows and orphans came from their hiding places, the wailing, grief and terror were most pitiful. All that night they were alone with their dead and wounded. The next day the dead were placed in an old well, some hay was thrown on the ghastly pile and dirt was thrown on the hay."

The following affidavit was made by Mrs. A. Smith whose husband and son had been killed in the massacre. "The next day the mob returned. They told us we must leave the state or be killed. It was bad weather and they took most of our teams and clothing; our men were either killed or wounded; I started in the cold weather for Illinois with my children. It was mob all the way, I drove the team and we slept out of doors. We suffered greatly from cold, hunger and fatigue — and for what? For our religion. In this boasted land of liberty, "Deny your faith or die" was the cry. By the last of April all the Mormons had left Missouri, many had been killed, their houses burned, their property taken and the result was called — peace."

Joseph Smith Founded Church

Cape Cod Standard-Times, Saturday, December 28, 1968

Two days before Christmas, 153 years ago, the founding Prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was born at Sharon, Windsor County, Vt. Joseph Smith Jr., revered as a Prophet of God by the nearly three million members of the Church, is especially remembered at this time of year.

Joseph Smith spent the first 10 years of his life in Vermont before his family moved to up-state New York. At that time the Smith family consisted of Joseph Smith Sr., Lucy Mack Smith, Joseph Smith Jr., his brothers Hyrum and Samuel Harrison and his sister Sophronia.

Due to responsibilities placed upon him early in his eventful life, Joseph Smith grew to manhood at a young age. In 1830 at age 25, through "Divine direction," he organized the Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Church grew rapidly in the east, but because of persecution the Latter-day Saints were forced to move westward. The belief most highly criticized by people of the day, was Joseph Smith's declaration that God guides and directs the affairs of His Church through revelation. He claimed that the heavens weren't sealed and that "God reveals his word to prophets in our time just as he did anciently."

Having been driven from Ohio the Latter-day Saints began building a city in the swamp infested area of southern Illinois. Under the direction of Joseph Smith they converted this desolate swampland into one of the most beautiful cities in the United States. Nauvoo they called it, which means "the beautiful," was at

one time the largest city in the state of Illinois.

Josiah Quincy a mayor from Boston, once visited the Prophet Joseph Smith in Nauvoo and was so impressed by his visit that he later wrote: "It is by no means improbable that some future textbook for the use of generations yet unborn, will contain a question something like this: 'What American of the 19th Century has exerted the most powerful influence upon the destinies of his countrymen?' And it is by no means impossible that the answer to that . . . may be thus written: 'Joseph Smith the Mormon Prophet'.

At this time persecution was not only mounting against the Church and members, but even more so towards the Prophet himself. In Carthage, Ill., June 27, 1844, Joseph and his brother Hyrum were brutally murdered

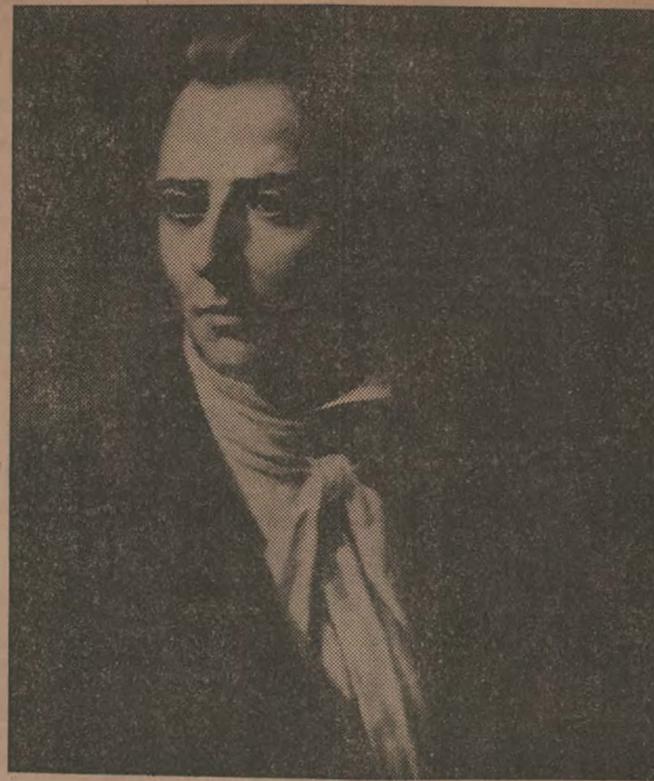
by an armed mob. Thus ended the life of a man who devoted his earthly existence to God and to the Church of Jesus Christ and who gave his life to seal his testimony.

Today, at the Smith Homestead near South Royalston, Vt., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has established a memorial. A granite monument was erected on Dec. 23, 1905 on the centennial anniversary of the birth of Joseph Smith. The polished shaft is 38½ feet high, one foot for each year of Joseph Smith's life. The 300 acre memorial includes landscaped grounds with two visitor center buildings.



Portrait Displayed

William Wallace Smith, right, president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and former apostle who headed the church in the Cape area, and Lewis McInnis, left, of the curatorial staff of National Portraits Gallery, are shown with a 125-year-old portrait of the church's founder, Joseph Smith. The world-famous painting is being donated for display at Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., from the church's world headquarters in Independence, Mo. W. W. Smith, grandson of the art subject, was on Cape Cod two years ago at the Dennis Port branch's centennial celebration.



JOSEPH SMITH

The Mormon Trail Started From Lee County in 1846?

When the Mormons were forced to leave Nauvoo after the murder of Joseph Smith his successor, Brigham Young decided to take his people to Utah. Early in February, 1846 he crossed the Mississippi and camped with 2000 of his people on Sugar Creek. While Young and his first followers crossed in boats, the severe cold made it possible by Feb. 16th to pass from one shore to the other on the solid ice. The Mormons built and repaired wagons and gathered sufficient provisions by working for Iowa farmers to start their journey. On March 1st the camp was broken up and the refugees took up the line of march in 500 wagons. Only five miles were traversed the first day. When possible they exchanged their horses for oxen but they never made more than 6 miles each day. The trail that they made was to become known as the Mormon Trail. It was the last and the greatest highway in Iowa before interstate commerce by rail began.

"THE GREAT DUST-HEAP-CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA



Mormon Trail markers put up with WPA labor for the Iowa State Historical Society to mark the original trail thru Iowa taken by the Mormons on their great trek to Utah.

920

Monument at Nauvoo Moved

NAUVOO, Ill., Aug. 8—Transfer of the granite monument marking the site of origin of the Woman's National Relief society of Salt Lake City, Utah, from the property of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to the Mormon Temple block was completed here yesterday.

The Reorganized church, with headquarters at Independence, Mo., had asked the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Salt Lake City to remove the monument from its property on the flat where it had stood for the last 19 years.

Utah Men Make Trip.

Wilford C. Woods of Woods Cross, Utah, representing the first presidency of the church, Elder Walter F. Hogan of Nauvoo and Kenneth Dickmore of Bountiful, Utah, assisted in moving the monument to its new location just south of the Bureau of Information.

In addition to marking the birthplace of the Relief society, organized March 17, 1842, the monument also marks the start of the Mormon Trail which ends in Salt Lake City. The society was formed with \$10.62½ cents in the treasury contributed by Joseph Smith, Elder Richards, Elder Taylor, Eliza Snow, Sarah Kimball, E. A. Whitney and Sarah Cleveland who gave 12½ cents.

Erected July 26, 1933, by the National Woman's Relief society, the inscription on the monument reads:

Founded by Prophet.

"This monument marks the site of the building in the upper room of which the female Relief society, now the National Woman's Relief society, was organized March 17, 1842, by the prophet, Joseph Smith, first president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, assisted by John Taylor and William Richards.

"The charter officers were: Emma Hale Smith, president; Sarah M. Cleveland, first counselor; Elizabeth Ann Wheeler, second counselor; Eliza R. Snow, secretary; Phoebe M. Wheeler, assistant secretary; Elvira A. Cowles, treasurer. The purposes of the society were to care for the poor, minister to the sick, comfort the sorrowing, teach righteousness and strengthen the morals of the community.

"The original minutes and records were taken by Eliza R. Snow to Utah where the work of the organization was continued by the church by the 18 charter members. Three became presidents. The seven women who presided over the organization are Emma Hale Smith, Eliza R. Snow, Zina D. H. Young, Bathsheba W. Smith, Emmeline B. Wells, Clarissa Smith Williams and Louisa Yates Robinson.

"The present membership in 1933 is 67,000.

"Keeping pace with the development of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, this society has become potent for benevolence, education and progress among women.

"Louise Yates Robinson, president; Amy Brown Lyman, first counselor; Julia Alleman Child, second counselor; Julia A. F. Lund, secretary-treasurer."

On small plaque below that is the following:

"This monument is erected by the National Woman's Relief society with headquarters at Salt Lake City, Utah, and is placed on this site through the courtesy of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with headquarters at Independence, Mo., owner of this property."

KEOKUK GATE CITY

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1945

Head of Latter Day Saints Church Dies In Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY, May 15—(IP)—Heber Jedediah Grant, first native of Utah to become president of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) church, died last night. He was 88 years old.

Although he had long been in poor health, few of Grant's followers were aware of the seriousness of his illness until a few hours before his death when it was announced he had suffered a relapse.

Grant's widow, eight daughters and their husbands and two church councillors, J. Reuben Clark, former U. S. ambassador to Mexico, and David O. McKay, were at his bedside.

Death was attributed to old age. Grant assumed the presidency Nov. 23, 1918, and in the following 26 years guided the church through the most crucial period of its development in this nation and abroad.

A pacifist, he died in the midst of the strife he hated and at a period when his church was combatting nationwide prejudice in connection with the practice of polygamy.

Grant took an early interest in church affairs and at 24 became the church's youngest stake president when he was named to head the Tooele stake, (in Mormonism, a stake is the controlling unit of a number of church wards).

He was elected to the Council of Twelve Apostles and on Nov. 23, 1916, became senior member of that all-powerful organization.

Two years later, he became president of the council and, as such, was the church's "trustee-in-trust," meaning that he was responsible in church affairs to God alone.

Throughout his life, Grant was unalterably opposed to liquor,

tobacco, tea, coffee and other stimulants, counselling against the use of anything which "creates an appetite for itself."

The Mormon leader was born in Salt Lake City Nov. 22, 1856, nine years after Brigham Young arrived here to establish his settlement dedicated to "religious freedom."

Signs Will Mark

Mormon Trail

Across Iowa

DES MOINES, Nov. 8. —(P)— State planning board employes today prepared to start placing 142 signs across southern Iowa along what the board says a research project has disclosed to be "the original Mormon trail."

First signs were to be placed near Montrose, Iowa, in Lee county. Ex-

illed from Nauvoo, Ill., nearly 500 wagons of the faith started out from Montrose, in February, 1846, in the long and cold trek to the promised land of Utah.

The signs were manufactured in a Works Progress Administration project at Dubuque, planning board officials said.

The route followed, they added, passes through Bonaparte, Iowa, south of Keosauqua, three miles north of Bloomfield, south of Moulton to Cincinnati, Alerton, Garden Grove, along a branch of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad between Var Wert nearly to Osceola, west to Murray, thence to near Creston, and on to Orient, part of the way along the Burlington tracks, and to Council Bluffs by way of Lewis."

The planning board said its research staff went over the entire route and was aided in its work by copies of a diary obtained from the Mormon Church at Salt Lake City, Utah. The diary was kept by Andrew Jenson, titled "Assistant Historian of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." Brigham Young, spiritual head of the Mormon church, was a member of the migrating host, the diary says.

THE GATE CITY

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 25, 1860

Grand Mormon Blow-Out.

SALT LAKE CITY, July 24.—The Mormons celebrated their first entrance to the Salt Lake valley, 33 years ago today, with unusual elaborateness. Good order prevailed, and the discipline of an army was everywhere apparent. The procession, embracing ten brass and military bands, representing sentiments, ideas, agricultural and horticultural products, trades, industries and manufactories, was an hour in passing a given point, and was witnessed by ten to twenty thousand spectators. 1860

The Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1855.

Utah.

We have dates from Great Salt Lake City to February 7.

The Eastern Mail arrived at Salt Lake City on the evening of Feb. 6. This arrival brought intelligence of the appointment of Col. Steptoe as Governor of the Territory, vice Brigham Young; Harris, Secretary, vice A. W. Babbitt; and some other changes. The news took the Mormons by surprise, but it was thought no opposition would be exhibited.

On New Year's day quite a serious collision took place between the United States soldiers and the citizens, at a drinking shop. Fire-arms were freely used, and seven or eight persons were shot but fortunately none of them were killed. Two of the soldiers were severely wounded, and for a time it was thought they could not recover. The Mormons ordered out the "Legion," threatening to destroy the whole battalion of United States troops in the city, under Col. Steptoe. The three companies of U. S. troops were quickly paraded under arms—they strengthened their position, and waited for the assault of the "Legion," which was every moment expected. This state of quasi warfare lasted for three days, when calmer counsels prevailed and hostilities ceased. As the affair grew out of a drunken fit, an order was issued by the civil authorities forbidding the further sale of ardent spirits in the city.

The Territorial Legislature of Utah, at their late session, passed an act organizing Carson Valley into a county of that name. They had appointed one Styles as District Judge, and Orson Hyde as Probate Judge of the county. From the temper of the inhabitants of Carson Valley, very few of whom are Mormons, and most of whom have applied to be incorporated into the State of California, it is probable these appointments would be received with little favor. Styles is notoriously incompetent, besides being very dissipated. Orson Hyde is President of the "Twelve Apostles," and is one of the leaders of Mormonism. Among other legislation was the passage of an act called the "Gift Law," by which the faithful are to vest all their real and personal estate of every kind in Brigham Young! It remains to be seen whether Congress will tolerate such outrageous legislation in one of the National Territories.

Interesting from Utah.

A FIGHT AMONG THE DANITE BAND.

[From the Leavenworth Times, 20th.]

From Mr. G. D. Page, who came through from Salt Lake via the South Pass, we have later intelligence from Utah. Mr. Page came from the forks of the Platte, in the Pike's Peak Express. He left Salt Lake on the 30th of Dec.

The most important news is that the notorious Bill Hickman was severely, if not mortally wounded. He has been the leader of the Danites for many years.

Just before Mr. P. left, a difficulty occurred in the city, in front of Townsend's Hotel, between Bill Hickman and Lot Huntington, both members of the Danite band. The cause of the difficulty is unknown; it was one with which the Gentiles had nothing to do. The parties met on the street, and after some words between them, Huntington and Hickman clinched; the former inflicting a severe wound in the back of the latter.

After the parties became separated, a general melee ensued, pistols were fired and knives drawn. A shot from Huntington struck Hickman's watch, which prevented the ball from entering his body. The next shot struck his thigh, and at last accounts he was in a critical condition. Huntington was shot by one of Hickman's friends, in the thigh, but the wound was a flesh one.— There were a great many shots fired by the friends of both parties, but no one else was injured.

The feeling between the Mormons and the Gentiles was good, and no disturbance had occurred.

The Mormons had a gay time on Christmas. There was any quantity of balls and parties. The Mormon leaders personally have forbidden such festivities on Christmas. Both Saint and Gentile participated.

Brigham Young does not show himself in the streets lately, owing, it is supposed, to ill health. When he is seen, he wears a handkerchief around his head. He speaks but seldom. Jan 30, 1860

THE GREAT DUST HEAR CALLED HISTORY
R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

76



THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1954

KEOKUK'S FIRST PERMANENT ARMORY and the first building in Keokuk's military history of 100 years to be built for that specific purpose will be formally dedicated Sunday by the National Guard and Chamber of Commerce.

The public is invited to visit the armory, at the rear of Joyce park, from 2 p. m. until 9 p. m. A display of weapons will be a feature.

—Daily Gate City Photo

Distinguished Ancestry —

Keokuk National Guard Can Look Back Over 100 Years of History

Keokuk, which has one of the richest military histories in the state, will punctuate a full century of guard units this Sunday when it pays tribute to Company C of the Iowa National Guard in the dedication of its new armory at the rear of Joyce Park.

With the Chamber of Commerce cooperating, the guardsmen will hold open house from 2 p. m. to 9 p. m. in conjunction with the observance of Armed Forces day and the public is invited to see a weapons display and inspect the armory built by federal and state funds. Merchandise gift certificates from \$25 to \$10 will be given as prizes.

100 Years Ago.

Capt. William Talbot, commander of the company, has delved into history to find that the earliest record of any military unit of Keokuk citizens goes back 100 years ago to an organization known as the Keokuk Guards.

It was headed by the Hon. James M. Love as captain in 1854. Captain Love later became judge of the United States district court here and held that position for many years.

Early laws did not establish permanent companies except during emergencies because every able-bodied man was considered a member of the militia and always available for duty. This early company was probably like those in other Iowa towns and was drilled to take part in local ceremonies. Many also served as a nucleus for social functions and it is probable that the Keokuk company fell into this category. It apparently died out at some time before the Civil war because on April 24, 1861, the City Rifles was organized.

Elected Officers.

As was the custom in those days, the Rifles elected the following officers: John Adair McDowell, captain; William H. Worthington, first lieutenant; Eric J. Leach, second lieutenant, and William W. Belknap, first sergeant. Captains succeeding McDowell in order were Worthington, Belknap, George D. Plummer and John E. Craig.

Out of this unit came many famous commanders in the Civil war, among them McDowell, Worthington, R. F. Patterson, A. G. McQueen, Belknap and David B. Hillis and all eventually commanded Iowa regiments in the war. General Belknap was the most famous and became a brevet major general for gallantry at Atlanta and eventually was appointed secretary of war by President U. S. Grant. Elements of the Keokuk Rifles also fought in the famous Battle of Athens on the Des Moines river.

Another Rifle Unit.

This unit also fell into obsolescence after the Civil war but the name Keokuk Rifles was revived on March 17, 1888, when a new unit was organized. It was recognized as Company A, 2nd Iowa Infantry Regiment, on April 1, 1890, by B. A. Beeson, adjutant general of Iowa at the time. Its officers were H. A. Heaslip, captain; John A. Dunlap, first lieutenant, and Frank M. Fuller, second lieutenant. Many of these officers rose in the National Guard with Dunlap becoming major of the regiment and in 1890 Major Robert C. McIlwain, rector of St. John's church, became regimental chaplain. Later on this unit was redesignated as Company A of the 50th Iowa Infantry regiment and was

taken into federal service for shipment to Camp Cuba Libre at Jacksonville, Fla., during the Spanish-American war. It was expecting action just as the war ended.

Company L Formed.

The company was kept intact after the war and during the early years of the present century was an important civic organization. Just before the Mexican border campaign it was again redesignated as Company L of the 168th Infantry Regiment. Because of national legislation which set up a permanent status for state militia while the federal army on emergency purposes, all state identifications of regiments were dropped.

Company L became widely known during the wars that followed. After the Mexican border incident it returned to Keokuk and readied itself to become a part of the famous Rainbow division, the 42nd, in World War I.

During its World War service it was commanded by Capt. Percy Lainson of Council Bluffs, now warden of the penitentiary at Fort Madison. After the war Lainson became a colonel and commanding officer of the regiment but he was always proud of the boys of Company L. During the war it was under the command of General Douglas McArthur while he was with the Rainbow division.

Company L was reorganized as a guard unit after the war but was soon disbanded because of lack of interest.

50th Regiment Band

Keokuk also had other guard units for short periods of time, among them the famous 50th Iowa Infantry Regimental Band which was directed by T. B. Boyer and was the predecessor of the present Municipal band. Another company, this time an artillery battery, was organized after World War I but it too was short-lived.

No further attempt was made to develop a guard unit here until the present company came into being on January 19, 1948 after the second World War had been over for three

years.

Company C is a unit of the 168th Infantry regiment which became a part of the 34th infantry division which rolled up some outstanding records during World War II. It was the first division sent overseas, landing in the north of Ireland in February of 1942. From there it was dispatched to North Africa and took part in the landings there. It continued through the African campaign into Italy and was in southern Germany at the end of the war. At that time it had spent more time in the line than any other American division of the war.

Talbot Commander

After the war it was reorganized as a national guard unit and on January 19, 1948 Keokuk Company C became a part of the regiment with 1st Lieutenant William L. Talbot as commander, 2nd lieutenant Basil L. Lancaster as executive officer and Richard E. Klann as first sergeant. Other members at that time were Raymond L. Arend, Ralph W. Baker, Jr., Donald P. Beard, Tom W. Bender, William C. Bevering, Robert E. Blakeslee, Ross E. Bunch, James W. Davison, Raymond G. Carel, Carl H. Ellenberg, Patrick

M. Ellison, Leonard L. French, Richard E. Klann, Edward O. Pfaffe, Marion B. Ramsey, Harold M. Riley, Herman H. Riter, Jr., Donald L. Rudd, John H. Schulte, Leon Sharp, Burton J. Sweet, Thomas F. Talbot, Jr., Niles L. Wallgren, Wilbur E. Wells.

The unit then held its drills in the second floor quarters of the American Legion at 826½ Main Street and spent its first summer encampment at Fort Riley, Kansas.

First Permanent Armory

During the early days of the unit's organization there was hopes that some day there might be a permanent armory for the unit and the first permanent building of that type in the city of Keokuk. The unit's officers worked with state and local officials to achieve this end when a building program was started by the Iowa Armory Board. Special thanks is given by the unit to Senator Stanley Hart, Representative Ernest Palmer Jr. in their effort to get the project approved by the Iowa Legislature when appropriations were made. The city council and Mayor Hubert Schouten are to be commended for their generous approval and granting the state 3

acres of land for a site. The generous approval of the Chamber of Commerce and its action to get the unit started through the efforts of Dr. C. R. Logan in 1947 as well as its continued support can never be minimized in any tale of its history.

Present Officers

The present officers of the unit are: William L. Talbot, Captain; Robert F. Hedrick, 1st Lieutenant; Ralph E. Spring, 2nd Lieutenant; Rex W. Ellsworth, 2nd Lieutenant; Leonard L. French, Chief Warrant Officer; and Norris R. Mundy, 1st Sergeant. For the past three years the unit has been rated excellent by regular arm; inspectors both in the Armory and in the field. Summer encampment this year will be held at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, from the 1st to the 15th of August. This is the first time that the unit has been to Camp Ripley as on previous years it has been to Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. At the present time a very active recruiting campaign is going on and there are plenty of opportunities to get ahead with the guard for young men from 17 to 35.



The Daily Gate City KEOKUK, IOWA MONDAY, NOV. 29, 1965 — 3

THIS IS THE NEW TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS of Co. C, 1st Battalion, 113th Armor of the National Guard for at least one year, until a new Armory can be built on the site of the one which exploded last Wednesday night, killing eleven persons and injuring around 50. The building shown here is the Cameron-Joyce warehouse, located at 319 South Fourth street. —Gate City

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1878

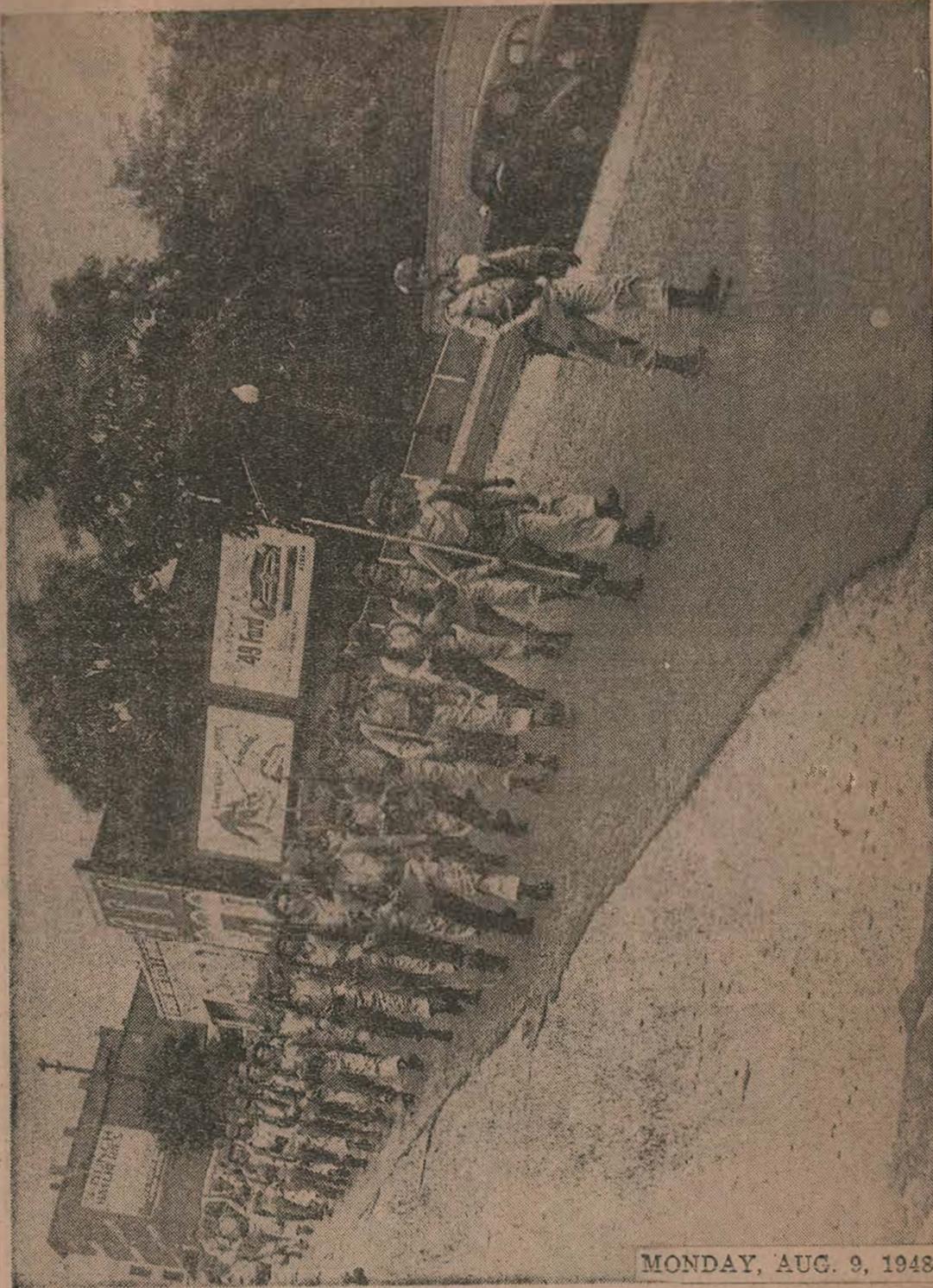
—The Keokuk National Guards held a meeting last evening and elected Harry Maquilkin First Lieutenant and Len Renaud Second Lieutenant. A uniform was finally decided upon. It is to be of dark blue coat and light blue pants with gold trimmings. The armory in the Ver-

anda building has been repapered and fitted up in an inviting manner. On the wall at the front end is painted in large letters the name of the company. "Keokuk National Guards."

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

96

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT



—Gate City Photos by Carey Oliver

Keokuk Guardsmen Hear General in War Warning Today

In camp at Camp Riley, Kan., today, members of Keokuk Company C, 168th Iowa Infantry, heard Maj. Gen. Ray Fountain, commanding general of the 34th National Guard infantry division, declare that a world crisis could develop which might prevent their return home.

"I fully expect you and I will go

home at the contemplated close of this training period," he said. "but I feel you should be fully acquainted with the facts of life." He dwelt on "the mentality of these people (the Russians) who control the spark which might set off the dynamite on which the world is sitting."

The commanding general of the Red Bull division addressed 7,000 officers and men from Iowa and Nebraska who are starting a two-week summer training period.

The Keokuk company of 57 men is led by Lts. William Talbot and Basil Lancaster.

In his address General Fountain said: "We know the global situation and we know it is potentially dyna-

mite. We should also take into consideration the temperament of the enemy."

After the talk he met with the press and explained, "I am not setting myself up as an authority on world affairs" and said he did not speak from any special knowledge. "All I know is what I get out of the papers," he said.

On its arrival in camp yesterday, the division was greeted by Iowa Adjutant General Charles Grahl. Included in the division's equipment are about 500 vehicles, including armored cars and tanks. It is made up of about 5,500 men from Iowa and 1,500 from Nebraska.

MONDAY, AUG. 9, 1948



COMMANDED BY TWO OFFICERS, Keokuk's Company C of the 168th Iowa Infantry, National Guard, left Saturday afternoon from the Union depot for Fort Riley, Kan., where it will spend two weeks with the 34th Division composed of 7,000 officers and men from Iowa and Nebraska. Bulk of the division reached camp Sunday in 13 trains and officers described the troop movement as swank. The 200 Pullman cars carrying the toops were complete with porter and the men enjoyed luxury they dreamed about in wartime—a separate berth for each. In the large picture above Company C is shown marching down Main street hill in full field equipment behind Lt. William Talbot and in the smaller it is shown boarding the train.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
BY BILL BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

99

AVERY®
POLY-VU



A new large electric overhead door at the rear permits entrance for motor vehicles. Classrooms, supply room, conference room and offices are also on the main floor. An open house is planned for the future.

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 1967 — 7

SGT. LORENZO KELLY, center, squad leader of Company D (-) 224th Eng. Bn., Iowa Army National Guard at Keokuk, looks over some of the small equipment in store room of new armory here. With him are Sgt. Earl Six, left, another squad leader, and Sgt. Ray Miller. —Gate City

Keokuk National Guard moves into new armory

By Joe Malkin

Members of the newly formed Company D (-), 224th Eng. Bn., (CBT) Army, which is the new name for the former Co. C, 113th Armor, a medium tank unit stationed at the Keokuk Armory, met Monday evening with its new commander for a reorganizational briefing.

Under the recent reorganization of the entire Iowa Army National Guard, the former 113th Armor was discontinued, and the Keokuk unit became a part of the newly formed 224th Engineering Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Carl G. Rodosevich of Ottumwa. The 224th has units in Fairfield, Mt. Pleasant, Burl-

ington, Ottumwa, Centerville and Keokuk.

Four platoons

Company D (-), of which Keokuk is a part, is comprised of four platoons, two in Keokuk and two in Mt. Pleasant. First platoon and headquarters platoon are stationed at Mt. Pleasant, while second and third platoons are stationed at the Keokuk Armory.

Captain Richard L. Roach of Mt. Pleasant is the commanding officer of Company D, filling the post held in the former unit by Capt. Earl Baugher, who has not as yet been reassigned. First Lt. Larry Schevers is the new garrison commander for the Keokuk Armory. In the transi-

tion, the Company has gained one enlisted man and lost three officers.

The tanks assigned to the former unit have been transferred to another area, and as yet, Company D has not received any of its working equipment. A training period is expected to familiarize the men with the changeover from the medium size M-48 tanks to bulldozers and end loaders.

New Armory

The new Keokuk Armory is similar in outward appearance to the one lost in the 1965 explosion, but is quite different internally. All of the work space is on one floor, including the boiler room and the pistol range.



PLANNING THE FUTURE of the Keokuk National Guard under the new reorganization of the entire Iowa Army National Guard, are these officers and non-coms during informal meeting at new Keokuk Armory Monday. The Company moved into its new quarters this past weekend after over two years of meeting

Don Hewlitt. —Gate City

in temporary quarters following explosion Nov. 24, 1965. From left, clockwise, Sgt. Ray Miller, Sgt. Wayne Ford, First Sgt. Darrell Goddard, Capt. Richard L. Roach, new Company commander, First Lt. Larry Schevers, in charge of Keokuk garrison, First Sgt. Richard Hagmeier, Sgt. Ray Ricker, and Second Lt.

100

Keokuk National Guard

A history of Service



The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1968 — 9

A new Iowa National Guard armory will be dedicated tomorrow, Armed Forces Day, in Keokuk and many citizens are expected to attend the ceremony and open house at the new modern structure.

The armory houses the men and equipment of the Second and Third platoons, Company D, 224th Eng. Bn. (Combat). This is the latest designation for the local Guard unit which has changed names and functions throughout its history of over 100 years.

According to earliest records of any military unit of local citizens, it was known first as the "Keokuk Guards." This unit was headed by the Honorable James M. Love as Captain in 1854. Captain Love later became judge of the United States District Court for Iowa, a position he held for many years. Early laws did not establish permanent companies except during emergencies because every able bodied man

was considered a member of the Militia and therefore always available for duty. This early company was probably like those in other Iowa towns and was drilled to participate in local ceremonies and celebrations. Many of them also served as a nucleus for social functions and became a center of local society. We do not know if the "Keokuk Guards" entered into this class or not but it is probable to some extent. This unit probably died out prior to the Civil War because on April 24, 1861 the "City Rifles" was organized.

The "City Rifles" elected, as was the custom then, the following officers: John Adair McDowell, Captain; William H. Worthington, First Lieutenant; Erie J. Leech, Second Lieutenant, and William W. Belknap, First Sergeant. Following McDowell, leadership of the unit passed to Captains William H. Worthington, William W. Belknap, George D. Plummer and John E. Craig in that order. Out

of this unit came many famous Civil War commanders. They all eventually commanded Iowa Regiments famous in Civil War History. William H. Belknap is probably its most famous member as he became a brevet Major General and was eventually appointed Secretary of War by President U. S. Grant. Elements of this unit also fought in the famous battle of Athens a short way from here on the Des Moines river.

Following the Civil War this unit just seemed to die out and on March 17, 1888, a new unit known as the "Keokuk Rifles" was organized and was recognized as Company "A" of the 2nd Iowa Infantry Regiment on April 1, 1890, by B. A. Benson, Adjutant General of Iowa at that time. The officers of this unit were: H. A. Heaslip, Captain; John A. Dunlap, First Lieutenant, and Frank M. Fuller, Second Lieutenant. Many of these officers rose in the Iowa National Guard as it became to be

known then. John A. Dunlap became a Major of the Regiment and in 1894 Major Robert C. McIlwain, Rector of St. John's Episcopal church, became the Chaplain of the Regiment.

As time progressed this unit was eventually redesignated as Company "A" of the 50th Iowa Infantry Regiment and was sent to the Spanish American War in federal service and spent its time in Camp Cuba Libre at Jacksonville, Florida, expecting action just at the time his war ended. The unit was kept intact following the war and during the early 1900's was an important civic and local organization. Just prior to the Mexican Border Campaign the unit was redesignated as Company "L" of the 168th Infantry Regiment. Because of national legislation which set up a permanent status for the state military while, with the federal army on emergency purposes, all state identification of various regiments was dropped.



Company L and the 168th Infantry Regiment became famous in American warfare in the wars that followed. After Mexican Border service the Company returned to Keokuk and readied itself to soon take part with the famous 42nd Rainbow Division in World War I.

While in service during World War I it was commanded by Captain Percy Lainson of Council Bluffs, former Warden of the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison. Following World War I Captain Lainson became Colonel and commanding officer of the Regiment but he was always proud of the boys from Company "L." While the unit was a part of the famous "Rainbow Division" it of course was in the command of no less a famous general than General Douglas MacArthur while he was with this Division. This unit was reorganized after World War I in Keokuk but soon was disbanded for lack of interest.

There were also other guard units in Keokuk for short periods of time along with the units mentioned. One unit which was quite famous was the 50th Iowa Infantry Regiment Band. This was headed by T. B. Boyer and was the predecessor of our present Municipal Band. Another Guard unit was organized as an artillery battery right after World War I and it, like Company "L," fell by the wayside for lack of interest. After these units no attempts were made to organize a unit in Keokuk until the present unit came into being on January 19, 1948.

Prior to World War II the now famous 168th Infantry Regiment became a part of the 34th Infantry Division that rolled up one of the most outstanding records during this conflict. It was the first Division sent overseas and landed in the North of Ireland February, 1942. From here it was dispatched with the forces to North Africa and participated in the landings there. The unit went through the African campaign on to Italy and ended up in South Germany at the end of World War II. At that time it had spent more time in the line than any other American Division in World War II.

After World War II it was reorganized again as a National Guard Unit and on Jan-

May 15, 1968 - page # 2
(Keokuk National Guard)

NAT. GUARD - 2

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
B. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

102

uary 19, 1948 the local unit was recognized as Company "C" of the 168th Infantry Regiment in the Iowa National Guard with 1st Lieutenant William L. Talbot as Company Commander, 2nd Lieutenant Basil L. Lancaster as Executive Officer, and Richard E. Klann, 1st Sergeant. Other members of the unit at this time were:

Raymond L. Arend, Ralph W. Baker Jr., Donald P. Beaird, Tom W. Bender, William C. Bevering, Robert E. Blakeslee, Ross E. Bunch, James W. Davison, Raymond G. Carel, Carl H. Ellenberg, Patrick M. Ellison, Leonard L. French, Richard E. Klann, Edward O. Pfaffe, Marion B. Ramsey, Harold M. Riley, Herman H. Riter Jr., Donald L. Rudd, John H. Schulte, Leon Sharp, Burton J. Sweet, Thomas F. Talbot Jr., Niles L. Wallgren, Wilbur E. Wells.

The unit then held its drills in the second floor quarters of the Amreican Legion at 826½ Main street and spent its first summer encampment at Fort Riley, Kansas.

During the early days of the unit's organization there were hopes that some day there might be a permanent Armory for the unit and the first permanent building of that type in the city of Keokuk. The unit's officers worked with state and local officials to achieve this end and a building program was start-

ed by the Iowa Armory Board. Special thanks is given by the unit to Senator Stanley Hart, Representative Ernest Palmer Jr. in their efforts to get the project approved by the Iowa Legislature when appropriations were made. The City Council and Mayor Hubert Schouten are to be commended for granting the state three acres of land for a site. The generous support of the Chamber and its action to get the unit started through the efforts of Dr. C. R. Logan in 1947 as well as its continued support can never be minimized in any tale of its history.

The last two or three years have seen several changes in

the National Guard unit here, including the new structure to be dedicated tomorrow. On Nov. 24, 1965, a tragic explosion and fire destroyed the former building, and killed some 21 persons who were participating in a square dance in the armory, which had been used for many public functions.

Not only has the new structure been built since then, but the entire Iowa National Guard structure has been changed, and with it, the composite structure of the Keokuk unit. But first, going back a bit further to just before 1963 when the unit had been reorganized at that time from an infantry unit to armored reconnaissance. Then, in 1963, it was changed to a basic medium tank unit.

After the 1965 explosion, the unit continued to meet at a temporary armory on South Fourth until the new armory was completed in December of 1967 on the site of the previous one.

At the beginning of this year of 1968, the entire Na-

tional Guard was again reorganized and the Keokuk unit was changed from a medium tank company to a combat engineer company. Under the latest reorganization plan, the unit will maintain a 93 percent strength in men and 100 percent issue of equipment, whereas before, it had maintained approximately 65 percent strength in men and material. To meet this change, the unit was joined with one from Mt. Pleasant. Under the new setup, the Headquarters and First platoon is located in Mt. Pleasant and the Second and Third platoons are located in Keokuk, with Lt. Larry R. Schevers as garrison commander here. Other officers at Keokuk are Lt. Donald Hulett, platoon leader, First Sgt. Richard Hagmeier, Platoon Sgt. Ralph Hechler, Platoon Sgt. Ray Ricker, Platoon Sgt. Lorenzo Kelly, and St. Sgt. Donald Robertson.

This year, the Second and Third platoons will attend annual field training exercises at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.



MAYOR KENNETH C. HENKE, assisted by Iowa Adjutant General, Major General Junior F. Miller, cuts ribbon at dedication of new National Guard Armory here Saturday afternoon. Others, from left, are Capt.

Richard Roach, commander of Co. D, 224th Eng. Battalion, Lt. Col. Carl Radosevich, battalion commander, and Lt. Larry Schevers, garrison commander of Second and Third platoons headquartered at new armory.

Additional pictures on page 2. —Gate City

103

EVERY
POLY-VU

May 17 1968 - pg # 3
(Keokuk National Guard)

NAT. GUARD - 5

Major Gen. Junior F. Miller dedicates new armory Sat.

By Joe Malkin

Keokuk's new National Guard Armory was officially dedicated Saturday afternoon and the dedication ceremonies were followed by an open house.

Major General Junior F. Miller, adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard, was the guest speaker at the formal ceremony moved inside the armory because of inclement weather. Gen. Miller talked of the many symbols used in society today, and said that "our flag, the Stars and Stripes, serves as a symbol for this great country of ours." He referred to the U.S. flag flying as a symbol in other countries, and named one of those countries as Vietnam. Touching briefly on his feelings regarding the U.S. commitment there.

He said, "It has been alleged by many that we no longer have a national purpose. To this, I object. We, at least a great many of us, believe that a threat to freedom at any point in the world is a threat to our own freedom. We believe that for freedom to live, it must be shared and nurtured and made secure ... so when we go to the aid of a threatened nation, as we have in South Vietnam, we are demonstrating that we still have national and international purposes.

"There are those who will disagree on our commitment and there are those who will disagree on the amount and nature of support we should give South Vietnam. I believe our efforts to help the South Vietnamese are proving that many of our most sterling qualities as Americans are still alive. We have certain visions of freedom, visions of liberty, and visions of the dignity of man, and a concept of honoring our word as a nation. We would not be true to our purpose of commitments of long standing if we were to stand by and watch the emerging and struggling nations of the free world fall prey to aggression."

Gen. Miller talked of the new armory here as a symbol of the National Guard,



The Daily Gate City

10 — KEOKUK, IOWA MONDAY, MAY 20, 1968

MAJOR GENERAL JUNIOR F. MILLER, Iowa Adjutant General, National Guard, salutes those waiting to greet him at Keokuk airport Saturday, after alighting from state airplane recently purchased and its dual missions, to the state of Iowa during emergencies "as we experienced this week in Charles City and Oelwein, and to the United States as a strategic reserve. He said, "As a member or a part of the community family, the National Guard must support and be supported by local citizenry. This has been the tradition of the National Guard for over 300 years service to country and support to the community. I believe that the citizens of Keokuk can be proud of the National Guard, for they are serving their state and nation well."

Following the dedicatory address, Mayor Kenneth C. Henke, assisted by Gen. Miller, cut a ribbon which had been placed across the front door of the new \$125,000 structure which was built to replace the former

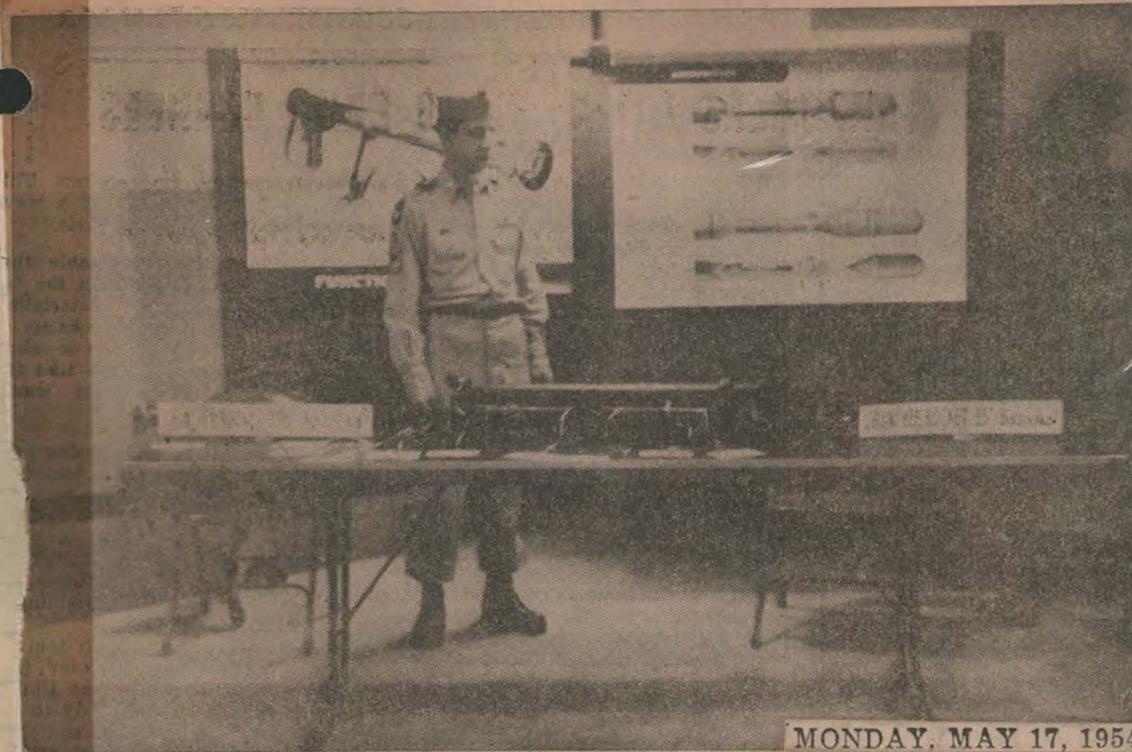
from Lindner Aviation here for use by Governor Harold Hughes. General Miller was guest speaker at armory dedication. At right is Ed Wetherell, architect who designed new Keokuk armory. Gate City armory destroyed in an explosion and fire November 24, 1965, in which 21 persons attending a square dance were killed.

The new building was completed early last December, and the unit moved in at that time from its temporary headquarters on South Fourth, where it had been conducting its monthly drills since 1965.

Under the reorganization of the Iowa National Guard, the Keokuk unit, formerly a medium tank group, was changed to a combat engineering unit and designated as Second and Third platoons, Co. D, 224th Eng. Bn., with the Company D headquarters in Mount Pleasant, where the headquarters and first platoons are stationed. Lt. Larry Schevers is in command of the garrison here.

THE GUEST SPEAKER WAS MAJOR GENERAL JUNIOR F. MILLER, IOWA NATIONAL GUARD ADJUTANT GENERAL. AT RIGHT IS ED WETHERELL, ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED THE NEW KEOKUK ARMORY. PHOTO BY J. R. RICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

104



MONDAY, MAY 17, 1954

A WEAPONS DISPLAY was one of the features of the Open House program which served to dedicate the new armory of Keokuk Company C of the Iowa National Guard Sunday. The Chamber of Commerce cooperated with the guardsmen in putting on the program and coffee and doughnuts were served throughout the

afternoon and night. Door prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10 were given by the military affairs committee of the chamber, headed by William T. McGinnis. M/Sgt. Harold Riley is on hand to explain the rocket launcher, bazooka.

—Kemco News Photo

KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY
MONDAY, MAY 10, 1954

Armory to be Dedicated Sun.

Next Sunday, May 16, Keokuk Company C of the Iowa National Guard will formally dedicate its new armory at the rear of Joyce park.

The event will be a feature of Armed Forces Day the civil defense and military affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce is cooperating with the guardsmen.

Plans are being made for a weapons display, free coffee and doughnuts and the public is invited to attend from 2 p. m. to 9 a. m. and inspect this latest of Keokuk's community facilities.

In cooperation with the National Guard the Chamber of Commerce committee, headed by William T. McGinnis, will award merchandise gift certificates of \$25, \$15 and \$10 as door prizes. These will be redeemable at Keokuk firms.

It is the hope of the committee that everyone will make a special point of showing the National Guard that they appreciate the important part they play in Keokuk by visiting the armory Sunday.

The Keokuk Gate City and
Constitution Democrat
TUESDAY, MAR. 25, 1952

\$100,000 Armory Will be Built

Keokuk is one of four towns in Iowa which will soon have a new armory costing \$100,000, Mayor Hubert Schouten affirmed today.

Announcement of plans and specifications of a new armory was made last night by Brig. Gen. Fred Tandy, adjutant general of Iowa, at a Chamber of Commerce sponsored dinner at the Hotel Iowa where top brass in the Iowa military were guests preceding an inspection of the local national guard unit.

Behind Joyce Park.

Mayor Schouten confirmed today that the armory will be located on three acres of ground which are part of 10 acres the city owns behind Joyce park.

The ground will be donated to the state to build the armory, Schouten said. Three acres of ground, he said, is a small price to pay to have a \$100,000 armory built in the city. The other council members are in agreement with the council's okay on the armory proposition, Schouten said.

More Than 7500 Visit New Armory

Upwards of 1500 persons from the Keokuk area attended the Open House program which served to dedicate Keokuk's new National Guard armory at the rear of Joyce park Sunday afternoon and night.

All obviously enjoyed the visit to this first permanent building constructed for specific armory purposes in Keokuk's 100 years of military history and also enjoyed the refreshments. The guardsmen served 60 gallons of coffee and 16 sheet cakes of gingerbread during the day.

Mrs. Elsie Ewing of Elvaston won the \$25 door prize awarded by the military affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce, headed by William T. McGinnis, Mrs. Glenn W. Curtis of Montrose won the second prize of \$15 and Kenneth Matta of Keokuk Route 2 the \$10 award. All were merchandise certificates.

Guardsmen were on hand to explain the many items of equipment and weapons which were on display.

The armory was built by the R. L. Patton Construction company at a cost of approximately \$100,000 provided from federal and state funds.

Captain William Talbot, company commander, today thanked the Chamber of Commerce and The Hubinger Company for their cooperation, as well as all others who assisted.

The new armory will be 100 by 100 feet in dimensions the mayor said, and the reason for three acres of ground is so that the armory will have sufficient room to expand.

Part of the building will be two stories, he said, and besides office, storage and drilling space, the armory will contain a 100 foot firing range.

Deed Property to State.

The city will deed the property for the armory over to the state. The armory will be built with 75 percent federal funds and 25 percent state funds.

At a reception dinner meeting held last night at the Hotel Iowa, various Keokuk citizens talked over the armory with high ranking military officials, including Maj. Gen. Ray Fountain, commanding general of the 34th infantry division, Iowa-Nebraska national guard.

William L. Talbot, captain, commanding officer of the local company and a member of the military affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce, presided at the meeting.

Mayor Schouten spoke at the dinner and so did Will Davis, Chamber president.

General Tells Plan.

Following their remarks, General Tandy told the group of plans for the construction of the armory here in the immediate future. Tandy said funds had been made available for four such armories in the state by

105

EVERY POLY-VU



KEOKUK COMPANY C, Iowa national guard, was inspected by high officers of the U. S. army last night in the armory. Addressing the group in the picture is Brig. Gen. Fred Tandy of Des Moines, adjutant general of Iowa, right. At the left is Maj. Gen. Ray Fountain, commanding general of the 34th infantry division of the Iowa-Nebraska national guard and in the center Capt. William L. Talbot, commanding officer of the Keokuk company.
—Daily Gate City Photo

both state and federal agencies.

Keokuk's armory, however is first on the list, said Tandy.

After the dinner meeting, General Fountain, accompanied by other visiting officers, conducted an inspection of the present armory and made a personal inspection of the troops in Company C.

Fountain said he was satisfied with the appearance of the company.

Commends Company.

Fountain said he believed the company to be excellent and he commended the men on the record they made at summer camp last summer when 80 percent of the men qualified on weapons they are assigned.

Fountain said he believed that with added enlistment and a new armory for the unit, which should be completed this year, the progress of the unit would be excellent.

Fountain inspected classrooms and storerooms and Tandy told the men about the armory plans.

Tandy told them that within the next two weeks the state should be able to start receiving bids for the new armory.

Those Attending

Those present last night at the Chamber of Commerce dinner besides Fountain, Tandy, Schouten and Davis were Colonel Earl Miner, regular army senior instructor, former Montrose resident; Lt. Col. Bowles, Division C-4; Captain Bennett, assistant inspector general; Col. John Calhoun, division judge advocate; Col. Chauncey Carl, regimental

commander, 168th infantry; Lt. Col. Charles J. Radosevich, first battalion commander; Major Theodore Spalding, first battalion instructor; Captain Keith McWilliams, battalion S-2; Major Hedsall and Captain Juhl, pilots Iowa air guard; Talbot, commanding officer of the local company; Sgt. Norman Mundy, First Sgt. Don Beard, Lt. Ralph Thornton, Leonard French all of Keokuk.

As members with Talbot of the Chamber's military affairs committee were John Conrad, James O'Brien and James Decker.

Present for the Chamber of commerce were Davis, president; Roy Dickinson, vice president; Earl Jemison, vice president, and Bill Diviney, executive secretary.

Robert H. Walker was also present.

The Keokuk Gate City and Constitution Democrat
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6, 1952

Patton Bid Still Low for Keokuk's New Guard Armory

The R. L. Patton Construction Company of Keokuk is still the low bidder on the new Keokuk National Guard armory, The Gate City was informed today.

A wire story from Des Moines last Friday said that the low bidder was the Irvinilt Construction Co.

of Chillicothe, Mo., but that was an error.

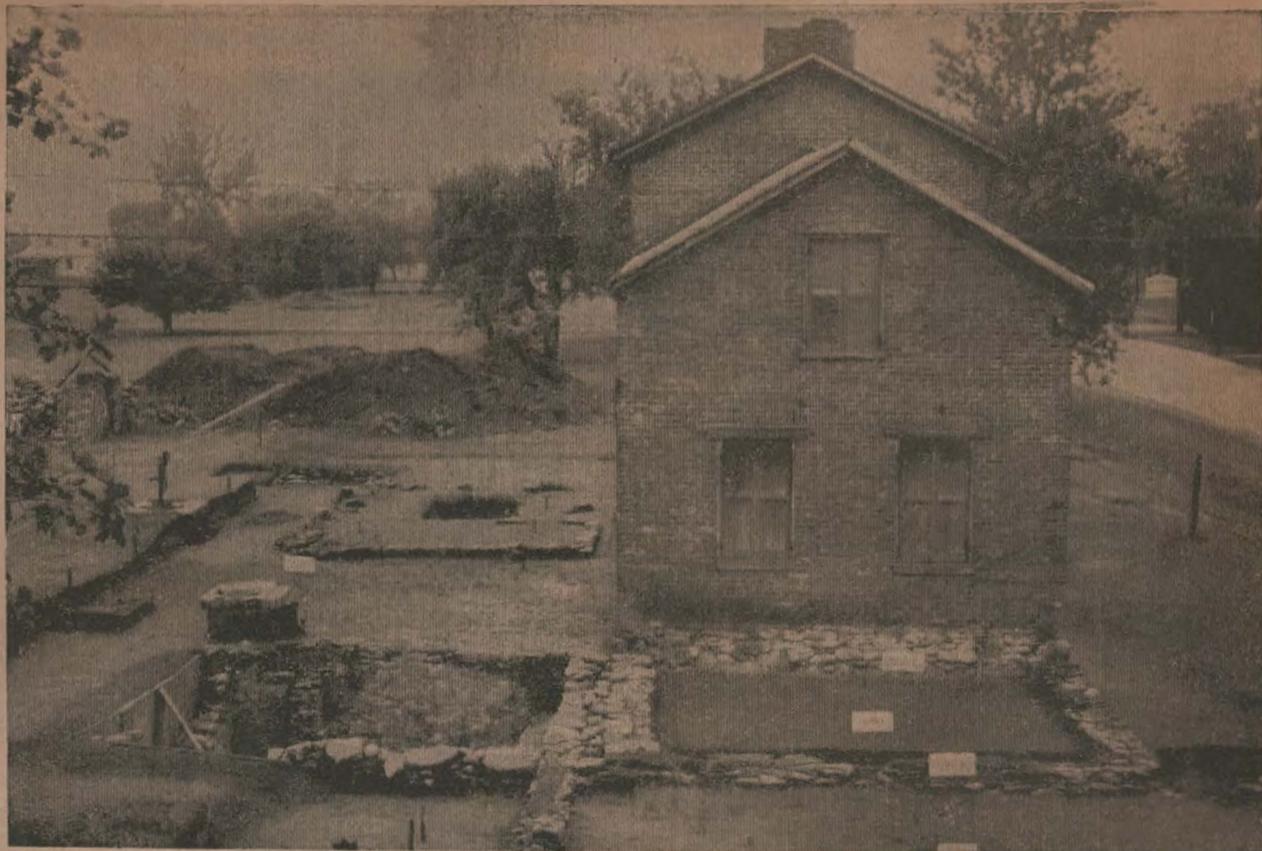
A check with the Irvinilt Company revealed that it had not bid on the Keokuk project but that it was the low bidder at \$99,500 for a similar armory at Clarinda.

The Patton company bid here was \$105,074 and was low among the three submitted last Thursday. All bids must be approved by the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D. C.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

106

107

AVERY®
POLY-VU

THIS VIEW of the Jonathan Browning home in Nauvoo recently purchased by Nauvoo Restoration Inc.

shows the excavations made during the past summer by a team headed by Dr. Dale Berge.

Excavations on old Browning property in Nauvoo produce 210 bags of artifacts

By Ida Blum

NAUVOO, Ill. — Nauvoo has a locality of international as well as national importance — the former home of Jonathan Browning and the stone foundation of his gunshop. Jonathan was a great gunsmith in his own right having invented repeating rifles from 1831 to 1854. Some of his guns saw military service in both the Seminole War of 1836 and the Civil War 1861-65. Gun authorities call Jonathan's design the original repeating rifle.

Dr. Dale Berge, archaeologist for Nauvoo Restoration, Inc., explained the summer project at the Browning property: On the southwest corner of the lot located on Main street is the original well closed for many years, and the six foot deep rock foundation of an out building which contained a quantity of pottery predating 1870.

On the east side of the two-story brick home Dr. Berge located the original foundation of the two-room log cabin, a 19th century cistern ten foot deep, the stone cooler under the spring house, and to the west the foundation of the summer kitchen.

Next to the brick house on the north was found the foundation of the Browning gunshop and north of that the foundation of the

The Daily Gate City

KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25, 1968 — 3

Browning blacksmith shop. The original flagstone path and the brick sidewalk 10 foot wide edged with the original stone curbing have been exposed.

To Dr. Berge all of the findings spoke eloquently of a great tradition of individual craftsmanship. It meant the bridging of present and past and dedication to a project to preserve the intangible expressions of Nauvoo's historic past. Unearthed at the site were 210 bags of artifacts. These were labeled and contain from two articles to four large boxes of artifacts each. Dr. Berge stated an archaeologist's work is very flexible, all do not proceed in the same manner, however, the results are the same.

Jonathan Browning's early education was self-directed. He was six feet tall at the age of 19 when he went to work for Samuel Porter at \$2 a week plus board and lodging in the layloft. He was used to cornpone and sorghum. Biscuits were plentiful. Born in Nashville, Tenn., he emigrated to Adams county, Ill., in 1834, bringing his family and meager equipment for making guns. At Quincy he became friends with Abe Lincoln

who spent a night in his home.

John Moses, the eldest son called him "Pappy" and Jonathan called his first born "John Mose." Jonathan had three wives and 22 children, 11 boys and 11 girls. It was John Moses who became the greatest firearms inventor the world has ever known.

Jonathan being a good Mormon did not neglect his ecclesiastical duties. He held numerous offices in the church and served a mission in Georgia. In Utah he started a tannery and sawmill, erected an iron-roller molasses mill, manufactured plows, mill irons and nails, but he never made a gun after reaching Utah. His famous son was granted his first U.S. patent No. 220-271 on October 7, 1879, the same year that Jonathan died. It is claimed John Moses made millions but never spent more than \$100 a month on himself. Pomposity was not in his nature.

Statistics show that Browning designed arms was America's first smokeless-powder sporting rifle. The Fabrique Nationale in Belgium produced the first of John's automatic pistols — the John M. Browning's

Colt Model 1895 "Peacemaker," which was the automatic machine gun purchased by the U.S.A. Government. It was used in the Spanish-American War, in Peking during the Boxer Rebellion and in France during World War I.

Through World War I and II and the Korean War all the automatic guns used by U. S. troops, in the field, mounted on U.S. planes, tanks and naval vessels were Brownings. All of the automatic pistols produced by Colt's Company have been basic Browning designs and more than 60 different models of Browning Automatic machine guns have been adapted to land, sea and air use.

It is claimed no Browning design was ever

a failure and no model was ever discontinued. It is also claimed no other individual has contributed so much to the national security of his country as Browning. It was in Liege, Belgium, that John Moses received the Cross of the Knighthood of the Order of Leopold presented by King Albert of Belgium in 1914.

He received the John Scott Legacy medal in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1905 for his automatic pistol developments. The gold inlaid 100,000th F. N. Model 1900 .32 Caliber Semi-Automatic Pistol was presented to him in 1904. In Belgium he received the title of Sir John M. Browning. Today the factory in Belgium employs 15,000 people and John in his old age once said facetiously "I've been

pretty handy with guns."

It was Captain Paul A. Curtis, gun authority and author, who wrote "There are many great men working along the same lines as Edison, Steinmetz, Westinghouse, Marconi and others but Browning was unique. He stood alone and there never was in his time, or before, one whose genius could remotely compare with his." James Severn wrote "To Browning's credit was the greatest number of inventions in American history — and many of the most important" Sir John M. Browning died in Liege, Belgium, in 1926.

The Keokuk News.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1881.

KEOKUK, IOWA.

THE EASTERN SENTIMENT TOWARD THE MORMONS.

While this system is spreading and being daily strengthened, while something is going on in Utah which, if left exclusively to itself, would, in a generation, bring women to the auction block, and utterly brutalize men, the people of the East do not seem to be greatly worried. Though the Gentiles of Utah never wronged the Mormons, though they have given to Utah its prosperity and accumulated wealth, though they own quite two-thirds of the property of the Territory, and though they have never asked anything of the Mormons except that they obey the laws, still the sentiment of the East is that they are a predatory set, and that the Mormons are entitled to peculiar and tender consideration, because, when their presence and customs had become intolerable to the people among whom they dwelt, they started out into the wilderness and established a thriving Territory.

While doing this the Mormons have shrunk from no crime, recoiled at no falsehood, have murdered and robbed Americans in secret and laid the crime to savages, and still, while despoiling Americans, have shed crocodile tears over their own extreme sufferings. They have disobeyed and derided the laws, and still continue to do so; they have insulted and driven away United States officials for no offense except that of trying to do their duty under their oaths, and all this has been performed by the orders of less than thirty men, who, in the meantime, have absorbed so much of the earnings of the people that they possess more money and property than five times 20,000 of their dupes possess. Worse than all, they have again forged the chains of an ignominious slavery on the wrists of women; what they call their religion offers a perpetual premium

for men's lusts; their teachings kill the germ of chastity in the hearts of childhood before it is ever warmed into life, and destroy the honor and sacredness of home.

The men of the East should consider these things, and should remember that once before there was an institution in this country around which there was a shield of sympathy; its divine rights were declared from a thousand pulpits; Congress was too sordid and too cowardly to deal with it; wholesale merchants and great corporations lent their influence to perpetuate it, and a venal press rang with anathemas against any who dared to denounce it. But there came a day at last when men had to choose which should live and rule, that institution or this nation.

The history of what followed is fresh in all minds; and, little as the masses believe it now, there will come a time, if this monster in Utah is left to grow, when there will be another call for volunteers and for money; and, as before, tens of thousands of brave young men will go away, never to return; as before, there will be an enormous debt incurred, as before, the country will be hilled with graves, and the whole land will be moistened by the rain of women's tears.—C. C. Goodwin, in *Harper's Magazine*.

THE GATE CITY.

KEOKUK: 1863

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

To the Public.

The history of the Mormon sojourn in Hancock county, Illinois, ought not to be lost. The time may come when that history may be given to the world.

The undersigned has now in his possession a number of valuable documents pertaining to those times, and is anxious to collect others, in order that a true and full history thereof may be prepared. Many persons in Illinois and Iowa are doubtless in possession of such documents, both printed and manuscript, useless to themselves, and which might be rendered serviceable in such an undertaking. Copies of any newspapers and documents issued at Nauvoo, during that period, or of letters to or from Mormon dignitaries and State officials—will be thankfully received; and all such will be carefully preserved, and after use, deposited in the Library of the Illinois Historical Society.

THOMAS GREGG,
Jan 21
Hamilton, Illinois.

The Daily Enquirer.

TUESDAY MORNING, 1863, MARCH 6

Who Cross the Plains.

Geo. Wilkes, editor of the *Police Gazette*, in a letter from the Mormon Station in the Great Basin, east of Sierra Nevada, August 9th, says:

A great number of emigrants entered Carson Valley during the course of this day; and as they all filed past the Mormon Station, and most of them stopped there for supplies, we had a good opportunity of inspecting their condition and getting the experience of their trip. Most of them were in bad case and spirits; though few had lugged misfortune on their backs, and some had frequently been obliged to endure hardship in their stomachs. In one case I saw two Germans who had trudged the entire journey to this point, with bedding suitable for themselves and wives strapped on their shoulders. Their partners walked by their sides, with staffs in their hands, and carried pucks on their backs out of which came the cupboard-furniture that graced their meals. They looked dogged and sullen, but as an air of depression or indifference is common to most emigrants at this stage of their journey, that expression did not distinguish them from the rest so much as their burdens.

Another case was that of a Frenchman, of middle-age, who, by his mustache and military air, I rightly guessed to be a soldier. He was accompanied by two beautiful girls of thirteen and fifteen, and all three were traveling to the new land of promise on foot. At night the girls had lodgings in a wagon, while the father slept beneath; but in the day-time they went forward by his side, with no help but their buoyant spirits and their elastic young limbs. The old man could not speak a word of English, so the eldest girl interpreted for him; and, as she had one of those sweet faces that shine their influence straight upon the heart, and one of those mellow voices that melt in the ear like evening music, every one was in her way and ready to listen to her. Her complexion had been much bronzed by exposure, but she pulled off a glove while I talked to her, and exhibited the whitest nite of a hand in the world, with a conscious pride of its condition. There was no ostentation in this act, no straining for display, but it was an easy mode of communicating her caste, and a pleasant style of saying, without the use of words, "You see, sir, what pains I take to retain the pleasure of being a lady." As I handed back her glove, which she had dropped by the merest accident in life, I felt an involuntary regret that I could not offer her a sheet of music and a piano forte. Her father had been a Captain in the French army, whose political opinions had laid him on the shelf. She and her sister were born in Rouen, where their mother had died the year before, and they and their father were now all soldiers together, making what head they could in the tough campaign of the world.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
S. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

807

Nauvoo Society receives 1846 war badge

The Daily Gate City

22 — KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1969

By Mrs. Ida Blum

NAUVOO, Ill. — A veteran's badge of the Mexico-United States of America War of 1846 has been presented to the Nauvoo Historical Society museum in the state park by Mrs. Arthur Pilkington. On the shield is MEXICO 1846 and on the back of the gold shield is engraved Johnson McClain 4th Ind. Inf. Also inscribed is "Presented March 7, 1876, by the National Association of Veterans." Around the edge is engraved "Palo Alto Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Cherubusco Chepultepu San Pascual." Across the top is "Tobasco Veracruz."

Mrs. Pilkington received the medal about 70 years ago from a second cousin Mrs. Johnson McClain, a native of California, and wife of Johnson McClain.

The medal recalls the story of the Mormon Battalion made up of 500 volunteers, most of whom had been living in Nauvoo, Ill., and were en route to the Salt Lake Valley. Soon after the Latter Day Saints left Nauvoo in February of 1846 the Mexican War was creating excitement and the general plan called for 500 volunteers. Col. S. F. Kearney of the U. S. Army was in command of the Army of the West, and sent Captain James Allen to recruit the Saints at Mount Pisgah and Garden Grove. That was on July 1, 1846, and on July 7 a letter was sent to the few Mormons remaining in Nauvoo.

The volunteers started immediately for Council Bluffs where it was made known the 500 men were wanted from

among the teamsters and without delay. This left 500 teams belonging to the Mormons without drivers. Drummers and fifers were also wanted. Captain Allen advised each man to take a blanket and great coat, shirt, pantaloons, socks and shoes on his back and added "you had better take woolen clothing which will last." On July 18 Brigham Young met with the officers and instructed them to be fathers of their companies and to manage their affairs in a prayerful way. On July 21 they started on their long march to the tune of "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

The men were divided into five companies: A, B, C, D and E. Five women made the entire journey with their husbands: Susan, wife of Cap't. Davis; Lydia, wife of Cap't Hunter (Bishop Edward Hunter of Nauvoo); Phoebe, wife of Sgt. Brown; and Melissa, wife of Sgt. Coray. All

officers and men, except the commanding officer, were to be Mormons. The soldiers trusted and admired Cap't. Allen. Then on August 23, 1846, he died at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Col. Phillip St. George Cooke then assumed command of the battalion.

The many achievements of the Mormon battalion were written up by Col. Cooke. On January 30, 1847, he congratulated the battalion on its safe arrival on the shores of the Pacific and the conclusion of the march of more than 2,000 miles. He closed with the words "History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry."

Other articles sent by Mrs. McClain to Mrs. Pilkington and presented to the museum include a silver napkin holder, bracelet made of human hair, three brooches containing photos, earrings and an English Bible printed in 1860.

The Daily Gate City FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1969

Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. to build tourist center

NAUVOO, Ill. — Dr. J. LeRoy Kimball, president and chairman of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc., has announced plans for the construction of a two-story tourist center in Nauvoo. The ground breaking is scheduled for Saturday, May 24, 1969.

The 155-foot square building will be constructed with red brick, typical of the Nauvoo period of 1839-1846. It will be built on a 16-acre plot at the intersections of Main and Young streets on what is commonly known as the "flat."

"Housing the two theaters, a large library containing data about Nauvoo, a lecture hall, lounges and administrative offices, this building is designed to tell the story of the development of Nauvoo," said Dr. Kimball. Many of the activities of the Latter Day Saints with headquarters in Salt Lake City, will be explained to the tourists.

"From the second story window," said Dr. Kimball, "visitors will be able to look down Main street and see the

Jonathan Browning home, the blacksmith shop, the Times and Seasons building, and many other restored buildings. Visitors will get a panoramic view of the restored community. They will see the Mississippi river as it winds around the knoll upon which the city is built.

"Nauvoo Restoration, Inc., a non-profit corporation sponsored by the Mormon Church, owns more than 90 per cent of the property along the old Main street. In the Nauvoo Visitors' Center the tourists will be oriented to the city by showing him a 30-minute film about

Nauvoo and its history. Following the film the visitors will board buses which will take them to points of interest throughout the city. The visitors' center is expected to be completed within a year."

Plans for the center were drawn by Steven T. Baird, Salt Lake City, the Nauvoo architect.

Future plans include the

restoration of the Seventies' hall, shops of tanners, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, wagon makers and other important trades of that day. Blacksmiths will actually be working in the shops using tools of that period. Also being considered is a partial restoration of the Nauvoo Temple on the original site. This was the second temple to be built by the church.

In addition to Dr. Kimball, the other members of the Nauvoo Restoration board of trustees, are Thorpe B. Isaacson, Delbert L. Stapley, Harold P. Fabian, A. Hamer Reiser, Salt Lake City; David M. Kennedy, Chicago; J. Willard Marriott, Washington, D.C.; and A. Kevin Kendrew, Colonial Williamsburg, Va.



DEE F. GREEN, supervisor of excavation work at Mormon Temple site is pictured on pier of one of the interior pillars and points to two stone steps which probably led from the font room.

Mormon Temple excavation work will be resumed next spring

NAUVOO, Ill. — The Mormon Temple excavation work for the current season comes to an end this week, but will be resumed next spring.

In the past few days several additional poured concrete foundation blocks from post-Mormon buildings have been removed and also a large masonry pier was uncovered.

Top of an interior pier has

been exposed and also two large faced stones, one on top of the other, in step arrangement. These stones, approximately seven feet long, probably formed the steps leading from the font room to the upper rooms on the south side.

Much work remains to be carried out before an adequate picture of the original construction can be determined.

One of the "Moon" stones from the great Mormon Temple. This is in the yard of the Hotel Nauvoo.



"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL — KEOKUK, IOWA

- 16 .
- 17 .
- 18 .
- 19 .
- 20 .
- 21 .
- 23 .
- 24 .
- 25 .
- 26 .
- 27 .
- 28 .

170

1970 was one of wettest years in Keokuk's weather history

The year 1970 saw several records broken insofar as weather is concerned. It proved to be one of the wettest years on record, with a total of 47.95 inches of precipitation. Normal precipitation is 32.64 inches, showing a departure of plus 15.31 inches.

Greatest amount of rainfall in a 24-hour period occurred on Sept. 22 when 4.08 inches fell, while greatest snowfall was 7 inches recorded on April 2.

Temperatures ran the gamut from a low of 17 below zero on Jan. 21 to 103 degrees on July 31.

There were 178 clear days in 1970, 107 cloudy days, 80 partly cloudy days, 5,705 degree days and the first killing frost occurred on Nov. 15.

Mildred Swinford, official U.S. weather observer for Keokuk, has compiled the following information in regard to record changes monthly during 1970.

January: The low of -17 on Jan. 21, broke the record of -13 in 1888 and 1963.

February: The lowest amount of rainfall on record for February: The second time in 20 years it has been .11" in all 12 months. The first time was October, 1964.

March: None.

April: The largest amount of snowfall in April since 1926. The third largest since the records were started in 1871. We had seven inches of snow on April 1, but recorded on the 2nd, only five inches on the ground, it melted with rain. We had thunder and lightning during the snow storm.

Strong winds recorded on the 19th, up to 60 miles per hour for five minutes, but averaged 40 miles per hour.

The high of 90 on April 28 broke the record of 86 on same date in 1894.

The third largest amount of rainfall in 20 years.

May: The third greatest amount of rainfall since 1908, when it was 10.09 inches. In 1957 the amount was 6.98 inches.

June: The average minimum temperature of 59.2 was the second lowest recorded. Last year 1969 was the lowest.

July: The low in the night of July 22, tied the record on same date in 1894. The low in the night of 58 on July 23, tied the record on same date in 1894 and again in 1927.

The high of 103 broke the record of 100 on same date in 1919.

The fourth largest amount of rainfall in 20 years

August: The largest amount of rainfall ever recorded in August.

September: The largest amount of rainfall in September ever recorded, 12.73".

In 1926, 12.56 inches was recorded. In 1961, 11.99 inches was on record. The first time on record that our means was normal for September. The normal for September is 67.5 degrees.

The amount of rainfall recorded for one 24 hour period for September was 4.08". The largest ever recorded for September was 4.82" in 1961.

October: None.

November: Killing frost Nov. 15. The high of 63 at midnight on Nov. 30, tied the record of 63 in 1899 and 1951.

December: The high of 70 on Dec. 3 broke the record of 63 on same date in 1951, also setting an all time high. The old record was 69 on Dec. 24 in 1889.

The first visible snow on the ground Dec. 16, 1970.

Des Moines Register
Fri., Feb. 25, 1966

MAN GAINS UPPER HAND IN ICE JAM

River Level Begins Slow Decline

By Gene Raffensperger
(Register Staff Writer)

DAVENPORT, IA. — Man appeared to have gained the upper hand on nature here Thursday in the battle of the ice jam on the Mississippi River.

As Davenport went through its twelfth day of flood crisis because an ice gorge has corked the river near Buffalo, these were the developments:

A helicopter spewed 1,400

pounds of charcoal dust and 500 pounds of pellet charcoal on the face of the ice gorge. It was hoped the black substance would tend to hold heat from the sun and therefore act to thaw the front of the 8-mile long jam.

The temperature climbed into the upper 30s during the afternoon, and a bright sun shone. These conditions were termed "ideal" for the charcoal experiment.

The river itself continued a slow but sure decline from the dangerous levels of two days ago. By day's end the mark at Lock and Dam 15 at Rock Island was only about two feet above flood stage.

Two towboats, chugging to the rescue of the beleaguered Quad-Cities area, cast off from Joliet, Ill., and were headed down the Illinois River.

They carry "highest priority" orders cleared by the Corps of Army Engineers, and other tows will stand aside at lock chambers. Even with that, they are not likely to reach here short of

a week from now.

Once here they will ram into the ice jam with loaded barges, a tactic that most believe is far more effective than the use of ice breakers.

The Corps of Engineers announced that it has not completely given up the use of explosives, and in fact has an expert coming here today to check the situation.

An ice expert from the Engineers came here to give his advice, promptly ordered aerial mappings of the area to be made daily. This ice expert also stated that Russians have had some success using the charcoal technique tried here Thursday.

Finally, helpful residents of Iowa and Illinois. The "non-professional" observers of this battle between man and ice, continued to offer ideas for beating the jam. All were given careful consideration.

Sour Note

The day began on a sour note for the ice fighters. They had hoped 500 pounds of pea-size charcoal could be ground to powder and applied to the ice.

But milling firms in Davenport and Blue Grass could not handle the job. The engineers then went to Clinton and at the Clinton Corn Products Co. secured 1,000 pounds of powdered charcoal.

A special sheet metal bin was built on a helicopter and at 1 p. m. Lt. Col. H. J. Finley of the Iowa Air National Guard took off with about 40 pounds aboard.

Two other helicopters flew with him. Finley described one of the helicopters as "riding shotgun," adding that if his machine developed engine trouble he wanted to be sure there was someone around to pull him off the ice pack.

Finley's machine swooped low over the ice and he tripped a lever. A black cloud of charcoal spewed from the bin and it appeared that Finley's helicopter had taken an enemy anti-aircraft burst and was in flames.

Behind the helicopter there

appeared some evidence of a black tinge on the ice.

The helicopters returned again and again to a field west of Buffalo for more charcoal.

Spectators Gather

A knot of interested spectators gathered at the Buffalo waterfront hoping for a view. One woman, asked if she thought the charcoal would do the job, replied:

"I don't know a thing about that, but I'm afraid it might dirty up our river."

It was too early to determine if the charcoal was effective, the engineers said Thursday night.

Weather permitting, they will continue the application of charcoal today and, in addition to a helicopter, they hope to use two crop-dusting planes.

At a morning press briefing, Col. Howard B. Coffman, jr., district engineer for the Rock Island Army Engineers, said the river was lowering slightly for three reasons:

The snow melt runoff from Wisconsin and Minnesota was past here; the water here was eroding the ice jam; the warmer weather was stopping the formation of new pool ice above the jam.

Colonel Coffman said the government has agreed to pay a total daily fee of \$4,500 to the two towboats enroute here from Joliet to help fight the ice. He said he sent his chief of operations, Robert Clevensine, to ride one of the boats and assure its priority passage at locks.

Colonel Coffman said several chemical companies have made suggestions on possible chemical agents to use against the ice and that these are under study. He added that he ordered his staff to investigate "any feasible" solution to the problem and that "numerous" suggestions have been offered by the general public.

A check later showed that among these are:

A Tipton woman's suggestion that the Army employ a line of flame-throwers along the river banks to melt the ice jam.

A Davenport man's idea to use a sonic boom from three jet planes flying over Buffalo.

A Moline woman's idea that "everyone heat water as hot as possible and dump it into the river at a pre-arranged time which would heat up the river water and melt the ice."

A Des Moines woman's suggestion that silver might be a good agent. She recalled that a silver dollar works well

Lt. Col. H. J. Finley of the Iowa National Guard flies a helicopter over the mass of ice on the Mississippi River Thursday while charcoal dust is poured from a special bin under the copter. The

ship flew only 5 to 10 feet above the ice in spreading 1,400 pounds of charcoal dust and 500 pounds of pellet charcoal. Purpose is to speed breaking up of the ice jam.

Charcoal On Ice



against a frosted car windshield.

Colonel Coffman said no suggestion is being dismissed out of hand and that the corps has welcomed the assistance of professionals and others in this fight.

Brig. Gen. Roy T. Dodge of the North Central Division of Army Engineers in Chicago, Ill., was here and clarified what seemed to be a change in policy toward use of blast-

ing against the ice.

General Dodge referred to earlier statement that the jam could not be blasted because of the size of explosive needed.

"We have not changed our minds about blasting," said General Dodge, "it is simply that under a thaw cycle there is more chance for success."

General Dodge said a week ago the area was in a freeze cycle and there appeared no

hope in use of explosives. He said under a thaw cycle it might be possible to use smaller charges with success.

Dr. Ernest W. Marshall of Detroit, Mich., member of the Corps of Engineers lake survey team and ice specialist, told the press briefing that Canadians and Russians have used the charcoal idea with some success. END

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

112

President Polk, it is understood, some time ago dispatched an agent to their camp to inquire into their condition—probably with a view of granting them some relief—and he is said to have returned to this city on the Gen. Broake.

From the St. Louis Union of the 23d.
Later from Nauvoo.

The New-Haven got down last evening, bringing a number of families from Nauvoo. All was quiet at that place on Saturday, when they left. But very few of the proscribed citizens remained, and they were preparing to leave as speedily as possible. Among the passengers on the New Haven were Mr. Robbins and family, and Mrs. Carlisle Smith, the latter a highly intelligent lady, the widow of a brother of the murdered Joseph and Hyrum Smith. They intend making this City their residence. Mr. Robbins was keeper of the Temple, and incurred, as such, the especial odium of the "old citizens." At Keokuk, as the party descended, he barely escaped assassination.

From a gentleman who was in Nauvoo when the Anties entered, we learn that their number was sixteen hundred and twenty-five, and that their train of baggage wagons numbered over one hundred. It is supposed that they suffered severely, during the skirmishing of the three days. Some persons who were lying sick in a house near the outposts, aver that they saw more than twenty wounded men borne from the field, after the fight of Friday.

The few Mormons yet remaining, as well as many that have left, are in quite a wretched condition. They have barely the means of sustaining existence. The philanthropic John Wood had left Quincy with a quantity of provisions for their relief. One of the stipulations of the treaty, (if so the terms of capitulations might be called,) was, that the Mormons should receive their arms, as they crossed the river. This had been complied with.

The St. Louis Republican of the 23d says: Every boat from Keokuk is crowded with Mormons, who have left Nauvoo in compliance with the stipulations of the late treaty. Some of them are in a destitute condition, and demand the sympathy of the public. We learn that many persons have embarked on steamboats going up the river, probably with a view of attaching themselves to the church at Voree, in Wisconsin.

The Warsaw Correspondent of the same paper says, under date of September 20th:

On Wednesday, the 16th inst. through the mediation of the Quincy Committee of One Hundred, articles of capitulation were signed by the beligerent parties. They had been given by Major Brockman as his ultimatum, from which he would not recede, and were finally accepted by the Mormons—Clifford being their Commander-in-chief. These articles were to this effect:

1st. That the posse might enter the City on to-morrow, (the 17th,) at 3 o'clock. 2d. The arms of the Mormons to be given into the hands of the Quincy Committee, and by them re-delivered, after the Mormons had left the City. 3d. The posse pledged protection to the persons and property of the Mormons. 4th. The Mormon population to immediately leave the State.

At 3 o'clock, on Thursday, the posse marched into the City and encamped in the South end of town. Before they had arrived, however, nearly all the Mormons and Jacks, agreeably to the stipulations, had left, by crossing the river into Iowa.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1853.

FROM UTAH.—Some twenty-five or thirty elders and dignitaries of the Mormon Church arrived at St. Louis on the 21st instant. They came from Utah, and are on the way to various parts of the Old World as Missionaries. The news they bring from the Plains is favorable. There was no sickness among emigrants, and they did not see more than five fresh graves along the whole route. They bring also the block of marble which was donated by the Territory for the Washington Monument. No perfect marble could be obtained, and they therefore adopted as a substitute a block of whitish limestone. It is ingrained with fine particles of flint, and on that account was not susceptible of as fine a polish as it was desired should be given it. The block is three feet long, two wide, and six inches thick. It will be sent forward to Washington immediately.

HARPER'S WEEKLY.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1876.

A preacher going armed into the pulpit is an unusual style for the United States, at least since the period of the first settlement of New England; but it is the style adopted by the Rev. D. J. M'MILLAN, a Presbyterian home missionary in Utah. His field of labor is about 150 miles south of Salt Lake City, and includes the town of Mount Pleasant. Here he has encountered the bitter opposition of the heads of the Mormon Church. They would not permit the Mormon carpenters to make seats and desks for Mr. M'MILLAN's school. Mr. M'MILLAN made the seats and desks himself. BRIGHAM YOUNG and the twelve apostles then held a two days' mass-meeting in Mount Pleasant for the purpose of warning the people against the Presbyterian preacher. They charged him with being "a corrupt and dissolute character," and called on their people to sign a pledge not to send their children to his school. Still the children came. Threats of violence were next made, to which the minister very properly replied that he would preach wherever the American flag floated. "Carrying his life in his hands," says a correspondent of the *Evangelist*, "he goes thoroughly armed, even carrying his weapons into the pulpit—like CROMWELL, trusting in Providence and keeping his powder dry." This is true courage; but is it not time that the laws of the United States were enforced in Utah?

The Daily Constitution.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 23, 1871.

MORMON HISTORY.

The Chronology of the Latter Day Saints.

The existing crisis in Utah lends interest to the following sketch of Mormon history, furnished to the New York *Herald* by Elder Ernest Lisle:

Joseph Smith, the prophet and founder of the church, was born in the state of Vermont, in the year of our Lord, 1803. The designs of Heaven were first made known to him at the early age of fifteen, when he was informed in a vision of the utter apostasy of the primitive church. September 22, 1827. Joseph Smith, received from the hands of a messenger from the Lord the golden records, containing the ancient history of this continent, written by various prophets, and concealed by Moroni in the year 420. Joseph was then informed that he was to be an instrument in the hands of God to re-establish His Church on the earth in its former purity and holiness. The prophet then proceeded to translate the golden records.

1830—The "Church" was organized.

1833—Our people suffered great persecution in Independence, Mo.

1837—Elders and priests were sent to the different nations of the earth in order to establish the "Church" throughout the world.

1838—Persecution raged. The prophet was betrayed into the hands of his enemies by a second Judas—a professed friend. Shortly afterward Gov. Boggs, of Missouri, issued his order of extermination, followed by the massacre of a number of our people in that State.

1839—The people began to build Nauvoo, Illinois.

1841—The corner stone of the Nauvoo Temple was laid by the prophet.

1842—Joseph prophesied that our people would be driven to the Rocky Mountains.

1844—The prophet and his brother were murdered in the prison at Carthage, Ill. During an eventful life of thirty-nine years he was arrested, tried and honorably acquitted over forty times, which so incensed his enemies that they shed the blood of innocent men. Before going to prison Joseph said, in a prophetic manner, "I go like a lamb to the slaughter, but I am as calm as a summer's morning, for my conscience is void of offense toward God and toward all men. It shall be said of me, 'I was murdered in cold blood.'"

1845—A large mob, led on by two Christian ministers, attacked Nauvoo, and a battle was fought.

1846—The exodons from Nauvoo began. A Mormon regiment was sent to Mexico by order of the United States.

1847—President Young entered Utah, known at that time as the Great American Desert.

1848—The mob set the temple in Nauvoo on fire.

1852—Revelation of polygamy first made known. Since that time we have caused Utah to blossom as the rose, reared the most moral city on earth, and, while President Young has governed us, known little or no crime, withstood two military expeditions, have been applauded for our firmness, and called by the London Times a nation of heroes, and I here affirm that we are a loyal, law abiding people, and desire nothing more than the prosperity of our territory.

The Daily Constitution.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1871.

By Telegraph

Track-Laying on the Utah Southern Railroad—Brigham drives the first Spike.

From the West.

SALT LAKE, June 7.—The laying of the rails of the Utah and Southern railroad commenced yesterday, Brigham Young driving the first spike in the presence of a large concourse of citizens.

The Daily Constitution.

KEOKUK, IOWA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1871.

From the West.

SALT LAKE, August 28.—Wm. Hickman and James Flock, two well-known residents of this territory, were arrested yesterday by the U. S. marshal, at Camp Floyd, charged with murder. The prisoners were brought in to day and placed in Camp Douglass. The particulars of the alleged crime are not yet known.

Nauvoo Restoration razing two homes

By Ida Blum

NAUVOO, Ill. — Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. has planned a demolition project with the approval of the Nauvoo city council, as a part of the program to be carried out here this summer.

Two houses have been razed — the one-story brick home of the late Michael Gross and the frame house that was located west of the Nauvoo Masonic Temple.

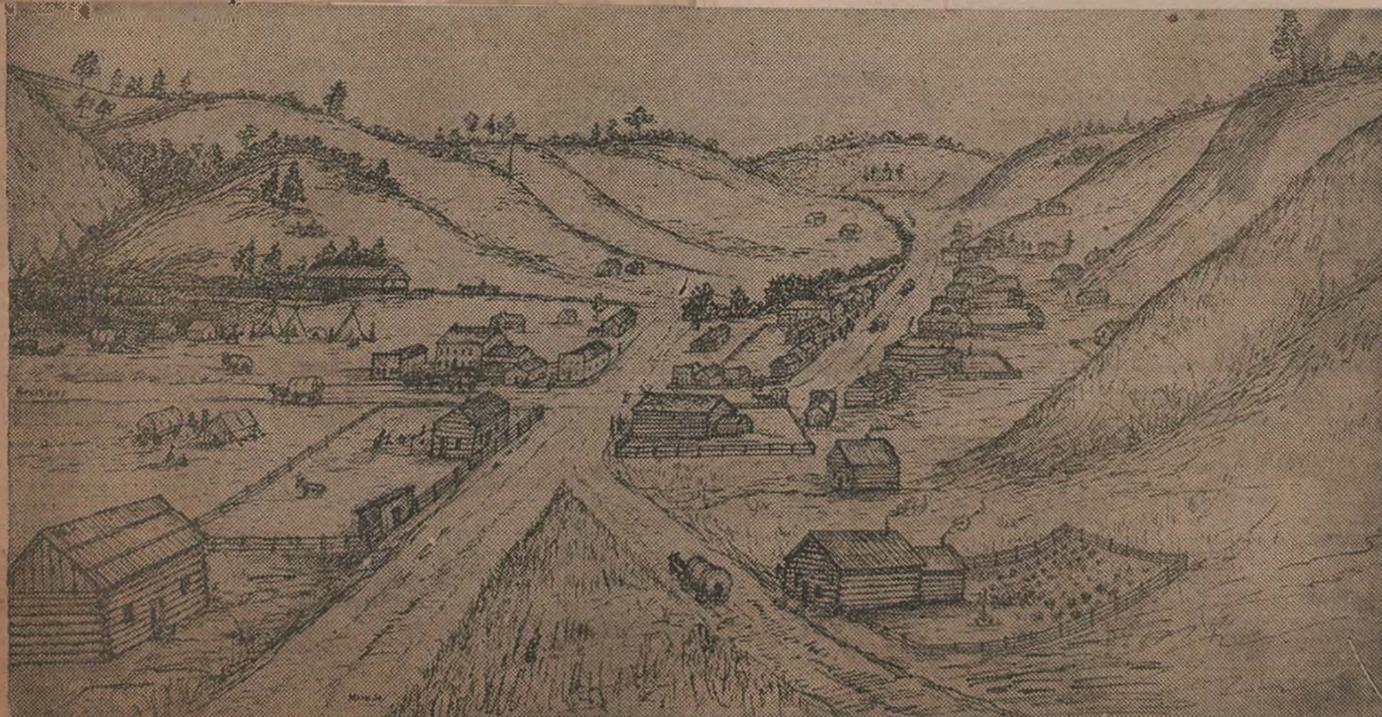
All the buildings scheduled to come down were built during the post-Mormon period and most of those planned for destruction are in a sad state of neglect hence their removal will give Nauvoo a real face lifting in that area.

Four of the old houses are located on Main street in the "flat" — the Andrew Sandmeyer one-story frame house which had been moved to its present location many years ago from Partridge street south of Parley, known as the blue house at that time because of its color; the Fred Hoots one-story frame house; the one-story rock house known as the Pikert place; and the Wetzal one-story frame house that has been boarded up.

Also to be removed are the one-story frame house located between the historic Lucy Mack Smith and the John Kaufman homes; the one-story frame house of the late Max Burmeister; the large two-story frame house now occupied by the Gary Bolton family; the two-story frame house built by the late William Dachroth; and the one-story frame house at the river front known as the Amos Roberts place.

The additions that were added to two historic Mormon homes are to be removed — the two-story brick addition to the north side of the Farr home and the two-story frame addition on the west side of same; and one-story addition added to the rear of the Chauncey Webb home.

Also on the agenda is the archaeological work to be continued on the Jonathan Browning home and other historic sites for systematic excavations reveal much concerning the early years. This is a necessary undertaking if Nauvoo is to be restored to its former grandeur as a political, cultural and social center and to help individuals share a common interest in localized history.



Kanesville in the forties, when it was a collection of loghouses. At the left center is Main street. Note the Indian tepees at the left.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

114



BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. is shown following a recent board meeting held in Nauvoo. In the front row left are Dr. J. LeRoy Kimball, president of the board, David M. Kennedy, trustee and board and recent appointee of President-elect

Nixon, A. Hamer Reiser, secretary and treasurer, Rowena Miller, asst. historian, executive secretary; second row from left, David Hertzog, trustee, Rex Sohm, architect, Nauvoo, J. Byron Ravsten, resident manager, Nauvoo, Harold P. Fabian, vice president and Steven T. Baird, architect. —Courtesy of Mr. Ravsten

Three prominent Mormons accept administration positions

The Daily Gate City

2 — KEOKUK, IOWA

MONDAY, DEC. 16, 1968

By Mrs. Ida Blum

NAUVOO, Ill. — Three members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) have been in the national limelight for a number of years and at present are being highly publicized. All have been associated with Nauvoo, Ill. President Elect Richard Nixon has shown good judgment in their selection to serve in his cabinet, for all have held high positions of trust.

David M. Kennedy, Chicago, who has been named Secretary of the Treasury, owns 10 acres of land in Nauvoo which overlooks the Mississippi river. It is located just east of the Village Inn motel on the

south side of Parley street. For more than half a century it was known as the Leininger vineyard.

An article in the Chicago Tribune, Oct. 17, 1967, by Louis Dombrowski follows: "A Presidential commission today unveiled a new concept designed to make the national budget "a more understandable and useful instrument of public policy and financial planning." In the recommendation to Pres. Johnson the commission urged the president to scrap the 3 budget forms now in use and replace them with a unified "Budget of the United States."

The commission headed by David M. Kennedy, chairman

of the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, said the 3 budgets have led to "public confusion" and have made it "difficult for the ordinary citizens to keep abreast of what his government is doing."

This man, David M. Kennedy, chosen by Mr. Nixon to serve in his cabinet, has been a frequent visitor in Nauvoo the past five years, being a member of the board of trustees of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. since its organization. Mr. Kennedy also serves as chairman of the executive board, Mayor's committee for Economic and Cultural Development of Chicago. He is known internationally having opened banks in foreign countries for Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company. When in Nauvoo Mr. and Mrs. Kenned have been

guests of Dr. and Mrs. J. LeRoy Kimball and Mr. and Mrs. J. Byron Ravsten.

The second Mormon is Gov. George Romney of Michigan. A large map hanging in the Nauvoo Bureau of Information on Temple Block, has a star marking the location of the home of Gov. Romney's great grandparents who lived in Nauvoo during the Mormon era. His great grandfather worked on the Nauvoo Temple. The home was located on North hill between Joseph and Hiram streets, and between Page and Robison streets (Barnett was called Robison also). The map shows the historical location as "KK14."

Romney's grandmother, Hannah Hood Hill married Miles Park Romney June 12, 1862. Hannah's mother died at Winter Quarters, Nebr. on March 12, 1847 and Hannah wrote in her diary "The first night after I started west with strangers, they cut off my hair. I traveled barefoot and bareheaded. George Milcken Romney was the son of Gaskil and Anna Romney. In 1945

George Romney was elected President of American Motors Corporation; in 1958 he began his political career and was elected chairman of Citizens of Michigan, whose members include prominent men in the business world.

The third Mormon, J. Willard Marriott, has been chosen chairman of the inauguration of President Nixon on Jan. 20. Marriott of Wash-

ington, D.C. is a member of the board of trustees of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. and with his wife has visited Nauvoo many times. He is prominent in the business world. Mrs. J. Willard Marriott, Allie to her friends, is the district Republican national committee-woman. She, too, is a Mormon, and the Marriotts are close friends of Gov. and Mrs. George Romney of Michigan.

Mrs. Marriott is one of seven vice chairmen of the inaugural committee, which is a vast undertaking.

Mrs. Marriott is also chairman of the major inaugural women's function, which is a distinguished ladies reception in the National Gallery of Art to which 8,000 women are to be invited. The Marriotts are said to be close friends of Pres. and Mrs. Eisenhower.

Mrs. Marriott's mother, in a second marriage became the wife of Senator Reed Smoot, who was claimed to be one of the most powerful in the Senate, so Mrs. Marriott is quite familiar with life in the White House. It may be presumed that all four V.I.P.'s will come to note the progress made by Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. in the not to distant future for Nauvoo to the devout Mormon is a sacred place.

Cape Cod Standard-Times, Saturday, March 1, 1969

Book of Mormon Slated For Japanese Edition

A grandson of Joseph Smith, founder of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, has announced that the Book of Mormon which his grandfather translated from gold plates hidden by the Angel Moroni, will soon be translated into Japanese.

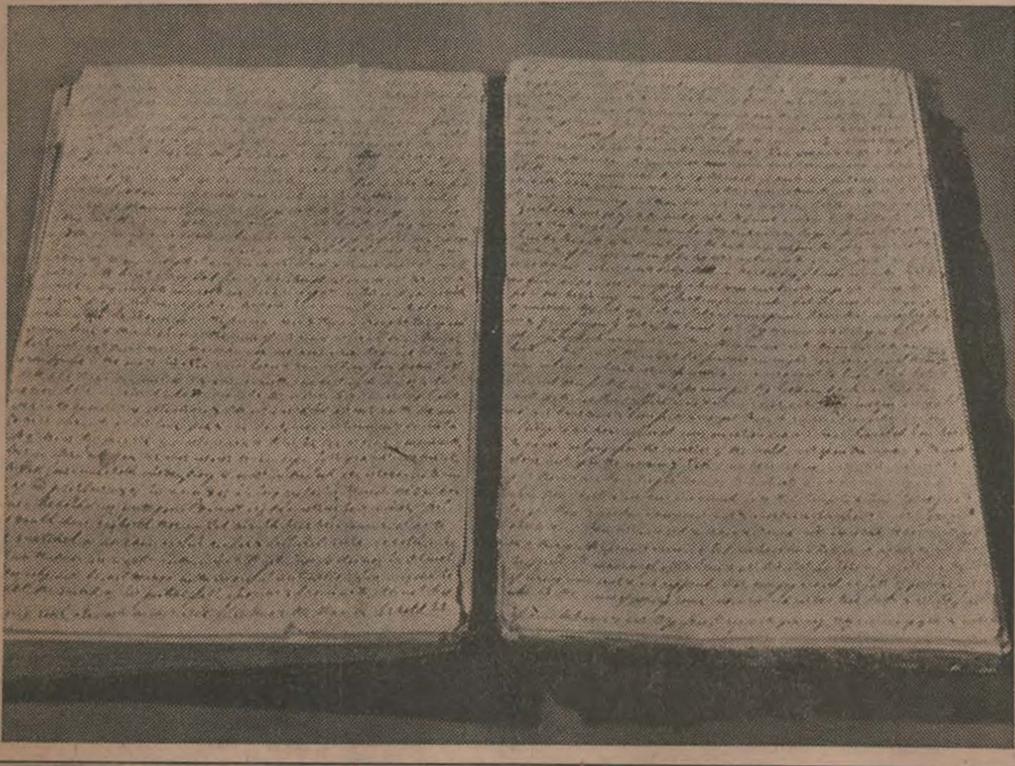
William Wallace Smith, president of the church, pointed out that the Book of Mormon manuscript is in the possession

of his church. The translation will be directed by Prof. Kenichi Sato, English instructor at Kinki University in Osaka, Japan. Recently a Spanish translation was published.

The book of Mormon was brought forth in 1830. It is a record of the American Indians. It tells who they were and how they came to this continent under God's direction. It gives an account of their development and tells how their civilization

degenerated when they turned from God.

Book of Mormon was opposed in the last century because it was thought the Indian civilization was advancing and not declining as Joseph Smith asserted. However during the intervening years thousands of facts first revealed in the Book of Mormon have been substantiated.

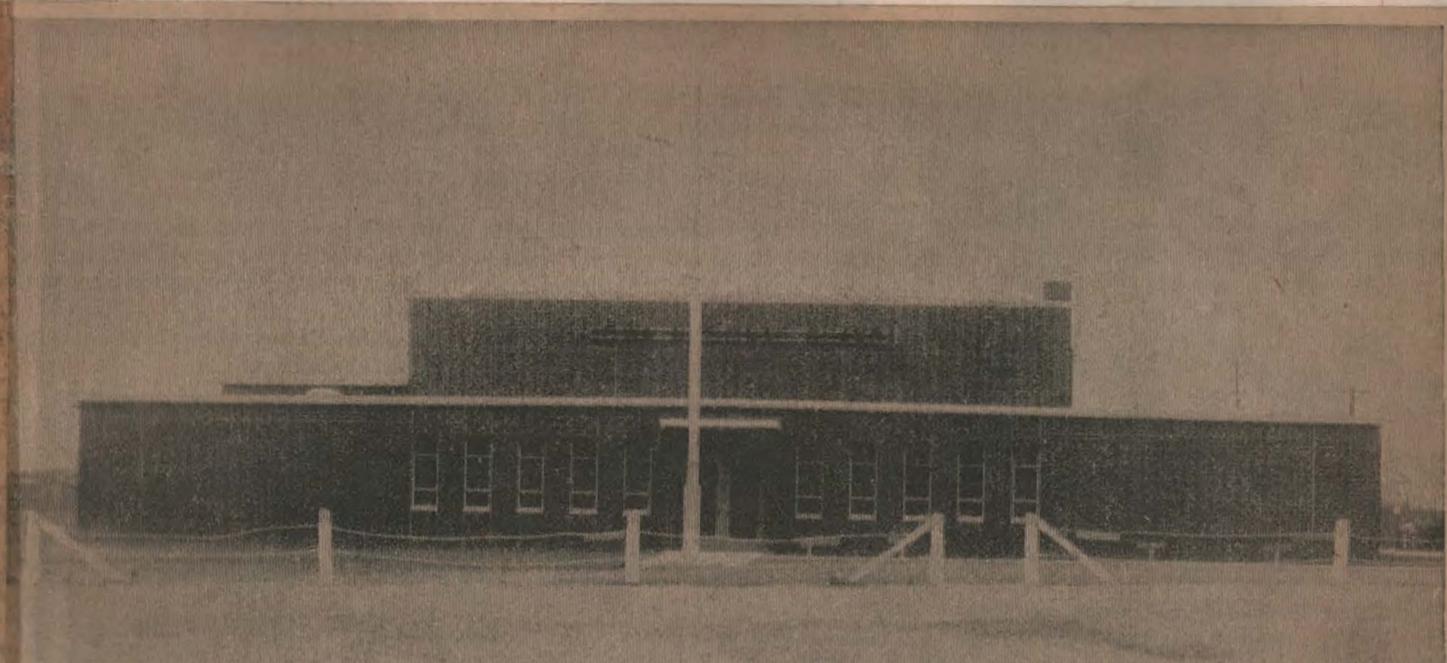


"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

116

117

AVERY®
POLY-VU



The Daily Gate City

20 — KEOKUK, IOWA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1968

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY will be dedicated here Saturday, May 18. New structure was completed last fall, replacing armory destroyed in disastrous explosion on Nov. 24, 1965. Public is invited to ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. and inspection of new facilities, which house Second and Third Platoon, Co. D, 224th Eng. Battalion. —Gate City

explosion on Nov. 24, 1965. Public is invited to ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. and inspection of new facilities, which house Second and Third Platoon, Co. D, 224th Eng. Battalion. —Gate City

Dedicate new National Guard armory In May

Dedication of the new Iowa National Guard armory here has been set for Saturday, May 18 at 2:30 p.m., with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a public inspection of the new facilities.

Major General Junior F. Miller, adjutant general of Iowa National Guard, will

be the guest speaker for the occasion. Visitors will be invited into the new structure completed last fall at a cost of around \$125,000, replacing the former armory destroyed in an explosion and fire on Nov. 24, 1965.

Invitations for the dedication have been sent to US Senator Jack Miller and

Congressman Fred Schwengel, and also expected to be on hand are several military dignitaries. There will be displays of National Guard equipment, and light refreshments will be served.

The Second and Third Platoons, Co. D, 224th Engineering Battalion, moved into its new headquarters on Dec. 9, 1967, after almost two years of operations in a temporary headquarters on South Fourth, since the 1965 disaster. At that time, the Keokuk Guard was known as Company C, 113th Armor, and was a medium tank group. Since then, a re-vamping of the Iowa National Guard has changed the function and structure of the Keokuk unit into an engineering group.

The Valley Whig.

THE DES MOINES VALLEY WHIG
IS PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY MORNING.

FEBRU 20. 1860.

Military Companies.

The Yagers, a German company, appear to be in a flourishing condition, and are a fine company, well drilled. Lewis Barnisconi Captain. They are said to number about sixty members, and keep up their organization, regular exercises and meetings.

The Keokuk Emmet Guards, an Irish company, J. Tumulty, Captain, with about thirty members, also preserve their organization and hold regular meetings. They make a fine appearance on parade.

Keokuk Artillery and Governor's Guards. This company has a fine brass six pounder, worth about \$500. It has been suggested

that the young men of our city should have pride enough to procure a couple more cannon, and form a light artillery company, constituting a battery, with all the guns drawn and maneuvered by horses. Such guns and such a company would much enliven the celebration of national days.

Keokuk Guards. This company, once so flourishing, whose white plumes, handsome uniforms, fine forms, and measured steps, formerly carried them so proudly through their beautiful evolutions and marchings under their broad flag through our streets, has not of late kept up its accustomed regularity of meetings and drillings. The Keokuk Artillery seems to have suffered a somewhat similar neglect, though we hear that Capt. Appler talks of coming out at the head of the gun squad on the 22d.

The Weekly Gate City

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1877.

CITY NEWS.

—The Veteran Guards have disbanded and their arms will be returned to Des Moines, together with the cannon which has been here for some time past. So we shall be without any military display on public occasions henceforth.

KEOKUK BATTERY.—On yesterday "The Keokuk Battery" was organized, with the election of George Hill, Captain; Lee R. Seaton, 1st Lieutenant; L. G. Tyler, 2d Lieutenant; M. C. Sawyer, Orderly Sergeant; Wm. McLean, second Sergeant; W. B. Medes, third Sergeant; John G. Howard, Jr., fourth Sergeant; A. G. McQueen, first Corporal; Wm. Leighton, second Corporal; Samuel Pollock, third Corporal; Henry Falser, fourth Corporal; C. A. Leech and Julius Obertop, musicians.

Adjutant General Baker was in the city and turned over to the Company a new six pound gun, for their use. 9/25/1874

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK IOWA

811



THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1952

OPENING BIDS ON KEOKUK'S NEW ARMORY yesterday afternoon were these officers and representatives of the Iowa National Guard: seated, left to right, Brig. Gen. Fred Tandy, Maj. Nile Cannon and M/Sgt. Richard Fagan. Standing, Capt. William Talbot and Roy L. Clark, consulting engineer to the Iowa guard.

Patton Co. Low Bidder On New Guard Armory

Apparently low bidder on Keokuk's new national guard armory when the bids were opened here yesterday afternoon was the R. L. Patton Construction Company of Keokuk.

It's bid for the general contract

was \$105,074, more than \$11,000 under the next lowest of three bids, \$116,864 by the Fain-Vawter Co. of Des Moines. Bid of the Hickey Construction Co. of Keokuk was \$125,340.

Here to open the bids in the present armory was Brig. Gen. Fred Tandy of Des Moines, adjutant general and commanding officer of the Iowa guard; Major Nile Cannon, Roy L. Clark, consulting engineer for the national guard, and M/Sgt. Richard Fagan.

Joining them was Capt. Bill Talbot, commanding officer of Company C of Keokuk.

Before a contract is awarded it must be submitted to the national

guard bureau in Washington, D. C. for approval. The federal government provides 75 per cent of the cost and the state government 25 per cent.

A new armory has been a civic project for several years and will soon be a reality. It will be built on ground behind Joyce Park which the city has deeded to the state for that purpose.

Sen. Stanley L. Hart and Rep. Ernest Palmer Jr. played major parts in securing the necessary appropriation from the state for the Keokuk guard unit which has been active for the last five years.

250 Chickens—

Needed to Feed Soldiers In "Welcome" 20 Years Ago

Although November 11 will mark the twenty-first anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, ending the World war, it will be the twentieth anniversary of an event that will long be remembered by Keokuk and Lee county people who took part in the first "welcome home" by Lee county to her soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses, which occurred on November 11, 1919. Duplicating as far as possible scenes of the first armistice, such as the ringing of the Sixth street fire station bell by relays of celebrators, the event proved one of the most stupendous that any group had undertaken, but which was carried through most successfully and was participated in by practically all of the returned service men and women of the county.

Elaborate Plans.

Planned for weeks in advance by committees named by Ed. S. Lofton, then mayor of Keokuk, the event brought hundreds of visitors to Keokuk, and gave an opportunity for welcoming home the 500 men and women who had served in Uncle Sam's fighting forces. Ideal weather marked the day, and uniforms which had been put away only a short time before were donned for the event. The program included band concerts in the morning, a parade in the late afternoon, a banquet for the returned veterans and one guest, theater parties and dances. Other events which were impromptu were reunions about the Salvation Army and Knights of Columbus booths which were erected on the streets, and group reunions of various military units which were held when two or more from the old outfit met and had a chance to "chew the fat" about the war.

The day started out with the ringing of the firebells at 10:45 o'clock, duplicating the noise and enthusiasm of November 11, 1918. Bands from Keokuk, Fort Madison and other points in the county which were here played concerts. The Salvation Army lassies served doughnuts and coffee and the K. C.'s gave souvenirs from their booth at Sixth and Main streets. At four o'clock the big parade was formed and marched out Main street to Twelfth between cheering walls of "home

folks" who had a glimpse of some real army rhythm—it was just the first year after the war, and the old pep was still there.

Decorated Floats.

The colors at the head of the procession were carried by Sam C. Westcott, former councilman, patriotic citizen and merchant. Flanking him was the color guard of Ben P. Moody and Frank Barbour. Following the band, came the second flag bearer, Alvin Kraft, and behind him on "Teddy" rode Miss Laura Alton, head of the Red Cross home service section. This was "Teddy's" third parade in a year and for his rider, too. Then followed the uniformed ranks of ex-service men marching in double columns of squads, commanded by Capt. Edward L. Chase and Major Thomas P. Hollowell of Fort Madison. The latter was ranking line officer but asked Capt. Chase to assume command since he was only a visitor and was unfamiliar with the parade line of march.

There were four decorated floats in line, too, those of the Iowa Can company women employes, the nurses of the two Keokuk hospitals, the high school and the Girl Scouts.

The highlight of the parade came on the countermarch down Main street, when the columns halted at Seventh street, and in the stillness of the evening came the faint tolling of bells of the city. Mayor Lofton asked for silence, and the Rev. A. H. Bisping of St. Paul's church stepping to the edge of the canopy over the sidewalk offered a "prayer for those who did not come back." His words were punctuated by the soft pealing of the bells, the deep throated tone of the Sixth street fire station bell, dominating. The entire audience, those in uniform and those in civilian clothing, stood bareheaded at this tribute. Then the mayor introduced Senator J. R. Frailey of Fort Madison, who gave a stirring address on Armistice Day and welcomed the service men and women of the county home again.

Then the Banquet.

Then followed the banquets, and besides those who were guests there are still many people in Keokuk who have reason to recall this event, James Franklin for instance,

who served as chef for the feast, and his helpers. The banquet was the gift of the women of south Lee county, and had been planned for many weeks. Committees had solicited the women of the county for delicacies and when the day came everything was ready for the big meal. It was decided to serve smothered chicken, escalloped potatoes, creamed peas, hot rolls, jelly, pickles, cole slaw and apple pie a la mode and coffee for dessert.

Under Jimmy Franklin's guidance the food was prepared in the Elks kitchens and then sent to Schouten's Bakery to be cooked. Two hundred and fifty chickens

were cut and boned and placed in 60 pans, three feet by 18 inches deep for "smothering." It took fifty pans to hold the eight and a half bushels of potatoes which were escalloped. Five cases of canned peas were opened and twelve gallons of cream was used in creaming these. Twenty pounds of butter went into the cooking of the vegetables and another twenty pounds was spread on the 200 rolls provided. It took 300 pounds of cabbage and five and a half gallons of dressing for the cole slaw. Coffee used amounted to thirty-five pounds and it took fifteen gallons of cream and nobody figured out how much sugar, to trim the coffee. Three hundred home baked apple pies were topped with 45 gallons of ice cream to make the pie a la mode for dessert. The food that had to be cooked came out of the ovens at five o'clock and trucks delivered it to the Masonic Temple, the Elks club, the Gibbons Opera House and the Westminster Presbyterian church dining room where the banquets were served. Young women of the city, Baby Welfare League girls and members of other groups were the waitresses.

Invocations were spoken by the Rev. Huell Warren, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James W. Gillespie and the Rev. J. Sterling Moore. The official welcome was spoken at the banquet by John C. Scott, head of the Lee county exemption board.

Theaters were open to the veterans and their friends, and then came dancing at the Woodman hall, the Masonic Temple, the Masonic ball room and the Keokuk Club ball room.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

120

THE GATE CITY:

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1861

THE KEOKUK "RIFLES."

A Photo-Lithographic Copy of the Constitution Sent to Members.

Reminiscences of the Battle of Athens,
Where the "Rifles" Received their
Baptism of Gunpowder.

Wm. Fulton, Esq., received yesterday, from General W. W. Belknap, the following letter, notifying him that a photo-lithographic copy of the constitution of the "Keokuk City Rifles," organized in April, 1861, had been forwarded to the surviving members of the company. Following is the letter:

ARLINGTON HOTEL,
WASHINGTON, D. C. April 24, 1861.

Wm. FULTON, Esq., Keokuk.

MY DEAR SIR:—You and those living of the "City Rifles," who signed the Constitution, 81 in number, will soon receive with my compliments, a photo-lithographic copy of the same and of their signatures. Of this number 26 will be sent to Keokuk, viz: Leech, Birge, Runner, Fulton, Buel, Bower, Comstock, Bridges, Kerr, Maxwell, Gibbons, E. E. Fuller, Hillis, Sample, Tucker, Westcott, Browne, Craig, Bower, B. B. Howell, Wilkinson, Bartlett, Perkins, McNamara, Hagny, Clark.

They will be sent separately and so wrapped that they will not be injured, and can be framed for preservation.

I regret that all the members did not sign the Constitution, but it is their own fault if their names do not appear. Among them are Ogden, Sid. Williams, Bruce, O'Donnell and others whom I do not now recall. I do not know why they failed to sign, but presume that it just happened so.

Copies will be sent to all of the signers who are living, excepting those before mentioned, and to them as soon as I can learn their present location.

Can you ascertain and inform me where the following members reside?

A. G. McQueen,	C. P. McClure,
W. R. Bidleman,	W. B. Lowe,
James Dewey,	John Bawden,
Lewis G. Evans,	James Carp,
S. K. Anderson,	W. H. Earley,
W. E. Gaunt,	H. W. Wirth,
V. H. Sullivan,	G. L. Fuller,
H. C. Hall,	B. Sloper,
M. R. Bruce,	J. M. Nichol,
H. J. Mills,	E. R. Ford,
J. V. Wycoff,	W. L. Mitchell.

The paper is valuable as containing the names of the most of those who originally joined, and I hope that it will be acceptable to my old comrades.

I wish that you would request as many of those in Keokuk as you can, to acknowledge the receipt of the package to me at Arlington Hotel, Washington, D. C. I have so requested them on the back of each paper.

You can show them this letter also. I had hoped to be in Keokuk this summer, and to try and arrange for a re-union of

"the boys" on July 4th, but it seems that this must again be deferred.

I believe that our dead are Peck, Renand, Wyman, Plummer, Rice, Beatty, Hoffa, Humes, Rentzer.

Yours, very truly,

WM. W. BELKNAP.

We herewith append the names of the 81 signers to the constitution:

John Adair McDowell,	C. R. Dimond,
Erie J. Leech,	W. H. Worthington,
R. F. Patterson,	Chas. P. Birge,
C. K. Peck,	A. G. McQueen,
W. R. Bidleman,	W. R. Thrall,
James Dewey,	H. Humes,
W. H. Runner,	Wm. Fulton,
Chas. Parsons,	Lewis G. Evans,
H. Buell,	E. Reynolds,
S. B. Vowell,	A. T. Walling,
R. F. Bower,	F. Bridgman,
G. Comstock,	John W. Bond,
Stanton Cady,	D. W. Ford,
Thos. S. Carver,	Sam'l K. Anderson,
Wm. E. Gaunit,	Sam'l G. Bridges,
Virgil H. Sullivan,	H. C. Hall,
Isaac Renaud,	M. R. Bruce,
David A. Kerr,	Robert Maxwell,
Patrick Gibbons,	Wm. W. Belknap,
E. E. Fuller,	R. H. Wyman,
Geo. D. Plummer,	D. B. Hillis,
H. S. Mills,	Henry Stroug,
Sam S. Sample,	J. V. Wycoff,
Howard Tucker,	C. P. McCune,
J. Lothrop Rice,	Geo. E. Farmin,
J. N. Dean,	Wm. B. Love,
John Bawden,	W. M. Westcott,
J. T. Beatty,	James Cross,
Gibson Browne,	J. H. Craig,
Beverly B. Bower,	W. H. Early,
Henry W. Werth,	W. N. Sturges,
A. J. Ralston,	H. Scott Howell,
John C. Borland,	E. Welchman,
J. N. Hoffa,	A. J. Wilkinson,
G. T. Bartlett,	Wm. C. Rentger,
V. T. Perkins,	Thos. Claggett,
Geo. S. Fuller,	B. Sloper,
J. W. Nichol,	E. R. Ford,
John McNamara,	Wm. Abbott,
W. L. Mitchell,	S. Hagny,
	N. E. Clark.

John Adair McDowell was the first captain of the Rifles. He afterward became colonel of the Fifth Iowa Regiment, and was superintendent of the construction of the Chicago custom house, where he is still located. W. H. Worthington was the second captain, and was killed during the war. W. W. Belknap succeeded Captain Worthington, and was in turn succeeded by Geo. D. Plummer, who died of yellow fever, in Memphis. John H. Craig was the last captain of the Rifles. A. G. McQueen, colonel of the First Iowa Cavalry and afterward promoted brigadier general, was a member of the Rifles. He is now farming in Clay county, Ill. W. L. Mitchell, another member of the company, who is a relative of the Leightons, is now an engineer in Mont Cenis tunnel. A. J. Ralston, who is a brother of the Banker Ralston, of San Francisco, who suicided under such sad circumstances some time since, is now in San Francisco in the banking business. A. F. Walling has been to congress since the war and is now residing in Ohio. Wm. Fulton was the last secretary of

the Rifles. Among the number who are now residents of Keokuk we notice Erie J. Leech, Chas. P. Birge, M. H. Runner, Wm. Fulton, H. Buel, R. F. Bower, G. Comstock, S. G. Bridges, D. A. Kerr, Patrick Gibbons, E. E. Fuller, D. B. Hillis, Howard Tucker, M. W. Westcott, Gibson Browne, John H. Craig, Beverly B. Bower, W. N. Sturges, H. Scott Howell, A. J. Wilkinson, Geo. F. Bartlett, V. T. Perkins, Geo. S. Fuller, John McNamara, N. E. Clark and A. Hagny. Several of the number have gone to their last rest and the others are scattered about—some in the old country and some in the new.

On Sunday evening, August 4th, 1861, the Rifles started for Croton to meet the enemy and get their baptism of gunpowder. The GATE CITY of August 6th, 1861, says:

There was great hurrying to and fro in town yesterday. Early in the morning the soldiers were making preparations to go up to Croton. They were furnished with muskets, cartridges, etc., and soon after 8 o'clock three companies of Col. McDowell's regiment left on the train for Croton.

After they had gone, Col. Worthington and his men were getting ready to follow. About 10 o'clock messengers came in on a hand car and reported that some 2500 rebels had attacked the Athens camp and driven the union men over to Croton, and the rebels themselves were actually crossing the river. Then what a hurrying there was here. Citizens rampaging round town, companies going it on the double quick, and so on. Some five companies of the Fifth and three or four of the Sixth were soon at the depot. A brass six-pounder was hauled down there. Provisions, baggage, etc., were on hand. Everybody was eager to get off to Croton and save our friends. Minutes dragged into half hours, and at last the engine came from Croton, bringing news of the victory.

A great shout went up, and all hearts were relieved. But the train was soon got in readiness and the companies went up to Croton to secure the public peace and the safety of the people.

The following telegram to the GATE CITY tells the story of the battle:

ATHENS, Mo., Aug. 5, 1861.

Four hundred union men were attacked by 1,500 rebels, mostly mounted, about 7 o'clock this a. m. The rebels had one nine-pounder, one six-pounder and one log cannon. Col. Moore placed two of his companies to right and left, after a fight of one and three-quarter hours, when the rebels ran and were pursued for three-fourths of an hour. The rebels had the advantage of the ground.

The union men that were killed are: Rev. Mr. Harrison, taken prisoner and murdered. Wm. C. Sullivan, aged 76 years, died of wounds. Wm. Spruce.

About 20 of the rebels were killed, some of whom are yet unburied.

The union men did many gallant things. The Missouri union men in Athens deserve the greatest credit.

About 60 of the secession horses were captured, besides many other trophies.

John Stannus, of Keokuk, has a horse won by his rifle.

In another column we find the following incidents of the fight:

We give elsewhere a brief account of the battle at Athens yesterday morning. We have gathered up some additional details which may be interesting to our readers. On Sunday night, about 8 o'clock messengers came in from Croton by hand car and reported that a large body of rebels had been seen on Sunday moving towards Athens, evidently with the intention of attacking the union camp at that place.

Immediately the City Rifles and the Keokuk Rangers were summoned, and soon after 9 o'clock p. m. about 35 of each company, armed and equipped with U. S. rifles and muskets, took a special train for Croton, arriving there about 11 p. m. As there was a large quantity of army supplies in the union depot, our men guarded it, but they were not disturbed during the night.

Soon after daylight a number of the Keokuk men being over in Athens to breakfast, an attack on the union camp was begun by the firing of a small cannon. The union men sprang to their arms and found that the rebels were coming up in three divisions, evidently intending by flank movements to surround the union camp. About fifteen of the City Rifles, and a few others, charged the enemy's right wing, which was covered by the corn field. Not expecting an attack so early the Rifles had only a few rounds of ammunition, and when this was gone they retired across the river to Croton. In crossing the river Mr. Dickey, of Farmington, was badly wounded, Constable Hendrickson got a buck shot in his leg; John Bruce, (of the firm of McCrary & Bruce) and J. W. Noble, esq., were slightly grazed. The Keokuk boys returned the fire from the Croton bank, driving the rebels from Gray's house into an adjoining cornfield. Then, as we are informed, the Rangers and Rifles crossed over to Gray's house, drove the rebels out of the town, and routed them, with the loss of several rebel lives.

INCIDENTS.

In a conversation with A. W. Harlan, of Croton, who was acting as commissary on the day of the fight we gleaned a number of incidents concerning the battle.

Mrs. Sackett, of Luray, mother of S. F. Sackett, the present clerk of Clark county, saw the rebels maneuvering near her residence, and with great tact and commendable bravery at once determined to acquaint Colonel Moore of the whereabouts of the enemy. She wrote him a letter, gave it to her two boys, placed them on horses with a sack of grain each and told them to ride to Colonel Moore's headquarters, which were about 16 miles distant, and if stopped on the way to inform the enemy that they were going to mill. The boys got through safely and delivered the message to Colonel Moore, thus placing him on his guard.

When the first volley came whistling over the heads of the raw recruits, 25 or 30 weakened and ran, and it is said that three or four of the number halted not

until they had reached Montrose.

One man was very brave and blood-thirsty before the battle begun. He wanted to see the enemy. When he saw him, however, he was suddenly stricken with a pain in the stomach, and found it necessary to retire to the rear.

The rebels had no cannon balls. They used broken bits of iron, and when these missiles came hissing through the air they made a terribly unpleasant noise.

Mr. Harlan, with six men, was detailed to guard the supplies. They had hardly taken their position, in an old house, when a rifle-ball came crashing through the window, and the man who fired the shot could be seen at the head of a bluff, some distance away, astride of a mule. George Wilson, one of Mr. Harlan's force, took deliberate aim and shot the man from his mule, though he did not kill him. Mr. Wilson now lives back of Athens.

Captain Hicks, of Montrose, was acting as Colonel Moore's adjutant, that day, and though he had never before been under fire acted with remarkable coolness and bravery. Captain Hicks was afterwards captured in Alabama, and in attempting to escape was drowned.

Colonel Moore had been through the Mexican war, where he served with Colonel Curtis, and there was not a spark of fear in his composition. He was, indeed, regarded as very rash in his bravery. Colonel Moore lost a leg in the battle of Shiloh. He is now a resident of Canton. The Colonel had a son, Eugene, in the rebel ranks. When the boy heard his father give the order to "charge bayonets!" Eugene shouted; "We'd better run, boys, dad means just what he says." Colonel Moore afterward caught his son at home and made him a prisoner of war, notwithstanding the earnest protests of the boy's mother. Colonel Moore was the first man wounded at Shiloh, his regiment, the 21st Missouri, being the first in the battle. A. W. Harlan was in the battle of Shiloh and had his musket shot from his hands.

There was one old man in the battle of Athens who was confident he had killed at least 7 or 8 men, but he couldn't find them after the battle. The boys claimed that he didn't fire a shot, having urgent business as far away from the fighting as he could get.

John and Hiram Hiller, two well-known citizens of Kahoka, were in the battle of Athens.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

HOWELL & CLARK, Publishers.

MAY 31, 1883.
CITY RIFLES.

The Most Complete Roster of the Keokuk City Rifles Ever Published—The War History of the Members Enlisting to Fight the Battles of the Union.

The Keokuk City Rifles was organized on the 24th of April 1861, by a number of our prominent citizens, and their services tendered the mayor in protecting the city. Recruits joined its ranks, and from them entered the army. This company was destined to have a brilliant record and furnished many gallant soldiers who battled for the union.

ARMY HISTORY.

John Adair McDowell was the original captain; he resigned May 11th, and on July 6th, 1861, was commissioned colonel of the Sixth Iowa Infantry. At the battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6th and 7th, 1862, he commanded a brigade. He resigned March 12th, 1863.

Wm. H. Worthington, elected first lieutenant, and the second captain, resigned the captaincy July 9th and on July 15th was commissioned colonel of the Fifth Iowa Infantry. During the operations against New Madrid and Island No. 10, March and April, 1862, he commanded the first brigade, second division, Army of the Mississippi. Shot and killed by a picket (who mistook him for a rebel officer) while acting as division officer of the day, May 22d, 1862, near Corinth, Miss.

Eric J. Leech was elected second lieutenant and resigned September 2d, having enlisted August 28th, 1861, in Co. C, Third Iowa Cavalry. On September 2d he was promoted second lieutenant and on September 26th first lieutenant of that company. Resigned March 18th, 1862.

May 11th, 1861, Wm. W. Belknap was elected first lieutenant of the rifles and on July 9th the third captain vice Worthington resigned. He also resigned November 6th and was commissioned November 7th major of the Fifteenth Iowa Infantry; wounded severely in shoulder at Shiloh April 6th, 1862; promoted lieutenant colonel August 1, 1862, and colonel April 22d, 1863, and for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Atlanta, July 22d, 1864, was appointed by President Lincoln on July 30th brigadier general of United States volunteers and assigned to and continued in command of the "Iowa brigade" formed by the Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Iowa Veteran Infantry, during the siege of Atlanta, the pursuit of Hood, the march to the sea, slashing through the Carolinas and the famous race of the Four Army Corps of Sherman's army from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Washington in May, 1865. He then commanded the fourth division, Seventeenth Corps, Army of the Tennessee, until it was mustered out of service in July—August, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. For gallant services in the field he was on March 13th, 1865, made brevet major general of United States volunteers. He was the last commander of the Sev-

May 31, 1883 - page #1
(City Rifles)

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL
KEOKUK, IOWA

122

enteenth Corps; appointed by President U. S. Grant, secretary of war, on November 1, 1869.

H. W. Werth commissioned second lieutenant Co. G, Twelfth Missouri Cavalry, June, 1861, promoted first lieutenant and adjutant Fifth Missouri Cavalry, promoted captain consolidated companies Fifth Missouri Cavalry, wounded in leg at battle of Crooked creek, southeast Missouri, mustered out July, 1865.

Robert F. Patterson commissioned second lieutenant Co. C, Fifth Iowa Infantry, July 15th, 1861, promoted first lieutenant and quartermaster, same date, adjutant, January 27th, 1862, promoted lieutenant colonel Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, November 3d, 1862, promoted colonel and brevet brigadier general United States Volunteers, March 2th, 1865, mustered out at New Orleans, La., August 10th 1865.

Sam S. Sample enlisted as private in Co. G, Fifth Iowa Infantry, July, 1861, promoted first lieutenant, February 1st, 1862, wounded in leg at Iuka, Miss., September 19th, 1862, appointed captain United States Signal Corps, March 3d, 1863, declined appointment. Mustered out at expiration of term of service, July 30th, 1864.

Alex. G. McQueen enlisted in Co. H, First Iowa Cavalry, July 30th, 1861, promoted first lieutenant, September 23d, 1861, and captain December 11th, 1861, promoted major August 21st, 1863, and lieutenant colonel September 25th, 1864, served as assistant adjutant general, Army of the Frontier, under Generals F. J. Herron and Orme, and for eight months served on the staff of Major General E. R. S. Canby, as assistant inspector general of cavalry, military division of west Mississippi. In the spring of 1865, he commanded a brigade in West Tennessee, composed of six regiments of cavalry, and was chief of staff with General Davidson, during the campaign from Baton Rouge to Mobile, to engage the rebel Generals Dick Taylor and Beauregard to prevent their intercepting General Sherman on his march to the sea. While on staff duty in New Orleans, he received two colonels commissions, one as colonel of infantry and one as colonel of a Louisiana cavalry regiment, both of which he declined, preferring to remain with his own regiment, the First Iowa Veteran Cavalry. He was brevetted brigadier general United States Volunteers in 1865, and mustered out at Austin, Texas, February 15th, 1866.

David A. Kerr, enlisted in Co. H, First Iowa Cavalry as private June 13, 1861, promoted first sergeant Co. H, July 30, 1861, second lieutenant and adjutant of first battalion October 7, 1861, first lieutenant and adjutant of regiment October 1, 1862. Severely wounded in right arm at battle of Pleasant Hill, Mo., July 11, 1862, on surgeons certificate of disability resigned February 6, 1863.

Euclid E. Fuller, enlisted as private in Co. B., Third Iowa Cavalry, August 23, 1861, and was at once appointed hospital steward, and soon afterwards promoted assistant surgeon, which position he held until the close of the war. He was highly complimented by Colonel Bussey in a letter to Gov. S. J. Kirkwood for efficiency and extraordinary

success in the medical department of the regiment, and recommended for a further promotion. Dr. Fuller has a letter to Colonel Bussey, signed by all the officers of the regiment, requesting the medical care of their companies be assigned to him, indicating the confidence of the regiment in him as their surgeon.

Chas. W. DeWolf enlisted as private, September 28, 1861, in the Seventh Missouri Cavalry, and was appointed chief bugler, transferred to Co. B, March 15, 1862, promoted first lieutenant Co. E, December 19, 1862.

D. B. Hillis commissioned March 14, 1862, lieutenant colonel of the Seventeenth Iowa Infantry, promoted colonel. September 4, 1862, brevetted brigadier general United States volunteers, resigned, May 30, 1863.

Edgar T. Miller commissioned April 7, 1862, second lieutenant Co. I, Fifteenth Infantry, promoted first lieutenant, July 4, 1862, and captain Co. C, November 28, 1862, served as assistant provost marshal of the Seventeenth Army Corps, on the staff of Major General Frank P. Blair, Jr., commanding corps, mustered out, May 31, 1865, expiration term of service.

Fletcher Woolsey commissioned first lieutenant and adjutant Seventeenth Iowa Infantry, August 9, 1862, resigned, October 15, 1864.

John Bruce commissioned captain Co. A, Nineteenth Iowa Infantry, August 17, 1862, promoted major, December 8, 1862, lieutenant colonel, March 10, 1864, and colonel July 3, 1865, brevet brigadier general United States volunteers, mustered out at Mobile, Ala., July 10, 1865.

John W. Bond commissioned surgeon Thirtieth Iowa Infantry, September 9, 1862, resigned, March 20, 1863.

M. F. Collins commissioned lieutenant colonel First Iowa Infantry, A. D., 60th U. S. C. T., October 11th, 1863, Resigned March 15th, 1864.

Wm. O'Brien enlisted in Co. C., Third Iowa Cavalry, February 3d, 1864. Mustered out with regiment at close of war.

C. K. Peck commissioned captain Co. C., Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry, May 25th, 1864. Mustered out September 16th, 1864.

David B. Hamill commissioned first lieutenant Co. C., Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry May 25th, 1864. Mustered out September 16th, 1864.

Ed. H. Jones enlisted in Co. C. Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry, May 11th, 1864, promoted sergeant. Mustered out September 16th, 1864.

Geo. W. Hoffa, first corporal, Col. C. Thompson, seventh corporal, J. C. Jeffries, eighth corporal and J. W. Griffith, private, all of Co. C., Forty-fifth Iowa Infantry. Mustered in May 25th, 1864, and mustered out at expiration of term of service September 16th, 1864.

Charles Parsons, commissioned captain and assistant quartermaster, and brevet lieutenant-colonel, United States volunteers.

F. Bridgman, commissioned major and paymaster, and brevet lieutenant-colonel United States army.

M. R. Bruce, commissioned first lieutenant, Forty-second Missouri infantry.

W. R. Thrall, commissioned surgeon, Twenty-seventh Ohio infantry.

R. H. Wyman, commissioned surgeon, First North-east Missouri infantry and Twenty-first Missouri infantry.

Luke Huiskamp, commissioned first lieutenant Co. E, Sixth Missouri cavalry.

The flag of the City Rifles is in General Belknap's possession, and it is understood that he proposes to deposit it in the hall of the Keokuk Library, to remain there as a memorial of this organization, many of whose members bore so prominent a part in the army of the union.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, MONDAY, MAY 2, 1875

A NEAT PRESENT.

Ex-Secretary Belknap Presents Lithograph Copies of the Original Constitution and Signers, to the City Rifles in Keokuk.

Ex-Secretary Belknap, who is now in Washington, has just forwarded to each member of the old Keokuk City Rifles, a photo-lithographic copy of the original constitution, with its eighty-one signers, the whole making a very handsome document for framing. The following letter to the secretary gives full explanation and names of the twenty-six members now living in this city:

ARLINGTON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C., {
April 24, 1881. }

WM. FULTON, ESQ., KEOKUK:

MY DEAR SIR—You and those living of the "City Rifles" who signed the "constitution"—81 in number—will soon receive with my compliments, a photo-lithographic copy of the same and of their signatures. Of this number, 26 will be sent to Keokuk, viz: Leech, Birge, Bower, Runner, Fulton, Buel, Comstock, Bridges, Kerr, Maxwell, Gibbons, E. E. Fuller, Hillis, Sample, Tucker, Westcott, Browne, Craig, Bower, B. B. Howell, Wilkinson, Bartlett, Perkins, McNamara, Hagny, Clark. They will be sent separately and so wrapped that they will not be injured and can be framed for preservation.

I regret that all the members did not sign the constitution, but it is their own fault if their names do not appear. Among them are Ogden, Sid. Williams, Bruce, O'Donnell and others, whom I do not now recall. I do not know why they failed to sign, but presume that it just happened so.

Copies will be sent to all of the 81 signers who are living, excepting those below mentioned, and to them as soon as I can learn their present location.

Can you ascertain and inform me where the following members reside?

A. G. McQueen,	C. P. McCune,
W. R. Bidleman,	W. B. Loue,
James Dewey,	John Bawden,
Lewis G. Evans,	James Caras,
S. K. Anderson,	W. H. Earley,
W. E. Gaunt,	H. W. Wirth,
V. H. Sullivan,	G. L. Fuller,
H. C. Hall,	B. Hoter,
M. R. Bruce,	J. M. Nichol,

H. J. Mills, E. R. Ford,
J. V. Wycoff, Wm. Abbott,
W. L. Mitchell.

The paper is valuable as containing the names of the most of those who originally joined, and I hope that it will be acceptable to my old comrades.

I wish that you would request as many of those in Keokuk as you can to acknowledge the receipt of the package to me at Arlington Hotel, Washington, D. C. I have so requested them on the back of each paper.

You can show them this letter also. I had hoped to be in Keokuk this summer, and to try and arrange for a reunion of "the boys" on July 4th, but it seems that this must again be deferred.

I believe that our dead are—Worthington, Peck, Humes, Renaud, Wyman, Plummer, Rice, Bealty, Hoffa and Rentzen.

Yours very Truly,

WM. W. BELKNAP.

129
"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

MARCH 24, 1877.

"AIM AT MY HEART."

Were the Last Words of
John D. Lee.

"The Mills of the Gods Grind
Slow, but they Grind Ex-
ceeding Fine."

After Twenty Years, Retribution Overtakes
One of the Mountain Meadow
Murderers.

He is Conveyed to the Scene of
the Horrible Butchery, and
There Shot.

The Unfortunate Man's Confession as De-
livered by Him to U. S. District
Attorney Howard.

He Recalls to Mind the Deeds of
Blood in Which He Was
Forced to Take Part,

And Tells the History of that Memorable
Affair in a Plain, Straightfor-
ward Manner.

SALT LAKE, March 23.—At 11 a. m. precisely Lee was brought out upon the scene of the massacre at Mountain Meadows before the executing party, and seated upon his coffin about twenty feet from the shooters. After the order of the Court was read to him and the company present by Marshal Nelson, Lee made a speech of about five hundred words, bitterly denouncing Brigham Young and calling himself a scapegoat for sins of others. He hoped God would be merciful, denied that he was guilty of bloodshed to the last, and maintained that his mission to the Meadows was one of mercy. After the speech Parson Stokes, a Methodist minister, made a prayer, commending the soul of the condemned man to God. Immediately after this a handkerchief was placed over Lee's eyes and he raised his hands and placed them on top of his head, sitting firm. Nelson gave the word "fire," and exactly at 11 o'clock five guns were fired, the bullets penetrating the body in the region of the heart. Lee fell square back upon the coffin, dead. Death was instantaneous. The body was placed in a coffin and the crowd dispersed. There were about seventy-five persons all told on the ground, but not a child or relative was there. The best order prevailed, and all pronounced the execution a success. Lee's last words to Nelson were "Aim at my heart." The body is now passing, to be given to relatives at Cedar City.

Lee, just before he was shot, made a request to the photographer, who was taking his likeness, to furnish a copy to each of his three wives, which the artist promised to do. He then spoke as follows:

THE SPEECH.

I have but little to say this morning. Of course I feel that I am on the brink of eternity, and the solemnity of eternity should rest upon my mind. At the present I have made out, or endeavored to do so, a manuscript and an abridged history of my life. This will be published. Sir, I have given my views and feelings with regard to all these things. I feel resigned to my fate; I feel as calm as a summer morning; I have done nothing adversely wrong; my conscience is clear before God and man; I am ready to meet my Redeemer. This it is that places me upon this field; I am not an infidel—I have not denied God or his mercy; I am a strong believer in those things. The most that I regret is the parting with my family; many of them are unprotected, and will be left fatherless. When I speak of those little ones they touch a tender chord within me. [Here Lee's voice faltered perceptibly.] I have done nothing designedly wrong in this affair; I used my utmost endeavors to save this people; I would have given worlds were it at my command to have avoided that calamity, but I could not—I am sacrificed to satisfy feelings and used to gratify parties; but I am ready to die. I have no fear of death; it has no terrors, and no particle of mercy have I asked from the Court or officials to spare my life. I do not fear death; I shall never go to a worse place than the one I am now in. I have said it to my family and I will say it to-day, that the Government of the United States sacrifices their best friend, and that is saying a great deal; but it is true. I am a true believer in the gospel of Jesus Christ. I do not believe everything that is now practiced and taught by Brigham Young. I do not agree with him; I believe he is leading people astray, but I believe in the Gospel as taught in its purity by Joseph Smith in former days. I have my reasons for saying this. I used to make this man's will my pleasure, and did so for thirty years. See how and what I have come to this day—I have been sacrificed in a cowardly, dastardly manner. There are thousands of people in the Church, honorable and good hearted, that I cherish in my heart. I regret to leave my family; they are near and dear to me. These are things to rouse my sympathy. I declare I done nothing designedly wrong in this unfortunate affair. I did everything in my power to save all the emigrants, but I am the one that must suffer. Having said this, I feel resigned. I ask the Lord my God to extend his mercy and receive my spirit. My labors here are done.

LEE'S CONFESSION.

The following is substantially the confession of Lee. It is the only one he made. The others are spurious. He himself gave it into the hands of United States District Attorney Howard, in February last:

In the month of September, 1857, a company of emigrants known as the "Arkansas Company" arrived in Parowan, Utah, on their way to California. At Parowan, young Aden, one of the company, saw and recognized William Laney, a Mormon resident of Parowan. Aden and his father had rescued Laney from an anti-Mormon mob in Tennessee several years before, and saved his life. He (Laney) at the time he was attacked

by a mob was a Mormon missionary in Tennessee. Laney was glad to see his friend and benefactor, and invited him to his house and gave him some garden sauce to take back to the camp with him. The same evening it was reported to Bishop Dame that Laney had given potatoes and onions to the man Aden, of the emigrants. When the report was made to Bishop Dame, he raised his hand and crooked his little finger in a significant manner to one Barney Carter, his brother-in-law, and one of the "Angels of Death." Carter, without another word walked out, went to Laney's house with a long picket in his hand, called Laney out and struck him a heavy blow on the head, fracturing his skull and leaving him for dead. Between the 1st and 10th of September I was summoned by a messenger to President Haight at Cedar City. The message said a large band of emigrants had gone south. I met Haight near sundown and spent the night in an open house talking. He said the emigrants had passed through two days before, threatening Mormons with destruction, and one said he helped kill old Jo Smith and his brother Hiram, and other members of the company helped drive the Mormons out of Missouri. Others threatened to hang Brigham Young, etc., etc., and had defied the laws concerning profanity. They had shown great disrespect to the Mormons and their God; threatened to steal provisions unless the Mormons would sell, and had actually killed two chickens belonging to a widow and taken them off, ordering the woman who remonstrated to shut up and threatening to blow her brains out. The last of August, 1857, about ten days before the massacre, a company of emigrants passed through Cedar City. Geo. A. Smith, their first counselor in the church and Brigham Young's right hand man, came down from Salt Lake City, preaching to different settlements. He got me to take him to Cedar City via Ft. Clara and Piute settlements. They took a devious course and saw many Indians. Smith remarked that these Indians, with the advantage they had of rocks, could use up a large company of emigrants or make it very hot for them. After pausing for a short time he said to me: "Brother Lee, what do you think the brethren would do if a company of emigrants should come down through here making threats? Don't you think they would pitch into them?" I replied that they certainly would. This seemed to please him, and he again said, "and you really think the brethren would pitch into them?" "I certainly do," was my reply, "and you had better instruct Colonel Dame and Major Haight to tend to it that emigrants are permitted to pass, if you want them to pass unmolested." He continued, "I asked Isaac (meaning Haight) the same question and he answered just as you do, and I expect the boys would pitch into them." I again said to him "he had better say to Gov. Young that if he wants emigrant companies to pass without molestation he must instruct Col. Dame or Major Haight to that effect. Otherwise they will use them up by the help of Indians." He told the people at the Clara not to sell their grain to emigrants nor to feed it to their animals, as they might expect a big fight next Spring with the United States. President Young did not intend to let troops into the Territory. He said, "We are going to stand up for our rights, and will no longer be imposed upon by our enemies, and want every man to be on hand with gun in good

125

AVERY POLY-VU

order and his powder dry," and instructed the people to part with nothing that would sustain life. We were threatened on the North by Johnson's army, that now our safety depended on prompt and immediate action, that a company of Indians had already gone south from Parowan and Cedar City to surprise the emigrants who were then at Mountain Meadows, and be wanted me to return home in the morning (Sunday) and send Carl Shurtz, an Indian interpreter, from my house at Harmony to raise Indians south to join the Indians from the north and make an attack upon the emigrants at the Meadows. I said, "Would it not be well to hold a council of the brethren before making a move?" He replied that all true Latter Day Saints that regarded their covenants knew well their duty, and that a company of emigrants had forfeited their lives by their acts, and that "Bishop P. K. Smith and Joel White have already gone by the way of Pintoa to raise Indians in that direction, and those that have gone from Parowan and here will make the attack and may be repulsed. We can't delay for a council." Haight repeated the order peremptorily and I complied, though my wife advised against it and my whole soul revolted. I finally concluded I would go, that I would start by daybreak in the morning and try to get there before the attack was made on the company, and use my influence with the Indians to let them alone. I crossed the mountains by trail and reached the Meadows between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning. I was too late. The attack had been made just before daybreak in the morning. The Indians were repulsed, with one killed and two of their chiefs from Cedar shot through the legs, breaking a leg for each of them. The Indians were in a terrible rage. I went to some of them that were in the ravine, and they told me to go to the main body or they would kill me for not coming before the attack was made. While I was standing there I received a shot just above the belt, cutting through my clothes to the skin some six inches across. The Indians with whom I was talking lived with me at Harmony. I was an Indian farmer. They told me I was in danger, and to get down in the ravine. I said it was impossible for me to do anything there, and I dare venture to the camp or to the emigrants without endangering my life. I mounted my horse and started to meet Carl Shurtz. I traveled sixteen miles and stopped to feed my horse. About sunset I saw Shurtz and some ten or fifteen white men and about one hundred and fifty Indians. We camped, and during the night the Indians left for the Meadows. I reported to the men what had taken place, and they attacked the emigrants again about sunrise the next morning (Tuesday), and had one of their number killed and several wounded. The white men reached the Meadows about 1 p. m. On the way we met a small band of Indians returning with some eighteen or twenty head of cattle. Arrived at the Springs, we found about two hundred Indians, among whom were the two wounded chiefs. The Indians were in a high state of excitement, and had killed many cattle and horses belonging to the company. I counted sixty head near their encampment that they had killed in revenge for wounding their men. By the assistance of Oscar Hamblin, a brother of Jacob Hamblin, and Shurtz, we succeeded in getting the Indians to desist from killing any more stock. That night the com-

pany of emigrants had corraled all their wagons but one for better defence. This corral was about one hundred yards above the spring. This they did to get away from the ravine South, the better to defend themselves. The attacks were made from the south ravine and from the rocks on the west. The attack was renewed that night by the Indians in spite of all we could do. When the attack commenced Oscar Hamblin, Wm. Young and myself started to go to the Indians. When opposite the corral on the north bullets came around us like a shower of hail. One ball passed through my hat and the hair of my head, and another through my shirt, grazing my arm near the shoulder. A most hideous yell of Indians commenced. The cries and shrieks of women and children so overcame me that I forgot my danger and rushed through the fire to the Indians and pleaded with them in tears to desist. I told them the Great Spirit would be angry with them for killing the women and little children. They told me to leave or they would serve me the same way, and that I was not their friend but the friend of their enemies; that I was a squaw and did not have the heart of a brave, and that I could not see bloodshed without crying like a baby and called me "cry baby," and by that name I am known by all the Indians to this day. I owe my life on this occasion to Oscar Hamblin, who was a missionary with the Indians and had much influence with the Santa Clara Indians. Finally we prevailed on them to return to camp, where we would council; that I would send for the big captains to come and talk. We told them that they had punished the emigrants enough, and maybe they had killed nearly all of them. We told them that Bishop Dame and President Haight would come, and maybe they would give them part of the cattle and let the company go with the teams. On Wednesday morning I asked a man named Edwards to go to Cedar City and say to President Haight for God's sake, for my sake, and for the sake of suffering humanity, to send out men to rescue that company. This day we all lay still waiting orders. Occasionally a few Indians withdrew, taking a few head of animals with them. About noon I crossed the valley north of the corral, thinking to examine their location from the west range. I crept up behind some rocks on the west range where I had full view of the corral. In it they had dug a rifle pit; the wheels of their wagons were chained together, and the only show for the Indians was to starve them out or shoot them as they went for water. I lay there some two hours and contemplated their situation and wept like a child. When I returned to camp some six or eight men had come from Cedar City. Joel White, William C. Stewart and Elliot O. Weldon were among the number, but they had no orders. They had come merely to see how things were. The Indians were about fifty miles from Cedar City. Thursday afternoon a messenger from Cedar City returned. He said President Haight had gone to Parowan to confer with Col. Dame and a company of men, and orders would be sent Friday; that up to the time he left the Council had come to no definite conclusion. During this time Indians and men were engaged in broiling beef and making their hides up into lassos. I had flattered myself that bloodshed was at an end; both parties had raised the white flag. A council meeting was called of Presidents, Bishops and other church officers and members of the high council,

societies, high priests, etc. Major John M. Higbee presided as Chairman. Several of the dignitaries bowed in prayer and invoked the aid of the Holy Spirit to prepare their minds and guide them to do right and carry out the counsels of their leaders. Higbee said that President J. C. Haight had been to Parowan to confer with Col. Dame and their counsel, and the orders were that the emigrant camp must be used up. I replied, "men, women, children and all?" Said he, "Except such as are too young to tell tales, and if the Indians cannot do it without help we must help them." I commenced pleading for the company, and I said, "Though some of them have behaved badly, they have been pretty well chastised. My policy would be to draw off the Indians, let them have a portion of the loose cattle and withdraw with them, under promise that they would not molest the company more. This course could not bring them into trouble." After further similar talk Ira Allen, High Counsellor, and Robt. Wiley and others spoke, reproving me for trying to dictate to the priesthood; that it would set at naught all authority; that he would not give the life of one of our brethren for a thousand such persons. "If we let them go they will raise hell in California, and the result will be that our wives and children will have to be butchered and ourselves too, and they are no better to die than ours. I am surprised to hear Brother Lee talk as he does, as he has always been considered one of the staunchest in the church. Now he is one of the first to shrink from his duty." I said, "Brethren, the Lord must harden my heart before I can do such a thing." Allen said, "It is not wicked to obey the council." At this juncture I withdrew, walked off some fifty paces and prostrated myself on the ground and wept in the bitter anguish of my soul, and asked the Lord to avert that evil. H. Hopkins, a near friend of mine, came to me and said: "Brother Lee, come, get up, and don't draw off from the priesthood; you are only endangering your own life by standing out. You can't help it. If this is wrong the blame won't rest upon you." I said: "Charley, this is the worst move this people ever made. I feel it." He said: "Come, go back and let them have their way." I went back, weeping like a child, and took my place and tried to be silent, and was, until Higbee said: "The emigrants must be decoyed out through pretended friendship." I could no longer hold my peace, and said I: "Joseph Smith said that God bated a traitor, and so do I; before I would be a traitor I would rather take ten men out and go to that camp and tell them they must die and now to defend themselves, and give them a show for their lives. That would be more honorable than to betray them like Judas." Here I got a reproof, and was ordered to hold my peace. The plen agreed upon there was to meet them with a flag of truce, tell them the Indians were determined on their destruction; that we dare not oppose the Indians, for we were at their mercy; that the best we could do for them (the emigrants) was to get them and what few traps we could take in wagons, to lay their arms in the bottom of a wagon and cover them up with bed clothes and start for the settlement as soon as possible, and trust themselves in our hands. The small children and wounded were to go with the two wagons, the women to follow the wagons and the men next, the troops to stand in readiness on the east side of the road ready to receive them.

Shurtz and Nephi Johnson were to conceal the Indians in the brush and rocks till the company was strung out on the road to a certain point, and at the watchword "Halt; do your duty!" each man was to cover his action and fire. Johnson and Shurtz were to rally the Indians and rush upon and dispatch the women and larger children. It was further told the men that President Haight said that if we were united in carrying out the instructions we would all receive a celestial reward. I said I was willing to put up with a less reward if I could be excused. "How can you do this without shedding innocent blood?" Here I got another lamponing for my stubbornness and disobedience to the priesthood. I was given to understand unless I kept a close mouth about this matter it would be death with me. All but myself spoke and declared they were willing to carry out the plans of their leaders, who were divinely inspired. Then all looked at me and I said, "You can do as you please; I will try not oppose you longer." "Will you keep a close mouth?" was the question. I said, "I will try." Saturday morning all was ready, and every man assigned to his post of duty. During the night, or rather just before daylight, Johnson and Shurtz ambushed their Indians, the better to deceive the emigrants. About 11 o'clock in the morning the troops under Major Higbee took their position on the road. The white flag was still kept up in the corral. Higbee called William Bateman of the ranks to take a flag of truce to the corral. He was met about half way with another white flag from the emigrant camp. They had a talk. The emigrant was told we had come to rescue them, if they would trust us. Both men with flags returned to their respective places and reported, and were to meet again and bring word. Higbee called me out to go and inform them of the conditions, and if accepted, I and McFarland, brother to John McFarland, a lawyer, who acted as aide-de-camp, would bring back word and then two wagons would be sent for firearms, children, clothing, etc. I obeyed, and the terms proposed were accepted, but not without distrust. My tongue refused to perform its office. I sat down on the ground in the corral near where some young men were engaged in paying their last respects to some person who had just died of wounds. A large fleshy old lady came to me twice and talked while I sat there. She related their travels, said that seven of their number were killed and forty-nine wounded on the first attack; that several had died since. When all was ready, Sam'l. McMurdy, Counsellor to Bishop P. K. Smith, "Klingen Smith," drove out on the lead. His wagon had the seventeen children, clothing and arms. Samuel Knight drove the other team with five wounded men and one boy about fifteen years old. I walked behind the first wagon to direct its course and shun being in the heat of the slaughter, but this I kept to myself. When we got turned to the east I motioned to McMurdy to steer north across the valley. I at the same time told the women who were in the next wagon to follow the road up to the troops, which they did. Instead of saying to McMurdy not to drive so fast, as he swore to on my trial, I said to drive on, as my aim was to get out of sight before the firing commenced, which we did. We were about half a mile ahead of the company when we heard the first firing. We had drove over a ridge of rolling ground and down on a low flat,

The firing was simultaneous along the whole line. The moment the firing commenced McMurdy halted and tied his lines across the rod of his wagon box, stepped down coolly with a double-barrelled shot gun, walked back to Knight's wagon, which had the wounded men in, and was about twenty feet in the rear. As he raised his piece he said, "Lord, my God, receive their spirits, for it is for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake that we do this." He then fired and killed two men. Samuel Knight had a muzzle-loading rifle and he shot and killed the three men, and then struck the wounded boy on the head, who fell dead. In the meantime I drew a five-shooter from my belt, which accidentally went off, cutting across McMurdy's buckskin pants. McMurdy said, "Brother Dee, you are excited; take things cool. You was near killing me. Look where the ball cut," pointing to the place in his pants. At this moment I heard the scream of a child. I looked up and saw an Indian have a little by the hair of his head, dragging him out of the hind end of the wagon with a knife in his hand, getting ready to cut his throat. I sprang for the Indian with my revolver in hand. I shouted to the top of my voice, "stop, you fool." The child was terror-stricken. His chin was bleeding; I supposed it was the cut of the knife, but afterwards learned it was done by the wagon box as the Indian yanked the boy down by the hair of his head. I had no sooner rescued this child than another Indian seized a little girl by the hair. I rescued her. As soon as I could speak I told the Indians they must not hurt the children; that I would die before they should be hurt; that we would buy the children of them. Before this time the Indians had rushed up around the wagon in quest of blood and dispatched the two runaway wounded men. In justice to my statement I would say that if my shooter had no prematurely exploded I would have had a hand in dispatching the five wounded. I had lost control of myself and scarce knew what I was about. I saw an Indian pursuing a little girl who was fleeing. He caught her about a hundred feet from the wagon and plunged his knife through her. I said to McMurdy he had better drive the children to Hamblin's ranche and give them some nourishment, while I would go down and get my horse at camp. Passing along the road I saw the dead strung along a distance of about half a mile. The women and children were killed by Indians. I saw Shurtz with Indians and no other white man with them. When I came to the men they lay about a rod apart. Here I came up with Higbee, Bishop Smith and the rest of the company. As I came up Higbee said to me, "Let us search these persons for valuables," and asked me to assist him; gave me a hat to hold. Several men were already engaged in searching the bodies. I replied I was unwell, and wanted to get upon my horse and go to the ranche and nurse myself. My request was granted. Reaching Hamblin's ranche, being heartsick and worn out, I lay down on my saddle blanket and slept and knew but little of what passed during the night. About daybreak in the morning I heard the voices of Col. Dame and Isaac C. Haight. I heard some very angry words pass between them, which drew my attention. Dame said he would have to report the destruction of the emigrant camp and company. Haight said, "How, as an Indian massacre?" Dame said he did not know as

well about that. This reply seemed to irritate Haight, who spoke quite loudly, saying, "How the hell can you report it any other way without implicating yourself?" At this Dame lowered his voice almost to a whisper. I could not understand what he said, and the conversation stopped. I got up, saw children and among others the boy who was pulled by the hair out of the wagon by the Indian and saved by me. That boy I took home and kept home until Dr. Forney, government agent, came to gather up the children and take them east. He took the boy with others. That boy's name was William Fancher. His father was captain of the train. He was taken east and adopted by a man in Nebraska named Richard Sloan. He remained east several years and then returned to Utah and is now a convict in the Utah penitentiary, having been convicted the past year, for the crime of highway robbery. He is now known by the name of Idaho Bill, but his true name is William Fancher. His little sister was also taken east and is now the wife of a man working for the Union Pacific Railroad Company near Green Pine. The boy (now man) has yet got a scare on his chin caused by the cut of wagon box, and those who are curious enough to examine will find a large scar on the ball of his left foot, caused by a deep cut made by an axe while he was with me. I got breakfast that morning, then all hands returned to the scene of slaughter to bury the dead. The bodies were all nude; the Indians through the night had stripped them of every vestige of clothing. Many of the parties were laughing and talking as they carried the bodies to the ravine for burial. They just covered over a little, but did not long remain so, for wolves dug them up, and after eating the flesh from them the bones laid upon the ground until buried, some time after, by Government military officers. Dame and Haight had any other quarrel, Dame apparently being terror-stricken, and used very hard words toward each other. The wagons were stripped of everything. A messenger named Haslett was sent after the attack to Brigham Young, asking his advice about interfering with the company. He didn't return until the massacre was completed. Isaac C. Haight commanded me to go and tell Young about it, saying it would be a feather in my cap and I would get celestial salvation, but the man who shrunk from it now would go to hell. I went and told Brigham my mission and the whole story, omitting my opposition except that I opposed the shedding of innocent blood. "Why," said he, "you differ from Isaac (Haight), for he said there was not a drop of innocent blood in the whole company." When I was through he said it was awful; that he cared nothing about the men, but the women and children was what troubled him. I said, "President Young, you should either release the men from their obligation or sustain them when they do what they have entered into the most sacred obligation to do." He replied, "I will think over the matter and make it the subject of prayer and you may come back in the morning and see me." I did see. He said, "John, I feel first rate. I asked the Lord if it was all right for that deed to be done, to take away vision of the deed from my mind, and the Lord did so, and I feel first rate. It is all right; the only fear I have is of traitors." He told me never to slip it to any mortal being, not even to brother Heber. President Young has

127

EVERY POLY-VU

John d. Lee #2

always treated me with friendship of a father since, and sealed several women to me, and has made my home his home when in that part of the Territory until danger has threatened him.

This is a true statement, according to the best of my recollection.

(Signed) JOHN D. LEE.

THE GATE CITY:

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 25.

1877

Lee's Autobiography

SALT LAKE, March 24.—Lee accompanied his confession with his autobiography, embodying the story of the degeneration and wickedness of Latter Day Saints. He entrusts the whole to a friend, who will sell it and give the proceeds to his family. He says: "This weak and pliable tool who lays down his pen to face the executioners' guns is not more guilty than others who to-day are wearing the garments of priesthood. My autobiography, if published, will open the eyes of the world to the monstrous deeds of the leaders of the Mormon people, and place in the hands of the Government Attorney particulars of some of the most blood-curdling crimes ever committed in Utah, which, if followed up, will bring down many from their high place in the church to face offended justice upon the gallows."

The Gate City.

KEOKUK: 1860

MONDAY MORNING, MAR. 19.

From Utah.

Judge Rebb, of Utah, has resigned his place on the bench, and reports say Judges Sinclair and Cradlebaugh, will also resign, or be removed. There is a conflict of opinion between these Judges and Gov. Cummings. It is said that the Governor is a Mormon, and the Judges Gentiles, hence the dispute.

WEEKLY CONSTITUTION OCTOBER 13, 1885.

Mormon Bishops Pardoned.

WASHINGTON CITY, Oct. 11.—It is understood that the president has pardoned three Mormon bishops who were convicted in Arizona, nearly two years ago, for practicing polygamy. It seems that an unsuccessful effort was made to try the defendants under the Edmunds law, and this failing, they were indicted and convicted under the territorial laws for unlawful cohabitation. It is said the attorney general decided the action of the territorial judges in imposing sentence illegal, and the president thereupon directed a pardon to be issued.

DAILY GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 12, 1876

The Mountain Meadow Murderers.

SALT LAKE, May 11.—In the Mountain Meadow case, at Beever, to-day Judge Boreman admitted Coe to \$15,000 bail and Dorne to \$20,000. The case was continued to the first Monday in August.

The Gate City.

KEOKUK: 1860

FRIDAY MORNING, JAN. 27.

Interesting from Utah.

A FIGHT AMONG THE DANITE BAND.

[From the Leavenworth Times, 20th.]

From Mr. G. D. Page, who came through from Salt Lake via the South Pass, we have later intelligence from Utah. Mr. Page came from the forks of the Platte, in the Pike's Peak Exores. He left Salt Lake on the 30th of Dec.

The most important news is that the notorious Bill Hickman was severely, if not mortally wounded. He has been the leader of the Danites for many years.

Just before Mr. P. left, a difficulty occurred in the city, in front of Townsend's Hotel, between Bill Hickman and Lot Huntington, both members of the Danite band. The cause of the difficulty is unknown; it was one with which the Gentiles had nothing to do. The parties met on the street, and after some words between them, Huntington and Hickman clinched; the former inflicting a severe wound in the back of the latter.

After the parties became separated, a general melee ensued, pistols were fired and knives drawn. A shot from Huntington struck Hickman's watch, which prevented the ball from entering his body. The next shot struck his thigh, and at last accounts he was in a critical condition. Huntington was shot by one of Hickman's friends, in the thigh, but the wound was a flesh one.—There were a great many shots fired by the friends of both parties, but no one else was injured.

The feeling between the Mormons and the Gentiles was good, and no disturbance had occurred.

The Mormons had a gay time on Christmas. There was any quantity of balls and parties. The Mormon leaders personally have forbidden such festivities on Christmas. Both Saint and Gentile participated.

Brigham Young does not show himself in the streets lately, owing, it is supposed, to ill health. When he is seen, he wears a handkerchief around his head. He speaks but seldom.

THE GATE CITY:

TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 12.

"THE TWIN RELIC." ELECTION OFFICES.

SALT LAKE, October 11.—The Mormon conference adjourned yesterday. It was chiefly notable for the fillings of the first presidency, vacant since Brigham died. John Taylor, was president, with George Q. Cannon as first, and Joseph F. Smith as second counsellors. Cannon is the delegate to congress and was re-nominated on the 7th inst. Joseph F. Smith is a nephew of the original Joseph Smith.

John Taylor was the ranking member of the Twelve Apostles. Cannon is regarded as the ruling spirit, the power behind the throne. Although Wilford Woodruff, is ranking member of the Twelve Apostles and is the heir apparent according to precedent.

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 8, '78.

POLYGAMY.

An Appeal From Non-Mormon Ladies of Utah—An Effort In the Right Direction.

SALT LAKE, Nov. 7.—The following was adopted at a meeting of non-Mormon women of this city to-day.

To Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes and women of the United States:

We call upon Christian women of the United States to join us in urging Congress to empower its courts to arrest the further progress of the evil, and to delay the admittance of Utah into Statehood until this is accomplished, and we ask you to circulate and publish our appeal in order to arouse public sentiment, which should be against an abomination that peculiarly oppresses and stigmatizes woman. It is our purpose to ask names to a petition designed for Congress, and we hope also every minister of the gospel will commend it to the women of his congregation and that all Christian associations will do what they can to obtain signatures. With the cordial co-operation and concerted action of christian women of our land, we may confidently hope that the great sin of polygamy may be abolished.

Constitution-Democrat.

OCTOBER 2, 1891

OLD MORMON WRITS.

Found by the County Treasurer at Carthage, Ill.

CARTHAGE, Ill., Oct. 2.—[Special correspondence of THE CONSTITUTION DEMOCRAT.]—John W. Bertshi, county treasurer, while overhauling his office recently, found a number of papers, old and musty with age, which upon examination, proved to be a number of official writs, summonses and executions issued out of the office of John Banks, a justice of the peace of Rocky Run township. The papers have dates varying from 1843 to 1850, and most of them are writs for the "bodies" of certain Mormons who are charged with stealing corn, oats, cabbage, etc. One William McAulley swears he has been robbed of certain spring-back guns, and verily believes that said guns are concealed in the town of Nauvoo. Fravers M. Higbee swears that certain men did feloniously and with force of arms take from him an old musket or shotgun. Higbee, together with his brother, the late Judge Higbee, issued one number of The Nauvoo-Expositor, at Nauvoo, which was declared a nuisance by Smith and the press and the type were destroyed. This led to the murder of Joe Smith and brother Hiram. Francis Higbee subsequently moved to Carthage and active in his opposition to Mormon

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY!
R. J. BICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

128

Commerce Sister Anne
 College of Notre Dame, San Francisco, Calif.; St. Vincent's college, San Francisco, Calif.; St. Louis university, St. Louis, Mo.
 Latin Sister Cecelia
 Indianapolis Normal college, Indianapolis, Ind.; Loyola university, New Orleans, La.; St. Louis university, St. Louis, Mo.
 Fine and Domestic Arts. Sister Celeste
 State university of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

The grade work is under the direction of the following teachers who have received their training at the Normal college, of St. Louis, Mo.: Sister Carlos, Sister Bernard and Sister Lucy, assisted by other members of the community and lay teachers.

High School Affiliated.
 St. Peter's high school is affiliated with the State university of Iowa, De Paul university of Chicago and the Catholic university of America in Washington, D. C., thus allowing its graduates to enter without examinations these schools or any schools in the associations of which these universities are members.

St. Peter's and St. Vincent's schools are essentially Catholic institutions, yet pupils of every denomination are welcome to its advantages, all however, being taught to appreciate religious principles and moral worth.

The buildings are well equipped and provided with all modern improvements. Special attention has been given for a number of years to the fitting up of the laboratories in order to give to the students special advantages in scientific work.

Students are in close touch with the teachers, giving to the former a refinement and culture unconsciously acquired by these close associations.

The registration of the students for the coming scholastic year gave evidence that the healthy growth and the widening influence of St. Peter's and St. Vincent's is being continued in this community.

Weekly Constitution.

APRIL 8, 1885.

KEOKUK PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING THEM.

The Total Enrollment and Average Attendance—Religious Beliefs of the Teachers and Members of the Board—Date of Erection of School Buildings and Cost of Same.

The total enrollment of the public schools of Keokuk is now over 2,500 and the average attendance over 2,000, quite an increase over last winter.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF TEACHERS.

Thinking the religious beliefs of the principals and teachers in the schools might be of interest to our readers, we interviewed Prof. Jamieson, superintendent of the schools, and learned that their religious beliefs were as follows:

Methodist Episcopal 8; Unitarian 8; Protestant Episcopal 7; United Presbyterian 7; Presbyterian 6; Baptist 7; Congregational 6; German Evangelical 2; Roman Catholic 2; Jewish 1.

The above exhibit shows a varied religious belief, divided among nearly every church or sect represented in the city.

WHEN THE BUILDINGS WERE BUILT AND COST OF SAME.

The estimated cost of the various school buildings and property, and the year of their erection is as follow.

High School building, erected in 1853, at a cost of about \$30,000.

Wells building, erected in 1865, at a cost of about \$20,000.

Carey building, erected in 1867, at a cost of about \$20,000.

Torrance building, erected in 1870, at a cost of about \$25,000.

Reid's Addition building, erected about 1870 at a cost of \$2,000.

Grand Avenue building, erected in 1867 at a cost of \$1,200.

Thirteenth Street school building, erected in 1875 at a cost of \$1,500.

First Ward school building, erected in 1874, at a cost of \$28,000.

Concert Street school building, frame part built in 1868 at a cost of \$5,500, including land; the brick building was erected in 1884 at a cost of \$12,000.

It will be seen that we have nine school buildings, which, with the grounds on which they stand, cost about \$145,000.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF THE BOARD.

The religious beliefs of the members of the board for each year since 1870, have been as follows:

Years.	Methodist	Presbyterian	German Evangel	Unitarian	Episcopal	Congregational	No Par. Belief.
1870	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1871	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1872	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1873*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1874*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1875	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1876	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1877	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1878	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1879	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1880	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1881	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1882	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1883	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1884	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1885	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

*Seven members this year.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

NOVEMBER 21, 1884

CIGARETTE SMOKING.

PREVALENCE OF THE HABIT AMONG KEOKUK SCHOOL CHILDREN.

To the Editor.

The prevalence of this habit among the boys is a subject meriting serious attention. Too often we allow ourselves to become so engrossed in the round of present activities that we give no heed to the characters and habits forming among these representatives of a future commonwealth. It is not our purpose here to detail the injurious effects of smoking cigarettes. Those who have given this matter much study maintain that the cigarette is infinitely worse than the cigar. Tobacco in any of its forms is especially injurious to the young. Its impurities enter into the system, poisoning and deranging the whole physical being as well as vitiating the moral tone and dwarfing the intellectual faculties. Persons whose mature physical strength enable them to use tobacco without appreciable harm are slow to recognize its momentable effects upon the delicate but rapidly growing organism which constitutes a boy's 'stock in trade' for a happy and successful future career. Health—physical, moral and intellectual—cannot be too highly esteemed nor too often commended. Teachers have frequent occasion to note the deleterious effects of cigarette smoking. I now recall the case of a boy—a member of Wells school—whose intellectual faculties had become so dwarfed by the use of narcotics and beer that he was totally incapacitated for attending to the simplest school duties. His sluggishness manifested itself both in the school room and upon the play grounds and as a last resort he was dismissed from the school. This was an extreme case, but instances might be multiplied of cases tending in this direction.

In pursuance of a desire to learn the prevalence of this deplorable habit among our boys I recently instituted an investigation in the various grades of Wells school. The results are sufficiently alarming to merit the attention of parents and press. The figures apply only above the second grade as no cases or at most only rare ones are to be found among the boys of the first and second grades.

Out of the ninety-nine boys included in my inquiries thirty-six or a trifle over thirty-six per cent admitted the use of cigarettes. By grades they stand as follows:

Third grade, age about eight years, nine in twenty or forty-five per cent; fourth grade, age about nine years, seventeen in twenty-eight or sixty per cent; fifth grade, ten years, ten in twenty-one or forty-seven per cent; sixth grade, eleven years, ten in twenty-one or forty-seven per cent; seventh grade, twelve years, nothing in nine or no per cent.

While the above may not completely represent the prevalence of the evil I feel confident it very closely approximates it. To overcome their unwillingness to confess, the following method was used:

Securing their attention they were asked to write a truthful answer to a question that would be given them. The answer was to be either yes or no and no name was to be signed. The question was then propounded: "Do you smoke cigarettes?" As this would not necessarily involve detection the re-

sults may be taken as representing the actual state of affairs.

It is to be hoped that a growing public sentiment may be directed against this evil, and parents and press, following the commendable example of our Minnesota neighbors, combine to overthrow the injurious practice.

C. H. GORDON,
Principal Wells School.

The Gate City.

Entered in Keokuk Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

CONDEMN LOCAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS

July 26, 1913

State Fire Inspection Committee
Which Visited City Makes Unfavorable Report on
Them.

CHANGES RECOMMENDED.

Several Things About Buildings Outside of Length of Time Standing That Are Not Satisfactory.

The committee from the Iowa Fire Prevention association which recently inspected Keokuk condemns the school houses of this city in its report. The structures are declared to be unsafe and out of date in point of fire fighting equipments. This, of course, does not include every building.

In its findings the committee said: "With one or two exceptions the school buildings are considerable older than are found in most cities of the size and importance of Keokuk, and in this respect they are not at all up to date in the case of the scholars or the protection of the many young lives daily consigned to the buildings. Now, modern and more sanitary school houses are sadly needed.

"In many instances coal is piled against the wood wall of a coal bin. Even though mine run coal is used, a great deal of slack coal accumulates, with the danger of spontaneous combustion. All wood bin walls should be replaced with brick or hollow tile.

"Closets should be abandoned as they are usually catch alls for dirt and rubbish and greasy rags. Closets

under stairways should never be permitted. A fire in one of them would cost many lives.

"Electric wiring—A great deal of the wiring is old and worn out and out of date and should be overhauled. The practice of hanging pendant cords over nails or other metal should not be permitted. There should be gas and electric cutouts outside of buildings, so that gas and electric currents may be cut out of building entirely when school is not in session.

Heat Shields Needed.

"Heat shields should be suspended over smoke pipes midway between pipe and ceiling. The practice of mixing oil and sawdust on premises for sweeping compound should be abandoned. There should be no dark passageways, alcoves or closets without electric lights, so that there will be no excuse for a janitor to use matches.

"There seems to be a lack of fire fighting appliances. There should be installed in each school a standpipe at least 2 inches in diameter with 1½ inch hose attached to each floor and basement and an improved chemical extinguisher (not powder tubes or hand grenades) on each floor and full instructions given as to the use of them.

"There should be frequent inspections of school board. Do not allow the attics to be used for storage. A little care may save many lives as well as property."

In School Days.

Still sits the schoolhouse by the way
A ragged beggar sunning;
Around it still the sumachs grow,
And blackberry vines are running.

Within the master's desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jackknife's carved initial;

The charcoal frescoes on the wall;
Its door's worn sill betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing!

Long years ago a winter sun
Shone over it at setting;
Lit up its western window panes,
And low eaves' icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls,
And brown eyes full of grieving.
Of one who still her steps delayed
When all the school were leaving.

For near her stood the little boy
Her childish favor sipping;
His cap pulled down upon a face
Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow
To right and left, he lingered—
As restlessly her tiny hands
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes; he felt
The soft hand's light caressing,
And heard the tremble of her voice,
As a fault confessing.

"I'm sorry that I spelt the word;
I hate to go above you,
Because"—the brown eyes lower fell—
"Because, you see, I love you!"

Still memory to a gray-haired man
That sweet child-face is showing,
Dear girl! the grasses on her grave
Have forty years been growing.

He lives to learn, in life's hard school,
How few who pass above him
Lament their triumph and his loss,
Like her—because they love him.
—J. G. Whittier.

The Keokuk Gate City and
Constitution Democrat
Page 10—, JUNE 9, 1943

Pupil Cost for Keokuk Schools Rises in 1942

Per pupil cost in the public schools of Keokuk increased from \$91.38 in 1941 to \$98.60 in 1942, according to figures disclosed by the Iowa Tax Payers' Association.

This cost is based on the average daily attendance in both the elementary grades and high schools and does not include expenditures for school house bonds and interest nor for capital improvements paid from the general fund.

Over the same period Burlington's per pupil cost rose from \$96.92 to \$101.42 and Fort Madison's from \$68.13 to \$68.25.

The total expenditures for operating costs for the 114 city school districts in Iowa cities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942, according to official reports, were \$17,763,654. This was \$567,174 more than the \$17,196,480 expended by the same districts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941, or 3.3 percent increase.

The average cost per pupil in the 114 districts for the year ending June 30, 1942, was \$93.24 per pupil as compared with \$88.01 for the previous year, an increase of \$5.23. The total average daily attendance declined during the year from 195,397 to 190,509, a loss of 4,888. In the preceding year the loss was 2,558.

The 10 high districts for 1942 were: Dubuque, \$137.17; Storm Lake \$117.41; Emmetsburg, \$113.73; Iowa City, \$113.29; Osage, \$111.81; Eldora, \$110.81; Cedar Rapids, \$110.9; Davenport, \$108.64; Sioux City, \$108.651; Tipton, \$106.69.

The 10 low districts for 1942 were: Toledo, \$62.31; Seymour, \$63.32; Chariton, \$63.89; Leon, \$65.78; Glenwood, \$66.02; Knoxville, \$66.19; Marion, \$67.19; Mystic, \$68.14; Fort Madison, \$68.25; Guthrie Center \$68.56.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HIS ORY
R. I. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

130

131

GRAND THEATRE FIRE-2

For they printed "A True Fable." The manager of one of our better class attractions—and himself a gentleman—stood near the door of the theatre recently, watching the crowds enter the Grand to see his show. Voluntarily he took the trouble to approach us and remark that the Keokuk people who had come in that night were the best-dressed, best-mannered and appearing people that he had seen in any of the many towns visited in the western states. While we know that he spoke only the truth, yet we were pleased."

But note how the proud Keokuk manager's complacency was punctured! "Later that same evening we stood with this same manager at the rear of the theatre. As the play neared the finish and it became evident that the show would be over in a few minutes—suddenly there arose a sound of confusion and bustle all over the theatre. Men reached for their hats, women stood up and tugged to get on their coats,

some bolted up the aisles, others tore down the steps as if the house was on fire . . . It is a courtesy due the actors on the stage and the other people who wish to see the play through, to remain quiet and seated until the final curtain has fallen."

Commercial Sponsors

The commercial sponsors of the program were: Harry J. Ferguson, clothing; The Grand and the Regent, moving pictures; Immegart, groceries; Keokuk National Bank, pays 3 per cent on savings accounts; Leake-Folker Co., Xmas greeting cards; Hamill, coffee; Collisson and Lofton, insurance; Wilkinson and Co., drugs; Merriam's Hardware store; and F. C. Pearson-C. J. Holbrook, phone 303.

My own memories of the olden-time grandeur of the Grand concern being one of 40 young people on the stage for our high school graduation when George Edward Marshall was principal of the K. H. S. We were supposed to hire white horses,

if possible, to draw the carriages which drew us up to the stage door, and Dad found such a team at the livery stable in Hamilton. Being a punctual person, he had me taken there too early, and our white horses had driven away before my classmates appeared, some with steeds of color, for Keokuk had not enough white horses to convey all of the "sweet girl graduates," in ruffled white, and the few boys in dark serge simultaneously!

The old Grand housed Shakespearean plays, such as those in which Walker Whieside was the star; "mellerdramas," like "The Black Crook," and musical events of quality, then, as now. The new Grand, today, carries on with pictures; piano concerts, soloists, boys' choirs, violins, ballet and orchestras, the offerings of the Civic Music club and our music-lovers from Warsaw, Carthage and Hamilton join the "intelligensia" of KKK for evenings of delight to the ears.

The Daily Gate City.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 11, 1871.

New Advertisements.

**LAST PERFORMANCES
—OF THE—
FORRESTERS**

Saturday Afternoon, Feb. 11th,
Will be presented the highly Moral Temperance
Drama

Ten Nights in a Bar Room.
Admission to all parts of the Hall, 25 Cents;
Children 15 Cents.

Saturday Even'g, Feb. 11,
THREE STIRRING PICES!
Music! Mirth! and Wit!

The performance will commence with Tobian's
Beautiful Comedy, in 3 Acts, entitled the

Honey Moon!

After which, the Roaring Extravaganza entitled
OUR GAL!

To conclude with that lively Farce, entitled
Ambitious Contraband!!

Admission, 35 Cents; Reserved Seats, 50 Cents.
Seats can be secured (by numbers) at Ayres Bro's.
Music Store without extra charge.
Doors open at 7 o'clock; commence at 8.

DAILY GATE CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, 1875

OPERA HOUSE,

ONE NIGHT ONLY,

Monday, March 1st,

**THE ORIGINAL
GEORGIA MINSTRELS**

And Brass Band!

**THE GREAT SLAVE TROUPE,
AND JUBILEE SINGERS.**

W. A. MARA.....Proprietor and Manager.

20 Genuine Colored Artists. 20

**The Largest and Most Complete-
ly Organized Troupe of
the Kind in the
World.**

Reserved Seats on Sale at AYRES BROS. Musi-
Store.
feb-24-27-28. D. B. HODGES,
Business Manager.

**Man the Architect of Our Religion.
LECTURE BY ORION CLEMENS**

In reply to Ingersoll and Wendling,

—AT—

**Red Ribbon Hall,
MONDAY EVE'NG, MAY 5, 1879.**

TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT.

1. Ministers and Rectors and Priests, and their flocks, Orthodox, Unorthodox and Catholic, the Salt of the Earth. Christianity the Soul of Civilization.
2. The Origin of Honor thy father and thy mother; Love thy neighbors thyself; Thou shalt not steal; Do as you would be done by.
- THE RUDE BEGINNING OF OUR WORSHIP.
3. The Road by the foothills of Palestine.
4. The Civilization of the Canaanites.
5. Abraham's Inspirational Call to Canaan.
- What Inspiration is.
6. Worship of Trees and Stones.
7. The Tree that Abraham planted in Beersheba.
8. The Tables of Stone at Mount Sinai.
9. The effects of apparitions of the dead upon ancient religions.
10. Genesis XV. 17. The Three Gods, and why they appeared in the forms of fire and smoke.
11. Analysis of Abraham's sacrifice to them.

Admission 25 Cents.

apr26-mon, wed mon

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

132

son was in no danger of catching fire from the flying sparks and the prisoners in their cells peeped from the grated windows at the sight within twenty feet of them.

Water was thrown on the roofs of neighboring houses but no damage resulted to other property.

Building Insured.

The Lee county court house building at Fort Madison was insured for \$16,500 in the following companies: Palatine, Home, German-American, North British & Mechanics, Farmers of Cedar Rapids, (two policies), Fireman, of New Jersey, Spring-Garden of Philadelphia, Germania of New York, Springfield of Massachusetts, St. Paul of Minnesota, Aetna of Hartford and the Iowa Manufacturers Insurance corporations.

The furnishings were insured in the North British and Springfield, for \$1,800.

Appraisers are expected to be on the ground immediately and estimate the loss of the destroyed building.

Temporary Headquarters.

Some building will at once be rented by the county for use of the county officials at Fort Madison, though a temporary location has not been selected.

One Court House?

As a direct result of last night's county court house fire, it is not unlikely that immediate agitation may be begun to have a larger court house built at Keokuk.

Between such proceedings, however, legal course stands and it is necessary in reconstructing a county building, according to a recently passed state law, that three-fourths of the vote of citizens must be obtained before a proposition calling for the expenditure of more than \$5,000 can be gone into.

An Old Building.

The court house burned at Fort Madison was about the same size as the one here and was built according to information obtainable at this time, in 1852.

In 1871, an addition was made to the first building. The large dome or cupola which was wrecked by the fire was built in 1876 and was a colossal affair, similar to the one on the court house here.

**WAS OLDEST
IN THE STATE**

Lee County Court House at Fort Madison Was Landmark of Iowa, Being Built in 1841.

FIRST COST WAS \$12,000

J. P. Cruikshank Gives History of the Structure Which Was Wrecked by Fire This Week.

By request the Hon. J. P. Cruikshank, who is one of the best posted men in the state on Iowa's history, furnishes the following history of the Fort Madison court house:

In the burning of the historical old court house Wednesday night the county and city has sustained not only a loss financially, but an additional loss from an historic and sentimental standpoint. It was unquestionably the oldest court house in the state, erected for county purposes and so dated up to the date of its partial destruction. The Van Buren county court house at Keosauqua is one of the oldest, but coming in as a close second, being built less than one year later.

The writer, in response to a request from E. R. Harlan, curator of the Iowa Historical Department at Des Moines, last November made an extensive search of the records of the board of supervisors in the auditor's office of the county and compiled and submitted to that official certain data which substantiate the claim of priority above stated, at least the claim has never been questioned so far as known to the writer.

The proceedings of the board of supervisors of Lee county, in early days styled commissioners, show that the contract for the erection of the court house at Fort Madison was let during the months of June and July, 1841, to Thomas Morrison, Amos Ladd and Isaac R. Atlee, the successful bidders. Work was actually commenced in the latter part of July, 1841, the foundation laid and part of the wall erected in the summer and fall of that year. The proceedings of the board further show that the building was completed and ac-

cepted by the board on September 3, 1842, and the cells in the jail room in the same building were completed and accepted on the 27th of the same month. While there is nothing in the proceedings to show just when the building was actually occupied, it is evident that it was occupied during the month of September of that year, as the board ordered the assignment of rooms for the various offices on the 3rd of that month. The upper or "Old Settlers' park" was in June, 1841 selected as the site for the building, but was in July following changed to the present location, on lots 534 and 535. The plan adopted included a court house and jail under one roof, 50x48 feet, stone foundation and brick walls. It cost over \$12,000, of which amount \$8,000 was contributed by the city of Fort Madison. The material used in the building was of the best and the workmanship reliable, there being no graft, as evidenced by the cost of the building itself, and the further fact that the wall are still intact and the lower floor not damaged to any great extent. This is remarkable when one takes into consideration the strong gale and the partial failure in the water supply.

The design of the original building as plain and simple, but classic, with a Doric portico, supported by four columns of brick, skillfully plastered over so as to give the impression of being of solid stone. There were very few buildings like it in the state, but the like is often found in the older southern states. The tetrastyle colonnade reminds one of the parthenon at Athens and many of the old buildings and ruins of the Roman Empire. It is to be regretted that the name of the designer or architect is now unknown. An addition to the original edifice was put on the rear in 1876, and in 1895 the supervisors' and judge's rooms and boiler-house addition were built.

The four dismantled Doric columns are still standing sentinels to the partially ruined structure, still grand and classic as ever. It is suggested by the writer, which suggestion seems to meet with approval, that the building be at once rebuilt and a replica of the original be maintained. This will be the most economical, and at the same time embody the sentiment to reproduce the historic and classic.

J. P. CRUIKSHANK,
Fort Madison, Iowa, March 30, '11.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

DECEMBER 20, 1883.

Lee County Postoffice.

What has recently been said in the GATE CITY concerning the history of the Primrose postoffice brings to our mind some incidents connected with the early mail service at Dover and

133

EVERY POLY-YU

At. Mad. Court House 4-2

West Point in this county. Nearly forty years ago Edward Dickey removed from Fort Madison to Dover and erected a dwelling on one of the corners of the cross roads. It was in this house the first postoffice west of West Point was established, and Mr. Dickey was made postmaster. It was his intention to work at his trade, that of tailoring, and in addition, to keep a store. Accordingly a store was opened and Mr. Dickey was behind the counter. He did not succeed well in mercantile pursuits and soon abandoned the business. In those days the mail was received seldom oftener than twice a week and finally not at all as the department at Washington ceased to provide for carrying the mail for some unknown reason—negotiations were commenced to get the government to renew the contract for carrying the mail from West Point through to Farmington. These negotiations were pending for nearly a year and during this time no mails would have reached Dover, but for the energy and the determination of the postmaster, Mr. Dickey. For nearly a year he carried the mails on foot once and some times twice a week from Dover to West Point and return, a distance of six miles. Dickey was a swift pedestrian and could make faster time on foot than any would-be professional we have ever seen. The writer walked with him one Monday morning, expecting to return with him in the afternoon, but we gave out and was glad to stay over with Albert Leach till the next day. The following winter the neighbors of Mr. Dickey, who had been the gainers by his persistency in getting their mails, determined to reward him in some way. He would take no money. It was then determined to make a donation supper at his residence. Accordingly a time was set, and provisions carried in for a grand collation. Everybody that lived in that section that got mail at that office was there with all they could carry. We were too young to leave at home and was there. We never saw so much to eat as there was that night. But this was not all. It was intended to do more substantial justice to the family for what Mr. D. had done and a considerable sum of money was raised and subscribed at the time and given to the faithful postmaster. The war came, and with it a call for volunteers; The postmaster at Dover responded to this call and enlisted in the Nineteenth infantry. Army life did not agree with him, and soon his health was such that he was discharged and came home. Not satisfied he enlisted again in the hundred day service, served his time out, but on his way home sickened and died on board a transport at St. Louis. His widow, Barbara Dickey, inherited the postoffice and holds the same to this day. She is the oldest postmistress in the state.—F. H. Semple in the Ft. Madison Democrat.

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY.

Entered in Keokuk postoffice as second class matter

JULY 18, 1895.

OLD SETTLERS.

The Meeting for Preliminary Arrangements Very Enthusiastic—The Pioneers.

The meeting called to meet at the superior court room Thursday to make arrangements for the Old Settlers' meeting to be held here August 15 was largely attended and very enthusiastic.

The Pioneers.

D. F. Miller, sr., patriarch of the association wrote a letter to the vice presidents and enclosed a copy of one by J. P. Cruikshank, secretary, in which he said:

"Our association is called to hold this year's celebration at Keokuk, on the 15th day of the ensuing August. When we organized as an association twenty-five years ago, there were between 300 and 400 in number of the pioneers of the elder grade. Our secretary, as you will notice by his letter below, states our present number at forty-four, and he suggests that there may be amongst those names some who do not belong to the elder grade of pioneers. To belong to the elder or first grade of pioneers, one must have been 21 years old and living in Lee county on the 1st day of July, 1840.

Will you severally please look over the list of names published below, and if you see the name of anyone of them who was not 21 years of age on the 1st day of July, 1840, and living then in Lee county, write me accordingly."

Secretary Cruikshank replied as follows: "In compliance with your request of the 3rd inst., I give you the names of the pioneers of the first class still living. No doubt the list contains names not entitled to be there, and there may be a very few names of pioneers of the first class not on the list. The list is made from the pioneers' record and from information obtained elsewhere."

Name.	Year came to county.
Albright, Wm. G.	1839
Atlee, John C.	1837
Atlee, Emeline E.	1837
Alvis, Henry T.	1839
Anderson, Israel.	1839
Burton, Alonzo.	1837
Burton, Wm.	1835
Burton, Isham.	1835
Buler, David.	1836
Brewer, F. H.	1839
Chestnut, Robert	1835
Donnell, W. A.	1839
Davis, Wm. F.	1837
Fahey, Mary.	1838
Gibbs, Emily.	1839
Holdefer, John.	1839
Helen, Malinda.	1837
Hamilton, Geo. G.	1839
Henkle, Amos.	1839
Harlan, A. W.	1834
Hughes, H. W.	1838
Johnson, Aaron.	1834
Judy, Henry.	1824
Judy, George.	1835
Miller, Peter.	1836
Miller, D. F.	1839
McCreedy, Margaret.	1838
Morgan, Catherine.	1839
McNeil, Linda.	1840
McConn, Dan el.	1837
Onstott, John.	1835
Onstott, R. hael.	1835
Parrott, J. C.	1834
Pittman, Lindsey.	1835
Smith, Jane.	1838

SHEET NO.

Stiles, Horace.	1838
Skyles, Benj.	1837
Sawyer, Francis.	1837
Stoddard, Anthony (now living in Dakota).	1838
Satterly, Eleanor.	1839
Scott, James.	1836
Scott, John.	1837
Trowbridge, Theron.	1839
Wilson, Sarah.	1839

Constitution Democrat.

AUGUST 29, 1900.

THE PIONEERS ARE GOING.

Composed for and dedicated to the Pioneers and Old Settlers' association of Lee county, Iowa, by Washington Galland.

Now the Pioneers are going,
In the army of the Lord;
You can hear the mighty summons.
In the thunder of His word;
Now life's conflicts are near ended,
We will emigrate no more,
'Till we make our last removal,
From this land to Canaan's shore.

Like as watchmen on the tower,
We've kept post with sleepless eyes;
Like as private out on picket,
There to guard against surprise,
Now the order is, forever,
To be ready at a word;
Pioneers must not be sleeping,
In the army of the Lord.

One by one like leaves of forest,
Fall our comrades by the way.
Pioneers to that new country,
Where is never ending day,
Soon we each and all will follow,
To that "settlement" above;
Recognized will be our "claims" there,
And the "title" Jesus' love.

Action then to "quiet title,"
No "ejectment" their will lie;
No decree or "settlers' title"
That High Court will ever try.
A judge "friendly" to the settlers,
Occupies the bench supreme;
Who will hear each cause with patience
And e'er towards mercy lean.

Let us not be weary brothers,
Let us faint not by the way;
Though the night be long and dreary,
Soon will dawn a brighter day.
Let us keep our hearth fires blazing,
Bind our hearts in friendship's chord;
For the pioneers are going
In the army of the Lord.

WASHINGTON GALLAND.

BAKER-VAWTER CRIMPED LITH

CK CREDITS

THE GREAT DUST HEAR CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

134

Entered at Keokuk Postoffice as second class matter
 subscription Rates:

**SLAVES RAN
 AWAY IN 1846**

Owner Followed Them to Salem and
 Brought Suit Against
 Several Families.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1910

Mrs. Courtney Ann Scott died at her home in New Boston, Iowa, on Friday evening of last week, of dropsy, says the Burlington Post. The deceased was born a slave in Cumberland county, Kentucky, in 1832, and with her parents was brought to Clark county, Missouri, by her owner, Ruel Murphy, in 1836. Her mother, who was affectionately known as "Aunt," lived until about 1866. After Courtney Ann and Armstead had raised a large family they agreed to separate. Armstead still lives, a resident of Keokuk. Armstead was one of the slaves who ran away from Clark county in 1846 with Ruel Daggs' slaves. They went to Salem, Iowa, where the citizens sequestered them and protected them from Daggs, who followed them. Daggs brought suit for damages against the Pickering and other old families at Salem and the case was tried at Burlington, where judgments for many thousands of dollars were rendered against the defendants. The late George Frazee, of the Burlington bar wrote a pamphlet fully reporting this case. Ruel Murphy did not follow his slaves or send anyone after them and after a few months they returned to his plantation near Ashton and asked to be taken in.

After her separation from Armstead Courtney Ann married a colored minister by the name of Scott. Her old age was passed at New Boston, where she led a useful life and was greatly beloved by all in the community.

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, JULY 13, 1848.

IOWA.

The State Liberty Convention of Iowa met in Salem, Iowa, during the last week in May. The *Freeman* says "it was by far the most numerously attended, harmonious in feeling, spirited in action, and firm in conclusions, of any which have been held in the State."

Measures were taken to place the *Freeman*, the organ of the party, on a permanent basis. Resolutions were passed, defining the position of the party, sustaining John P. Hale, and denouncing the black laws, and a plan for organization throughout the State was adopted.

**Runaway Slaves Caused Strife
 Between Missouri and Iowa**

FEB. 17, 1953

(By Mrs. John Deatrick)

WYACONDA, Mo.—An 1848 slave trial, involving a Clark county resident and 18 residents of Henry county, Iowa, which came to light recently when old federal court records were being processed in Des Moines before being stored in a government warehouse at Kansas City, recalled an even more spectacular case involving Scotland county men.

The trial record found in Des Moines concerned nine slaves who ran away from their owner, Ruel Daggs in Clark county and made their way to Salem in Henry county. Daggs arrested them there but before he could gain legal possession they were passed along further on the "underground railway" by one Elihu Frazier and 18 others.

Daggs ultimately received damages for the loss of the slaves, valued at \$3,000, and also for damage to his crops as a result of their absence during harvesting.

Captured in Burlington

Northeast Missouri slave owners and southeast Iowa abolitionists figured in many such cases and early Scotland county history has the account of a slave named Gideon who escaped from the Patterson estate and went to Burlington in 1859. A man named John Doyle and another unnamed person, followed him to Burlington, captured the runaway and returned him to Memphis without consulting Iowa authorities.

A few months after this affair, William Tull of Scotland county went to Henry county near Salem to recover a slave woman named Sophia. Described as a very personable, light complexioned woman, she had escaped to Iowa the year before.

Taken Out of Hotel

Accompanied by two friends Tull went to Mt. Pleasant where he made tentative identification of a Negro woman he found there. While he was talking with her his friends saw threatening activity generating among the townspeople and, fearing trouble, they all left Mt. Pleasant and returned to Salem without the woman.

During the night a group of men,

armed with clubs, ropes and other weapons, routed the Missouri party out of their hotel room in Salem and took them back to Mt. Pleasant where, because of the turmoil and threatening crowds, they were given refuge in the jail and placed under heavy guard.

Angry Iowans swarmed around the jail like infuriated bees and Tull and his party became uneasy. Their chief concern at that time was not the runaway but how they were to get back to Missouri unharmed.

Table Leg Clubs

The sheriff assured them of all the possible protection he could give and urged that they help defend themselves in case of a mob attack. To remedy their lack of weapons the sheriff broke up a table, part of the jail furniture, and armed his prisoners with the legs.

Angry Iowans milled around the jail for three days, history relates, before Tull and his friends could be slipped out of the jail and into a private home where they were treated with every consideration. From here two men, presumably Iowa officers, were sent back to Memphis in Tull's carriage to tell of their predicament—prisoners in Iowa, charged with conspiring to kidnap.

Could Have Been Battle

Quite a few hotheads and irresponsible persons in Scotland and nearby counties were all for going into Iowa and returning the Tulls by force, if necessary, but the more judicious counseled caution. Finally Major James T. Jones, a United States marshal, went to Mt. Pleasant, bailed out the men and brought them home.

Once back in Memphis, Tull was only too happy to remain there and easily gave up his idea of recovering the runaway Sophia. The charge of conspiring to kidnap apparently was settled by the simple expedient of forfeiting appearance bonds. The matter dragged on in the courts for some time, however, and the records possibly are contained in the same files which are to be shipped to Kansas City.

135
 AVERY®
 POLY-YU

State of Missouri
County of Clark

W. W. W. Clerk of the County
Court within and for the County aforesaid do
hereby Certify that George Sawyer Esquire wh.
name is subscribed to the foregoing Certificate
was at the time of signing his name there to
and that he is an Acting Justice of the Peace
in and for said County of Clark duly elect-
ed Comprehended and qualified according
to Law as appears to me of record and
whose Acts as such are entitled to full
faith and Credit

In Witness Whereof I have here to
set my hand and affixed the
Seal of said Court done at Office
at Waterloo in Clark County this
17th day of November A. D. 1848
W. W. W. Clerk

136

complete educations. He would give the blacksmith a classical education, because first it would have a tendency to make a better blacksmith out of him, and secondly he would be a better man. He showed clearly the fallacy of young men rushing in business early in life before they are prepared. It was an address which if brought continuously before our boys would no doubt work to their interests and the country's good.

The master's thesis - The Practical, by Rev. Levi Gregory, was listened to with interest. Very little time was given him in which to prepare, which necessitated some explanatory remarks, destroying much of its fine effect.

President Macy's remarks on the meaning of graduation were well received by the audience, and his address to the seniors contained words of advice and encouragement.

The annual meeting of the alumni

association was held in college chapel Wednesday evening. A large audience was present, but as the orator and historian were absent the program was very short. So closes the school year of Whittier college. The year has been quite a successful one. The prospects for the coming year are flattering. As Miss Anna Packer's health has so improved as to enable her to assume her duties in the college success is assured.

137

AVERY[®]
POLY-VU

WHITTIER COLLEGE-2

Amendment to the Declaration.

Ruel Dogge, the plaintiff in this suit, and who is a citizen of and resident in the State of Missouri, by Sweet & O'Harra his attorneys, comes into court and complains of Elihu Frazier, Eli Jessup, John Pickering, Drury Overton, Elijah Johnson, Moses Baldwin, Thomas Clarkson Frazier, Mosea Purvis, Franklin Street, Albert Button, William Johnson, John Comer, Wyncoop Gilkinson, Paul Way, Isaac Frazier, John Ewing, Jesse Cook and William Cook defendants in this same suit, who are citizens of the State of Iowa, in a plea of trespass on the case.

For that whereas heretofore to-wit; on the first day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, the said plaintiff being a citizen of the State of Missouri, where slavery is tolerated and established, owned and had in his custody and under his control in the said State of Missouri nine persons whom he the said plaintiff lawfully held to labor, commonly called African Slaves, to-wit:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| Samuel Fulcher, commonly called Sam, aged about | years. |
| Dorcas, the wife of the aforesaid Sam, aged about | years. |
| John Walker, aged about | years. |
| Mary the wife of the aforesaid John Walker, aged about | years. |
| Julia, aged about | years. |
| Martha, a female child, aged about | years. |
| William, a male child, aged about | years. |
| One child aged about three years. | |

One child aged about one year, and in whose labor and service he the said plaintiff under the constitution and laws of the United States and under the constitution and laws of the State of Missouri had the sole right and interest to-wit, at the county of Clark in the said State of Missouri; which said persons so held to labor by the said plaintiff, as aforesaid, afterward to-wit: on the said first day of May in the year last aforesaid without the license or consent of the said plaintiff did depart and escape from him the said plaintiff and his the said plaintiff's labor and service and from the State of Missouri into the village of Salem, in the county of Henry in the State of Iowa, where they the said persons so held to labor as aforesaid and by reason of escaping as aforesaid became and were fugitives from said labor and service, to-wit; on the fifth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, at the county of Henry aforesaid. And whereas also the said plaintiff by his lawful agent and agents afterward on the same day and year last above mentioned pursued the said fugitives from labor so as aforesaid escaping from the said plaintiff and from the said State of Missouri as aforesaid to the said county of Henry, where the said plaintiff by his said agent and agents did then and there, to-wit; on the day and year last aforesaid, reclaim and arrest the said fugitives from labor as he the said plaintiff had a right to do for the purpose of taking them before

a justice of the peace

in the county of Henry aforesaid and where said arrest was so made in order to make the necessary proof of said persons so arrested being such fugitives from labor as aforesaid and for the further purpose of obtaining from said justice of the peace his official certificate for removing said fugitives from labor back to the said plaintiff in the State of Missouri, from whose service and custody they had unlawfully fled and escaped as aforesaid; the said justice of the peace having under the constitution and laws of the United States competent power and authority to hear such proofs and make and deliver to the said agents of the said plaintiff such official certificate: whereupon, and after, the said fugitives from labor had been so reclaimed and arrested as aforesaid they the said defendants, on the same day and year aforesaid at the county aforesaid, and after they the said defendants had notice of the said persons so arrested as aforesaid being fugitives from labor as aforesaid, and also notice of the right of the said agents of the plaintiff so to reclaim, arrest and convey before such justice for the purpose aforesaid, rescued them the said fu-

gitives from labor so reclaimed and arrested as aforesaid contrary to the provision of the statute of the United States in such case made and provided; and afterward to-wit, on the same day and year last aforesaid, aided and assisted them the said fugitives from labor in making their escape to some place beyond the reach of the said plaintiff or his agents. Whereby and by means of the premises the said agents were prevented from returning the said fugitives from labor to the said State of Missouri as they the said agents had a right to do and as they otherwise would have done. Whereby also and by means of the premises aforesaid, the said plaintiff hath lost the said fugitives by him lawfully held to labor and service as aforesaid, and hath been and is by reason thereof entirely deprived of the labor and service of the said fugitives, which labor and service would have been and was to him the said plaintiff of great value, to-wit, of the value of ten thousand dollars.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
 R. J. BICKEL - KEOKUK, IOWA

138

And for that whereas heretofore to-wit, on the first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, the said plaintiff being a citizen of the State of Missouri where slavery and the servile relation

is tolerated by law, owned and had in his custody and under his control in the said State of Missouri nine other persons whom he the said plaintiff lawfully held to labor commonly called slaves, to-wit :

- Samuel Fulcher, commonly called Sam aged about
- Dorcas, the wife of the aforesaid Sam,
- John Walker, aged about
- Mary the wife of the aforesaid John Walker,
- Julia,
- Martha, a female child,
- William,
- One child aged about
- One child aged about

and in whose labor and service he the said plaintiff under the laws and constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Missouri, had the sole right and interest to-wit, at the county of Clark in the State of Missouri aforesaid; which said persons so held to labor by the said plaintiff as aforesaid, at the place last aforesaid afterward to-wit, on the first day of May A. D. 1848, without the license or consent of the said plaintiff absconded and escaped from the custody and service of him the said plaintiff in the said State of Missouri and fled therefrom into the county of Henry in the State of Iowa where they the said persons so held to labor by the said plaintiff as aforesaid and by reason of escaping as aforesaid became and were fugitives from such labor, to-wit, on the first day of May A. D. 1848, at the county of Henry aforesaid. And whereas also the said plaintiff by his agent and agents afterward, to-wit, on the _____ day of May in the year last aforesaid pursued the said fugitives from labor so absconding and escaping from the custody and service of the said plaintiff in the State of Missouri as aforesaid to the said county of Henry in the State of Iowa and then and there on the day and year and at the place last aforesaid reclaimed and seized the said fugitives from labor for the purpose of taking them before a justice of the peace in the county of Henry in the State of Iowa where said re-capture and seizure was so made in order to show such justice by legal proof that said persons so seized were fugitives from labor as aforesaid and thereupon obtain from such justice a certificate for removing said fugitives from labor back to to said plaintiff in the State of Missouri such justice having under the constitution and laws of the United States competent power and authority to hear such proofs and to make and deliver to said agent and agents of the said plaintiff such certificate for the purpose aforesaid. Yet the said defendants well knowing the premises but wrongfully and injuriously contriving and intending to injure the said plaintiff by preventing the return of said fugitives from labor to his service in the State of Missouri and thereby depriving him the said plaintiff of all the benefit and profit arising from the labor and service of the fugitives aforesaid afterwarde and after the said defendants had notice that said persons so seized were fugitives from labor as aforesaid, to-wit, on the _____ day of May A. D. 1848 unlawfully and against the will of the plaintiff with force and arms and contrary to the statute of the United States in each case made and provided, rescue-

ed the said fugitives from labor, so reclaimed and seized as aforesaid and thereby prevented them the said agents from returning the said fugitives from labor to the custody and service of the said plaintiff in the said State of Missouri as he and they had the lawful right to do and otherwise would have done, to wit, at the county of Henry aforesaid; by means of which said premises he the said plaintiff had been greatly injured and deprived of the work and service of all said fugitives from labor so rescued from said agents by the defendants aforesaid, to-wit, at the county of Clark aforesaid.

And whereas also divers other persons commonly called slaves, to-wit : Samuel Fulcher commonly called Sam, Dorcas the wife of the aforesaid Sam, John Walker, Mary the wife of the aforesaid John Walker, Julia, Martha, William, one child aged about _____ years, one child aged about _____ years, commonly elled slaves, on the _____ day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, at the county of Clark in the State of Missouri being owned by and in the possession of the said plaintiff in said State of Missouri and which said slaves owed service to the plaintiff by the laws of the State of Missouri did on the day and year aforesaid unlawfully, wrongfully and unjustly and without the license or consent and against the will of the said plaintiff depart and go away from the said State of Missouri and out of the service of the plaintiff to-wit, at Clark county aforesaid, and afterward, to-wit, on the day and year aforesaid came to the county of Henry in the State of Iowa in the district of Iowa. Yet the said defendants after notice that the said slaves were fugitives from labor, contriving and unlawfully and unjustly intending to injure the plaintiff and to deprive him of said slaves and their service and of the profit, benefit and advantage which might and would otherwise have arisen and accrued to the plaintiff from such service did then and there, to-wit, on the day and year aforesaid at the county of Henry, State of Iowa and district of Iowa aforesaid, knowingly, willingly, unlawfully, wrongfully, and unjustly concealed the said slaves from the

139

EVERY POLY-VU

plaintiff whereby he lost said slaves and was deprived of their service and of all the benefit, profit and advantages which might and otherwise would have accrued and arisen to him from said slaves and their service for a long time, to-wit, for the space of six months to-wit, at Clark county aforesaid.

And whereas also several other persons to-wit: Samuel Fuleher commonly called Sam, Dorcas the wife of the aforesaid Sam, John Walker, Mary the wife of the aforesaid John Walker; Julia, Martha, William, one child aged about _____ years, and _____ ne child aged about _____ year commonly called slaves, on the _____ day of May in the year aforesaid were slaves of and in the possession of the plaintiff and his property and owed service to him by the laws of the State of Missouri, did unlawfully, wrongfully and unjustly without the license or consent and against the will of the plaintiff depart and go away from and out of the service of the plaintiff, to-wit, at Clark county aforesaid and afterwards to-wit, on the day and year aforesaid came to Henry county in the State and district of Iowa where they were fugitives from the labor of the plaintiff and the plaintiff by his agents then and there undertook to arrest and seize said slaves as such fugitives from labor but was then and there knowingly, willfully and willingly obstructed and hindered from so doing by the defendants contrary to the Statute of the United States in such case made and provided; whereby the plaintiff lost said slaves and was deprived of their services and of all the profit, benefit and advantages which might and would otherwise have accrued to him from such slaves and their services, to-wit, at Clark county aforesaid for the space of six months.

And whereas also heretofore on the _____ day of May 1848, the said plaintiff being a citizen of the State of Missouri where slavery and the servile relation is recognized by law, owned, kept and legally had in his possession, custody and employ at Clark county in the State of Missouri nine other persons commonly called slaves, to-wit: Samuel Fuleher commonly called Sam, Dorcas the wife of the aforesaid Sam, John Walker, Mary the wife of the aforesaid John Walker, Julia, Martha, William, one child aged about _____ years, and one child aged about _____ year, who by the laws of the State of Missouri were bound to labor for and serve him the said plaintiff and whose labor and service the said plaintiff had and still has the legal interest in and the sole right of directing and controlling, which said persons so held to labor and service from the said State of Missouri by the said plaintiff as aforesaid afterwards, to-wit, on the _____ day of May 1848, unlawfully and without the knowledge or consent of him the said plaintiff, absconded and escaped from the said plaintiff and his service; and afterwards to-wit: on the _____ day of May in the year last aforesaid came to the county of Henry in the State and district of Iowa where they the said persons so escaping as aforesaid and by reason of such absconding and escaping became and were then and there fugitives from labor. And whereas also afterwards on the _____ day of May A. D. 1848, the plaintiff by his agent and agents pursued the said fugitives from labor so absconding from the said State of Missouri and coming into the county of Henry as aforesaid and then and there on the day and year last aforesaid at the county and within the district aforesaid undertook and attempted to reclaim and seize the said fugitives from labor for the purpose of taking them before one _____ a justice of the peace in said county of Henry where such attempt to reclaim and seize was so made in order to adduce the necessary testimony and obtain from said justice of the peace such certificate as is required by law to entitle said agents in a lawful manner to return the said fugitives from labor back to the plaintiff in the State of Missouri from whose service and custody they had unlawfully absconded and escaped as aforesaid; the said justice of the peace having competent power to hear such testimony and make such certificate. Yet the said defendants well knowing the premises but injuriously and wrongfully contriving and intending to injure the plaintiff and to deprive him of the possession use and benefit of all the said fugitives from labor so absconding and escaping as aforesaid afterwards on the day and year aforesaid at the county aforesaid with force and arms and contrary to the statute of the United States in such case made and provided hindered and prevented the said agents from reclaiming and seizing the said fugitives from labor for the purpose aforesaid which the said agents had the lawful right to do and otherwise would have done, whereby and by means of the premises aforesaid the said plaintiff hath lost the said fugitives so by him legally held to labor and service as aforesaid and hath been and is thereby unlawfully deprived of the labor and service of all the said fugitives which said labor and service was and is to him the said plaintiff of great value, to-wit, of the value of ten thousand dollars.

300

140

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
B. L. BICKEL
KEOKUK, IOWA

George Daggs sworn. Direct examination, by Mr [redacted]. Is the son of the plaintiff, Ruel Daggs, who has resided in Clark county, Missouri, for the last twelve or fourteen years, and was and still is, the owner of slaves. About the 2nd June, 1848, nine of them made their escape.—Sam, a black man, aged 40 or 45 years; Walker, 22 or 23, a yellow man; Dorcas, Sam's wife; Mary, Walker's wife; Julia, 18 years old; Martha, under 10; William, a small boy; and two younger children, names not remembered. The men were worth \$900 to \$1000 each; the three women, \$600 or \$700 each; Martha from \$250 to 300; William about \$200. Unable to say what was the value of the two children. The services of the men valued at about \$100 per year; of the women, 45 or \$50; Martha's, her victuals and clothes. Dorcas, Julia, and the two children were returned shortly afterwards, but were absent more than a week. Exact time of their absence not remembered. Saw no money paid for recapturing them, and has no personal knowledge of money being paid for that purpose. Was at home, in adjoining county, at the time of the escape.

Judge Dyer here observed in reply to the inquiry of counsel, that the court would take judicial notice of the constitution of Missouri, and the existence of slavery in that state.

Cross examination by Mr Hall. Was sent for by plaintiff in the early part of June, 1848, and told that the negroes had run away. They were all absent when I arrived, and I immediately went in search of them. Live some fifteen miles distant, and had not visited them for about a month previous. Did not see the negroes escape, and was not there at the time. Is the owner of slaves. Slaves are sometimes sold at the south as well as at home.—Were worth the sums mentioned, at home, at private sale.

Direct, resumed. It is thinly settled in the neighborhood of the plaintiff's residence.

Question (objected to by Hall.) What was the common report in the neighborhood with regard to the slaves?

Per Curiam. Mere rumor cannot be given in evidence as to the escape.

Rorer, for plaintiff, gave notice that he should contend that the possession in Missouri and finding in Iowa was evidence of an escape.

Examination resumed. Was not at the plaintiff's when the women and children were returned.

Albert Button sworn. In June, 1848, resided in Salem, Henry county Iowa.—In the early part of that month saw a negro man and boy there. There was a crowd at the stone house which afterwards went to the Friends' Meeting house. The negroes went along—went there myself. Did not see Elihu Frazier or John Pickering there. Saw Mr McClure there. Had heard before, that some one from Missouri was there in search of slaves. Was not in the crowd as it went to the meeting house. Don't know its intention in going, except from what I was told by some persons present. Some were talking, and some were praying, the latter mostly by the women for the benefit of the negroes. There seemed to be no dispute as to going to the meeting

house. Went up with Mr Street. Justice Gibbs was there. The claimants were required to prove the existence of slavery in Missouri, and that the negroes were slaves, by the justice and myself.—Said they had no evidence there—were told they might have time to procure it. They were questioned as to their agency, and replied they were not *legally* agents. There was something said to the effect that they were in a bad scrape and would back out. A man named Brown was one of the claimants. Crowd did not say the negroes should be retained in any event.—The negro left the house and I did not see him afterwards. Threats were made to arrest Brown after he had presented a pistol. Have conversed with Street since that time upon the matter. Have heard how the negroes got away from Salem.—Don't know who brought them to Salem, whose horse they rode, or whose wagon they came in. Can't say whether the object of the crowd was to prevent the taking of the negroes or to assist it. I should call the man black. He was pretty large.

Cross examination. Went to the house as attorney. Nelson Gibbs was the Justice. Claimants said they had no legal authority to act—were in a bad scrape and would back out. Street acted as counsel for the negroes. Was there about thirty minutes. Do not know if they were to take a warrant or not to retain the negroes.

Direct resumed. Salem is in Henry co. Jonathan Pickering sworn. Reside about one and a half miles from Salem.

Has never seen the blacks. Has heard whose wagon went to the Des Moines river after the negroes. Don't know how the negroes got to Salem, or where they staid, the night before. It was Monday. Heard the rumor on that day. Heard John Pickering say there were men from Missouri in the vicinity looking for negroes, and that his horses had been hired by Eli Jessup to go to the Des Moines to take a methodist minister to an appointment. They went down before a carriage and came back with a wagon. They were returned on Sunday morning. Didn't hear John Pickering say the negroes came in the wagon, nor whose horse was ridden from Salem. Has heard Frazier say nothing about the matter. John Comer said they did not come in the wagon. He spoke of runaways from Missouri. Said they were not in the county, and that he did not assist in their escape. Jesse Cook denied having anything to do with the matter. John Pickering spoke of the hire as an independent fact. I accused him of having something to do with the negroes, but he denied it.

Samuel Slaughter sworn. Saw Wm Daggs, the son of Ruel Daggs, on Saturday, and was requested to assist him and McClure in finding some slaves he was looking for. He said they had been traced to the Des Moines, near Farmington.—Stopped with McClure all night at Mr Way's. Started towards Salem next morning. Soon noticed a fresh wagon track, and followed it for several miles when I came in sight of it. Rode on after it three or four miles. It was driven very fast. Had a top on it. It stopped in the bushes about half a mile from Salem. I rode up and found three young men in it—rode into Salem with them. The driver was

called Anderson or Andrews. About an hour afterwards McClure came up.—Next morning we rode round the bushes a little, and finally went to the place where I overtook the wagon. Within a short distance we found a black man, a yellow man, three women and four children. We took possession of them. Yellow man refused to go with us at first. At last got him on the horse. Concluded to go back to Salem for Mr Brown and Mr Cook. Left McClure with the negroes. When I got back from Salem, found a number of other men there. Elihu Frazier, Clarkson Frazier, a man whose name I was told was Wm Johnson, and others. They objected to taking the negroes. Other persons were running down. One of the Fraziers said we must prove they were slaves. Considered their appearance hostile. One of them pulled the negro away from me. Some one of them said he would wade in Missouri blood before the negroes should be taken. Went into the town. Stopped at the stone house and the negro sat down. An old lady came out and prayed for the negro and myself. Clarkson Frazier said he would not allow me to take the negroes. Nothing said then about agency. Got description of the negroes from Daggs and McClure. The crowd seemed to act unitedly, and understand I could not take the negroes unless I went before the magistrate. One of the Fraziers walked with me to the meeting house. The crowd went there and the negro. Required a certificate from the clerk of the court in Missouri with his seal to prove the property. The justice refused to take cognizance of the case. Said the negroes were not properly before him. Saw the wagon before a brick house. Consented to go to town because we were not strong enough to take the negroes.

Cross examined. Reside two and a half miles from Farmington and was going to Charleston when I met Daggs. Found the negroes half a mile south of Salem, about 200 yards to the right of the road. There were two men, three women, and four children. Were in the road when I got back from Salem with Brown and Cook. Had not moved exactly towards Salem. Was detained in the road 15 or 20 minutes. Clarkson and Elihu Frazier were there with others and would not permit me to take the negroes towards Missouri. A man of the crowd told the mulatto to knock me down if I touched him again. Did not take the women and children all the way to the house. One of the negroes assured me that if he went back they would. At the stone house a woman brought out something for them to eat. Did not hear McClure refuse to permit them to eat. Did not touch him after he was told to knock me down.—heard the man was named Johnson who told him to do so. The crowd seemed to be unanimous. Offered to prove by McClure that Daggs owned the negroes.—When in the house Button asked that the negroes should be discharged. They were taken out. Told Button I would go home. Did not say I had no authority. Never saw the negroes at Daggs'. Heard McClure was run out of town—did not see it. Clarkson Frazier advised me to leave. Thought I could get them if I consented to a trial. Fraziers said they would not injure me, but that I could not have the

slaves. Did not hear all that was said to McClure. The company was scattered as we went into town. The street was full when I heard the man say he would wade in Missouri blood. I may have told some one that I was beaten and would go home—not honorably beaten. May have said I thought a majority of the citizens would sustain me. Could not have said I was honorably beaten, thought I was treated badly. Met a man about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile, on the road to Farmington as I left Salem. Did not tell him so. Saw several men in the woods apparently looking for something. Did not follow the negro when he left the house.

Direct resumed. Gave up the matter because I did not wish to embroil myself and was direct of the business.

Albert Button recalled by Rorer.— Knows Clarkson Frazier. Thinks his name is Thomas C. Frazier. Never saw him write it.

Jonathan Pickering recalled. Knows but one Clarkson Frazier. Writes his name Thomas Clarkson Frazier and is one of defendants.

Horace B. Hunting sworn. Was in Salem on a Monday in June 1848. Saw a black man and child there near the stone house. There was a crowd present and understood the negroes were to be tried before a justice. Saw Elihu Frazier there. Saw him assist neither party.— Saw John Pickering there at the west end of the meeting house after the trial talking to the negro. Don't know what was said. Saw the negro walk a short distance and mount a horse. Gilcherson handed him the child, and the negro started off with him alone. Took no notice of Pickering at the time. Heard the negro say nothing. Immediately after, saw Paul Way riding in advance of the negro. Can't say Way was guiding him and don't know where they went. Never heard the defendants say where they went, nor whose team brought them from the Des Moines. Know nothing of the wagon while in Salem. There was a good deal of talking in the house. Don't know whether Justice took charge of the case. Elihu and Clarkson Frazier were there, talking with the company. There were two parties there, one wanting to take the negroes—the others talked of having a trial. Supposed the latter made up the crowd. Heard that a trial had been agreed upon before the crowd went to the house. Understood there was opposition to taking the negroes without a trial. Didn't see them leave the house. Don't know why McClure left town.— Saw Pickering at the end of the house with the negro. Some of the crowd were in the house, some out. Didn't notice the Fraziers in the house. Way was on his horse when I first saw him, came from the other side of the house, and had started. Negro's horse was south west of the meeting house. Way's at the north.— Way was ahead, and the negro followed at a short distance. Were on a canter, and went towards the north. Hadn't noticed Way before that day. Didn't see him until after the negro had mounted.— Can't say that the negro was ordered to leave the meeting house by any of the crowd. Didn't see the yellow man. Resided in the neighborhood seven years, at that time two miles from Salem. Don't

know of any Society to seduce negroes from Missouri, or of any meeting to make arrangements for that purpose. Have heard there was. The meeting house is called the Abolition or Anti-Slavery meeting house. It is used for public worship. Have seen some of defendants there.— Was in the meeting house part of the time, don't know that I have heard defendants talk about the affair in Salem.

Cross examined. Understood there were slaves about that some one wanted to take to Missouri, which the citizens were opposing. Went down out of curiosity. The black man and child were eating a piece of bread. Can't name any person that spoke to them there. Heard no opposition to going to trial. Heard no one wish to take them off without trial.— The Missourians were required to prove property as I was informed. It was the first information I had. Saw John Pickering at the meeting house with the negro,—didn't watch him. Several persons spoke to the negro. Suppose it was twenty-five yards from the crowd to Paul Way. He lived north east of Salem, the road he took was the usual direction to his house. The negro was close to him, when I last noticed them but two or three steps between them. Don't know where they went, and have heard none of the defendants say. Heard no threats made, understood threats were made by some of defendants. Saw no violence, no pistols drawn. Saw the handle of pistol in Brown's pocket.

Plaintiff's counsel here asked time of the Court to procure another witness. Defendants counsel objected, and it was refused, whereupon plaintiff announced that he had no further evidence to offer.

Mr Hall prayed a nonsuit as to a number of the defendants. Rorer opposed the motion on the ground that the jury alone had a right to decide upon the evidence.— It was finally agreed by counsel that if a nonsuit were entered as to any of defendants during the trial plaintiff might use them as witnesses.

Mr Henderson was then sworn on the part of the defendants and examined by Mr Hall. Was present in Salem at the time of the occurrences, and saw a crowd at Gibbs' office. It went up to the meeting house and witness followed. Button was Atty. for negroes. Slaughter said he was agent, and offered to prove that the negroes were slaves by McClure. Gibbs said he had no jurisdiction. The negro went out himself. Saw no violence.— Went with Slaughter from the meeting house to his stopping place. He said he believed that if he had commenced properly he would have been sustained by the majority of the law abiding men in Salem, but he was fairly beat and would go home.

Cross examined. I did say there was no opposition.

Direct, resumed. Slaughter said in the meeting house that he could not show any written authority.

J. B. Rose, sworn. Resides in Salem and was there at the time. Saw a crowd coming from the stone house, as I was going to dinner. Asked what it meant, and was told there was to be a trial about some slaves. Went to Gibbs' office, and afterwards to the meeting house. Saw the negro man and child. Button inquired if any one was the agent of Daggs. There was some talk about the agency. Gibbs

was asked to discharge the negroes and declare them free. He said he had no jurisdiction, and they were free as himself, for all he knew. Crowd began to run out. Saw the negro sitting on a bench when I went out. Saw no violence, and heard no threats.

Cross examined. Saw the negro go out. Saw him go to the horse. Gilcherson unhitched him, put the reins over his head, and lifted up the child. Was not near enough to hear what was said.

Mr Dorland, sworn. Was in the meeting house at the time—was at the stone house. The crowd passed my school house and went to the stone house. Were from fifty to one hundred persons there, and a good deal of confusion. A great deal of sympathy expressed, principally by the women present. Got upon a pile of boards, called the attention of the crowd, and proposed that they should go before a justice, and if the negroes were proved to be slaves their claimants should be permitted to take them. The proposition appeared to be agreed to by all. Went to Gibbs' and thence to the Anti-Slavery meeting. Button and Street were there. Claimants were required to show their authority. Said they couldn't show any such authority as was demanded. Gibbs said the negroes were free so far as he knew. T. C. Clarkson was there. Heard no objection to trial by the claimant. Should say there were two parties there. Moses Brackett said the negroes should not be taken off without a trial. Saw no violence and heard no threats. Saw neither of the agents afterwards. They at first claimed to be agents. One was asked if he had any written authority from Daggs. No authority was given beyond their assertion.

Cross examined. Some authority was required more than their assertion. No one was sworn. They were merely asked to prove their agency. On the condition required, one of them said no one there was agent. Saw negro go out of the house. One of the Fraziers was at the stone house. Saw John Pickering at the meeting house. Have been directed by no one as to what evidence I was to give.

Francis Frazier, sworn. Lived south of Salem in June, 1848. First saw the negroes at south-west corner of the grave yard, one-fourth of a mile from Salem, standing in the road. They were there but a few minutes after I got there. Saw no violence. It appeared to be by consent of parties that they went up to the stone house. Stopped because the black man wanted water. Some bread was given him by a woman. The negro sat down and held the child. Heard Dorland's proposition. No objection was made to it.— Was in the meeting house. Some proof of authority was required. Button and Street defended negroes before Gibbs. No proof was given. Button had some book there which looked like a law book.— Slaughter said they were not legally authorized agents to take the slaves. Heard McClure say nothing. Negro got up and walked out of the house. Saw him on the horse, about 150 yards off. None but attorneys, justice and agents talked about agency. Supposed they were not agents according to the book. It appeared to me that the negroes were brought before the justice to ascertain whether the claimants had authority to take them. Justice said he had no jurisdiction. No evidence

311
143
AVERY® POLY-VU

was offered to prove agency. Heard nothing of a warrant. People behaved in an orderly manner. Some of the women talked a good deal.

Cross examined. Can't tell what book they had, nor whether a law book or not. Proof was required that claimants was authorized to take the negroes. Heard nothing of any writing. Don't recollect what kind of proof was required. Something was said about the existence of slavery in Missouri. Saw black man and child on the horse riding off. Saw Paul Way going north in same street. He was on a canter, black man behind him. They were out of sight in one or two minutes. Has not been counselled by any one since here.

Lewis Taylor sworn. Was at the trial in the meeting house. First saw the negroes one-fourth mile from Salem. Slaughter, Henry Brown and Henry Johnson were with them. Several others came up. Understood *all* had consented to go to Salem. Saw no violence used. Persuasion was used to induce the negroes to go towards Missouri. Was at the meeting house. Button, Street, Slaughter and the negroes were there. Heard no evidence before the Justice. Didn't see the negroes go out. Heard nothing of a warrant.

Cross examined. Several persons with the blacks when I first saw them, and Johnson was one of them.

F. A. McElroy sworn. Resides in Salem and was there at the trial. Was outside the meeting house and went in upon hearing some one remark that "they could go out." Went in and saw the negro go out. Never spoke to McClure or Slaughter until I saw them here. Heard no threats except from Brown.

Cross examined. I told some women to open the way and allow the old gentleman to pass. Females were much excited. Stood out from the crowd when I heard Brown. His exclamation was "I will shoot that d—d son of a b—h." He had a pistol drawn half way out of his pocket.

Dorland recalled by defendants. The conversation in the meeting house was between Gibbs, Street and Button and the agents. After calling for the proof and the production of the book, one of the three said the negroes might be detained until evidence was produced. Can't say which one it was.

Cross examined. Heard one of them say they had come for a fair trial and they should have it. Slaughter was required to produce other proof than his own assertion. The book looked very much like the Iowa laws. Was bound in leather.— Heard it read.

Jonathan Frazier sworn. Was over-aken by Slaughter in the wagon. Two men, Hamilton and — were with me. No negroes were in the wagon.

Cross examined. It was on Sunday morning. No one besides the two men was with me. No negroes had been in the wagon. Was about two miles from Salem. Talked with Slaughter. No negroes were spoken of, he asked after two gray horses. Drove on into Salem. The horses were John Pickering's. Wagon belonged to one of the Fraziers. Had been to Farmington. Drove down with the same men. Don't know where they lived. Can't say what their business was. First saw them when I was about

starting for Farmington, in the neighborhood of Salem. Think it was at my house. Don't know what they came there for.— Saw them in Salem after I returned.— They were there some days. Saw them

in the streets of Salem. Can't tell what day. Don't know where they boarded. It was not at the hotel.

Some discussion here occurred between counsel as to the propriety of the next question asked by Mr Rorer, at the conclusion of which it was ruled out by the Court, and the defendants stated that they had concluded their evidence.

Mr Rorer then opened the argument on the part of the plaintiff, and was followed by Mr Morton for the defendants. Together, they occupied the whole of the afternoon. No notes of these two speeches were taken at the time, and, in consequence, no attempt will be made to report them. It is believed that the closing speeches of Mr Hall and Mr Rorer, contain the substance of what was said, and they will be published in the full report of the trial in pamphlet form.

h31

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
T. HICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

Oct 26, 1881 - pg #2
(Perfect Deluge)

streets which are above water yet. The steamboats land at the railroad depot. Our river front is submerged, but we are blessed in having good high communications and roads back to the country. There is no place between here and St. Francisville, in Clark county, that can not now be approached on account of the high water, hence business is good here, and our country trade will not fail us. The saw mill company and Hampton have flat boats in and will supply the country with all the lumber that may be wanted.

The Indian Grave levee in Illinois, east and south of here, broke last week. The result is a great loss of corn and growing wheat.

Miller Brothers & Bradshaw are building a new ice house, just north of the present one.

We miss our friends, the locomotive and cars; the road is all submerged: it will have to be raised higher, two feet at least and more than that in low places; much talk of leveeing; it will have to be done in connection with the railroad company. Now is the time for the railroad company to start the project of a levee in connection with their railroad raising; the people are warm for it. It must be done or the railroad will not pay in the future.

The high water has not stopped business.

WAVELETS.

The fill across Fox slough is gone.

The Elevator is surrounded by water.

The Keokuk Route ice houses are in the river.

The lumber yards and offices are all in the river.

The Keokuk and St. Louis Line shops have been shut down.

L. J. Drake & Co.'s oil tank and houses are surrounded by water.

Judge Callihan's house, in the centre of the city, is endangered.

The water is nearly up to the floor of the Des Moines river bridge.

The Egyptian levee is broken, but how badly could not be learned.

The water is within a few inches of the windows of the Rock Island shops.

Copeland's ice houses, near the Des Moines river bridge, are surrounded by water.

The Plough Boy now runs in water that covers what was dry land a short time ago.

The dyke on the Illinois side, opposite Keokuk, is under water in many places, but teams are still crossing.

Every precaution has been taken by the people of Alexandria to avoid being caught napping by the waves.

Herman Risser and family were among those who left Alexandria yesterday. They removed to Warsaw.

A large number of Keokukians visited Alexandria and Warsaw yesterday, to take a look at the high water.

The water outside the levee at Alexandria is two feet higher than inside and is rising rapidly back of the levee.

The Alexandria and Warsaw ferry has been kept busy removing people and their effects to places of safety.

The St. Louis and St. Paul Line depot is still pretty dry and can stand a few more inches of the aqueous element.

The Keokuk and St. Louis Line's track, from Alexandria south, will be badly damaged, and much of it will be ruined.

The water is nearly half way up the door of the Diamond Jo Packet Depot—facing the city—the water is several feet deeper on the other side.

The coal sheds near the Rock Island shops are full of water as are the coal sheds on the levee adjoining the Iowa coal company's old offices.

People were looking up the high water mark of 1851, yesterday. It can be seen at the bridge or at the old Brown building, just beyond the Marble Works.

A hunter who returned from Missouri yesterday says he saw a number of hogs standing on drift-wood in a shallow part of the water in Fox slough, and when the break occurred yesterday there is no doubt they were washed away. The break in the Alexandria levee near Hockaday's is the most serious one.

Mr. Loeffler, who lives on his farm six miles below Alexandria, will be a heavy loser by the floods. His hay is almost entirely under water, and thirteen head of cattle and twenty-five hogs belonging to him are supposed to have been drowned, while others are missing. He now has some hogs on a strip of land cut off from the main land by water. He throws corn to them daily, and may be able to keep them alive till the water subsides.

THE BOATS.

The Libbie Conger is due up to day. The Arkansas was due up last night. The War Eagle will be up to-day, going north.

The Alex. Kendall was at the wharf yesterday.

The Minneapolis will leave for St. Louis this morning at 7.

THE GATE CITY:

SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 29.

A TERRIBLE TORRENT.

Such is the Mississippi, the Great "Father of Waters."

Effects of the Rise at Keokuk—Alexandria one Wild Waste of Water—A Tour of In-

spection in a Modern "Gondola"—The Damage at Warsaw and Elsewhere.

One cannot realize the condition of affairs at the water-washed places along the swollen Mississippi without seeing the same. In company with Superintendent Armstrong, of the Iowa Division, W. St. L. & P., a GATE CITY reporter started out yesterday afternoon to "see what could be seen and hear what could be heard." As we crossed the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge we glanced northward and on every hand nothing could be seen but inundated land. A white line through the water marked where the C., B. & Q. track used to be, and the waves washing up against the bluffs, with not a vestige of the lowlands in sight, speak volumes. The canal is closed on account of high water, yet from appearances it would be no difficult task for a large sized steamboat to float right over the gates—or, rather, the places where the gates used to be. Steamers now come down over the rapids, and pilots are kept busy guiding their crafts to a safe harbor. The dyke on the opposite side of the river is nearly covered with water, and the wagon road, from the bridge to the town of Hamilton, is a regular lake in appearance. Hamilton proper is situated on a hill and below the town, in the valley, the principal damage has been done. Pile upon pile of lumber is surrounded by water with planks floating here and there and the slough bridge is in a very shaky condition. Leaving Hamilton and proceeding along the elevated Wabash track under the towering bluffs on the Illinois side of the river, it is easy to realize the damage being done by the rise in the Mississippi. The grade is out of water; that is all that can be said, and trains move along it at a snail's pace, the crumbling earth showing that danger lurks in every turn of the wheel. Workmen along the line between Hamilton and Warsaw are busily engaged in strengthening the grade. Stone is being brought into use and every precaution is being taken to prevent the complete shutting off of communication in that direction. Reaching Warsaw we met Fay Worthen, who was a resident of that city in 1851, and under his guidance we visited and inspected the old Scott warehouse, which is the "water mark" of 1851. We found the water still 15 inches below the high water mark of 1851.

The Grace mills are still in operation, running their pumps to keep the water out of the lower story. It is now a difficult and dangerous task to reach the mills from the river front otherwise than in a boat. Just above Warsaw a number of men have constructed a

second "Noah's ark" and are prepared for a flood. The river rose one-half an inch at Warsaw yesterday, between the hours of 6 a. m. and 3 p. m., a rise of 2 inches since Wednesday night. The wharf at Warsaw, where the ferry-boat Eagle lands, is afloat at the outer edge, with water washing underneath. Commodore Myers, of the Eagle, made a trip to Canton yesterday, and reports the situation deplorable in the extreme. The Summers levee, just below Warsaw, is broken in three places, letting the water out upon hundreds of acres of the most fertile land in the Mississippi valley. A large force of men is now employed in placing boards across the breaks in the levee, driving down pickets for protecting and supporting stakes. A high wind would do an incalculable amount of damage between Keokuk and Warsaw and at the Summers levee, below Warsaw. Should a wind set in within the next 24 hours travel would be cut off in that direction.

At Warsaw we were compelled to wait nearly an hour for the arrival of the ferry boat Eagle, which had been on a trip to Canton. Upon the arrival of the boat Captain Myers at once volunteered to carry the party over to Alexandria and his kind offer to place us on the Missouri side of the raging Mississippi was promptly accepted. And right here we wish to state that the people of Alexandria owe much to the untiring and unselfish efforts of Captain Myers who has worked in their behalf with a zeal that merits the highest commendation. The "Commodore," as his friends call him, is a "true blue" sailor and a courteous, obliging gentleman in every sense of the term. Arriving at Alexandria we gazed out at the Venice of Missouri with feelings of awe and astonishment. It would be impossible to depict the true condition of that unfortunate city and we will only attempt to give an outline of the encroachments of the aqueous element. Landing on the highest part of the levee we find half a dozen stores tolerably dry. Proceeding to the corner of Main street and the levee further travel by land is cut off and embarking in a skiff we start out to see the city. The Eagle hotel and residences opposite, the first buildings to be seen, are filled with water and abandoned by the former occupants. Main street is filled with skiffs, rafts, scows, flatboats and hastily constructed craft of every description. Passing the submerged hotel we next notice the Baptist church, with the water creeping up to the elevated windows, the house of worship being surrounded by water. A block further on is the Methodist church, with the waves dashing in at the front door. Opposite

the M. E. church is a picturesque little cottage with the traditional green blinds and arbor in the yard, but the romance of the scene is spoiled by a mud scow and rudely constructed raft fastened to the posts that support the latticed porch. There is a tasty picket fence around this building, and the tops of the pickets are just peeping out above the water. Resting here for a moment, we gaze out upon Alexandria, and not a piece of land is to be seen in any direction. The scene is truly a desolate one. Fences are broken down on every hand, sidewalks washed from their resting places and rising and falling with the waves, deserted houses, half filled with water, the city park a miniature lake, not a human being to be seen a foot, but half a dozen or so moving their effects in skiffs and flatboats. To the north, south, east and west, nothing but a vast expanse of water, dotted here and there with submerged buildings. Neuse's lumber office is filled with water, and the lumber piled in his yards is beginning to topple over. We noticed a little one-story house with the upper part of the windows and the roof sticking out through the water. Just beyond is the public school building. The front doors were open and the water had filled the building to the depth of several feet. Reaching the Iowa Division W. St. L. and P. tracks we find 45 cars of grain, valued at about \$15,000, and three or four inches more of water will ruin the grain. All around this locality the water is running over the fences. There is a good view from here. The Iowa Division shops, resembling on an island in an immense and far-reaching lake, are deserted and quiet. The water extends three miles beyond the shops, and just beyond them a goodly-sized bridge is wrecked; the rails are off it and a scene of ruin greets the eye. At a one-story house near the Iowa division tracks we noticed a fat porker and a large dog domiciled on a platform together—"living in peace and quietness." And it is well they are living in that way, for they would have to swim a long distance to find land to quarrel about. The water pours over the Iowa Division grade with a dull, sullen roar, that tells but too plainly the work of destruction going on. In many residences we noticed household effects stored upon platforms, just out of the reach of the water. People are still occupying some of the houses in the city, and we saw four young ladies, stylishly dressed, out "calling" in a flat-boat. They were all young and vivacious and regard the present status of affairs as highly romantic and a huge joke. Returning to the levee (or rather what used to be the levee) we

found the Plough Boy just pulling out from the wharf, and as the captain of that steamer is a fac simile of "Time and Tide," in that he "waits for no man," we were compelled to cross over to Warsaw in a skiff, and as we were pulled out into the swollen torrent the thunders began to roar and flashes of lightning lighted up the sky, and it was nothing but natural to think of what a dismal night it would be for those remaining in the inundated city. Not a sign of dry land—water from several inches to 15 and 16 feet in depth all around them and a rain storm, accompanied by sullen thunder and fitful flashes of lightning as a companion to this desolate, dreary scene.

Crossing over to Warsaw we visited Fritz Pidrit's ice houses, one of which caved in the other day, and found a force of men busily engaged in packing stone and dirt around the buildings to save them from the water's fury.

THE DES MOINES RIVER

is an important factor in the present high stage of water in this vicinity and the announcement that a rise of 1 foot 4 inches occurred at Bentonsport in 24 hours is anything but encouraging. The Des Moines now marks, at Bentonsport, 9 feet 4 inches above low water. At Des Moines 10 feet above low water is recorded—a fall of 6 inches. Last night's rain storm will doubtless add to the volume of water in the Des Moines and it now seems probable that the rise of 1881 will nearly equal that of 1851.

WAVELETS.

J. E. Brookings has five cars of grain at Alexandria and it is in imminent danger of being ruined. It cannot be removed until the water recedes.

Alexandria skiff owners are reaping a rich harvest just now.

The ferry boat Eagle is kept busy and the accommodating owner, Captain Myers, is doing a vast amount of service for the people of Alexandria.

The Grace mills, at Warsaw, are still running.

The water rushes around Slattery & Co's warehouse, in Alexandria, in a perfect torrent, and a heavy wind would wash the house away.

A wind storm would play sad havoc in Alexandria.

The Sny levee broke again yesterday, about three miles above Hannibal.

The Mississippi marked 17 feet 6 inches above low water mark at Davenport yesterday—a fall of one-tenth of a foot.

The present stage of water at Keokuk is about two feet below that of 1851.

Business is at a complete stand-still in Alexandria.

The ferry-boat Eagle brought up some stock from the submerged lands below

Oct 29 1881 - pg #2
(Terrible torrent)

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

146

Warsaw, yesterday.

Men were busily engaged in Alexandria, yesterday afternoon, building a wooden protection to a few houses still out of the water.

Trainmen are having a hard time of it just now. The high water makes their duties doubly arduous.

The rain storm of last evening was especially heavy at Alexandria, and between Warsaw and Keokuk.

Superintendent Armstrong is kept busy just now watching and caring for the portions of his road that are endangered by the floods.

The St. Louis and St. Paul Packet Depot, in this city, is a very damp place just now.

The C. B. & Q. track is covered with water for a distance of nearly half a mile along the bluff.

Evans & Sheppard were pulling lumber yesterday from a raft that they have had landed alongside their office, which is generally some distance from the river.

The K. & D. M. Division is putting in side tracks at the Tenth street crossing of the North Branch of the Keokuk River and will receive freight at that point.

THE BOATS.

The Mary Morton is due down.

The Gem City will be up to-day, going through to St. Paul.

The Alex Kendall leaves for St. Louis this morning.

The War Eagle passed up yesterday.

The Grand Pacific will be the next boat down.

The ferryboat Eagle, of Warsaw, made a trip to Canton yesterday.

The W. D. Smith is kept busy with dredging work.

The Penguin is still running between Keokuk and Buena Vista, transferring freight and passengers for the K. & D. M. division of the Rock Island road.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION.

Mississippi Goes Up and Down With Little Regard to Cycles

JUNE 25, 1947

From its high water mark of 21.1 feet in 1851 to the double-barreled flood of this month which saw it reach 20.2 feet twice, the Mississippi river has had its ups and downs with little regard to uniformity or definite cycles, a maximum stage chart prepared for Keokuk by the U. S. Engineers, discloses.

In sending the chart to Dr. E. F. Renaud, J. H. Peil, head engineer at Rock Island, explains that the engineers' records do not show who made the original observations in 1851 but it is marked on the old bull-

nose just below the lock and in 1898 the elevation of that high water was determined by the Mississippi River Commission with the use of that marker cut in the sandstone.

Records Since 1868.

Engineer records taken from actual gauge readings go back only to 1868 and the only other maximum listed before that date is a stage of 19.2 taken from newspaper files in 1858.

Lowest maximum level recorded was 4.8 feet in 1895 and only seven times has the river exceeded 19 feet. During the period 1923 through 1936 it failed to go over 15 feet for its best performance in that respect.

The maximum stages for the various years follow below with the readings for 1906 and 1929 missing:

1851—21.1.	1907—14.6.	1876—15.6.	1917—14.9.
1858—19.1.	1908—15.0.	1877—11.7.	1918—16.7.
1868—14.8.	1909—14.9.	1878— 6.8.	1919—17.2.
1869—14.9.	1010—10.1.	1879— 8.5.	1920—16.7.
1870—16.5.	1911—12.3.	1880—17.5.	1921— 9.8.
1872—12.2.	1912—17.8.	1881—18.9.	1922—17.5.
1872—12.1.	1913—13.6.	1882—15.9.	1923—12.0.
1873—12.4.	1914—11.2.	1883—15.4.	1924—14.0.
1874— 8.8.	1915—13.8.	1884—16.8.	1925—10.3.
1875—12.9.	1916—15.8.	1885—15.0.	1926—13.6.
		1886—16.0.	1927—14.9.
		1887—13.2.	1928—12.5.
		1888—19.6.	1929—....
		1889—10.8.	1930—13.0.
		1890—12.8.	1931—10.5.
		1891—11.0.	1932—10.2.
		1892—19.2.	1933—14.5.
		1893—14.9.	1934— 7.9.
		1894—11.2.	1935—13.0.
		1895— 4.8.	1936—12.3.
		1896—11.9.	1937—16.1.
		1897—18.4.	1938—16.3.
		1898— 9.2.	1929—14.0.
		1899—12.3.	1940— 6.3.
		1900—13.0.	1941—12.3.
		1901—11.2.	1942—15.8.
		1902—15.5.	1943—14.5.
		1903—19.7.	1944—20.8.
		1904—12.8.	1945—16.8.
		1905—18.6.	1946—16.0.
		1906—....	1947—20.2.

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION.

Unrestrained by Dams or Levees—

Mississippi Developed Worst Flood in History 100 Years Ago

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1951

Some are arguing that the Mississippi river floods of 1951, 1947 and 1944 were "man-made" to the extent of being responsible to the government's system of dams and levees, but the fact remains that relatively few men were around when one of the worst floods in history rolled down the river in 1851.

At that time the Mississippi reached its all-time height of 21 feet here, devastated farmland, destroyed livestock and crops and sent many log cabins tumbling down toward the Gulf.

There were no restraining dikes or levees to hold it to its course in those days, either, and, despite its 21 foot peak it spread out as far as 20 miles from its banks according to newspaper accounts.

DeSoto Records Flood in 1542

An article in the old Keokuk Dispatch during June of 1851 quoted a Missouri historian as to other floods in the past, the first recorded in 1542 by DeSoto and his Indians who were routed by the high water near Helena, Arkansas. Other historic floods

which spread the big river out of all recognition occurred in 1770, 1772, 1785, 1811, 1820, 1824, 1826 and 1844.

Until the flood of 1851 came along, residents in this area measured high water by the marks attained in the "big rise" of 1844. Stages of 100 years ago, however, were five to seven feet higher than in 1844, and Louisiana, Quincy, Warsaw and Keokuk were the only points still shipping in the packet trade above St. Louis. River fronts of the other cities and towns were under water.

147

EVERY POLY-VU



Oct 29 1881-1893 #3
(Terrible torrent)

See Eagle

Alexandria Under Water

The city of Warsaw held a public meeting early in June of 1851 and with Dr. William English as chairman invited the residents of Alexandria to partake of their hospitality during the period of the high water. Alexandria was completely inundated.

The Dispatch printed an article from Oskaloosa dated May 23 to the fact that hardly a bridge of any size was left standing between Ottumwa and Oskaloosa and that the Des Moines river was higher than ever known. The correspondent, listed only as Sanders, wrote: "The Des Moines was still rising at Eddyville when I left this morning. One of the stage horses was drowned and I understand that the mail for this place was lost between Ottumwa and Eddyville."

Fish in Bentonsport Hotel

At Burlington during late May and June the Mississippi rose an inch an hour and the crest exceeded the great flood of '44 by five feet. Houses in the bottoms there were under six and eight feet of water, the new bridge on Third street was out of sight and that on Main nearly so. At Dubuque the river was seven feet higher than ever known before.

From Bentonsport on June 3 came word that water was in all of the houses on Front street with the occupants tented out on the hillside. Merchants were driven from their stores and folks were fishing from the second story windows of the Bentonsport House.

The steamer Uncle Toby arrived in Iowa City for its first trip with the Iowa river six feet higher than at any time on record and at St. Louis the whole front line of the wharf was under water. Stores north of Locust had from three to five feet of water inside and all of the flouring mills had to cease operations.

Throughout the whole length of the Mississippi, the Keokuk Dispatch said, "the bottoms, towns, farms and settlements have been overflowed to a depth varying from eight to 16 feet with the water extending back as far as 20 miles from the natural banks of the river."

Knock Holes in Roofs

An eyewitness who observed the flood from a steamboat said it was a common sight to see the occupants of log cabins knocking holes in the roof to find a foothold from the flood and save their own lives after watching all they possessed engulfed by the flood.

With the flood at its peak, the stern wheel steamer, Caleb Cope, chartered by a company of Des Moines men, arrived in Keokuk June 23 from St. Louis for a trip up the Des Moines. The steamers Movastar and Kentucky had tried to make the journey but could get no further than the Bonaparte dam which they were unable to negotiate.

The Kentucky made only a half mile an hour between Farmington and Bonaparte.

Copee Crossed Dam

The Cope, called one of the most powerful boats for its size on the western rivers—a former Illinois

river towboat—made 10 miles an hour bucking the current from St. Louis to Keokuk, better than the time of an average packet. The boat drew only two feet of water light and crossed the Bonaparte dam without too much trouble.

The Cope was loaded with flour and other badly needed supplies which it sold enroute to Fort Des Moines.

Dr. William Peterson, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, says that help of the Cope and its captain, Joseph Price, was enlisted by four adventurous Des Moines men who made a row boat trip from Des Moines to Keokuk in less than four days. This probably still stands as the rowboat record between these two points.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

841

The Gate City.

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1916

WAS NO SUMMER BACK IN 1816

Records One Hundreds Years Old,
Disclose Peculiar Condition of
Affairs Existing
Then.

FROSTS EVERY MONTH

Similar Conditions Prevailed in Eng-
land and Privations Was
Great in Both
Countries.

The following account is taken from the Keokuk County News, of Sigourney, this state, and tells of very unusual weather conditions throughout the United States a century ago, which more than one Iowan of New England stock has heard described back in the Vermont and New York hills:

"The year 1816 was known throughout the United States and Europe as the coldest ever experienced by any person then living. There are persons in northern New York who have been in the habit of keeping diaries for years, and it is from the pages of an old diary begun in 1816 that the following information regarding this year without a summer has been taken.

"January was so mild that most people allowed their fires to go out and did not use wood except for cooking. There were a few cool days, but they were few. Most of the time the air was warm and spring like. February was not cold. Some days were colder than in January, but the weather was the same. March, from the 1st to the 6th, was inclined to be windy. It came in like a small lion and went out like a very innocent sheep.

"April came in warm, but as the days grew longer the air cooled and by the first of May there was a temperature like that of winter with plenty of snow and ice. In May the young buds were frozen dead, ice formed half an inch thick on ponds and rivers, corn was killed and the corn fields were planted again, until it became too late to raise a crop. By the last of May the trees are usually full of leaf. When the last of May arrived in 1816, everything had been killed by the cold.

"June was the coldest month of roses ever experienced in this latitude. Frost and ice were as common as butterflies usually are. Almost

every green thing was killed; all fruits were destroyed. Snow fell ten inches deep in Vermont. There was a seven inch fall in the interior of New York state and the same in Massachusetts. There was only a few moderately warm days. Everybody looked, longed and waited for warm weather, but warm weather did not come.

"It was also dry; very little rain fell. All summer long the wind blew steadily from the north in blasts, laden with snow and ice. Mothers knit socks of double thickness for their children and made thick mittens and planting and shivering was done together, and the farmers who worked out their taxes on the country roads wore overcoats and mittens.

"On June 17 there was a heavy fall of snow. A Vermont farmer sent a flock of sheep to pasture on June 16. The morning of the 17th dawned with the thermometer below the freezing point. About 9 o'clock in the morning the owner of the sheep started to look for his flock. Before leaving home he turned to his wife and said jokingly:

"Better start the neighbors out soon, it's the middle of June and I may get lost in the snow."

"An hour after he had left home a terrible snow storm came up. The snow fell thick and fast and, as there was so much wind, the fleecy masses piled in great drifts along the windward side of the fences and out buildings. Night came and the farmer had not been heard of.

"His wife became frightened and alarmed the neighborhood. All the party searched for two days. On the third day they found him. He was lying in a hollow on the side of a hill with feet frozen; he was half covered with snow, but alive. Most of the sheep were lost.

"A farmer near Tewksbury, Vt., owned a large field of corn. He built fires. Nearly every night he and his men took turns in keeping up the fires and watching that the corn did not freeze. The farmer was rewarded for his tireless labors by having the only crop of corn in the region.

"July came in with ice and snow. On the fourth of July, ice as thick as window glass formed throughout New York. In some parts of the state of Pennsylvania, Indian corn, which in some parts of the east had struggled through May and June, gave up, froze and died.

"To the surprise of everybody, August proved the worst month of all. Almost every green thing in this country and Europe was blasted with frost. Snow fell at Barnet, thirty miles from London, England, on August 30.

"Newspapers received from England stated that 1816 would be remembered by the existing generation as the year in which there was no summer. Very little corn ripened in New England. There was great privation and thousands of persons would have perished in this country had it not been for the abundance of fish and wild game."

Daily Constitution.

JANUARY 25, 1886.

HARVESTING THE ICE CROP.

AN ANIMATED SCENE ON THE CANAL AND RIVER.

The Amount of Ice Put Up by the Principal Consumers and Dealers in Keokuk—How it is Harvested.

For the past three or four weeks, off and on, the pork packers, ice dealers, brewers, butter and egg merchants, and contractors have been cutting and packing ice, as have also the contractors for St. Louis breweries and other outside firms. The result is that several hundred men and teams have been employed, who would otherwise have been compelled to remain idle. The packing for the city is now completed, (with the exception of Coey & Co., who finish this week,) but contractors for other places are still at work, and will be for some time to come, and the canal, where almost all the ice harvested at this point is cut, will still be a busy scene, with markers, planers, sawers, hookmen, loaders, teamsters and teams.

THE LOCAL OUT.

Of all local firms, the pork packing firm of Coey & Co. have put up by far the largest amount. They have had about 60 men and that many teams at work for over three weeks, filling their depleted houses, seven in number. They put up this season 15,000 tons, against 12,000 tons last winter.

The Mississippi Coal & Ice company, Capt. A. M. Hutchinson & Son, put up 2,800 tons against 2,400 tons last year, employing 27 men and 18 teams two weeks.

S. P. Pond & Co., butter and egg packers, put up 600 tons against 500 tons last winter. It took 25 men and 20 teams one week, as the distance from the canal to their house is considerable.

The Patterson House put up 210 tons against the same number last year.

J. F. Daugherty & Co. put up 250 tons, about the same as last year.

F. W. Anschutz, ice dealer, put up 1,200 tons, against the same amount last season.

F. Keppel, pork packer, put up 800 tons, against 1,200 last season, having 400 tons on hand.

Hugh Copeland, ice dealer, put up 1,500 tons, against the same amount last year.

Pechstein & Nagel, brewers, put up 1,000 tons, against 1,200 in 1884-5, having 500 tons over; while Leisy Bros. put up 200 against 150.

149

AVERY®
POLY-VU



Butchers and private individuals have put up about 1,000 tons, against the same number last year.

Men hauling ice received an average of 55 cents per load. Some haul seven loads a day, others as high as nine. The average cost of each ton of ice is about 80 cents, including cutting, hauling and packing. So, for the 23,000 tons packed here, over \$20,000 has been paid out.

John Hall & Co., of Creston; Chris Bonn, of Burlington; and Lock & Ackley, and Capt. A. M. Hutchison, of Keokuk, have been putting up ice for the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co., of St. Louis, the first week, and have already shipped 800 carloads on the St. L., K. & N. W. to St. Louis. About two hundred men and quite a number of teams are being employed. As most of this ice is being loaded directly into the cars by machinery, the number of teams required is but small in proportion to the number of men. They may continue cutting some time as the Anheuser-Busch company wanted 3,000 carloads, though considerable of it may have been cut at other points. There are 20 tons to a car, making 16,000 tons shipped to date.

The first cuts were only ten inches thick, but it now averages sixteen inches and is of excellent quality. The mean thickness this winter was twelve inches.

The ice men have a fixed law which regulates the possession of ice territory. After the river is frozen, the ice men stake out their claims, each endeavoring to secure the best and most convenient field, of course. The claims are governed by miners' law, and no trouble ever arises over them. Ice men have no legal right to any particular section of the river. Yet their claims are always respected. There is no particular limit to the extent of each claim, but each firm feels in honor bound not to stake off more than they think they will use. In years when the ice is thin and there is likely to be a scarcity of the article, the firm having the largest claims frequently realize handsome profits by selling a portion of them to their less fortunate brethren. The ice which is cut around the air-holes is considered the best, as it freezes last, and is much clearer and purer than the first product of the frost. Of course this does not apply so much to Keokuk, where most of the ice is cut in the canal. As soon as the ice becomes thick enough to cut it is marked off into squares by a species of plow drawn by horses. The first incision is perhaps an inch deep. It is then traversed again by plows, each trip cutting down perhaps an inch, until the incision is four or five inches deep. Then a hole is made at some convenient place and the men be-

gin to work with their saws. The ice is cut into longitudinal sections, which are left in the water and broken up into smaller cakes by blows. If there is an ice house on the banks of the river, a channel is made to the shore, and the cakes are pushed along through it by pikes. At the ice house there is an arrangement of pulleys and ice tongs, by which the cakes are drawn up a slippery inclined plane and stored directly away. When the ice has to be carried away by teams the same plan is pursued, except that no machinery is used.

THE GATE CITY:

TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 26, 1881

A COLD WINTER.

A Trip from St. Louis to Keokuk, Forty Years Ago—Fighting Through the Ice, in March.

[Special Correspondence Gate City.]

WASHINGTON, April 18, 1881.

I see it stated in the Brighton Reporter that the first boat at Keokuk this season arrived on the 30th of March. In many respects this has been a remarkable winter, especially on account of the great snow falls during the winter, but not colder I think than the winter in Iowa forty years ago. In the fall of 1842, the river froze up opposite Burlington on the 17th of November, and on the 14th of March I left St. Louis on the first boat from St. Louis to Keokuk; the river was then open to the mouth of the Illinois river, and the Captain did not expect to have much trouble in reaching Keokuk, but from the mouth of the Illinois the river was full of ice and it was a battle from there to Keokuk; each day the boat fought her way through the ice a few miles. By the time the boat reached Hannibal three other boats overtook us; the fleet was three days fighting through the ice from Quincy to Keokuk—first one boat then another running with full head of steam into the ice, then backing out to give place for another. We reached Keokuk on the 5th of April, 1843. The next morning on my way up the river I saw at the mouth of Price's Creek, a bank of ice that had been thrown out on shore at least fifteen feet high and between this bank of ice and the water grass and other vegetation had sprung up from 6 to 10 inches high.

During that winter the steamer Otter, Scribe Harris captain, froze up at Keokuk; there had been no improvement of the levee at that time, but a Frenchman had filled out into the river and built a warehouse about the outer edge of the present levee, in front of Blondeau street. The warehouse was two stories high, with old fashioned gable roof. When the ice broke up that spring it gorged below town, and piled and dammed up until it threw a keel boat on top of this warehouse, breaking in the roof. When the water began to rise

from the gorge Captain Harris had a hawser made fast to an oak stump on the side bluff, back of where Stafford's store is now, but the force of the ice and flood took the stump out by the roots and cast it the full length of the hawser over the steamboat into the river, leaving the boat at the mercy of the ice and flood. The boat was finally landed on the bank opposite and at the door of what was then Fleak's "box trap" tavern, afterwards Vanorsdall's "mansion house," just below Main street. When the gorge broke below the boat was left forty feet from water; but it was one of the old fashioned boats built to stand ice and was but little damaged.

The newspapers tell about the great suffering in the northern part of the state on account of the coal famine the past winter. There was no coal famine in Keokuk in the winter of '42-3, coal as fuel had not been known there at that time, but owing to the early freeze up there was a whiskey famine and at that time there was no other beverage known there. Very early in the winter the whole supply was reduced to a single barrel, "Citizen Brown" being the happy owner. The citizen was then the proprietor of a popular inn, immediately above "rat row." At that time the only capitalists in Keokuk were the steamboat men, and toward February their capital was pretty well exhausted and as "Citizen Brown" would not trust they made up a pony purse and sent out a missionary, with horse and jumper, over to Crooked creek, where an old-fashioned worm still, that had been imported from Kentucky, was then in successful operation, without fear of being molested by intermeddling revenue officials, and secured a barrel of the pure juice, and brought it home, where it was safely put away and only taken as medicine by the syndicate ounces. It was only on rare occasions that an outside man was invited to join in a social glass. If more than the daily allowance was needed it was supplied from the citizens' barrel. A most marvelous barrel, if the report of the boys was true. No matter what the drafts on it during the day, the boys said that this barrel was always full the next morning. Towards spring it was said that each morning the "citizen" would have to use a red hot poker in the bung hole to give the liquor a good start. The barrel lasted as long as the ice in the river lasted. They were the happy days before civilization.

HAWKINS TAYLOR.

THE GATE CITY:

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 6, 1876.

—Sixty years ago occurred "the year without a Summer." Frost occurred in every month in the year 1816. Ice formed half an inch thick in May; snow fell to the depth of ten inches in Vermont, seven in Maine, three in the interior of New York, and also in Massachusetts in June; ice was formed of the thickness of common glass throughout New England, New York, and some parts of Pennsylvania on the fifth of July; Indian corn was so frozen that the greater part was cut down and dried for fodder in August, and farmers supplied themselves from the corn produced in 1815 for the seed of the Spring of 1817.

THE GREAT DART HEAVY CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

150

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRAT.
FEBRUARY 13, 1895.
HOW COLD IT WAS.

Today One of the Coldest Ever Experienced in Keokuk.

Thermometer Reaches Twenty-Two Below Zero - Temperature in Other Years - Trains Running Again - Those Who Suffer Most.

From his little perch in the top story of the government building Thursday, Observer Gosewich predicted Friday morning would be the coldest of the winter and he bit the nail on the head for the official temperature early this morning was 22 degrees below zero. At 7 o'clock it was 20 below. The occasions in the past when the mercury has gone as low as this have been very rare. The lowest temperature ever registered here was 26 below zero. The local predictions as to the present cold snap have been fully verified in every particular. So, too, have those sent out from Chicago. Probably never was better work done in forecasting weather conditions and never were the predictions made more splendidly fulfilled. The warning sent out by the Chicago station enabled people and the railroads to prepare for what was coming and it is not an extravagant statement to say that more than enough was saved by the precautions taken from the warning given, to pay for the maintenance of the weather bureau service for one year. Some idea of the extent to which the warning was distributed may be had when it is learned that Observer Gosewich sent out fifty-two telegrams Wednesday, giving notice of the approaching blizzard, to places in this section having no weather bureau service. There is an inclination on the part of some to look upon the government weather service in a spirit of levity, as a sort of a wild goose affair, but these same people would be surprised if they knew of the reliance placed in the predictions made by the weather bureau, by railroads, manufacturers, business men and those having agricultural interests, all over the country. As long as the bureau goes along making forecasts and they are fulfilled, nothing is said, but should there be a prediction which is not verified, then one hears all sorts of jokes on the weather man. Those in charge of the weather service are not infallible and are as prone to err as any human, but when one considers the unreliability of meteorological conditions, it is a wonder that correct predictions come as often as they do, and it is only because the matter has been reduced to a science by long years of careful study.

While the weather bureau thermometer was 22 below, other thermometers about town showed a lower temperature this morning, explained by the difference in instruments and the difference in their elevation. At 6:45 a. m., the thermometer outside the Hotel Keokuk, got at low as it possibly could register, 20 degrees below zero, and stopped there for awhile. At West Keokuk it was reported all the way from 20 to 23 below, while one man stated that he heard from good authority that it was 32 degrees below, but this instrument was either out of order, or else the man who saw it was. Another citizen stated that

when he got up Friday morning he went out on his front porch to look at his thermometer, and couldn't find the mercury, so he went back and got a light and continued his search, when at last he discovered it opposite the 26 mark, and it was frozen stiff. At the tollhouse on the bridge at 7 a. m., it was 19 below and at the lower lock 22 below. Out at the powder works the thermometer at the top of the hill registered 19 below while down in the ravine it was 24 below.

The lowest temperature in each year since 1872, with the exact date, as shown by the records of the local weather bureau office, are given as follows and will be found interesting for comparison: Dec. 24, 1872, 22 below; Jan. 29, 1873, 26 below, lowest on record; Jan. 5, 1874, 8 below; Jan. 9, 1875, 20 below; Dec. 9, 1876, 10 below; Jan. 9, 1877, 9 below; Dec. 24, 1878, 13 below; Jan. 3, 1879, 20 below; Dec. 29, 1880, 18 below; Jan. 10, 1881, 15 below; Dec. 7, 1882, 10 below; Jan. 22, 1883, 13 below; Jan. 5, 1884, 24 below; Feb. 10, 1885, 14 below; Jan. 9, 1886, 19 below; Jan. 7, 1887, 18 below; Jan. 15, 1888, 23 below; Feb. 23, 1889, 8 below; March 1, 1890, 6 below; Feb. 28, 1891, 6 below; Jan. 19, 1892, 16 below; Feb. 4, 1893, 12 below; Jan. 24, 1894, 16 below; Feb. 8, 1895, 22 below, lowest so far this winter.

corn fields were coated with ice. The sudden freeze followed the breaking of a drought. And it occurred during war time. Perhaps the superstitious can find something in this worry about at this time of year.

There had been a season of dry weather something like this that we have been experiencing, Mr. Heywood recalled today. On August 12 it broke, and there was a great quantity of rain, from the twelfth until about the fifteenth. The corn was beaten down in a number of fields by the amount of moisture, and the strength of the storm.

On the night of the sixteenth of August a sudden drop in the temperature caused the freezing of the water in the corn field and on the corn stalks. In places where the corn was beaten down it was frozen fast to the ground and there was a sheet of ice to be seen over ponds and ditches where the water had collected.

This was the sight which met the eyes of the people as far west as the Misouri river on the morning of the seventeenth of August.

Today's temperature was running somewhere up in the high nineties when Mr. Heywood told his story to an interested crowd this morning.

THE GATE CITY
 PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY

Keokuk, Iowa August 17, 1914

**IS ANNIVERSARY
 OF BIG FREEZE**

Recalled That 51 Years Ago Today,
 Corn in This Vicinity Was
 Flat on Ground and
 Frozen.

CAME AT END OF RAIN

Breaking of Drought Was Attended
 by Peculiar Phenomena in
 Temperature Back in
 1863.

If you felt the heat today, here's one that is guaranteed to cool you off. Fifty-one years ago today all of the corn in this vicinity was frozen. There were frozen puddles of water in the corn fields. This was recalled by "Judge" Haywood who has lived in this vicinity for more than a half century.

It was on August 17, 1863, that the

THE GATE CITY
 PUBLISHED BY
THE GATE CITY COMPANY

Keokuk, Iowa August 26, 1914

**THAT BIG FREEZE
 CAUSES COMMENT**

Morning Sun Man Says Story in The
 Gate City Last Week Was
 Correct All But
 the Date.

HE SAYS IT WAS AUG. 31

Remembers Distinctly Seeing Corn
 Down and Frozen Over on
 His Way to St.
 Louis.

Some of the old-timers in this vicinity are disputing Judge Heywood's story of the big freeze in 1863 in regards to the date of the event. The story was published on August 17 in The Gate City, that day being

151
 AVERY'S
 POLY-VU

said to have been the anniversary of the phenomena.

According to a Morning Sun man the date was August 31, and not August 17. He corroborates the story in its other particulars but differs on the date of its happening as the following from the Burlington Hawk-Eye would indicate. The story is on the editorial page of the Hawk-Eye and follows:

In a recent issue of the Hawk-Eye was reprinted from a Keokuk paper a statement by a correspondent that on August 17, 1863, the weather turned so cold after a long rain that ice formed on the ground and corn was frozen. Mr. Elliott Frazier, a veteran of the civil war, and a resident of Morning Sun, claims an error as to the date. He was home on furlough at the time, from service in an Iowa battery, and is able to fix the date of the freeze-up by the expiration of his furlough. The ice formed in the night of August 31. Mr. Frazier left Morning Sun early in the morning of September 1st, coming by wagon to Burlington, where he took a steamer for St. Louis. He saw the ice and frozen corn, not only during his ride to Burlington, but its effect could be noticed from the steamer in the condition of the corn between Burlington and St. Louis.

The Nauvoo Rustler says an old-timer from that town says that there was only a frost in August that year, and no freeze. Perhaps the Illinois side of the river didn't get the cold like the Iowa side did.

KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

In 1816 They Had No Summer According to Grandfathers' Tale

FEB. 15, 1936

Ice Formed in August and There Was Considerable Hardship and Suffering Then, Old Scrap Books Recall.

The unprecedented cold weather of this winter is bringing to light stories of the year 1816 which our grandfathers talked about as the year without any summer. Ice formed in August, according to one local man, who remembers the stories his grandfather told him about the summer. His grandfather was only a year or so old at that time but he was brought up on the legends of the year without a summer.

Here is a summary of the weather for the twelve months, which may make interesting reading along with the present wintry news:

January—Mild. Parlor fires unnecessary.

February—The same, except for a few days when it was chilly.

March—Blustery and cold. Freshets caused great property damage in Ohio and Kentucky.

April—The month started warm but grew colder and snow fell in

the east in the latter part of the month.

May—Ice formed an inch thick. Buds and fruit trees frozen. Fields were replanted without success.

June—Entire east blanketed with snow from ten inches deep in Vermont to three inches in New York. New Orleans and suburbs inundated by the overflowing Mississippi. Farmers wore overcoats while working in the fields.

July—Ice an eighth of an inch thick formed in New England and Pennsylvania. Corn crop destroyed.

August—Ice continued to form and new crops ruined. Corn sold at \$4 to \$5 per bushel. Heavy snowfall in London.

September—Two weeks of the mildest weather of the year were followed by heavy frosts and ice a quarter of an inch thick.

October—Continued cold weather. It was cold and rainy in Europe and only an abundant potato crop saved France from famine. Food prices were doubled and many people perished.

November—There was sleighing in Mexico City on the 26th. Also in the United States in most sections.

December—A breath of spring. Flour was \$13 per barrel in New York City and in 1817 bread riots broke out in Great Britain.

have not seen the like since. The snow was nearly forty inches in the dense timber lands and wild turkeys perished by the hundreds. They could get nothing to eat and therefore sat on the limbs of the trees and froze. Even the opossum, rabbits and quails all north and west of Palmyra, Mo., were exterminated. Now I wish to remind the present generation that the people in those days did not have thermometer. The seasons then differed very considerably. On the 1st day of March, 1815, the grass on Sand Prairie was fair grazing for a drove of cattle at that time being driven from Missouri north to Selkirk's colony or Red River.

A. W. HARLAN.

forty years ago. In the fall of 1842, the river froze up opposite Burlington on the 17th of November, and on the 14th of March I left St. Louis on the first boat from St. Louis to Keokuk; the river was then open to the mouth of the Illinois river, and the Captain did not expect to have much trouble in reaching Keokuk, but from the mouth of the Illinois the river was full of ice and it was a battle from there to Keokuk; each day the boat fought her way through the ice a few miles. By the time the boat reached Hannibal three other boats overtook us; the fleet was three days fighting through the ice from Quincy to Keokuk—first one boat then another running with full head of steam into the ice, then backing out to give place for another. We reached Keokuk on the 5th of April, 1843. The next morning on my way up the river I saw at the mouth of Price's Creek, a bank of ice that had been thrown out on shore at least fifteen feet high and between this bank of ice and the water grass and and other vegetation had sprung up from 6 to 10 inches high.

During that winter the steamer Otter, Scribe Harris captain, froze up at Keokuk; there had been no improvement of the levee at that time, but a Frenchman had filled out into the river and built a warehouse about the outer edge of the present levee, in front of Blondeau street. The warehouse was two stories high, with old fashioned gable roof. When the ice broke up that spring it gorged below town, and piled and dammed up until it threw a keel boat on top of this warehouse, breaking in the

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

FEBRUARY 18, 1885.

Cold Winters.
To the Editor.

In the Weekly of February 12th in giving an account of the storm, you speak of sun dogs and say that they are never seen only in extreme cold weather. That is a sad mistake. I have seen them in almost every month in the year, say at least twice in the month of August, but they are usually most brilliant in extreme cold weather. The cause is pretty generally well known to be the reflection of the sun's rays by prisms of frost in the atmosphere. I remember on one occasion in August in 1844 after brilliant sun dogs were visible, it was followed by hot dry weather.

The weather of 1842 and 1843 was a little ahead of this winter so far as the lowest point that my thermometer has reached this winter 54 below zero. In January, 1873, the same thermometer marked 37 degrees below, and the cattle's horns were not injured in 1873. Then let us go back to 1831-2, the winter was so severe that in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana the horns of grown cattle in good condition, in the spring, invariably had a brown stripe around their horns at the outer edge of the hair that remained visible all next summer. Many young cattle shed their horns, others grew crooked and I

THE WEEKLY GATE CITY

HOWELL & CLARK, Publishers.

APRIL 28, 1881.

A COLD WINTER.

A Trip from St. Louis to Keokuk, Forty Years Ago—Fighting Through the Ice, in March.

[Special Correspondence Gate City.]

WASHINGTON, April 18, 1881.

I see it stated in the Brighton Reporter that the first boat at Keokuk this season arrived on the 30th of March. In many respects this has been a remarkable winter, especially on account of the great snow falls during the winter, but not colder I think than the winter in Iowa

April 28, 1881 - pg #1
(Cold Winter)

152

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. DICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

roof. When the water began to rise from the gorge Captain Harris had a hawser made fast to an oak stump on the side bluff, back of where Stafford's store is now, but the force of the ice and flood took the stump out by the roots and cast it the full length of the hawser over the steamboat into the river, leaving the boat at the mercy of the ice and flood. The boat was finally landed on the bank opposite and at the door of what was then Fleak's "box trap" tavern, afterwards Vanorsdall's "mansion house," just below Main street. When the gorge broke below the boat was left forty feet from water; but it was one of the old fashioned boats built to stand ice and was but little damaged.

The newspapers tell about the great suffering in the northern part of the state on account of the coal famine the past winter. There was no coal famine in Keokuk in the winter of '42-3, coal as fuel had not been known there at that time, but owing to the early freeze up there was a whiskey famine and at that time there was no other beverage known there. Very early in the winter the whole supply was reduced to a single barrel, "Citizen Brown" being the happy owner. The citizen was then the proprietor of a popular inn, immediately above "rat row." At that time the only capitalists in Keokuk were the steamboat men, and toward February their capital was pretty well exhausted and as "Citizen Brown" would not trust they made up a pony purse and sent out a missionary, with horse and jumper, over to Crooked creek, where an old-fashioned worm still, that had been imported from Kentucky, was then in successful operation, without fear of being molested by intermeddling revenue officials, and secured a barrel of the pure juice, and brought it home, where it was safely put away and only taken as medicine by the syndicate ounces. It was only on rare occasions that an outside man was invited to join in a social glass. If more than the daily allowance was needed it was supplied from the citizens' barrel. A most marvelous barrel, if the report of the boys was true. No matter what the drafts on it during the day, the boys said that this barrel was always full the next morning. Towards spring it was said that each morning the "citizen" would have to use a red hot poker in the bung hole to give the liquor a good start. The barrel lasted as long as the ice in the river lasted. Them were the happy days before civilization.

HAWKINS TAYLOR.

Weekly Constitution.

MAY 13, 1885.
THE COLD WAVE.

A VERY SEVERE ONE STRIKES THE CITY WEDNESDAY EVENING.

The Thermometer Down to 30 Degrees at 6 a. m. Thursday Morning—Other Cold Snaps in May in Recent Years.

A cold wave struck the city Wednesday evening about 5 o'clock, and the thermometer fell rapidly. No orders were received from Washington to hoist the cold wave flag, and that piece of bunting will probably not be displayed until it

gets warmer again. The man with the white hat looked cold, very cold. Overcoats, which had been placed away for the summer, were again brought out, and people who had just finished house cleaning and had taken down their stoves, wished they had them up again.

Thursday the thermometer was down to 30° at 6 a. m. and was only 35° at 8 a. m. At noon it had reached 50 degrees. Plenty of ice formed, though the pear and plum and cherry trees are in bloom. A cold wind prevailed all day, which made it seem colder.

With this record, many people will say that they never saw such weather in their lives and that everything is ruined. The following report of May weather for the past three years will be of interest:

There was a heavy frost here May 14, 1884. On April 30, in the same year, flowering almond, crocus, dialetra, pansies and myrtle, cherries, pears and plums were in full bloom.

May 22, 1883, there was frost; ice formed, and there was a stiff breeze from the northwest.

May 12, 1882, it snowed; people wore overcoats. On the 13th, 15th, and 16th there was frost; also a frost on the 22d. People had fires and wore overcoats as June 20th.

May 2, 1884, ice was $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch thick on all standing pools of water.

THE GATE CITY:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 20, '78.

CITY NEWS.

—Sixty-one years ago was the year without a Summer. Frost occurred every month in the year 1816. Ice formed half an inch thick in May. Snow fell to the depth of three inches in New York, and also in Massachusetts in June. Ice was formed of the thickness of a common window glass throughout New York on the 5th of July. Indian corn was so frozen that the greater part was cut down in August and dried for fodder, and farmers supplied themselves from the corn produced in 1815 for the seed of the Spring of 1817.

Whig and Register.

J. B. HOWELL, EDITOR.

KEOKUK, THURSDAY, SEPT. 19, 1880

THE COLD SUMMER OF 1816.

Persons are in the habit of speaking of the summer of 1816 as the coldest ever known through America and Europe. Having in our possession some facts relative to the subject, we propose to give them, in order to revive the recollection of such among us

who remember the year without a summer; also to furnish correct information to such as feel any interests in matters of this kind. We shall, therefore, give a summary of each of the months of the year 1816, extracted in part from "Pierce on the Weather:"

January was mild—so much so as to render fires almost needless in sitting rooms. December, the month immediately preceding this, was very cold.

February was not very cold; with the exception of a few days, it was as mild as its predecessor.

March was cold and boisterous, the first half of it; the remainder was mild. A tremendous freshet on the Ohio and Kentucky rivers caused great loss of property.

April began warm, and grew colder as the month advanced, and ended with snow and ice—with a temperature more like Winter than Spring.

May, like the one just ended, was more remarkable for frowns than smiles. Buds and fruit were frozen—ice formed half an inch in thickness—corn killed, and the fields again and again replanted, until deemed too late.

June, the coldest ever known in this latitude. Frost, ice, and snow were common. Almost every green herb killed. Fruit nearly all destroyed. Snow fell to the depth of ten inches in Vermont, several inches in Maine, and it fell to the depth of three inches in the interior of this State; it fell also in Massachusetts.

July was accompanied by frost and ice—formed, of the thickness of common window glass throughout New England, New York, and some parts of Pennsylvania. Indian corn nearly all killed; some favorably situated fields escaped. This was true of some of the hill farms in western Massachusetts.

August was more cheerless, if possible, than the summer months already passed. Ice was formed half an inch in thickness—Indian corn was so frozen that the greater part of it was cut down and dried for fodder. Almost every green thing was destroyed, both in this country and in Europe. Papers received from England said, "It will be remembered by the present generation, that the year 1816 was a year in which there was no Summer." Very little corn ripened in the New England and Middle States—Farmers supplied themselves from the corn produced in 1815, for seed in the Spring of 1817. It sold for from four to five dollars a bushel.

September furnished about two weeks of the mildest weather of the season. Soon after the middle it became very cold and frosty—ice forming a quarter of an inch in thickness.

October produced more than its usual share of cool weather—frost and ice common.

November was cold and blustering. Snow fell so as to make sleighing.

December was mild and comfortable. We have thus given a brief summary of the "Cold Summer of 1816," as it was called. The Winter was mild. Frost and ice were common in every month in the year. Very little vegetation matured in the eastern and middle States. The sun's rays seemed to be destitute of heat throughout the Summer; all nature was clad in a sable hue, and man exhibited no little anxiety concerning the future of his life.—Rochester American.

153

EVERY POLY-VU

April 28, 1881 - pg 2
(Cold Winter)

A COLD WINTER - 2

Three Inch Snow; Pfu!—

JAN. 3, 1948

Old Timers Took Four Foot Blanket Without Blinking

So complex is modern existence that a three-inch snow accompanied by ice and sleet, is enough to disrupt an entire city whereas the Keokuk of 1830-31 took a four-day snowfall in stride. At the end of the storm the snow lay four feet deep on an average.

That is generally believed to have been the heaviest snow in the history of the city with the storm beginning December 18, 1830, coming in the form of rain and sleet which finally settled into a snow storm which continued unabated until December 21.

Banked to Eaves.

Early papers describe it as follows: "When the sun came out that evening to take a glance at the world, he looked down upon an illimitable field of snow which seemingly stretched away to the North Pole, unmarked by the impress of man or beast."

At Stillwell's tavern here, the snow was banked on two sides of the building up to the eaves but as there was plenty to eat and drink and great stacks of fuel within, the inmates passed through the storm comfortably and even pleasantly, and as long as they could see smoke coming out of each other's chimneys they knew that those within were still alive.

Firewood Exhausted.

Not so fortunate were the families of two young Frenchmen, who with their halfbred wives and children occupied cabins near by. On the second day of the storm their firewood gave out and the men cut their way to the American Fur Company's building to ask if they might bring their women and children down to the storeroom and weather the storm. This request was readily granted and they, too, passed the days without further difficulty.

After the storm the snow lay on an average of four feet deep and in many places was drifted from 10 to 20 feet. Every man in Keokuk—and they did not exceed 25 at the time—was called out to break a road to Fort Edward in Warsaw where the Fur Company had supplies and ammunition in storage.

Marble Tunnel.

They labored for a week before a road was passable from one end to the other and after it had been completed the snow in many places was banked up at the sides several feet deeper than a horse and vehicle and it was like driving through a tunnel of white marble.

For more than three months, or until April 2, 1831, the ground was never free of snow and most of that time was deep enough to afford good sleighing.

Early in January of that year a man by the name of White who

lived up near the head of the rapids, had the misfortune to lose his wife, who died with consumption. The body was brought to Keokuk on a wood sled with the family in another.

Funeral Procession.

Here they were joined by all of the citizens and a procession started for Fort Edward for interment in the military cemetery. It was a strange funeral train. The coffin on an old rough sled covered with a black pall, the driver wrapped in a huge buffalo robe. Occupants of the half dozen other sleighs were covered with robes and brightly colored Indian blankets.

It moved slowly across the river as the paper describes it: "Amid the vast fields of snow and white walls among which the burial train looked like a huge dark reptile creeping slowly along, and formed a scene that an artist might have immortalized on canvas. Keokuk has witnessed the passing of many funeral processions through her streets, grand and imposing, simple and lowly, but never one as unique as this, the first one which passed over her sod."

Founded Legend.

With three little children left to his care and with no one to look after them, White had no alternative but to supply the place of his wife as soon as possible. This he did by going down to Lewis county, Mo., in March and bringing back another wife.

For years thereafter whenever a widower showed signs of remarrying before the prescribed period of mourning expired, he was referred to as being a counterpart of "Old Man White" who buried his wife and married and brought home another on the same snow."

It Was Established in 1871 and Has Had Twelve Observers in that Period with F. Z. Gosewich, Having Longest Record.

OCT. 23, 1937

The United States weather bureau office in Keokuk is 66 years old, having been established July 15, 1871. First readings were taken by A. C. Barclay in the fourth story of the State National bank building at the corner of Second and Main streets, now the location of the Iowa State Insurance company. The first reports were headed "War Department Signal Service, United States Army." Now the weather bureau is under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

The Keokuk office has had 12 observers in the 66 years, and of this number Fred Z. Gosewich had the longest service. Following Barclay was C. R. Daw, who relieved Barclay in November of 1871. One year later Daw was relieved by James H. Marsh. T. S. Collins came to the Keokuk station in 1873, relieving Marsh. On July 15, 1874, William Black was assigned to the Keokuk bureau, and remained until 1877 when he was relieved by E. F. Brady. S. Applegate followed Brady in 1878 and in June 1879, M. J. Shanefelter was the official in charge, and remained until June 25, 1881, when Sergeant Gosewich was sent to Keokuk to take over the bureau.

Army Relinquishes Bureau.

During the period that Mr. Gosewich was at Keokuk, the army relinquished the control of the bureau to the department of agriculture. This was in 1892. From 1881 to January 1920, the weather records were signed by Mr. Gosewich, who retired in '20 and was succeeded by Carl E. Hadley. Mr. Hadley's term here was for eight years, leaving in March 1928, to go to Indianapolis. Arthur H. Christensen succeeded him for two years from 1928 to 1930. R. M. Anderson, the present official in charge, came to Keokuk in 1930. G. N. Pitzon who was assigned here in 1936, and Bertram C. Ullrich who joined the weather bureau in 1921 are assistants. T. D. Firestone was in Keokuk for three years from 1933 to 1936, when he died.

Assisting Mr. Gosewich for a time was Harry F. Wahlgren who went from here to Oklahoma City and is now in charge of that district.

The weather bureau maintained its offices in the bank building until the new federal building was completed in 1889 and it was then established in its present location. In addition to daily weather records the local bureau issues river bulletins and helps to compile the weekly crop statistics for the state. Complete records of all phases of weather are kept in the local offices and the latest in instruments are installed in the mechanical recording of conditions. On the day the weather bureau was opened 66 years ago July 15, the maximum temperature was 94 and the lowest was 69.

113 Highest Maximum. The highest temperature ever

Oct 23, 1937-19 #1 (Weather Bureau)

WEATHER BUREAU - 1

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY" R. J. BICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

154

DAILY GATE CITY

KEOKUK WEATHER BUREAU IS 66 YEARS OLD NOW

recorded in Keokuk to date was 113 on July 15, 1936, this mark being made on the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the bureau here. The all time minimum is 27 below zero on February 13, 1905.

The heaviest twenty-four hour precipitation was 5.88 in June, 1933, and the most snow was twelve inches in twenty-four hours in February of 1903. Forty-nine miles an hour wind from the southwest in November, 1919, was the highest wind recorded here officially. Unofficially, the high wind of July 1, 1920, stands out for most people, when eighty to one hundred miles was registered at the power house.

One of the freakiest records of the bureau pertains to the fire which destroyed the Grand theater in December, 1923. So intense was the fire and so bright were the flames that the sunshine recorder on the roof of the postoffice building registered for a brief minute or so.

Miscellaneous Data

Miscellaneous climatological data compiled by the bureau is the following:

Temperature: (Greatest number of consecutive days.)

With maximum 100 degrees or above, 14 in July, 1936.

With maximum 90 degrees or above, 19 in July, 1901, and August, 1936.

With minimum 32 degrees or lower, 81 from Dec. 8, 1892, to Feb. 26, 1893, inclusive.

With minimum zero or lower, 13 from Jan. 30, 1895, to Feb. 11, 1895, inclusive.

Greatest total number of days with maximum 90 degrees or above in any season, 66 in 1936.

Greatest total number of days with zero or lower in any winter season, 34 in 1884-1885.

Precipitation.

Longest period with less than 0.01 inch, 34 days from Aug. 17, 1893, to Sept. 19, 1893, inclusive.

Greatest number of consecutive days with 0.01 inch or more, 10 days from June 27, 1905, to July 6, 1905, inclusive.

Snow.

Greatest number of consecutive days with depth of snow 1.0 inch or more on the ground, 48 days from Jan. 1, 1929, to Feb. 17, 1929, inclusive.

Maximum snowfall for any single storm, 123 inches in Jan., 1927.

Killing Frost Data.

Average date of last in spring, April 12.

Average date of first in autumn, October 17.

Latest date of last in spring, May 7.

Earliest date of first in autumn, September 18.

Average duration of growing season, 188 days.

Longest growing season on record, 236 days, in 1882.

Shortest growing season on record, 139 days, in 1875.

The weather bureau nowadays is depended upon for all kinds of data, and the office is called up by people who are anxious to know if it will be safe to start on automobile trips, housewives who want to know if they shall attempt to wash, or if Monday will be rainy, and their records are considered indisputable court evidence.

Oct 23, 1937-1938
(Weather Bureau)

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

156

DAILY GATE CITY
MARCH 16, 1929

FLOODS FORCE EVACUATION OF HOUSE BOATS

**High Water is Nearly Over
the Road to the Des
Moines Bridge and Ce-
ment Slab and Low-
lands are All
Under Water.**

Flood waters of the Mississippi river and the Des Moines river continuing to rise are flooding the lowlands in the vicinity of Keokuk and this morning caused the evacuation of the house boats which are moored on the river bank between E. and F. streets. Police had to remove one family which insisted on staying with their Lares and Penates in the house boat, which was almost under water.

The water is over the Des Moines river bottoms, outside of the big levee, is over the cement slab almost to the bridge, cutting off that road from traffic, and the Mississippi has reached to within six inches of the road between the industrial plants in Commercial Alley and the Des Moines river bridge, with every chance of getting over the road by tonight.

Official forecasts for the river indicate that waters on both the Des Moines and the Mississippi will continue to rise. The stage of the Mississippi here this morning is 15.2 feet, a rise of 1.8 feet since yesterday, and a sixteen foot stage is indicated by Sunday. This would be two feet over flood stage.

Trains Are Delayed.

Train traffic on the Burlington was delayed by landslides north of Keokuk and by water over the track south of the city, between here and Alexandria. The train from the north this morning was delayed by landslides near Fort Madison, and from the south it was reported that the train would be late due to the fact that in some places water covers the track to the depth of four inches, making careful moving necessary.

The sudden rise of the Mississippi since two days ago has threatened to wipe out the few boat houses which are still existing on the river front. Most of the people in these houses left them yesterday, or were getting out today. The police however had to order the Lute Brown family out. There was two feet of water in their house boat, and they had moved

bedding and blankets to the shore and were attempting to sleep in the open. They protested they were warm enough and safe, but the police took them to the home of Jack Roost.

Rainfall is Heavy.

An inch of rain yesterday, making a total of 2.06 inches since March 1, helped to swell the flooded waters of both rivers, as the rain was general over this section. It was heavy in the neighborhood of Peoria, and Illinois reported hard showers. While the ice was continuing to move out of the rivers, the streams were both badly swollen, and will continue to be gorged, as the land drains off, and the great load of rain is carried away by the tributaries.

Observers state the ground is like a sponge that has absorbed its full quota and is oozing moisture everywhere.

The cement slab between the Des Moines river bridge and Alexandria was under water yesterday, but this morning the water from the flooded Des Moines, which has spread over the lowlands on both sides, was over the slab almost to the bridge. Two men who attempted to drive to Hannibal today had to turn back as they could not get their cars through this water which is over the road to an unusual depth.

Skunk River is Same.

Traffic by railroad trains is continuing although delayed, so that the city is not cut off from the south entirely. The Rock Island reports no trouble although the water is close to its tracks in many cases.

Up the river reports are that the Skunk has reached a stage of 13.3 feet but this is the same stage as yesterday, and may indicate little likelihood of more trouble from this source.

WORST FLOOD IN YEARS THREATENS SECTION AS RIVERS GO ON RAMPAGE

DAILY GATE CITY
MARCH 18, 1929

**Stage of 19.4 Feet in 1903
May be Surpassed by
Wednesday — Manu-
facturing Plants
May be Hit — Pro-
tect Dikes and
Patrol Levees.**

June floods of 1903 may be equalled by the March flood of 1929, if conditions continue along the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers for the next twenty-four to thirty-six hours as they have been in the last few days. River forecasts indicate that the Mississippi will rise at Keokuk, Quincy and Hannibal in the next twenty-four hours to forty-eight hours to a stage of 19 to 19.5 feet. If it reaches 19.5 feet it will cause a cessation of activities

157

AVERY®
POLY-VU



in plants in the Commercial Alley district, all of which now are watching the rising waters with considerable anxiety.

It was necessary to close the road to the Des Moines river bridge yesterday just south of the plants. Men worked all day yesterday and until midnight last night dumping rock and sandbags along the dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge across the river. The Egyptian levee protecting Alexandria, Mo., is being patrolled night and day. There was no danger to the dike road, but bridge company officials were endeavoring to keep the water from washing in under the bituminous slab, and carrying away the small stones alongside of the dike.

Forty-three gates in the dam were open this morning, and power company officials look for the highest stage of water in their history. Des Moines river forecasts locally are that it will fall slowly, and if the Des Moines should suddenly fall, it would help to reduce flood danger on the Mississippi. The fall in water today on the Des Moines was only a tenth of a foot, however.

Highest Reported 21 Feet.

The water still may not reach the highest stage ever reported here, twenty-one feet on June 6, 1851. Nineteen feet and four-tenths was the stage reached June 5 and 6 in 1903. The water was so high then that the lock gates of the old canal were left open, and temporary bridges had to be built from the railroad tracks over to the engineer's office and the lock houses. Alexandria and Gregory went under water deep enough to allow small boats to be used on the streets of these towns. The Egyptian levee watchers saw the water go over the top of this barrier and they had to run for their lives.

The river at Keokuk this morning had reached a stage of 17.1 feet or a rise of nine-tenths of a foot since yesterday. The continued rise of the two rivers made it necessary to stop traffic on the road to the Des Moines river bridge, down Commercial Alley, south of the industrial plants. Police patrolled this section and a traffic officer stopped traffic here.

Protect Bridge Dike.

The stage of the Mississippi was sufficient to make the river reach the highest it has ever been on the new dike which is several feet higher than the old road was across the river. The water was lapping against the dike all day Saturday and Sunday. At six o'clock Sunday night the water washed over the dike road in places. Up to 12:30 o'clock this morning bridge company workmen were on the scene, dumping rock and sand bags against the dike embankments to repel the encroachments of the waves.

Supt. Fulton explained that there was no danger to the dike, and that the river could rise another three feet and that the

road would still be safe for travel. However, in order to keep the waves from washing out the small rocks and to keep the slab from being undermined by the waves, it was necessary to take protective measures.

It was estimated that a thousand autos were in and around the dike yesterday, many of them coming from Macomb and other inland points.

Plants May Suspend.

High water south of Keokuk is threatening to cut off some of the manufacturing plants in the Commercial Alley district. It was reported this morning that water was against the offices of the Keokuk Steel Casting company and if it rises any more will flood the floor of the plant, which will mean that operations will have to stop, as the cables will be under water. The plant was in operation today. Materials in the yard were washed away yesterday. The Keokuk Electro Metals company was still operating, but officials there stated that if the threatened rise comes they will have to cease operations. The Iowa Can company, and other plants in this section were anxiously inquiring of the weather bureau the predicted stages.

Stages of water up the river were 13.8 at Keokuk. The river was rising as far north as Davenport. The official forecast from Muscatine to Louisiana was for continued rising waters. The flood seems near the crest, however, according to the forecasters, who predict that the river will go about two feet higher in the next forty-eight hours.

Crowds View Flood.

Hundreds of people visited the scenes of the flood yesterday, some walking, some coming in autos and taxis. They drove as far as possible in Commercial Alley and then after being turned back there, drove across the bridge or along the river road.

Getting stuck on a hard road seems to be a paradox, yet it happened nevertheless. A truck crashed through a soft place in the hard road between Hamilton and Carthage. A second truck coming along found the way blocked by the tackle being rigged up to pull the truck out of the hole into which it had settled and stayed all night. The driver of the second truck objected to being held up by the block and tackle and the workmen let it down so he could pass, and he, too, was reported to have gone into a soft place in the hard road and to have sunk into a hole.

Some Previous Floods.

Some reports of the previous floods are to be found in old records in the weather office. From a moderate stage of water 2.4 feet on March 7, 1897, the river rose to 18.5 feet by April 27 and it was May 5 before the danger line was passed. The Keokuk lumber district was from two to four feet under water, and the damage in the Green Bay district was \$7,000, according to the report which F. Z. Gosewich, then in charge of the weather

bureau made. The Hunt levee in Illinois broke, flooding 30,000 acres. The damage here was estimated at \$64,000 and the crevice in the levee was enlarged to 475 feet by the water. On April 26 the water went over the Egyptian levee, flooding Alexandria and Gregory.

In 1903 conditions were similar only much more exaggerated. May 31, the river was 13.6 feet. June 1, it was 16.5 feet. June 5 and 6 it had reached the record height made since 1851, and was 19.4 feet. Steamboat excursions were run from Keokuk south to see the high water. Alexandria again was flooded out, and boats were used in the streets of the Missouri Venice. One of the men who helped fight the flood waters then said that you tied your boat to the second story of houses in LaGrange and entered a house through the windows.

The stage of 1851 is not a government measure, as the river stage was not taken over by the weather bureau until 1868. It is thought that it was measured by steamboat men, however, and stands as official for that year. This was the highest ever recorded at Keokuk and 21 feet.

Patrol Alexandria Barrier.

Patrols are standing by at Alexandria along the Egyptian levee night and day. The only element feared now is a heavy wind from the right direction to break down the dike walls. However, if the water is calm it is not likely that any damage will come. The levee is said to be high enough to withstand a normal attack of high water, but wind coupled with the water, will make a breach or send the waves over the top of the parapet.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. I. BICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

158

Flood - 2

Levee District North of Quincy Flooded as Dikes

GREEN BAY IS SAFE, DIKE ROAD IS OPEN; FLOOD IS AT CREST

Give Way

The Green Bay district was reported safe this morning. The Sand Boy with its cargo of 3,000 sacks arrived there this morning. Yesterday, County Engineer M. F. McFarland and his force of men worked all day to save the levee. Brush and wire mats were laid on alongside of the 200 foot weak spot in the levee, and big timbers and other bits of barricade were laid down. At 2 o'clock this morning the Sand Boy distributed her cargo and the crews under McFarland laid these on the mats thus completing the barricade that will keep the water off of this part of the levee. It was reported to the power company here that everything was safe now.

Belief is Expressed Here That Flood is at Its Peak—Indian Grave District in Illinois Goes Under Today.

Although rising waters are predicted for both the Des Moines and Mississippi in the next twenty-four hours, it is the belief of river men here that the flood is at its crest. The stage of 18.5 feet was held from six o'clock last night, although the forecast is for a rise from Keokuk to Hannibal of two-tenths to four-tenths of a foot in twenty-four hours.

The Green Bay levee district is reported as safe this morning.

The dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge is withstanding the terrific pounding of a thirty foot wall of water in good shape, and traffic will be continued over that road without difficulty now, the bridge company officials believe.

The Indian Grave levee district north of Quincy failed this morning, letting the water in over 6,000 to 7,000 acres of land.

Trains to the south and from the south on the Burlington are annulled, Chicago and Burlington service being maintained by specials out of Keokuk and Burlington, and regular service is being detoured by way of Carthage and Galesburg.

The greatest flood on the Mississippi river here since 1903 is believed to be at its crest, or so close thereto that not much more of a rise will be possible unless the Mississippi and Des Moines go on a "whoopie" that is beyond all expectation. After seeing the ice go out one week ago today, followed by steadily rising waters that have taxed the ingenuity and fighting powers of man to buck the elements, man is believed to

day to have won the battle. At the power house, at the bridge, all along the river, trained observers of the big water are of the opinion that the crest is reached. "We are on top of it now," they say, but they are not relaxing their vigils.

It is little short of terrifying to see a wall of thirty feet of water slap against the dike walls across the river at the east approach of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge, and then to see the waves break over the road, to a depth of two feet. This morning the water was running, in the lowest spots, to the height of the lower rail on the dike fence. The waves come against the dike with the force of a pile driver, but the man made road is standing the pounding, reinforced with tons of sand in sandbags which are placed at strategic points. This morning, and all last night the sandbags were being placed along the dike at new points where the water was going over. This morning the bridge company officials said they believed the worst was over.

"We will keep traffic going all right," said Supt. Fulton.

Many Visit Dike.

People in cars and people on foot are watching the spectacle they have not seen in twenty-six years, the dike road covered with water. Hundreds of people walk from both sides of the dike as far as they can, and watch the sight, which is really marvelous. Many more drive their cars splashing through the water which comes across the dike in terrific force.

Huge trees, logs, all kinds of debris are being tossed in by the waves. The patrols which are working on the dike under direction of Supt. Fulton and Jack Denholm are getting these obstructions off the road and into the quieter waters of Round Pond, which is bank full. It is a sight well worth seeing, and one that terrifies and thrills.

Green Bay Is Safe.

Indian Grave Levee Falls.

This morning, however, reports from the Indian Grave levee district were that it had failed. Electric pumps operated there were shut off as the levee was seen to give way and people in the district began to move out. This is one of rich districts of this section, covering some 6,000 to 7,000 acres of the best land in Illinois. This land was inundated this morning by the break in the big levee. The district is situated just north of Quincy. It was not expected that the flood would interfere with either railroad or highway traffic, however, in this district.

Train Service Interrupted.

At the union station this morning it was stated that Trains 3 and 4 on the Burlington route had been annulled. These are trains to and from Quincy and Hannibal. The traffic to Burlington and Chicago is being maintained by stub service and special trains between Keokuk and Burlington. No. 12 from Burlington with the Chicago sleeper and the important eastern mail arrived this morning, and went back as a special. It will also be operated out of here tonight as a stub with the Chicago sleeper, and mail for the east.

The water was reported between Alexandria and the points south as being over the steps of the coaches, which is twenty inches to two feet above the surface of the tracks.

The Keokuk and Western, the T. P. and W., the Wabash and the Rock Island are all operating their trains as usual, but Keokuk is cut off from Quincy and St. Louis except by circuitous routes, by way of Carthage and Galesburg.

The Des Moines Rises.

The Des Moines continues to rise, according to the reports from the weather bureau, and will rise

159

AVERY® POLY-VU



FL0013

for the next twenty-four hours. The water is close to the top of the piers of the Des Moines river bridge, and one man who has maintained his stock on the Iowa land sent word this morning for help in getting it off, as he feared the water would sweep over this portion of the shore line.

Industrial District Hit.

The industrial district of Keokuk in Commercial Alley is hard hit. Flood conditions on both rivers causing the waters to rise and overflow the plants and trouble in getting power, has made it necessary for most of these to shut down or to curtail their production. The Steel Casting company is down due to a combination of circumstances and others in the district are feeling the effects of the flood.

Combination of slacking business due to approach of Easter season and flood conditions which prevents shipment of cars of supplies from St. Louis, namely sulphur and tank cars of acid which are parked somewhere near Hannibal has caused the J. C. Hubinger Bros. Co. to be closed for a few days. High water has practically no effect on the plant. There is a

little water in the basement from seepage and if business were right it would be running. The approach of warmer months cuts down the consumption of table syrup and the plant consequently slows up. If water rises much more the plant will be effected, it was said.

Using Big Pumps.

Using two pumps and sand bags to protect their cellars, the Keokuk Water Works pumping station is managing to escape a ducking with the water at its present stage. Just what might happen in case of additional rise in the river is problematical, but officials of the company state that they have little to fear of any further trouble, with both pumps in operation night and day, keeping the cellars and the lower part of the plant out of the water belt.

May Get More Water.

The official stage of the Mississippi at this point reached 18.5 feet last night at 6 o'clock, and remained that way all night. Rising waters were reported at Keithsburg and along the upper stations of the Mississippi, although Davenport reported a stage that was stationary. The Skunk river showed a drop of one-tenth of a foot. The stage at Keithsburg was 14.9 and the Skunk was 15.4.

The Mississippi is expected to fall slightly at Muscatine, and from Keokuk to Louisiana to rise. From Keokuk to Hannibal, the probable rise is forecast from two-tenths to four-tenths of a foot in twenty-four hours. The stage at Louisiana is to reach 19 feet by Friday.

Flood Scenes of 1888 and 1903 Are Being Repeated Here

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MARCH 20, 1929

DAILY, BY MAIL. WEEKLY.

RISING RIVERS HALT PLANTS AND CRIPPLE TRAFFIC TO SOUTH

Burlington Route Trains to Quincy are Detoured as Both Mississippi and Des Moines Go Up.

GREEN BAY THREATENED.

Threatened from a new angle, the Green Bay bottom lands which have twice in succession been flooded out, are in danger again, this time from the Mississippi side of the levee. There is a place 200 feet long in the levee on the Mississippi side which is giving way, and 3,000 bags filled with sand were rushed to the district this morning, according to Supervisor G. E. Maxwell. The sacks were secured from the Powder Works, and the Miller Sand company's boat was rushed to the threatened spot with a force of men. This is a new threat for the Green Bay district and is a serious one, for a flood from the Mississippi would cause great damage to the district, which already has been badly damaged by floods.

Rising waters on both the Mississippi and the Des Moines caused traffic on the Burlington route between Keokuk and Quincy to be annulled today. Trains were being run as stub trains from Burlington to Keokuk this morning, and St. Louis traffic was being detoured by way of Galesburg. Water was over the dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton Bridge in low spots, and it was causing Keokuk plants in the Commercial Alley district to run at about twenty-five percent of their capacity.

Despite reports that the Hunt drainage district levee had broken, reports from the U. S. engineer's office today was that the

Hunt levee was intact. The Lima Lake drainage district levees were reported to be threatened with water only about eight inches from the top of the barriers.

Trains Interrupted.

A rise of four tenths of a foot in the Mississippi at Keokuk and south of here made it necessary to abandon traffic on the Burlington route between Keokuk and Quincy. Train No. 12 was run to Keokuk as a stub train this morning, bringing local passengers and the Chicago sleeper. It will go back tonight as Train No. 15 for Chicago, with the Chicago sleeper and passengers for Burlington.

The afternoon trains were problematical it was reported. Officials of the Burlington said that it was not likely with the present stage of water that trains could be resumed before Friday or perhaps later. The water is reported over the tracks between Alexandria and Canton, Mo., to the depth of eighteen inches to two feet.

The Keokuk and Western ran to Alexandria without trouble, and made its trip as usual, and the Rock Island and Wabash and T. P. & W. trains are in operation as usual. Bus service to Illinois points is in operation today.

Wage Battle On Dike.

A battle with the rising flood on the Keokuk and Hamilton Bridge company's dike was being waged again today, and watchers were on the dike all night. More sand bags were laid along the edge of the road, and the waves which crept higher than yesterday were washing across the road with more force today. In some places where the heaviest waves crashed across the dike, water was hub deep on automobiles.

Traffic on the dike continues, as there is little danger now, al-

March 20, 1929 - pg 1
(Flood scenes of 1888)

FLOOD - 4

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY

R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

160

though the continued wash of the waters is carrying out some of the finer rock and filling around the dike walls and fence. It is estimated that the wall of water pounding on the dike is over thirty feet deep.

Industries Are Interrupted.

Industrial plants in the Commercial Alley district south of the city are interrupted by the water.

In the Keokuk Steel Casting company molding had to be stopped and the core ovens are under water. Seepage water pushed some of the air containers out of the floor, and broke the air hose, but there was no explosion of the containers as was reported in some circles, officials of the company said. The Electro Metals company and the Carbide company were operating but under a much curtailed basis, it was reported. Water is threatening other plants in this section of the city.

No Relief In Sight.

No relief is in sight, either, according to the weather bureau forecasts. The rivers are both to rise according to the bulletins. The Des Moines will rise from Ottumwa to its mouth, for the next twenty four to thirty six hours. The Mississippi from Muscatine to Burlington will rise and from Keokuk to Hannibal will rise slowly, reaching 18.5 feet here by Thursday. The stages at Quincy and Hannibal will reach 20 feet by the same time.

The stage here this morning was 18.2 feet a rise of four-tenths of a foot since yesterday. The Skunk river is rising and gained a foot yesterday, with a stage of 15.4 feet. The Des Moines rose three-tenths of a foot yesterday and is 13.9 feet this morning at Ottumwa.

Districts Are Safe.

Although there were many reports current yesterday that the Hunt and Lima Lake drainage district levees had broken, reports to the engineer's office here yesterday afternoon were to the effect that the barriers were still safe although the Lima Lake levee was reported close to overflowing.

FALLING WATERS ON DES MOINES TO EASE FLOOD HERE IS VIEW

DAILY GATE CITY
MARCH 19, 1929

Crest of the High Water is
Forecast for Tonight
with Eighteen Feet as
the Top Figure at
This Point.

Falling waters on the Des Moines river, bring hopes to Keokuk that the Mississippi will not rise as high as was indicated yesterday, and the river forecast this morning is for a stage of eighteen feet here or higher, by Wednesday. The crest of the flood is expected to reach here tonight. At Quincy and Hannibal the forecast is for a stage of 19.5 to 19.7 feet. The stage here on the Mississippi is 17.8 feet, a rise of seven-tenths since yesterday. The Des Moines is falling, a half foot drop being indicated at Ottumwa with a stage of 13.6 feet.

Fighting all night against the river which is licking hungrily at the walls of the dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge, workers there this morning declared that they believed the danger was over. Water is coming over the dike in places, running over at one or two low places, and big waves are splashing over at the point. Otherwise there seems to be little danger of the dike road being inundated to any depth. However, the bridge company is taking no chances and sand bags are being dumped all along the dike where the water is smashing against the highway.

In the Commercial Alley district local plants are watching the river with considerable interest. The water is up to the molding floor and core oven of the Steel Casting company. It is against the edge of the main warehouse building of the Iowa Can company. Some seepage water has gone into cellars of the J. C. Hubinger Bros. Company, but is causing no trouble there. The National Carbide company reports no trouble. The Electro Metals company plant is on low ground too, and water there is being watched.

See Chance For Fall.
The recession of the Des Moines

is pointed to as a hopeful sign for with the Des Moines outpouring into the Mississippi decreased in size, there is less danger of the water from the big river being impounded and backing up over the land. The Mississippi is falling at Dubuque, but still shows a rising tendency at Davenport and Keokuk. The official forecast for the river from Muscatine to Hannibal is as follows:

"The Mississippi from Muscatine to Hannibal will rise. Further rise at Keokuk will probably reach the crest tonight or Wednesday at eighteen feet or higher. At Quincy and Hannibal the stage of 19.5 feet to 19.7 is indicated by Wednesday. At Louisiana will change little."

Big Battle at Dike.

The dike of the bridge shows the effect of the battle against the surging waters of the Mississippi which all day yesterday seemed to beat and tear at the rock foundation of the road. Here and there where the big waves have taken out the fine rock and gravel which were spread over the dike after the surface was completed, the material is scattered over the dike where the waves have thrown it. At the point where the dike is the lowest the water is seeping over the roadway.

Big bags of sand are laid alongside of the roadway where the waves have been pounding. These fill in the crevices and stop the washing. There is no danger to the road it is felt, the big battle now being waged to keep the backwash from tearing out the loose rock and the gravel which has been put on the outside. Jack Denholm and his men breathed a sigh of relief this morning when the official river forecast was given them. With Supt. Fulton, the men had worked all night battling the waves.

It was an eerie picture they presented in the half moonlight of a spring night as trucks brought loaded sand bags to the men, and these were placed at strategic points as the water lapped incessantly, like a hungry dog gnawing at food. The men worked the night through and another crew was on duty this morning again putting the sand bags along the danger points.

Traffic is being carried on as

161

March 20, 1929 - pg # 2
(Flood Scenes of 1888)

www.C-LineProducts.com
Style #62029 1-888-860-9120



usual, although motorists are warned to take the middle of the road.

Thirty Six Gates Open.

Thirty six gates were opened on the dam today letting the water through. From the upper river it was reported that the Skunk had risen 1.5 feet to a stage of 14.4 feet now. At Keithsburg the river rose to 14.3 feet. At Dubuque however the river fell a half foot.

Rabbits by the score have been caught in the flood, and the men on the dike yesterday had a laugh at one big cottontail who was clinging to a log that was bobbing up and down in the waves, the rabbit looking for all the world as if he were seasick. Some of the rabbits attempt to swim out of the dangerous water which has evidently washed them out of their burrows.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1965



MAIN STREET TODAY—Mississippi river town of Gulfport, flooded last month, still is out of business today. Community of about 200 is across river in Illinois from Burlington, Iowa. Tops of protective parking posts along roadside are just beginning to emerge from inundation. (AP Wirephoto)

162

FLOOD-6

R. J. BICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

214 85353 1-888-808-1510
www.c-7plus.com

THE KEOKUK DAILY GATE CITY

MONDAY, SEPT. 16, 1935

The Flood of 1851, as it appeared where the Raccoon river joined the Des Moines River at Fort Des Moines.

3. The Flood of 1851

The flood began in May. For more than 40 days the rain fell, not all the time but very often. Farmers in the valleys were worried about getting their corn planted. Crops of small grain were washed out or ruined. Not until July did the skies clear and the streams return to their banks. A newspaper reported that neither the "memory of the oldest inhabitant" nor any Indian stories furnished any evidence of such a flood.

Floods are caused by heavy rainfall. When a sudden and severe thunder storm brings down the rain in torrents, small streams can not carry off the water fast enough. Local cloudbursts fill the brooks and creeks to overflowing. At several places in Iowa more than ten inches of water has fallen in 24 hours. The greatest one-day's rainfall officially measured was at Primghar in July, 1900. Such storms are certain to cause high water.

The great floods on large rivers however, are usually produced by widespread rains following a period of wet weather. At the end of a summer month, when ten or more inches of rain has fallen the ground is full of water. If a big storm occurs over the whole valley at such a time, the soil will not soak up the rain and the creeks fill to the brim. They pour their floods into small rivers, which in turn add to the burden of the main stream. It is like a large crowd going to the circus at the county seat. From every side road motor cars pour out on the main highway until, near the city, the traffic is so dense for safety.

People who have lived long beside the rivers know the high-water marks. They remember on trees or buildings. But their how high the stream has risen

memory is not exact and often they disagree. Since 1903 careful flood records have been kept on the Des Moines, Iowa and Cedar rivers, and since 1918 on several other streams. According to stories of the pioneers and the measurements of the engineers, bad floods in Iowa occurred in 1851, 1881, 1892, 1903 and 1918. But the worst of all seems to have been the flood of 1851.

There was no need of so much rain in Iowa during the spring of that year. In 1850 the rainfall amounted to about 49 inches, which, according to modern records, was 17 inches more than normal. The ground must have been full of water in the spring of 1851. After the first downpour, the soil would hold no more and so the water ran off to swell the creeks and send the rivers surging out of their banks.

Everywhere conditions were the same, even on the narrow watershed of the Missouri slope. But the damage was greatest in southeastern Iowa, for there the water in the Cedar, Iowa, Skunk and Des Moines rivers, draining two-thirds of the state, reached the highest mark. Moreover, that region was the most densely populated portion of Iowa. The settlers, staying in the valleys, had not yet ventured out on the prairies of the central and northern sections. When the floods came they discovered that their lowland farms were not well situated. Most of the towns located on the rivers, were under water.

The heavy rains reached their first peak late in May, ending in a cloudburst that lasted more than an hour. When the downpour finally stopped the whole country presented "the appearance of one vast lake of rushing waters." Hundreds of acres of plowed land were overflowed; horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and chickens were drowned; fences

and buildings were swept away. Huge trees, washed out by the roots, came floating down or caught at the bends to form temporary dams. Water flowed in at the second story windows of mills and warehouses built close to the river.

At Fort Des Moines the river was 23 feet above low-water mark. Building on the east side were swept away or destroyed by the swift current that extended to the foot of capitol hill. The present site of the North Western depot was under water. Boarders at a hotel near Third and Walnut streets went in and out by means of a raft. Business was completely paralyzed.

All the streams from the Maquoketa to the Des Moines were out of their banks. Muscatine Island was almost completely overflowed by the Mississippi. At Keokuk the record height of nearly 23 feet was reached. On the Cedar river at Rochester a monument was erected to mark the limit of the "high-water of 1851," while at Cedar Rapids the water was nearly three feet higher than during the flood on that river in 1917. The Iowa river at Iowa City was four and a half feet higher than during the flood of 1918 and three and a half feet higher than in 1851. The Skunk, too, spread itself in every direction. "Judging from appearances one would suppose it determined to declare itself navigable by removing, without the aid of civil law, everything calculated to hinder small craft from taking an uninterrupted voyage to the Father of Waters."

The towns in the Des Moines valley, however, seem to have suffered most. This stream drains nearly a third of the state. The cloudburst on May 21 was heaviest between Fort Dodge and Fort Des Moines. The river took full possession of its valley spreading out

four miles wide in some places and leaving its "mark" on the land "so that the settlers may hereafter know how much is claimed by it." Nor was the monster any respecter of places. Timber land, cultivated fields, and towns were treated precisely according to their altitude without regard to human safety or property rights. Red Rock, Eddyville, Ottumwa, Iowa-ville, Keosauqua and Farmington were all flooded. Not once but three times the angry Des Moines reached out of its normal channel to invade streets and dwelling places, leaving behind a smear of mud.

Roads, which were not good at best, were utterly impassable. Many of the bridges were out and the rope and hand-power ferries were useless. The settlers in the interior were shut off from the rest of the world. In a few weeks the supplies of food and other goods were in danger of being exhausted. Most of the mills could not grind because of the high water. Moreover, gardens had been destroyed and crops ruined by the flood.

In this emergency, four men at Fort Des Moines decided to go to St. Louis for a steamboat load of supplies. If the flood closed the ordinary routes of transportation it also provided a navigable waterway. Though the trip was dangerous, the enterprise promised big profits.

It was a cloudy morning in June when J. M. Griffith, W. T. Marvin, Peter Myers and Hoyt Sherman "started on their perilous journey of 170 miles to the Mississippi, without chart or guide, in a rough, flat-bottomed skiff made out of native lumber. Probably they still hold the row-boat speed record from Des Moines to Keokuk, for they arrived in a little less than four days.

Carried along by the swift current, their chief task was to keep in the main channel and avoid snags. About noon of the second day they reached Eddyville, where they rowed up to the hotel and ate a hearty dinner on the second floor. At Ottumwa "every store, warehouse and residence on the low ground was partially submerged." On down the river went the boatmen making a holiday lark of their trip. At Keosauqua, Bonaparte, Farmington and Croton, they found families homeless, streets changed to canals, and merchants selling groceries and gingham from the top shelves.

Having bought a load of flour and other provisions at St. Louis, they hired the steamboat "Kentucky" to deliver it. At Bonaparte, however, the boat met its Waterloo by getting stuck on the dam. Determined to deliver their freight by water, which indeed was the only possible way, the adventurers returned to St. Louis and got the "Caleb Cope" to brave the raging Des Moines. This steamboat passed the dam safely and, coping successfully with other difficulties, arrived at Fort Des Moines on July 5. Though the river had returned to its banks by that time, the people at the little settlement, which was to become the capital of Iowa, welcomed the steamer and the much-needed provisions it brought.

—THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION—

Devil's Creek Flood of 1905 One of Greatest of All-Time

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1947

Heavy rainfalls and raging floods caused millions of dollars in damage to Iowa urban and rural property during June of 1947. Glaring newspaper headlines held Iowans transfixed as they read of thousands of their fellow-citizens left homeless by devastating floods that carried priceless tons of rich black soil downstream to the Gulf. Ottumwa, Eddyville and Eldon on the Des Moines, Hamburg on the Nishnabotna, Iowa City and Oakville on the Iowa, Waverly, Waterloo and Cedar Rapids on the Cedar, Independence on the Wapsipinicon, Manchester and Maquoketa on the Maquoketa, are but a few of the towns and streams that made the headlines during June.

While superlatives were in constant use in 1947 as reporters described the June floods as the costliest, the most destructive, or as having reached the highest crest ever recorded, it may be well to look back historically at other great floods that deluged Iowaland. The great floods of 1844, 1851, 1858, 1881, 1903 and 1918, are classics, touching one or more of Iowa's great waterways. The devastation wrought by surging rivers in the above years formed an important subject for reflection by eye-witnesses.

Few Lives Lost.

It should be borne in mind that erection of industrial plants, extension of farm land, and changing property values must be considered in assessing the destructive results of floods. Thus, at Iowa City the flood of 1918 saw the Iowa River almost a foot higher than either June rise in 1947—but along the river in 1918 there was no Memorial Union, no University Theater, no Fine Arts Building, no Hawkeye Village, no Riverdale, and no costly fraternity houses, to suffer the ravages of the flood. The industrial development of Ottumwa along the Des Moines river during the past three decades makes it necessary to consider similar changes in widely scattered local scenes.

Widespread and devastating as have been the 1947 floods, the loss of lives has been relatively small. Certainly it does not compare with the tragedy which occurred at Rockdale in Dubuque county on the night of July 4, 1876, when 12-mile Catfish Creek rose to a height of fully twenty feet, swept homes and buildings away "like so many cockle shells," and accounted for the loss of thirty-nine lives. That floods of 1947 took only a fraction of the lives lost at Rockdale, is due in large measure, to newspaper and radio warnings and to better organized flood protection.

10 Inch Rain on Devils Creek.

Iowans may well pause and reflect on what may have happened on any of our swollen streams this year had they been struck by the ten-inch cloudburst which fell upon Devils Creek in Lee County on June 9, 1905. This little 21-mile

stream was instantly transformed into a raging torrent that discharged 85,800 cubic feet of water per second at its mouth compared with a maximum discharge of 97,000 cubic feet at Keosauqua on the Des Moines, the only Iowa river that has exceeded Devils Creek in maximum discharge. Devils Creek, on the other hand, discharged almost one hundred times as much water per square mile as the Des Moines when the areas of the basins of the two streams are considered. Small wonder that the Devils Creek flood of 1905, because of its immense run-off in second-foot per square mile, should rank

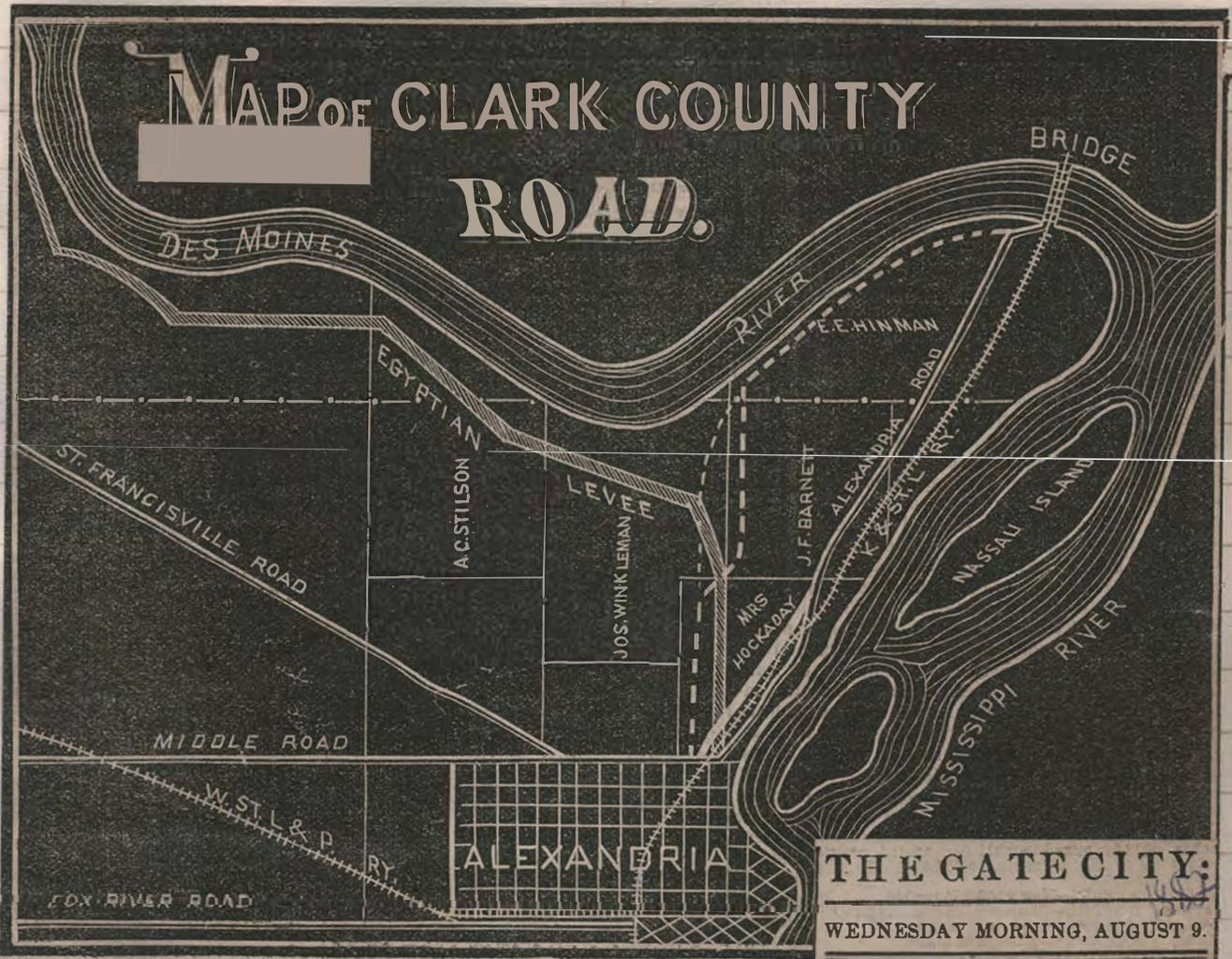
as one of the greatest hydrological phenomena in the United States. The rainfall of June 10, 1905, was among the heaviest for 24-hours ever recorded in the northern part of the United States. The Mississippi spread out almost ten miles wide in some places below Keokuk.

It is difficult to compare and contrast the high waters of 1947 with those of past years. In some places, record highs will doubtless be established whereas at other points the high waters of yesteryears will probably greatly eclipse the current floods. The extension of crop lands along the margins of creeks and streams during World War II and the demands for Iowa agricultural products in war-torn Europe have placed a premium on our farm production and made flood damages particularly high this year. XXX

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY

R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

164
2145 853-0300 1-800-820-3-30
WWW.CITYOFKEOKUK.IOWA.GOV



MISSOURI ROAD.

The Committee Traversed the Proposed Routes for the New Road Yesterday.

The City Engineer will Prepare Estimates at Once and the Committee will Report to the Citizens' Meeting Saturday Evening—Description of the Routes—Something Must be Done.

The committee appointed at the citizens' mass meeting to view and report upon the proposed Clark county, Missouri, wagon roads, went over the ground yesterday. They were accompanied by the city engineer—Frank Cole—John O'Blennis, and a GATE CITY reporter. The route taken was through the corn-fields along the banks of the Des Moines to the Winkleman farm, thence direct to Alexandria and home by way of the old Alexandria road. The trip consumed five hours' time. The return by the old Alexandria road was very disagreeable, owing to its bad condition.

The improvements made by filling the bad places with brush, has made this old road passable for an empty wagon, yet no man would desire to travel it oftener than he could help, and no one would be so foolish as to attempt to haul

a load over it. The merchants of Keokuk need not expect to secure any trade from Clark county until a new road from Alexandria is constructed, or the old one greatly improved. Sane men will not travel the present one. Let any merchant go over this road now and they will fully agree with us in this statement. True, it does not look right for citizens of Keokuk to be put to the expense of building a road into Missouri but the law of self preservation is imperative. The Missouri trade will come to Keokuk if it can get here, but if Keokuk waits until a proper road is built by the residents of Clark county the youngest of us will be gray-headed ere it is accomplished. The people along the line of the road cannot afford to build it above high water mark and the county officials will not do it. Communication must be had with the entire country and the only way to secure it is by the construction of this short piece of road. Keokuk has too much money in the Des Moines river bridge and road leading thereto, to stand idle when a small investment would turn the trade of Clark county from its present channels to Keokuk. The GATE CITY deems this enterprise so important that the map which appears at the head of this article was engraved for the special purpose of

showing the citizens of Keokuk the exact situation and to further inform them in reference to the proposed new route. The regular roads are designated by a white line, the new portion of the Alexandria route by a wide white line, the levee route by a dotted line and the levee route through Winkleman's land as first talked of by a light dotted line.

THE PROPOSED LEVEE ROAD.

This proposed road starts from the Missouri end of the Des Moines river bridge and follows the old road eighty rods and thence on up the river through Mr. Hinman's land one and a half miles to Mr. Winkleman's farm. The right of way will be donated to this point. The intention was to cut diagonally across Winkleman's land to the Egyptian levee, cross it and continue on south to Alexandria through Winkleman's and Mrs. Hockaday's land, but Mr. Winkleman refuses the right of way unless they run the road along the east and outside of the levee. Instead of going on Winkleman's land the road can be turned south through the timber on his line and strike the levee lower down. This would take it over the land of J. F. Barnett and Mrs. Hockaday, terminating at the same point as the other route. Barnett will give the right of way. Mrs. Hockaday will

charge \$30 an acre, or about \$100 for the land needed for either route. These two routes are both designated on the accompanying map. The entire length of this road from the bridge to where it forms a junction with the St. Francisville, Middle, and Fox river roads is 2½ miles. The St. Francisville road is thrown up or rather has a graded embankment for a distance of several miles from Alexandria, the Middle road seven miles and the Fox river road across the Fox river so that they are in traveling condition the year round.

According to the conditions to the subscriptions of Barnett and O'Blennis a perfect levee would have to be built from the bridge to the junction with the Egyptian levee. The top of this road would be eighteen feet in width with a slope of two feet to every foot in height. Some advocate building the levee and then a wagon road inside of it claiming that it would not answer to travel on the levee. Mr. O'Blennis went over this ground when the water was at its highest point last year. He measured the depth of the water at distances of one hundred feet. If his measurements were correct the average depth of water from the bridge to the Egyptian levee was about two feet. The high water of 1851 was some 15 inches over this so that it is claimed that the levee would have to be built nearly five feet high in order to cover Barnett's subscription. The committee thought four feet would answer. From the levee to Alexandria the road would need to be three feet high. On the upper side of the Winkleman farm the Des Moines river cut into its bank badly last year but the channel has changed this year and much of the current is passing down behind an island through a slough near John Loomis' place on the Iowa side. At this point the Egyptian Levee is immediately on the river bank, or in fact forms part of the bank. A half mile below Winkleman's at a point designated by a large elm tree the banks are caving and it is thought a dyke will have to be built there to change the channel. There is danger of the river cutting across the country three-fourths of a mile to the Mississippi and leaving the Des Moines river bridge spanning dry land. Some estimate the cost of this dyke at \$500, others at \$3,000, all guessing at it roughly. The C. B. & Q. are now building a dyke just above the bridge. An attempt will be made to interest them in the upper dyke. The Egyptian Levee is four or five feet higher than the adjoining lands, and is none too high. The soil on this route is of a sandy nature and will make a good road.

THE OLD ALEXANDRIA ROAD.

The distance from the bridge to Alexandria by the old road is about two and about one and five-eighths miles to the intersection of the roads leading out into Clark county. The road is on the west side of the C. B. & Q. railroad track for a mile below the bridge. From this point it is on the east side until near the Alexandria corporation limits where it again crosses to the west side. The track is crossed again in going to the business portion of Alexandria. It is now proposed to build this road entirely on the west side of the railroad track. This would require the construction of a little over a half mile of new road through Mrs. Hockaday's farm. The ground would cost about \$100. The road would terminate within 100 feet of the terminal point of the proposed levee road. It is further proposed to raise the entire road to high water mark. It is thought a raise of three feet would be sufficient. Some say five feet. The claim is made that this route is superior to the other from the fact that it is more direct—at least three-fourths of a mile shorter—and can be built for a great deal less money. The estimates when made will settle the latter point. There is no right of way to be procured. A few culverts would necessarily have to be built by this route. The new part of the road is designated on the map.

FIFTH STREET ROAD.

This road needs from \$700 to \$1,000 worth of work done at this end of the Des Moines river bridge. Some work must be done near Garmo & Humes' planing mill and from Taber & Co.'s saw mill to the C. R. I. & P. round house. The road along by Evans & Shepard's lumber yard is bad but it is being macadamized as rapidly as possible. Down below McGavic's saw mill a large quantity of pine wood is piled on the road.

THE COMMITTEE.

After viewing the route, yesterday, the committee were divided. Paul Hill, and Daugherty favored the old Alexandria road and Becker and Mason the proposed levee road. The city engineer favored the old road. The city engineer was ordered to prepare estimates for both routes. The members of the committee may change their opinions when the estimates are received. The city engineer will report to the committee Friday at 4 p. m. at the council rooms and the committee will report to the citizens' meeting at the council rooms Saturday evening. Part of the committee will favor building the best road possible even if money cannot be raised to build the entire road up to high water mark. It is

thought some money can be raised in Clark county. The projected road out to Jenkins' farm is abandoned. Some of the committee think the levee road must be kept in repair by Keokuk if built and for that reason oppose it. The road proposed through the Hagerman and Hagens farms to connect with the Fox river road can be built at anytime after the other road has been constructed. This road is intended to start from a point on the Middle road one-fourth of a mile west of the intersection of the Keokuk road with the three roads. It would be built by the people of Clark county if at all. These men propose to donate the land. It is thought Barnett and O'Blennis will contribute to the Alexandria road liberally if the committee should report in favor of it.

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

167

AVERY®
POLY-VU



THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

MONDAY, MAY 7, 1951

THAT A NEW ILLINOIS APPROACH TO THE KEOKUK MUNICIPAL BRIDGE, as proposed in a special bill before the Illinois legislature, is a No. 1 priority for the thousands of motorists using the bridge is clearly indicated in this picture which shows the curving dike road submerged under two or more feet of current-lashed water. With the river stage at 19.9 feet this morning, high water conditions have been maintained for the longest period in history and the dike has been taking its worst punishment on record, as an unprecedented volume of water pours through the

spillways of the dam and pounds directly against the dike. The bridge has been closed to traffic since April 26 and a long, expensive program of repair will be necessary before the road can be opened after the flood recedes. It is impossible to estimate the damage done so far but the chances are that most of the pavement has been washed away as well as much of the sub-grade. It is quite possible that the rock fill has also been severely damaged.

—Ingram Portrait Studio Photo

Mississippi Has Hit 20 Foot Mark Here Only 3 Times in 100 Years

What stage the Mississippi river will eventually reach when the piled up flood waters of its upper reaches pass by Keokuk cannot be conjectured at this time but in only three of the last 100 years has the level topped 20 feet here.

First was in 1851, listed as the high water mark of all time when the river reached 21.1 feet.

20.8 In 1944

In 1944 it hit 20.8, tearing out the levees in the Hunt Drainage district below Warsaw and flooding thousands of acres; and in 1947 it reached 20.2 twice during the month of June when Alexandria was in-

undated by broken levees along the Des Moines at St. Francisville.

Only seven times in 100 years has the river exceeded 19 feet here and in the period between 1923 to 1936 it failed to top 15 feet.

Lowest maximum ever recorded was 4.8 feet in 1895.

Just who observed the record 21.1 foot mark in 1851 has never been determined but the high water mark was cut into the sandstone of the old bullnose of the government canal just below the present lock.

15.5 Highest Last Year

In 1898 the elevation of that mark was determined by the Mississippi River Commission and has since been recognized as the maximum level of the river. Actual gauge readings go back only to 1868 and a high mark of 19.1 in 1858 was taken from the old newspaper files.

Since the disastrous flood of 1947 the river hasn't gone above 18.9 feet, a point reached in March of 1948. In March of 1949 it hit 13.3 and last June 20 reached 15.5.

Below is the table of maximum river stages here since 1851.

1851—21.1	1909—14.9
1858—19.1	1910—10.1
1868—14.8	1911—12.3
1869—14.9	1912—17.8
1870—16.5	1913—13.6
1871—12.2	1914—11.2
1872—12.1	1915—13.8
1873—12.4	1916—15.8
1874— 8.8	1917—14.9
1875—12.9	1918—16.7
1876—15.6	1919—17.2
1877—11.7	1920—16.7
1878— 6.8	1921— 9.8
1879— 8.5	1922—17.5
1880—17.5	1923—12
1881—18.9	1924—14
1882—15.9	1925—10.3
1883—15.4	1926—13.6
1884—16.8	1927—14.9
1885—15	1928—12.5
1886—16	1929—xxx
1887—13.2	1930—13
1888—19.6	1931—10.5
1889—10.8	1932—10.2
1890—12.8	1933—14.5
1891—11	1934— 7.9
1892—19.2	1935—13
1893—14.9	1936—12.3
1894—11.2	1937—16.1
1895— 4.8	1938—16.3
1896—11.9	1939—14
1897—18.4	1940— 6.3
1898— 9.2	1941—12.3
1899—12.3	1942—15.8
1900—13	1943—14.5
1901—11.2	1944—20.8
1902—15.5	1945—16.8
1903—19.7	1946—16
1904—12.8	1947—20.2
1905—18.6	1948—18.9
1906—xxx	1949—13.3
1907—14.6	1950—15.5
1908—15	

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

891



Visiting around Iowa

by Joe Marsh

Earthquakes Hit Iowa

What are Iowa's chances of having an earthquake?

Better than you think. In fact, we've had 17 earthquakes since 1848!

Lucky no lives were lost. But it wasn't all luck. Geologists say the thing that saved us was the heavy glacial drift that covers Iowa like a huge mantle. That acted as a shock absorber, prevented much damage.

Living here in Iowa, we have the benefit of shock absorbers in more ways than one. There's more "give and take" to our way of life. Our people go at a more

leisurely pace than they do in the big cities.

Maybe "moderation" is a good word for it. Moderation in our thoughts, opinions, prejudices, and habits is good for us . . . and our neighbors. It's one reason why after dinner, I lean toward a quiet glass of beer . . . the beverage of moderation. But if Ed prefers tea, or Bill coffee, I'll go along with them on those, too.

If we think moderately, act moderately, we will be happier, and so will those around us.

Joe Marsh

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1953

Joe Marsh, Copyrighted, U. S. Brewers Foundation

Mississippi River Runs Backward! Wait—It Happened 140 Years Ago!

By GROVER BRINKMAN
Central Press Correspondent

NEW MADRID, Mo.—One hundred and forty years ago—on the frightening night of Dec. 16, 1811—the greatest cataclysm ever registered in midwest history, occurred at the little river town of New Madrid, Mo., a pioneer village on the Mississippi bluffs.

The circuit riders had been predicting the end of the world for some time—and on this terrifying night the scattered villagers thought the dreaded moment had actually come.

Settlers inside their log cabins suddenly found themselves knocked out of their beds. Dishes came toppling out of cupboards, chimneys fell in and entire buildings disintegrated.

Outside, there were landslides and loud explosions as the earth suddenly belched forth sand, mud and water, and reeled topsy-turvy. People ran screaming into the night. Some of them suddenly disappeared, as huge cracks opened up and swallowed them. Terror had claimed the land.

When morning dawned, the stricken settlers saw something else to terrify them. *The Mississippi river was running backward!* Yesterday the current was flowing to the south; today it was reversed. The settlers and townspeople blinked their eyes and thought the devil was about to claim their land.

• • •
THEY were unaware at the time that they had just survived one of the worst earthquakes ever recorded in the midwest. That wasn't all. As soon as they got things cleaned up, and dishes back on the shelf, another quake came, and more havoc ensued. Then another—and another.

These quakes continued from mid-December in 1811 until March, 1812. A Kentucky historian, who kept the only known record of the event, charted no less than 1,874 separate earthquakes in the New Madrid area that winter. Three of the quakes were violent.



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7, 1951

The mighty Mississippi—it's running in right direction today.

Every settler's cabin in Illinois felt them. The tortured Mississippi constantly changed its course. New channels were formed and new banks cut. The quakes cracked walls in homes as far away as the Carolinas; stopped clocks in distant Boston, and tolled bells in Virginia.

Had the area been densely populated, as it is today, the death toll would have been terrific, and property damage tremendous. However, this was the day of the first pioneers.

Most of the area was virgin wilderness, still peopled by scattered tribes of plains Indians. As it was, part of the pioneer town of New Madrid slid into the river, people and all. Boats sank and were never heard from again.

Across the Mississippi, in Tennessee, a most unusual thing happened. Over a large area, the land sunk, trees and all. When it was all over, Tennessee had a new lake—a large one, too. Later it was named Reelfoot lake, in remem-

brance of a lame Cherokee chief who is said to have perished in the cataclysm.

The lake is still there today, lined with cypresses, and the hunting lodges of men who visit it annually to hunt migratory wildfowl.

The winter of quakes terrorized the people so much that their only thought was escape to safety. Even after the earth tremors subsided, no one wanted to settle in the area. Many years later, geologists came to the site and studied the landscape, to see just what had happened. They found that land over a space of 30,000 square miles had been lowered from six to 15 feet, while other areas had been raised similar heights.

Although no further quakes of a damaging nature were recorded in the area, Indians maintained that a similar quake had taken place more than a hundred years previously, killing many of their people, and changing the course of the great river.

“THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY”
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

170

2116 N. 30th St. Keokuk, Iowa 52801
www.c-globe.com

Ice Gorges On Mississippi Caused Havoc in Early Days

TUESDAY, FEB. 8, 1955
By PEARL GORDON VESTAL

The power of wind, the power of water, the great forces of wind and water combined in the fury of a storm, these we read about often, as they are set down in history and carried along in our daily newspapers of the current age. But do we think, as often, of the power of ice as water solidifies, or of the force of ice blocks piling up in heaps, forming ridges, with ice masses pushing each other, lifting boats, shoving against the shore?

Lee county's history, published in 1879, tells of a great ice gorge at Keokuk in the unusually severe winter of 1832. When a sudden rise in the Mississippi broke up the ice sheet, said to have been 34 inches thick, "it was piled to such a height that the trees on the opposite bluff could not be seen by a person standing on the Pucketchuck levee." That was the Indian name for what became Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa.

Lead is Buried.

What was the result when the force of this ice was turned against the Iowa river front? "Five thousand pigs of lead, piled on the shore near Campbell & Brishnell's warehouse, were buried in the mud by the weight of the ice and not recovered until the next June. Their storehouse was partially turned over, and all the houses on

the levee more or less injured."

Picture the havoc in your "mind's eye," for "400 cords of wood were carried away from the levee, where the C. R. I. & P. depot now stands, and entirely lost. The keelboat Ophelia, belonging to Isaac R. Campbell, was lifted to an angle of 45 degrees, and remained in that condition until the ice melted. An elm tree, three feet in diameter, standing in front of Smith's log grocery, was cut half off by the ice. The water rose 14 feet in one hour, and an iron bridge, such as now spans the river at this point, would have been swept away by the immense weight."

30 Feet in Height.

About 20 years later, in 1843 or 1844, the story was repeated, when "the ice piled up as high as 30 feet. It broke the moorings of the steamer Settler Otter, and played all sorts of fantastic tricks with the boats and houses that came its way. The force and weight of the ice were irresistible and terrible to behold."

Across the way, on the Des Moines river, were the pioneer settlers who were founding what became St. Francisville in Clark county, Missouri. The history of that county also mentions the great ice gorge, this one being on this

tributary to the old "Father of Waters." The severe winter of 1832, with its dam of ice and consequent flood, is said to have carried away the first log cabin that the pioneer, Jeremiah Wayland, built upon the flat. The family escaped and their later home was prudently set upon higher land, not so near to the fluctuations of the Des Moines.

Nauvoo Gorge.

Even as late as 1834, as set forth in the Nauvoo Independent of March 1, ice was using its force to the disadvantage of the works of man. "The city waterworks was forced to close down Sunday morning and remained closed down until Tuesday morning, owing to the extremely low stage of the river at this point. The water level had been lowered at the Keokuk dam, due to ice pressure. The intake pipe at the pumping station was out of the water and the fire engine was taken out on the ice to pump water into the big well, so that water could be pumped to the standpipe. After pumping all morning, the vibration and heat caused the truck to break through the ice into about three feet of water. It was removed with difficulty."

Another of the Nauvoo stories had come out on March 16, 1904, in the Nauvoo Independent. "The City of Nauvoo is partly sunk in her winter quarters at the Dundey Island. During the recent rise in the river a lot of ice formed under the boat, and when the water went down, the boat rested on the ice, letting one side down, permitting water to flow into the hull."

Constitution-Democrat.

CONG. MAY 25, 1892.

AN OLD FLOOD.

Water in the Mississippi Higher in 1844 Than Now.

The present flood is the great topic just now and it will be interesting to read from the scrap book of Captain J. W. Campbell, of Fort Madison, about a flood on the Mississippi which occurred in 1844, nearly half a century ago. The extract from the scrap book is as follows and shows that the present high stage of water at St. Louis is several feet lower than the flood at 1844 described in the article given below:

During the time the Mermaid was engaged in getting what the captain thought would be a paying trip she lay snugly moored at the mouth of Washington avenue with her broad side resting against the stone building with the sign of "J. & E. Walsh, Wholesale Grocers," upon it. The water, if I remember correctly, had risen over the floor in the second story, and while in getting to and from our boat we had made cribs of cord-wood upon which our gang-way planks extended half way from where we lay to Commercial street, and during the time we occupied this position the steamer Iola, a small stern wheel boat, commanded by James Lusk, was running as an excursion packet across the American bottom to the Illinois bluffs, five miles distant, and landed alongside of the Mermaid

that her sight seems might pass to and from the boat to shore.

On the following day at 10 o'clock the Mermaid started up the river against a current almost impossible to stem, while at the same time its surface was almost black with drift-wood, to avoid which we crossed over to the trees that bordered the Illinois shore above Bloody island. While running up the shore we looked backward at the proud old French village of St. Louis with her frontage submerged in water, and thought a second deluge had surely come. In ascending the shore to the mouth of Chouteau slough, which empties into the Mississippi river from Illinois, opposite, or but a short distance above Bissel's point, now North St. Louis, where the great Merchant's bridge crosses the river, our pilot decided to give us an opportunity to see the rural districts, and our boat now headed into this narrow, crooked slough, which we followed twelve miles, coming out into the main river at the lower edge of the antiquated town of Madison, Ill.

On arriving at the foot of Gillum's bend above Madison I was directed to hold the boat to the right of an island six miles distant, immediately opposite the mouth of the Missouri river, and on passing it we were in plain view of the stone bluffs, upon the lower end of which is located the city of Alton. We were all rejoiced to see terra firma no more, as we had passed through a vast sea of water since leaving St. Louis. In landing at Alton my tutor relieved me from duty, which ended my first lesson as cub pilot.

On the following day as the boat passed up the river, I observed that all the villages located in the first bottom lands were submerged in water. In and around Marion City, for which hopes had been entertained by the proprietors, Muldrow & McKee, as early as 1833 of making it the Philadelphia of the west, were presented an unfavorable prospect, as the water was up to the second story of every house in the place.

While these gentlemen's attempt to found a great city here and build a railroad to the Pacific coast proved abortive (for not a single house occupies the former site) the senior member of the firm, Colonel William Muldrow, has been immortalized by Mark Twain, his neighbor, and will live in history as Col. Sellers while the waters flow past this deserted spot.

Our boat made a short stop at Quincy, then pulled out again to pass through another lake of water extending ten miles from bluff to bluff, where it converged on the Missouri side at Lagrange. From here all was again under water as before. While passing Alexandria, the metropolis of my native land, a feeling of sadness came o'er me as I saw a number of pigs clinging to the combs of the submerged houses, and by the waves of our boat they were rolled back and forth and piggy had to "sink or swim" the antipode of "root, hog, or die," a true illustration of my own condition when I embarked from there three weeks before.

172

It's Chilly Today, But Just 16 Years Ago Keokuk Baked at 118 Degrees

It was a chilly 59 this morning, the 16th anniversary of the hottest day ever recorded in Keokuk, and if the forecast is correct another new record may be established in the opposite direction tonight.

The weatherman says that the temperature tonight may reach 55 degrees, the coldest July 20 on record reached 56.

Unofficial Reading.

At the other end of the scale, the highest temperature ever reached in Keokuk, and for all of Iowa as a matter of fact, was the 118 degrees registered by a thermometer at the cooperative station of the late J. N. D. Dickinson on Grand Avenue, July 20, 1934.

The official U. S. Weather bureau reading on that date was 110.3 degrees and 110 the day before.

Record is 113.

Officially, the highest temperature in the history of the weather bureau here was 113 degrees on July 15, 1936, and those who can recall July of that year probably wouldn't swap any part of the current cold and wet weather for the terrific heat which prevailed 14 years ago.

Starting on July 4, 1936, the mercury topped 100 degrees for 14 successive days and for 16 there wasn't

a trace of rain. An excess of more than 220 degrees of heat was piled up during that period at a rate of 14 degrees a day.

14 Torrid Days.

It was 108 on July 4 and the maxima continued at 105, 102, 103, 102, 102, 105, 105, 107, 110, 110, 113, 100, 102 before cooling off to 90 on July 18 and 95 on July 19.

During that period the waterworks was pumping 500,000 more gallons a day than ever before in its history and its patrons were using more than two million gallons a day. The fire department set up sprinklers for the children so as to cool them off before bedtime and sleeping adults were scattered over lawns and parks. New record volumes of business were established by both the ice and soda water manufacturers.

River Almost Dry.

The Mississippi river, which now

is running at a stage of 7.6, reached a low mark of six-tenths below the zero mark, three towboats were hung up on sandbars in this area and others suspended operations.

All of that was in July of 1936. This year the month has produced 4.26 inches of rainfall with another half inch falling yesterday and last night. The forecast calls for additional showers and thundershowers tomorrow.

River to Rise.

Clinton had 1.88 inches last night, Madison, Wis., 3.69. Watertown 3.56, Rockford 1.40. Dubuque, an inch, Davenport .34, Quincy, .57, Hannibal, .22, Freeport, .96 and Lone Rock, .89.

The Mississippi rose another seven tenths of a foot yesterday to a stage of 7.6 feet this morning and will continue to rise slowly for the next two days. The rise at Davenport yesterday was a half foot and at Keithsburg three-tenths. The Des Moines rose three-tenths at Ottumwa but was stationary at Des Moines.

Want to Cool Off?—
Think Back to July of 1936
Keokuk's Hottest on Record

The Keokuk Gate City and Constitution Democrat
FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1953

So you think it's hot? Well, it probably is but only in a relative fashion.

Remember July of 1936? If you were around then you'd call this a comfortable month.

Average of 99.

The average and the mean was 87, 10 degrees above normal—both all time records for Keokuk.

Highest temperature ever recorded in Keokuk came in that month, 113 degrees on July 15, beating by three degrees the previous high of 110 recorded in August of 1934.

14 Days of 100 in Row.

There were 18 days on which the temperature soared to 100 or better and 14 of these followed right on each other's heels from July 4 through 17. Here they are:

- July 4—108.
- July 5—105.
- July 6—102.
- July 7—103.
- July 8—102.
- July 9—102.
- July 10—105.
- July 11—105.
- July 12—107.
- July 13—107.
- July 14—110.
- July 15—113.

July 16—100.
 July 17—102.

It cooled off to the upper 90's for a few days then came: July 23 with 100, July 25 with 107, July 26, 105, and July 27, 106.

Only .01 Inch of Rain.

The minimum temperature on July 26 was a sleep defying 87, the hottest night on record since an August night in 1873 when it got no cooler than 89.

Coupled with the unprecedented heat was an almost complete absence of rainfall, only 0.01 of an inch, the lowest on record. It increased the 1936 deficiency since January 1 to 9.76 inches and the entire landscape was burned up. Early corn was a total loss and late corn made only 10 to 15 per cent of a crop.

The river during that month had an average level of minus 0.4 and fell as low as minus 1.2 feet, causing much of the traffic to stop.

Also Hot in 1901.

Another sizzling July occurred in 1901 when the average maximum was 96.7 degrees and on only five days during the month did the temperature fail to reach the 90's.

July 4 saw a reading of 103 and from the 9th to the 12th the temperature was 102, 105, 104, 102. Then came July 20 with 103, July 21, 107, July 22, 108, July 23, 108 and July 25, 105.

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
 R. J. BICKEL, KEOKUK, IOWA

271/16 465023 + 688-820-3150
 WWW.CITYOFKEOKUK.IA.GOV

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MARCH 8, 1885.
WASTEFUL WATERS.

The Clark County Bottom Lands Flooded—
Railroad Tracks Under Water and Bridges
Out of Line—Families Driven from Home
—Ice Gorges.

The situation at the mouth of the Des Moines was more alarming yesterday than at the last report given by the GATE CITY. A huge ice gorge formed a few miles above the bridge, and in the afternoon the water broke over the Egyptian Levee again and swept with a rush over the bottom lands. The frozen condition of the ground prevents heavy washing. It was impossible to hear from the flooded tracts of lands and the damage if any sustained is unknown. At St. Francisville people were driven from their homes. Before the gorge broke the water rose rapidly and submerged the adjacent shore lands for a number of miles up stream. The Rock Island has four miles of track under water above the Sugar Creek bridge. Two small bridges are in bad shape near the Connable farm and the iron bridge over Sugar Creek has been damaged. Large blocks of ice were carried up onto the track at several points. An exploring party took a hand car to try and see the extent of the waters waste on this line but had not gone far when they decided discretion to be the better part of valor and gave up the attempt. The gorge had broken before this and the ice was running. It was an imposing but frightful sight. Huge masses of ice rolled and tossed by the turgid stream seemed bearing down upon them with the fell purpose of destruction. No trains were sent out on the Rock Island track in the evening. The passenger left by way of Donnellson and Farmington using the North Road and the C. B. & K. C. lines. The Wabash went the same route on to Sedan. The Keokuk and St. Louis line had two feet of water on its track above Alexandria all the afternoon, but at night it was in better shape. Trains were sent from Quincy through to Burlington on the C. B. & Q. in Illinois. It is thought that both the Rock Island and the St. Louis tracks both be repaired today, and that trains will be running Monday. If not the present arrangements will be continued. There is no trouble at Alexandria yet, but the bottom lands back of the town are flooded. The place where the levee broke is about three and a half miles above Alexandria. The break is at the same place that caved into the river several years ago. The Des Moines river bridge was all right last night at midnight. The ice was piled up near-

ly as high as on the previous day. It is feared that a repetition of gorges may follow and a heavy one like that above Saturday would be likely to tear it out. At Eddyville a gorge fifteen feet high and five miles long was reported. The bulk of the water at this point cuts across the country and flows back into the main river by way of the Muchakinoek Creek. As some of the Rock Island officials were passing the Kennedy farm a few miles above the mouth of the Des Moines they noticed a flag of distress floating in the breeze. Mrs. Mary Kennedy occupied the house alone. The train was stopped at the bridge and people there notified. At 8 o'clock at night Mr. Miller and three other gentlemen started to the rescue with a skiff. They were joined by others while on the way. The house is situated a half mile from the railroad and was entirely surrounded by water and huge cakes of ice. The rescuing party found the task a difficult one but it was successfully accomplished. The woman was badly frightened. She was taken to a neighbor's. The party returned at 11 o'clock. These men report that so far as their vision extended across the river into Missouri that a perfect sea of ice appeared to cover the bottom lands. The water was up to the tops of corn-stalks still standing in the fields. In their opinion stock and fences, if not the houses, must have suffered by the rush of water.

At night such a scene would appear more terrible than in daylight and is probably not as bad as reported.

WAYLAND SPECIAL.

WAYLAND, Mo., March 7.—Special to the Gate City.—Des Moines river gorged four miles east of St. Francisville and water higher there than since 1851, some families having to move out last night. The river was a little on the decline at 2 p. m. No other damage yet.

Later—The Des Moines river is reported running over the levee for miles, and covering the bottom with water fast. All families that can are coming out. Great loss is expected to stock and property before morning. The water is running over the railroad track for three miles between Sand Ridge and Alexandria.

THE DAILY GATE CITY.

MARCH 10, 1885.
BROKEN LEVEES.

The Town of Alexandria Flooded—A Tour
of Inspection—Live Stock on Straw Stacks
—The Condition of the Levees—Fences
Swept Away.

Sunday a great many Keokuk people walked to the Des Moines river bridge

to see the condition of affairs. This is not a good point of observation. The ice gorges causing the overflow of the Alexandria bottom were several miles above. The prospect Monday was for better things. The water fell a little. John O'Blennis, of Buena Vista, made the first tour of the flooded district. Monday morning he went by skiff to Alexandria and found the town inundated. There is three feet of water over the greater portion of the place. He stepped from his skiff into the post-office door. The inhabitants were happy and taking a good natured view of the flooded tide of affairs. There was twenty inches of water on the K. & St. L. track but this did not interfere with the running of trains. The water coming from the Des Moines across the bottom struck the levee at Alexandria in the rear and for 2,000 feet it was damaged. Over half of the levee for this distance fell into the Mississippi. The Wabash track is still under water. Rock was being taken out to repair a bridge and trains will probably be running to-day. Mr. O'Blennis followed the Egyptian Levee for seven miles. At the Kaefer farm, at the upper end, the levee is washed out complete for 200 feet and the water pouring over it for one thousand feet. Water was running over the top of the levee at a great many points and the fall caused a roaring sound like water going over a mill-dam. The ice in the Des Moines was piled up above and on the levee in many places from one to five feet. Farmers fear another gorge. He found about twenty-five families along the levee who were moving out as rapidly as possible. A Mrs Kaefer became so badly frightened when the levee first broke that she waded through water up to her shoulders. Mrs. Kaefer was in a delicate condition and fears are entertained for her recovery. Bunches of horses and other live stock were seen on the tops of straw stacks. There is at least three feet of water on the average all over the bottom. A great deal of ice was carried over the levee but it did not move far, lodging in the woods and high places.

Dr. Geo. W. Jenkins of this city owns a large farm a few miles above the bridge. He says the water is higher now than for fifteen years. His farm is entirely covered which is the first time within his knowledge. The buildings are all right. He will lose a mile of fence, perhaps. Whether fall wheat will be damaged depends upon the amount of sediment deposited. This sediment, however, is better than manure for the land. The loss will be heaviest in the way of fences swept away, he thinks.

There are not a great many houses flooded. In the Alexandria bottom the farmers in building put houses

and barns above the high water mark of 1851. Their farms can be completely flooded and the houses still be free from water. The water now covers a space seven miles wide and down to the Fox river. The Mississippi is open pretty near to Hannibal. The ice is still solid here.

THE DAILY GATE CITY. MARCH 7, 1885. FLOODED LANDS

The Gorge in the Des Moines River.

The Egyptian Levee Broken—The Pittsburgh Bridge a Total Loss—Damage at Eddyville, Bonaparte, Keosauqua and Bentonsporte—Driven from Home.

The ice in the Des Moines river in breaking up caused loss from Eddyville to its mouth and the danger is not passed. From Buena Vista to Des Moines, Iowa, ice was running Thursday and Thursday night and heavy gorges formed at various points. Friday evening the river was virtually clear of ice from Ottumwa to Des Moines but the lower end was in worse shape than ever. A span of the Central Iowa railroad bridge at Eddyville was torn out and the Pittsburgh wagon bridge four miles above Keosauqua, which cost \$33,000 a little over a year ago, is nearly a total wreck. Four spans and three piers were carried away by the gorged ice. A small hole was washed in the Iowa side of the dam at Bonaparte, Iowa. It is the property of Meek Bros. At Bentonsport one pier was slightly damaged. Ottumwa reported the stage of water to be six feet above low mark and that a heavy gorge had formed above town. The lower part of the village of Keosauqua was flooded. The gorge at Cliffland broke Thursday night. All day Friday it was feared that the railroad and wagon bridge at the mouth of the Des Moines would be carried away. The gorge extended up stream for fifteen or twenty miles. The river rose rapidly in the preceding night and the ice which has a jagged level surface was up to the top of the piers and in places touched the bridge proper. At noon the water began to recede and at night a fall of three feet was reported. The bridge withstood the pressure of the heavy gorge but the danger is not entirely passed. The Mississippi ice is still seemingly as solid as a rock and from twenty to twenty-four inches thick. It prevents the ice from running out of the Des Moines, and is likely to hold the gorge at the mouth for some time. The receding of the water will be a blessing to the farmers on the bottom

lands in Clark county. While no one could make a personal investigation, yet the report that the Egyptian levee had broken was generally credited. Missouri people claimed that a strong current was sweeping over it in places, and that all the low lands were flooded. This is the case outside of the levee. The house of L. L. O'Blenis, south of the Des Moines river bridge, is still high and dry. His neighbors did not fare as well. C. Frank and Thos. Carter, and their families, were driven from home by the encroachment of the water and were kindly sheltered by Mr. O'Blenis. There are two families living in the Connable and Birge tract of land. One of the houses is a two-story and the other, one-story. The tenants are Mr. Crow and Thos. Lemley. Both families now occupy the upper part of the two-story house. On the Iowa shore a few miles above the bridge there are three houses entirely surrounded by water and ice. Two of the houses are not occupied. The Dan Kennedy family live in the other and are in no danger. The dyke improvements to the Egyptian levee at the Newton farm, costing \$1,000 or \$1,500, have been entirely swept away. Sugar Creek is over its banks at the mouth, probably caused by back water from the Des Moines. Farming lands adjacent to the latter stream on the Iowa shore are flooded in many places. Copeland's ice house is in the center of a field of ice and water and the road at this end of the bridge is submerged. The Keokuk and St. Louis line had two small bridges out of line this side of Alexandria, but trains crossed last night. The company has men at work repairing the damage and expect to have the road open to-day. The Wabash did not send trains west. There was but little overflow at Alexandria but the low ground back of town is filling up gradually. This is behind the levee. February 16th, 1883, when the ice took out a part of the Des Moines river bridge the water was higher than at present. A GATE CITY representative and several citizens, through the courtesy of the officials, took passage on a Rock Island engine and inspected the ice gorge from the mouth to the upper Yellow Banks. The Rock Island track could stand several feet of a raise without interfering with trains. The gorged ice is quite thick and in large cakes at the mouth but a few miles above appears to be broken up in small pieces. The ice still coming from above might play the very mischief yet.

The streams in the northern part of Lee county are swollen, and travel by team is difficult. A letter received by Hamill & Co. from Will Huxley states that he and J. R. Anderson came near being drowned Thursday. Huxley lost his samples and Anderson had his dam-

aged. The letter was written at Salem.

KEOSAUQUA, IA., March 6, 1885.— [Special to Gate City.]—The ice in the Des Moines river at this place began to move yesterday afternoon and gorged below in the bend of the river and then broke and continued to move at intervals during the first part of the night. A heavy gorge formed about 2 o'clock this morning, which threw the ice and water over the lower part of our city. Between 2 and 3 o'clock the gorge above Pittsburgh came down with such force as to sweep away three of the piers and throw down four of the five spans of the wagon bridge which was put up two years ago this summer at a cost of \$35,000. Just how much the loss will be cannot be learned. There has been some fears as to one of the piers as it was laid in extremely cold weather, but that is the one standing. Good judges have pronounced the others to be as good work as was on the river. The trouble with those piers was that the bridge was some thirty feet above low water and at that point the bed rock is usually covered with about eighteen inches of water when the river is low and the pier being battered to some five feet at the top and the ice striking them about ten feet under the bridge, it was not strong enough to bear the great weight of ice. The fault lies in the masonry work being too light and not in the workmanship of the same.

THE DAILY GATE CITY. MARCH 12, 1885. THE ICE.

The Ice Moves in the Mississippi—The Des Moines River Flood—A General Break-up Imminent—Boat Talk—A Trip by Steamboat in 1846.

The ice bridge in the Mississippi was broken at the mouth of the Des Moines yesterday. It moved about 100 yards, leaving a clear sheet of water extending across the entire river and then gorged. The ice was reported as moving at La Grange and at Quincy the ferry boat is plying between the Illinois and Missouri shores. It is barely possible that to-day will bring a general break up in the Mississippi. The water is 12 feet 9 inches above low mark. The gorge broke in the Des Moines Wednesday and the ice moved for about twenty minutes. Another gorge formed. The water rose considerable at Alexandria, and a little at the bridge. There was no change of consequence in the general situation. The Rock Island train due here in the night did not arrive until 10:10 owing to trouble with the track at the Connable farm. The damage was repaired. The Wabash is running trains between Centerville

March 12, 1885 - pg #1
(The Ice)

The Des Moines

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

2346 #5058 1-688-880-3130
WWW.C-TIMEINFOOTR.COM

174

and Kahoka and freight trains to Keokuk via the C. B. & K. C.

THE DIAMOND JOE.

Diamond Joe Reynolds says his company will add no steamers to its lines this season, as he believes they have facilities enough for handling all the business they would receive. He predicts that the carrying business will be better this season than last, and says it could scarcely be worse. The down river trade will certainly be much better on account of the great quantities of grain stored along the river. The trade should be better whether a general revival of business takes place or not, because the merchants who made light purchases last season find their old stocks shop-worn and in need of replacing.

AT ST. LOUIS.

The Mississippi river at St. Louis has presented some peculiar features this winter. At no time has the stage been below 7 feet, and at one time during January, 22 feet above low water mark was recorded. This, too, in the face of the fact that the temperature at the time was several degrees below zero. The most rapid rise during the winter so far was in January, when the swell aggregated 11 feet in less than half that number of days. This was principally the result of heavy rains along the Osage and Gasconade rivers, nevertheless it was remarkable for the winter season. With the exception of the early part of February when there was a fall of 3 feet in twenty-four hours, the decline was decidedly slow, which may also be considered remarkable after the intense cold weather, and also from the fact that the river during the average winter falls with great rapidity, and especially is this so when the temperature falls below 20 degrees.

—THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION—

Winters Were Different Then— FEB. 13, 1950

Keokuk Once was Natural Ice Center For Midwestern Cities

During a winter like this you couldn't cut enough ice on Lake Keokuk to supply the needs of Sandusky but time was—back in the 90's—when more than 76,500 tons of natural ice was harvested here, much of it for shipment for as far away as St. Louis.

The old government canal with its protected and unvarying level of water made Keokuk an ice production center because it was not dependent upon the vagaries of the Mississippi.

Hundreds Employed

All winter long, or at least during the cold snaps, hundreds of men found employment on the ice fields and in the warehouses of the local dealers, as well as on crews helping load shipments for other places.

It has been so long since ice has been cut here, that few know anything about how it was harvested with large crews of men and many horses on the job in zero weather. The first thing an ice dealer had to do was to pre-empt or stake off a field on the canal, thus giving him the sole right to operate on that particular section. Trespassing was strictly forbidden and some bitter litigation arose at different times as to the ice rights.

Snow Scraped Off

When the ice was frozen to a depth of nine or 10 inches, actual work started. The snow slush and porous ice was carefully scraped off by means of a weighted scraper drawn by a team of horses. The clear, smooth ice was then marked out into squares of six feet by a marker run both lengthwise and crosswise of the field.

Along these lines the ice was grooved to a depth of about three inches by means of a plow, an instrument like a harrow was then drawn over the grooves so as to deepen them and the surface divided into smaller squares of 18 inch dimensions by the same process used in making the larger squares.

Saw By Hand

The ice was then sawed transversely by hand saws, much like a common, one-man cross-cut, and then broken by spuds or ice forks into strips 18 inches wide by 15 or 20 feet long. Prior to this a clear passage in the water had been cut and opened from the ice fields to a chute on the bank. Men stationed along this passage at a distance of 50 yards apart floated the cut ice to the chute, guiding its movement by means of grappling hooks and forks.

At the foot of the inclined chute, a number of men were ready to push 12 or 15 blocks of ice part way up where it would be grappled by a hook having a handle like a plough. It was then drawn up to a platform by horse power.

If the ice were for local packing it would be loaded from the platform to wagons and hauled to the many ice houses around the

city. Since the men on the wagons were paid so much a load, they did not loiter on the way but hustled back and forth for all they were worth in a spirit of rivalry and excitement.

Mississippi Biggest Company

If the ice were destined for shipment, it would be pushed along the platform until it reached the door of a box car and then loaded.

The largest shipper of ice in the '90's was the Mississippi Ice and Coal Co. which had only a wholesale business and shipped to St. Louis, Moulton, Bloomfield, Hannibal, Clarksville, Mo. and nearly all points on the lines of the C. B. and K. C., H. and St. Joe and the K. line.

It was not uncommon for this company alone to ship more than 20,000 tons. Coey and Co. the pork packers cut its own ice and usually packed 17,000 tons in its ice house south of the city. Others cutting ice here in those days included Mr. Hall of Creston. Mr. Becker of St. Louis, S. P. Pond and Co. for its butter and egg business, the Keokuk Poultry Co., Pechstein and Nagel and Leisey Brewing companies, George S. Tucker, McManus and Tucker, Hotel Keokuk, McGrath Bros. and City Drug stores, John L. Pelgin the confectioner and M. J. Faraher, local dealer.

76,415 Tons

In 1898 the total cut here amounted to more than 76,415 tons. During the summer months local dealers sold the ice for 35 cents a hundred and at that price the harvest would figure out as a \$535,500 in those days when a dollar was all silver and a yard wide.

Artificial ice was coming into prominence in those days but at that time Keokuk furnished more of the natural product than any other city within a radius of several hundred miles.

175

AVERY®
POLY-VU

March 12, 1885 - pg 2
(The Ice)

See Becker 1885

Open Water Attracts Largest Accumulation of Eagles in U. S.

For six years Keokuk and its neighbors have been irreproachable hosts to the famous bald eagles which have chosen cottonwood trees on the river banks near the dam for their midwinter home.

But last week the record was broken. Someone drove over the bridge, hauled out a firearm and blasted. He missed.

Men working on the bridge did their best to get to a phone quickly to have the car stopped, but the trigger happy culprit escaped.

Had he been caught, he could have faced a \$500 fine and a year's imprisonment.

The bald eagle, a glorified type of buzzard and the national symbol of the United States, is protected both in Canada and the United States under the federal migratory bird law.

Dr. Musselman Explains

Informing The Daily Gate City of the gist of the law was Dr. T. E. Musselman of the Gem City Business college, Quincy, Ill. He is nationally recognized for his knowledge and love of birds.

Keokuk, he said, has "the largest accumulation of bald eagles in the United States and it is a shame that anyone in the community should

harass these fine birds."

Further, in a letter to The Daily Gate City, Doctor Musselman said:

Here in Packing Days

"Eagles have always been numerous in the vicinity of Keokuk. I have a clipping taken from an old Warsaw paper written about 1878 which tells of the great birds dropping onto the river to retrieve great chunks of bone and flesh which were thrown into the river by the pork packing houses south of Keokuk. Many of the carcasses floated to the very edge of the river and on to the sand bars where the eagles would feast on the flesh. They normally feed on dead fish as the bird really is a buzzard."

"As years passed and the price of

pork advanced, less good meat was dropped into the river, but with the erection of the dam, (there was) created the first open winter pool of water south of Canada.

Eat Dead Fish

"During each December and January fish which are killed by the turbines, float into the turbulent water where they are picked up by the gulls and dragged on to the ice. The eagles then drop down and capture the fish and often have to fight it out with crows to get all of the flesh . . ."

"Your community should be very proud of this accumulation of eagles, as there is nothing like it anywhere else in the United States."

Doctor Musselman has given considerable publicity to Keokuk's eagles in scientific papers, and he says:

Suggests Posting Signs

"I am sure you would be surprised if you knew the number of people who route their travels via Keokuk during the month of December and January in order to see this accumulation of birds."

Doctor Musselman also thought it would "be fine" if one of the service clubs of Keokuk could be encouraged to erect signs stating that the American bald eagle is abundantly located below the dam and that there is a \$500 fine and one year penitentiary penalty for killing the bird."

Now That Winter's Here --

Keokuk Becomes Fishing Resort For Many Bald Eagle Visitors

(By DORRIS WELLS

HAMILTON, Ill.— Two of our winter visitors, the American Bald Eagles, were spotted near the Keokuk-Hamilton bridge as early as Dec. 1. Seven were seen Christmas morning on a trip across the dike and bridge from Hamilton to Keokuk.

A concentration of eagles, such as found during the winter in the river area between Hamilton and Keokuk, has become a rarity in the United States. At one time the Bald Eagle was numerous over the nation, and it was considered great sport to hunt them.

Two Sub-Species

There are two sub-species of the bird. The southern bald eagle nests along the southern Atlantic coast, and especially in Florida. Sometimes after the nesting season, they are found as far north as the gulf of the St. Lawrence. They are a little smaller than the northern sub-species which is found in northern Canada and in Alaska.

In spite of the fact that many bird authorities, including Dr. Roberts in his book "Birds of Minnesota," classify nearly all the United States bald eagles as being of the southern clan, there is still strong feeling on the part of Dr. T. E. Musselman of Quincy and others, that those found here are the large northern birds. Dr.

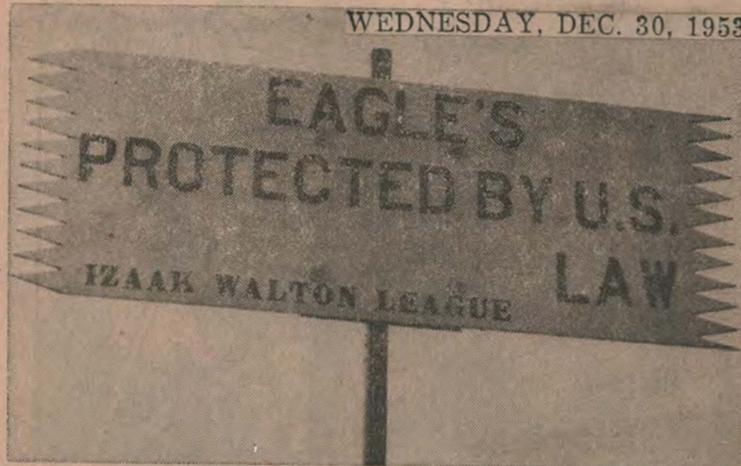
Roberts book states that a few of the northern variety winter in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Open Water Here

That supposition is based on the fact that during the winter months, the river just below the power house and dam is the first open water southward from Canada. Moreover, the motor boat fishing fleet, and the poles and lines around the dike road attest the excellence of the fishing area. More than three-fourths of an eagle's diet is fish, so what better winter resort could they find than

THE KEOKUK, IA., GATE CITY AND CONSTITUTION-DEMOCRAT

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 1953



right here?

Since 1940 the bald eagle has been protected in the United States. The eagle had been named the national emblem on June 20, 1782. The federal law provides a stiff fine of \$500 for anyone killing one of these majestic birds. However, there is no such protection in Canada and Alaska. Quite the contrary, in Alaska there is a \$2 bounty for eagles. This has resulted in the killing of hundreds of thousands there, while we protect our pitiful handful.

The Alaskan bounty is based on ideas proved false by wild-life ex-

Dec 30, 1953 - page #1

BALD EAGLES - 1

R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

176

177

AVERY® POLY-VU

Dec 30, 1953 - page #2

meath

perts. The eagles are not killers of Alaskan salmon, nor are they significant marauders upon the fur farming industry of the north. The truth is, the eagle is a valuable scavenger. Most of its fish are either found dead, or are bullied away from the gulls.

Here In Packing Days

One interesting theory has been advanced that the eagles first began to congregate here at the rapids in

the middle 1800's to feed of the offal which was customarily thrown into the river by the then-thriving pork packers of Keokuk.

As many as 68 eagles have been counted below the dam in past years by retired Power Company manager, L. E. Dickinson. Christmas Day of 1951 gave a count of 36 different eagles spotted from a car in one trip between Hamilton and Keokuk.

That same holiday season of 1951 saw attempts by a top-notch National Geographic photographer to picture a number of eagles feeding together on the rocks. With the help of Dr. T. E. Musselman a stretch of the river bed was baited for several days with fish heads. A blind for the camera man was made of chunks

of river ice. But on the important day, a government request came through to raise the water level below the dam—ice blind, and eagle dinner table were washed away.

Reach Louisiana, Mo.

As the river ice breaks up, some of our eagles have been spotted as far south of Louisiana, Missouri by Dr. Musselman, before heading north (?) again. The eagles seen with dark heads here are young ones. It is only the mature one who possess the magnificent head of white feathers. The word "bald" once meant white.

The Hamilton high school science department possesses two mounted eagles. They are evidently from the pre-protection days, since no one is quite clear as to when they were acquired, or how. One is mounted as on a rock with wide spread wings. The other is at rest with folded wings, on a tree limb, as they are so often seen along the dike road.

A few years ago the Isaac Walton League of Keokuk erected a sign along the dike which points out the fact that the eagles are protected by federal law. But so rare have these great birds become as wild

life that the sign has taken on entirely different meaning to some, as they ask: "Why should the Eagles need more protection by the U. S.

government than any other fraternal ord -?"

Not being a National Geographic photographer with an ice blind built to fit, I nevertheless took some very creditable eagle pictures about the same time he was here incognito. First, I proved it is possible to get eagle pictures from a car window on the dike road. However, distances are too great for the eagle to be much more than recognized.

However with school authorities in a trusting mood; and with judicious use of a vacuum cleaner to remove dust; wonders can be performed. The neighborhood provided a suitable tree for an eagle perch. A son provided hidden support; and presto, there was a picture of an eagle as so often seen perched in a tree along the dike! Patriotic youngsters also insisted on picturing the eagle, which was soon a neighborhood "pet", with the Stars and Stripes.

The picture of the sign was taken by Roy Vestal of Hamilton.



BALD EAGLES - 2

Back in 1894 the Drought Lasted Sixty-three Days---Driest in '01

Some Interesting Records on Dry Spells Show That This One is Like the Record Breakers of the Past.

For those people who like to read about heat and drought there are some interesting figures available in the records of the weather bureau, which Arthur H. Christensen, local meteorologist, turns to, when people talk about heat waves and dry spells.

This year there have been thirty-eight days since the first of July, with only .34 of an inch of rain. Whether 1930 will carry off the honors for dryness remains to be seen, but there is one sure thing, the year had considerable competition in 1894, 1916 and 1901.

Take the dry spell of 1894, which it must be admitted was "pretty tolerable dry," before the break came. On the first thirty-eight days of the dry spell of that year there was .47 of an inch of rain. So to date the 1930 drought has this mark beaten. But read on.

The fifty-first day of the drought brought the rainfall to .82 of an inch, but it was not until sixty-four days had passed, since July 1st, that an inch of rain was recorded. The drought actually ended on the sixty-third day, which made the dry spell last from July 1st into September with less than an inch of rain. The drought broke that year

not with a downpour but with a succession of moderate showers. 1901 Sears Everything.

In 1916 which also was dry as Sahara, the drought lasted from June 24 to August 6 and was broken then by a rainfall of over an inch.

Nineteen-one, that year everyone quotes as the hottest, was some "punkins" when it came to drought. It had a late start but made up for it in intensity. The dry spell lasted from July 31 to September 8, and in the forty days of that period the rainfall was only .15 of an inch.

Perhaps there is solace in these figures, as it is evident that within the memory of many people here there have been more serious droughts than the present one.

As they used to say in the army, the first hundred years are the hardest, anyway.

Eleventh Day With 100.

Yesterday was the eleventh day this summer with temperature of 100 or over. The maximum was 102. This equalled the previous mark for August 6. Today's maximum previous to this year has been 101.

It looked last night for a time as if Keokuk might get rain, but none came. Brilliant lightning in the west seemed to hold out hopes of a shower, but there was evidently nothing but empty promises in the clouds, gathered in that section of the sky. Showers fell at Keokuk, up the Mississippi, and Ottumwa, up the Des Moines, but there was none for this section at the junction of the two streams.

were overflowed, and in many instances the horses had to be taken out to prevent a catastrophe. On 13th between Johnson and Exchange, the creek also overflowed and there was a perfect sea of water there all night. The damage here was only slight.

On 10th and Morgan the water rose rapidly and entered the basement of Patrick McManus' house, causing them much trouble as they were compelled to remove everything during the night. The sidewalks on 10th between Morgan and High, were tied by ropes to the fences, to keep them from washing away. All of the streets, from High to the bluff are—well they are so muddy as to be almost impassable. The city park, in rear of the High School, was flooded as usual. A lot of telegraph poles that were lying there were floated into the mouth of the sewer and choked it up. The water backed up rapidly, and during the night there was enough there to float a large sized steamboat. It was up level with the sidewalk at one time, and the walk is from four to eight feet above the flat.

In order to illustrate how heavy the fall of rain was, a gentleman with whom we conversed told us that he had a bucket, in the bottom of which was a hole large enough to run a nail through. He sat this out in the rain, and the rain came down so fast that the bucket was filled, the hole not letting it run out near as fast as it came in. Third street, in the neighborhood of Timea, is in a horrible condition. The embankments, and the street itself, are all caved in, and it looks ugly. There is no thoroughfare there.

There were several houses struck by lightning last evening. The building occupied by Jacob Busch as a coppersmith shop, and owned by Mr. Kinneman, was struck by a thunderbolt on the cornice, right between two lightning rods which were not over thirty feet apart. The lightning played around the cornice and damaged it considerably.

John Mackley's house on Carroll, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth, occupied by Calvin Barnes, was also struck, the chimney destroyed and a hole torn in the roof.

Everybody unites in saying that never have they seen such a storm of thunder and lightning as this has been. So constant were the flashes of lightning, one following the other in quick succession, that one lost track of the clap of thunder that belonged to the flash of lightning. It was one continual roar and to pick out the flash that belonged to the thunder or the thunder that belonged to the flash, was a thundering job that no one seemed to be disposed to tackle.

KEOKUK CONSTITUTION

KEOKUK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1930
UNBROKEN.

Something in Regard to the Storms.

Everybody knows that we have been having a tremendous rain fall for the last two or three days, and, of course, are anxious to know what damage was done. We knew, this morning, and struck out on a tramp to find out for the benefit of those who pay twenty cents a week, or five cents a copy, for the CONSTITUTION.

All of the railroads seem to have escaped any damage except the Wabash Line and the T., P. & W., which use the same track from the bridge to some distance beyond Hamilton. The St. L., K. & N. W., heretofore the first to fall a prey to high water, is right as a trivet. The K. & D. M. suffered no washouts or land slides. The C., B. & Q. came in on time, last night, but was delayed badly to-day. At the fourth bridge east of Hamilton on the T., P. & W., the embankment at the east end washed away about nine o'clock, last night. The accident threw the Wabash train No. 5 and

No. 1 on the T., P. & W. behind time, as they had to stop there and transfer—the switch engine being sent over for that purpose. This morning about six o'clock the stone abutment of the bridge at the Hamilton depot went out. Fortunately the switch engine was on the east side of the bridge at the time, and was thus left between the two washouts, and could do the transferring. Trains were running to-day between here and Hamilton. From that place the passengers were taken to the next washout, by the switch engine, where another transfer was made. It was thought that the repairs would be made by this evening.

In the city many places were flooded to the depth of from two to five feet of water. On 11th between Main and Johnson the water backed up over the flat and for awhile it looked as if a young ocean had located there. The culvert on Johnson street is not large enough to carry off the water and in consequence the flats there are covered every time a heavy shower comes up. The sewer at the corner of 12th and Johnson were unable to carry off the torrent of water that poured into it from the creek, and the cellars of all the houses in that neighborhood were flooded. The stables on the low lands

871

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
 R. L. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

July 27-1901
Keokuk Standard

DEATHS FROM THE HEAT.

A Number Of Deaths and Prostrations in Keokuk This Week.

The week just closing has been the hottest experienced in Keokuk. Monday the maximum temperature reached 108 degrees. Tuesday 104 degrees, Wednesday 105 degrees with a muggy atmosphere and caused deaths and prostrations to an alarming extent.

The following table shows the heat record for the past eighteen days, taken from the official observations of Weather Observer Gosewisch:

July 9, 1901—102 degrees.
July 10, 1901—105 degrees.
July 11, 1901—104 degrees.
July 12, 1901—102 degrees.
July 13, 1901—97 degrees.
July 14, 1901—95 degrees.
July 15, 1901—97 degrees.
July 16, 1901—98 degrees.
July 17, 1901—94 degrees.
July 18, 1901—98 degrees.
July 19, 1901—97 degrees.
July 20, 1901—103 degrees.
July 21, 1901—107 degrees.
July 22, 1901—108 degrees.
July 23, 1901—104 degrees.
July 24, 1901—105 degrees.
July 25, 1901—99 degrees.
July 26, 1901—95 degrees.

The record of deaths and prostrations in Keokuk and vicinity the past week follows:

JOHN PARDEE.

John Pardee, night watchman on the east end of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge, died about 6 o'clock Monday evening, shortly after going to work, from heat prostration. He relieved W. H. Albertson at 6 o'clock and was unconscious before Mr. Albertson left the toll house. Physicians were summoned but the unfortunate man was dead before medical assistance could possibly arrive.

The deceased had been an employe of the bridge for nearly twenty years and was held in high esteem by his associates. He leaves a wife, with whom he recently celebrated his silver wedding; a married sister in Germany; two brothers in Nebraska; one son Peter Pardee, a fireman on the T. P. & W.; one daughter, Mrs. T. S. Robinson of this city. Mr. Pardee was 55 years of age.

WILLIAM BURKE

William Burke an employe of Taber & Co., and living at E and Bluff streets died Tuesday evening from the extreme heat. He quit work and went home at 1:30 o'clock, and although not having an ache or pain, complained of not feeling very well. He rested all afternoon and at 5 o'clock began to sink. Before medical assistance arrived he was dead. William Burke was born in Galway, Ireland, in April 1844. He

came to America in 1872 and located at once in Keokuk securing employment with Taber & Co., and has worked for that firm continuously. He is survived by his wife and the following children: Mary, Annie, Nellie, William, Maggie and Katie Burke. He also leaves two brothers, Thomas and John Burke of Chicago, and three sisters, Mrs. James Brennan, Mrs. Michael Whalen and Mrs. Julia O'Hara, all of Keokuk.

JOHN McSHANE

Late Tuesday night John McShane, an inmate of the county house, died from the result of the terrific heat. He was overcome while sitting in the house, and while every thing possible was done for him, he sank into a comatose condition and never revived. McShane was about 66 years of age and had been living at the county farm for ten years. He was unmarried and leaves no relatives except one brother.

WILLIAM MASON.

A young farmer named William Mason was claimed in death Tuesday while working in the field on his farm near Sugar Creek. He was taken sick about 11 o'clock and died at 2:45. He was 28 years old and leaves a wife and one child.

PROSTRATIONS.

Miss Emma Estes, 1806 Bank street, Tuesday. Unconscious for a time, but was revived and is on the road to recovery.

Charles Hubenthal, sexton at Oakland cemetery, overcome by the heat at Fourteenth and Main streets Tuesday evening. Taken to his home and is recovering.

Ed Vaughn, 1904 Franklin street, overcome Wednesday morning while at work in the Hniskamp shoe factory. Taken home and with proper care will recover from the effect of the prostration.

John Schowalter, engineer on Rock Island passenger train, overcome while on his engine and the fireman brought the train to Keokuk. Was given medical attendance and was able to walk to his home on Eleventh and Bank.

Miss Getz, employed at the shoe factory, overcome Wednesday morning. Sent home in a carriage by the managers.

Arthur Burgess, employed at the shoe factory, overcome Wednesday afternoon. Was unconscious and taken to his home at 1914 Palean street and medical assistance given. Condition serious, but will recover.

Mollie Singleton, living in a house in the rear of the city market, overcome in the area back of Farmer's restaurant, Wednesday. Condition not serious.

Mrs. Carrie Clink, 1521 Bank street, prostrated at her home Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Thompson, Ninth and Carroll, prostrated Wednesday afternoon on A. and William street. Unconscious, and removed to her home in the police

ambulance. Condition serious.

E. D. Gunn of Meyer, Ill., prostrated from the heat Tuesday night while a guest at the Windsor hotel. Was able to return to his home Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Maria Dunlavy, overcome Wednesday morning at her home, 1806 Orleans street. Condition improving.

John Lefevre, overcome Wednesday evening while employed on Tucker's ice wagon. Taken to his home on Palean street, between Sixth and Seventh.

Al Bonner, a teamster living on Wilfirm street, prostrated Wednesday. Condition regarded as serious.

Mrs. Joseph Grover, B and Reid streets, prostrated Wednesday. Condition serious.

Dike Road Closed---Water Near Top of Levee at Alexandria

RIVER STAGE IS 19.1 FEET AND IS GETTING NEAR TO 1903 RECORD

**As Matter of Safety, Be-
cause Wind Was Making
Waves High on Bridge
Road It Was Closed
Yesterday After-
noon.**

ALEXANDRIA SAFE.

Two reports from Alexandria this noon diametrically opposite were received here. One was that the city was being abandoned. The Gate City got into telephonic communication with the city and found that there was no change in the condition of the river from that reported earlier in the day. There is no move to abandon the city as was reported, it was stated. There is considerable seepage water from the dikes in the town, but the levees are holding.

One local man was reported as having 400 acres of winter wheat in bottomlands, and there are many hundreds of acres in this grain, which are being protected by the levees.

The dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge was closed yesterday evening at 5:40 o'clock for the balance of the week. This was done as a measure of safety, the dike withstanding the pounding of the current satisfactorily but water from a foot to two feet was running over the road.

Conditions reported this morning from Alexandria were that the water was close to the top of the Egyptian levee but that there was no danger of overflow unless the rivers rise a half foot or more.

From up the river come reports of falling waters on the Iowa and Skunk rivers, a foot reported as the drop on these in twenty four hours.

The weather bureau's river forecast from the Hannibal office is for not much change on the river between Muscatine and Quincy. Experienced river men here state that the water may rise slightly before the stationary point is reached. A heavy rain now would cause great damage it is feared. The rise in the river here in twenty four hours was six-tenths of a foot.

Rising rapidly yesterday afternoon the Mississippi river aided by wind which made big waves, sent its flood waters over the dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton

bridge company to such an extent that at 5:40 o'clock last night orders were given to close the dike traffic. It will be closed the balance of the week, Supt. James M. Fulton of the company announced this morning, after he had inspected the dike, and had heard the river forecasts.

The dike itself is standing the pounding of the waters satisfactorily, but as a measure of safety it was thought best to halt traffic. The water was running at such a depth yesterday that cars were stalling on the road, and a wind was blowing with sufficient force to make the waves break over the

lower rail of the fence, and in some places higher.

Closed As Safety Measure.

With this condition of wind and high waves the bridge company thought it too dangerous to allow cars to try to make the trip, and as a matter of safety closed off the road. Supt. Fulton said this morning it would be for the balance of the week he expected.

This morning he made an inspection of the road, and found water in most places not less than a foot deep on the road and in others it was two feet deep, and there was a swift current over the lowest part.

Can Cross Bridge.

It is planned now that busses will run from Carthage to Hamilton depot, transferring passengers on foot over the trestle bridge and the railroad track to the east end of the bridge, where busses will meet them. The bridge company has also offered to cooperate with the Wabash and T. P. & W. in handling passenger traffic over the bridge if they desire.

The power company is co-operating with the bridge company today, experimenting with the plan of opening gates further away from the dike, in the hopes of diminishing the current which has been coming pretty strongly against the dike.

Foot passengers can cross the bridge and see considerable high water, and there were many who came from both the Keokuk and Hamilton ends of the bridge last night, walking as far as the patrols would allow them. The entire dike is under patrol now, and will be carefully watched. As soon as possible it will be opened to traffic.

Alexandria Levee Holds.

Encouraging reports were received from Alexandria this morning, to the effect that six inches to a foot more of water can be had before the Egyptian levee is overflowed. Patrols are established on the dike there night and day. There is some water in the streets of the town, it is reported, but this is said to be seepage water. The water this morning was several inches from the top of the levees protecting the town, which is absolutely surrounded with water.

A few families, mostly newcomers who have never seen high water, have moved out, it was reported. The "Old timers" in Alexandria who have gone through many floods are not showing any fear of present conditions, it was stated. However plans are all made to get people out of the town in case there should be any danger of a break in the levee.

Move Out Below.

Below Alexandria, and just north of the Gregory drainage district, three families were moved to safety yesterday. H. F. Hoewing, who is employed at the Iowa State Insurance company assisted in this removal of the families from their farms there. He reported two families still in their own homes, unless they had moved out today. Stock is still on high ground and believed to be out of danger.

The Mississippi is sufficiently high at this point to go over and through the levee. The barrier was cut last fall to let water out, and then conditions were such that it was impossible to get into the district to repair the levee. First it was mud, due to the wet fall, then it was freezing weather, and as a result the breach in the levee barrier is letting the water through.

Missouri Town Periled.

Canton, Mo., is threatened according to reports, and 50 houses in the city of a thousand population may be surrounded by five feet of water. Here the water is higher than the top of the levee but it is being kept out thus far with sand bags and barricades made of lumber. Water in the school house at Canton poured into the basement until furnace fires were put out and school temporarily has been abandoned.

March 22, 1929 - pg #1
(Dike Road Closed)

THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

180

HIGHEST STAGE ON MISSISSIPPI SINCE 1903 IS REACHED

**Measurements Here Were
19.4 Feet, But There is
Indication of Station-
ary Water, with
Slight Fall This
Morning.**

waters in the Des Moines river, and from below Muscatine to Burlington the river will rise slightly. From Keokuk to Louisiana it will rise from two-tenths to four-tenths of a foot and probably become stationary Sunday, unless there are heavy rains and will fall by Monday.

This government forecast supplemented by observations by local engineers of the power company indicate that the river may already be on a standstill. In fact there was some indication of a slight drop in the stage this morning compared with last night's readings.

Believe Levees are Safe.

Emergency measured taken by the government at the request of the Keokuk Chamber of Commerce were fruitful, it is felt. The rushing of sand bags, supplies and gangs of men to the Alexandria and Gregory situation it is believed saved these levees. There was a report current all day yesterday that these levees had broken. This was not true, and the embankments protecting the hundreds of acres of rich farm land are holding, with sand bag reinforcements laid on top.

The U. S. Syd, and a barge was called to Gregory last night on an erroneous message that the levee there had broken. When they arrived they found the levee was intact, and they turned back, leaving one barge in case it was found necessary suddenly to abandon the fields and to take out the stock.

This morning it was reported that both of the levees were holding well, and that they had all been reinforced with sand bags so that no fear was felt now for them. Patrols are being maintained, naturally, and there will be no relaxing of vigil.

Fight Two Places in Green Bay.

From Green Bay this morning County Engineer McFarland reported encouraging progress in a bad situation there. The levees there are threatened from two sides. He and his gang are at work on the south end where there is a weak place, and it is believed everything is safe there. More sand bags were rushed there this morning by the U. S. Marion, and these are distributed over the weak place in the north end of the Mississippi river levee.

Five thousand sacks were rushed to Wever this morning on telegraphic orders from the power company yesterday, and the Sand Boy is there to pump sand enough to fill them. It was felt that the Green Bay barrier would hold against another onslaught now if it comes.

Rivers are Falling.

The Skunk river fell off a foot at Augusta and the Des Moines

Train Service Crippled.

Train service was in the same condition as yesterday. The Burlington route trains between Keokuk and Quincy are annulled and stub service and specials are being operated on the line between here and Burlington.

The Keokuk and Western train went out as usual this morning to Alexandria and points west, but was unable to get through on account of the water, and the Rock Island, T. P. and W. and Wabash are operating as usual.

There is some water over the Rock Island tracks in places along the line from six to eighteen inches, it was reported. There is about six inches of water on the floor of the round house here and the turn table is under water, but still being used. The shops were in operation as usual, despite reports that there were engines and cars marooned there. Industrial plants in the flood area are still crippled by the water.

More Land Threatened.

The break in the Indian Grave district near Quincy is more serious this morning. Additional land has been flooded and more is threatened.

The Green Bay situation is much improved and it is believed that the barriers built there yesterday will hold off any attack of the river.

May Rise Some More.

The official forecast for the Mississippi from Muscatine to Quincy is that it will not change much, and that from Hannibal to Louisiana it will fall tonight and will be followed by stationary. Water north of Keokuk on the Mississippi has risen, although there were falls of a foot reported on the Iowa and Skunk rivers.

Rain was reported from Davenport and Dubuque.

A heavy rain right now at Keokuk and along the river north of here might complicate matters to a considerable extent, it was felt.

Experienced river men who were looking over the situation today feel that the river is not at its crest and may rise a tenth of a foot or more. A rise of three-tenths would bring it to the high water mark of 19.4 established in 1903.

Des Moines is Falling.

The Des Moines river is to fall, according to the forecast. At Ottumwa the stage today is 13.9 feet.

Yesterday it seemed that the crest might have been reached but a rise of six-tenths of a foot in twenty-four hours dissipated any hopes that a stationary stage had been reached.

The Mississippi river reached the highest stage at Keokuk in twenty-six years, when 19.4 feet was read on the government gauge. This was the record equalled only on June 5 in 1903 and passed only by the high mark of 1851 when twenty feet was registered.

Reports this morning indicate that the levees at Alexandria and Gregory are holding all right, and that property behind these dikes is safe.

The report from Green Bay, while admitting a serious situation, gives promise that it is well in hand.

The dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge is still under water, but is in no danger.

River experts believe that the crest of the flood has been reached. The stage of 19.4 was reached last night and this morning there was a drop reported of a couple of tenths of a foot. It is expected that the water will at least remain stationary, if it does not fall.

Equalling the flood record of 1903, the Mississippi river at Keokuk climbed to a stage of 19.4 feet last night, but today it is reported as stationary, and river observers believe that the crest has been reached and that the "situation is well in hand." Levees protecting rich bottom lands at Alexandria and Gregory are safe, now, it is felt with their reinforcements of sand bags. Green Bay levees were reported this morning as holding and additional sand bags were sent to the battle front there.

Water in the railroad yards in Keokuk is said by old time railroad men to be the highest they have ever seen it. They are measuring by the old landmarks which many of them now are under water. With a new shore line and the general contour of the river changed to some extent by the construction of the Keokuk dam, it is believed by many of the old timers here that whatever the stage of the river reads, the water is higher than it has ever been.

See Flood at Crest.
Predictions are for falling

181
March 23, 1929 - pg #2
(Dike Road Closed)

fall off a foot at Ottumma, all of which helps considerably in fighting the flood menace.

The dike of the Keokuk and Hamilton bridge remains flooded but is in no danger, it is reported. Train service continues to be interrupted and industrial plants in the Commercial Alley district are crippled by the water.

Hundreds of people are visiting the bluffs in West Keokuk to view the Des Moines and the Mississippi. Almost any place along these is a vantage point from which to see the conditions of the flood.

Railroad Service Same.

There was practically no change in the railroad service in and out of Keokuk. Stub and extra trains took care of the traffic to and from Burlington. The Keokuk and Western was being detoured by way of Fort Madison and Medill.

**THE DAILY GATE CITY.
AUG. 19, 1936**

**Drouth and Heat Marks
of 1936 And 1934 Show
Striking Parallel**

**Two Years Ago Heat Started
in May, and June Was
Hotter Than This Year,
But This July and
August are Mak-
ing Up.**

Mark Twain's remark anent the weather might be most aptly applied to this summer, when everybody is talking about the weather, but nobody seems to be doing anything about it. People compare it to two years ago and others go to diaries and note books, scrap books and what have you in the hopes of getting a crumb or two of comfort and hope that perhaps by the law of averages there is a break in prospect.

One man who keeps a sort of semi-official track of the weather said yesterday to a Gate City reporter, "Why don't you give us the figures on temperature this summer compared with 1934, and let us see just how the seasons sack up," so that is what this is intended to be—a comparison of the seasons.

Three Times at 110.

In 1934 when temperature reached 110 degrees twice in July and once in August, old timers decided that the ultimate in weather had been attained. This year, however, with fourteen days in succession with temperature over 100 degrees and 113 for the all time maximum, people are about ready to believe that most anything can happen in the way of summer heat.

Memories are short, when it comes to looking back too, and many local people felt that the advent of August would bring relief. However, in 1934 the first eighteen days of August found temperatures over the 90 mark, except for five days, and it was not until the last twelve days of the month that temperatures were notably lower. The drouth con-

ditions were not broken, either, until the thirty-first of the month, save for a fair rain on the first day.

Began in May, '34.

In 1934 the hot weather began in May, which the weather bureau summarized as the third warmest May on record. The 102 mark which was registered on May 31, was the highest ever recorded for that day. May precipitation totalled 1.34 inches. May 1936, was the second warmest May since 1911, but even this parallel to 1934 aroused little interest. There was sunshine of 74 per cent and temperatures averaged 68.7 degrees, with precipitation of 2.76 inches.

June of 1934 outdistanced the June of 1936 in the way of heat. There were 21 days of the month in '34 with maximum temperature 90 degrees or higher and six had 100 or higher. While precipitation for the month totalled 3.01 inches, it was still short of the normal, by over an inch. Most of the June rain in 1934 fell on the eighth and ninth of the month. June of 1936 averaged a temperature of 74 degrees, just slightly above the normal, but there was one day with temperature of 103.8 degrees. Precipitation was 1.26 inches for the month.

Comparison of Junes.

The daily temperature for 1934 and 1936 for the month ran as follows:

Date	1934	1936
1	103	90
2	100	79
3	96	76
4	96	78
5	97	78
6	93	88
7	93	80
8	94	84
9	89	81
10	82	71
11	90	74
12	83	80
13	82	80
14	85	80
15	86	88
16	90	97
17	93	96
18	86	81
19	90	104
20	97	92
21	87	72
22	91	73
23	97	78
24	95	84
25	99	92
26	102	99
27	103	96
28	103	99
29	104	102
30	87	80

Enter the Villian

Now, into the weather picture enters the villian of 1936, the month of July. Two years ago the highest temperature ever recorded up to that time was made on July 20, with a reading of 110.3 degrees. There were thirteen days of the month with temperature at 100 degrees or higher, and on July 21, the hottest night of the summer was registered at 87 degrees for the minimum. Twenty-four days in the month saw temperatures over the ninety mark, and precipitation was .95 of an inch, 2.40 inches under the normal.

This year's July saw the highest temperature ever recorded both in day time and at night with 113 on July 15, and 87 for the high minimum. There was only .01 of an inch of precipitation. From July 4 to July 17 there were fourteen successive days with temperature over 100 degrees. Only six days of the month had less than ninety degree heat.

The July Records

The daily temperature chart for July shows how the two months stacked up in the hot years:

Date	1934	1936
1	94	90
2	100	88
3	94	94
4	100	108
5	100	105
6	83	102
7	85	100
8	92	10
9	90	10
10	95	10
11	95	10
12	94	10
13	90	10
14	103	11
15	102	11
16	88	10
17	87	10
18	99	9
19	110	9
20	110	8
21	108	8
22	107	9
23	108	10
24	108	9
25	104	10
26	94	10
27	87	10
28	88	9
29	101	88
30	84	83
31	91	88

August Continues Hot

Now comes August, hailed by many as the saviour of temperatures and tempers, but apparently a flop so far, and 1934 was not much better. Two years ago on August 9, temperature rose again to 110 degrees. Seven days had 100 or over and thirteen had ninety or over. The drouth continued until the end of the month when 1.05 inches of rain fell on the thirty-first. From the sixth to the ninth of the month temperatures ranged from 105 to 110 degrees. It was the warmest month on record since 1930.

So far this month 106 registered yesterday is the highest temperature. Out of the first eighteen days only four have been below ninety degree temperature. Precipitation to date is less than an inch.

How Days Compare

The temperature for 1934 and for 1936 to date shows what happened and what may be expected.

August—

Date	1934	1936
1	92	90
2	102	91
3	92	93
4	101	86
5	89	74
6	107	85
7	105	87
8	109	80
9	110	10
10	101	91
11	80	9
12	92	10
13	93	10
14	96	10
15	83	9
16	85	102
17	89	95
18	97	106
19	84	
20	71	
21	84	
22	87	
23	89	
24	64	
25	78	
26	86	
27	82	
28	73	
29	73	
30	75	
31	82	

"THE GREAT DUST HEAP CALLED HISTORY"
R. J. BICKEL KEOKUK, IOWA

182