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Times Past

MAGAZINE

2020 edition

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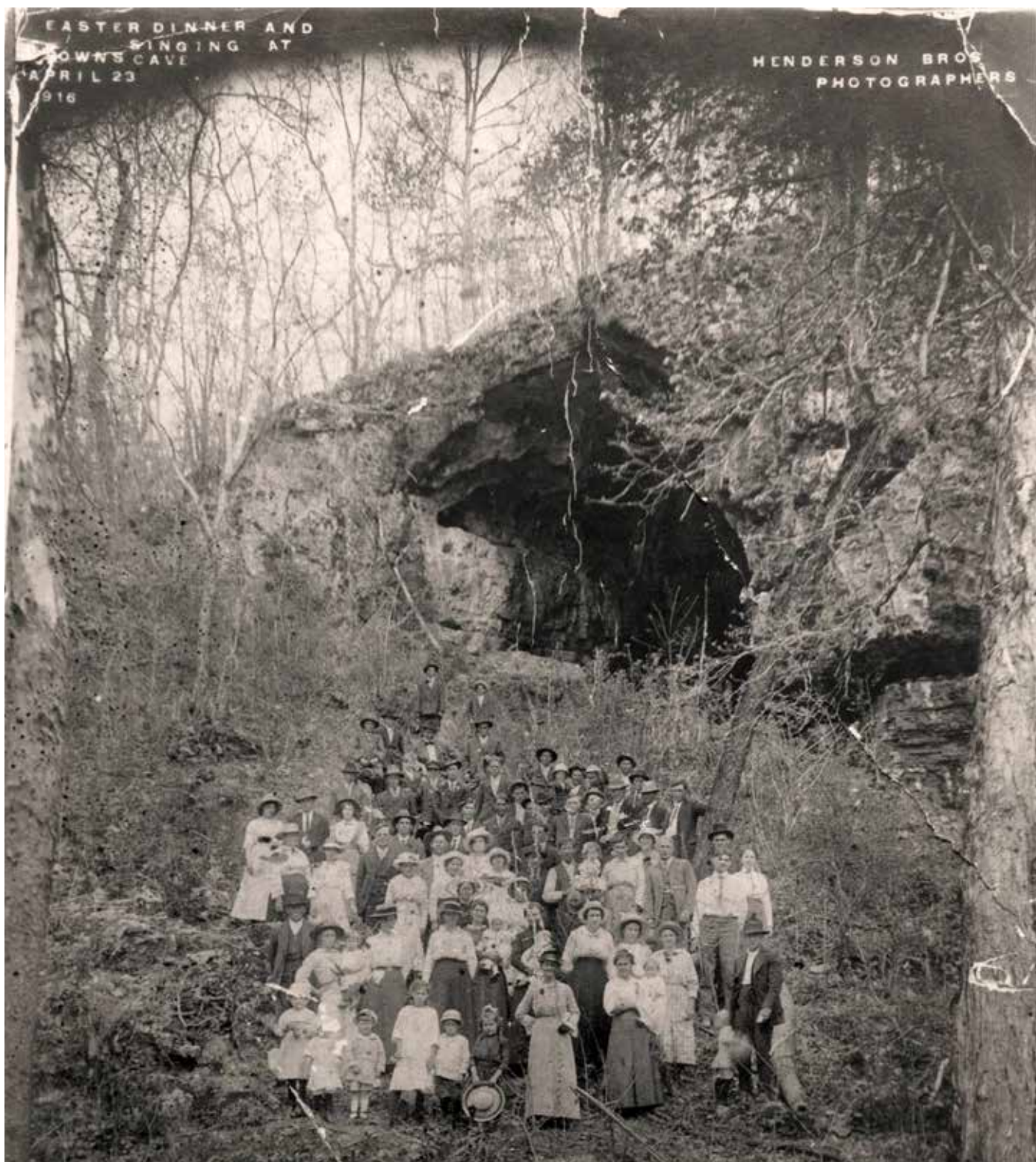
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EASTER DINNER AND
SINGING AT
BROWN'S CAVE
APRIL 23
1916

HENDERSON BROS
PHOTOGRAPHERS

Easter dinner at Brown's Cave, 1916

This photo of "Easter dinner and singing at Brown's Cave, April 23, 1916," is from the family of the late Julia Anna Mahan Taber. Brown's Cave is near Bryant Creek in Douglas County a short distance north of the Ozark County line on property that is owned today by Assumption Abbey, the nearby monastery. Permission is needed to access the cave through a locked gate. The cave is named for Tom Brown, who came to Missouri from Indiana in 1845. During his lifetime he had three wives and 12 children; many of their descendants, including Julia's children, Stan and Beth Taber Peters, still live in the area. Family legend says Tom spent his first year here in the cave.



River baptizing

This Ozark County baptizing drew a large crowd of people – those being baptized and those watching from the river bank. The photo, from the collection of the late Stella Martin Luna, is thought to have been taken near Theodosia, probably in the Little North Fork of the White River, in the late 1920s or early 1930s.



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Looking back from the stage of a history-making year

This edition of *Times Past* magazine is being published during a pandemic, a time when many of us are hearing references to another pandemic that occurred a little more than a century ago. Then it was influenza. In 2020, it's the COVID-19 virus.

Stories of that terrible time long ago, which coincided with World War I, make us appreciate the rugged determination and selfless sacrifices of those who stood up to the challenges of war and disease while, in many cases, mourning the loss of loved ones.

History informs and inspires us – and sometimes entertains us. Perhaps that's why, year after year, we're told that the Times Past column is the most popular weekly feature in the *Ozark County Times*. Compiled by Mary Ruth Luna Sparks, whose family roots run deep in Ozark County history, each week's column includes short bits from newspapers that have been published here since 1882, along with an old photo, either gleaned from our files or contributed by an Ozark County organization or individual.

Photos were nonexistent in Ozark County newspapers in the late 1880s and 1890s and rare in those published in the first half of the 20th century. So most of the early photos in this volume have come from readers and the generous owners of treasured private photo collections. Some of the items and photos in this volume are reprinted from the *Old Mill Run*, the quarterly newsletter published by the Ozark County Genealogical and Historical Society, which Sparks edits. Others are part of the Ozark County Historium's collection. The source of some photos is unknown.

Several of the photos shared here were taken by Orval Jernigan, an Ava-based salesman for Milligan Grocery Company who traveled to rural stores in Douglas, Ozark and Taney counties. During the winter of 1946-47, Jernigan took pictures of the stores and mills throughout the three-county area. He typed descriptions on the bottom of each photo and mounted them in a photo album that now belongs to Christy Voliva of Ava. Kenneth Brown of Springfield scanned the photos into digital format, and Voliva agreed to share them with the Ozark County Historium. Brown has also shared several other photos from his family's collection.

Some photos were shared by Gainesville native John Harlin, chairman of the board of Century Bank of the Ozarks. His collection includes an old photo album found in an abandoned vault in the bank that Harlin's family has owned since its founding in 1894. Photos in the album were taken in 1913 by Henry Stark, "official photographer of the Frisco and Union Pacific railroads," who came to Ozark County with E. Y. Mitchell, who hoped to "colonize" about 45,000 acres of land he and others were interested in here, according to an article in the Aug. 1, 1913, *Ozark County Times*.

Thanks to all who contributed photographs and stories to this effort. If you have historical Ozark County photos to share for future Times Past columns, we would be delighted to accept them. Please contact Sue Ann Jones, Ozark County Times, P.O. Box 188, Gainesville, MO 65655, 417-989-1040, sueann@ozarkcountytimes.com.

This collection of historical highlights is roughly divided into three general eras: early years (the 1920s and earlier), middle years (1920s through the 1950s) and late (the 1950s and later). The clippings are intermingled with separate stories and photos of interest.

We hope you enjoy this 2020 trip through *Times Past* in Ozark County, the place we call home.

What's inside

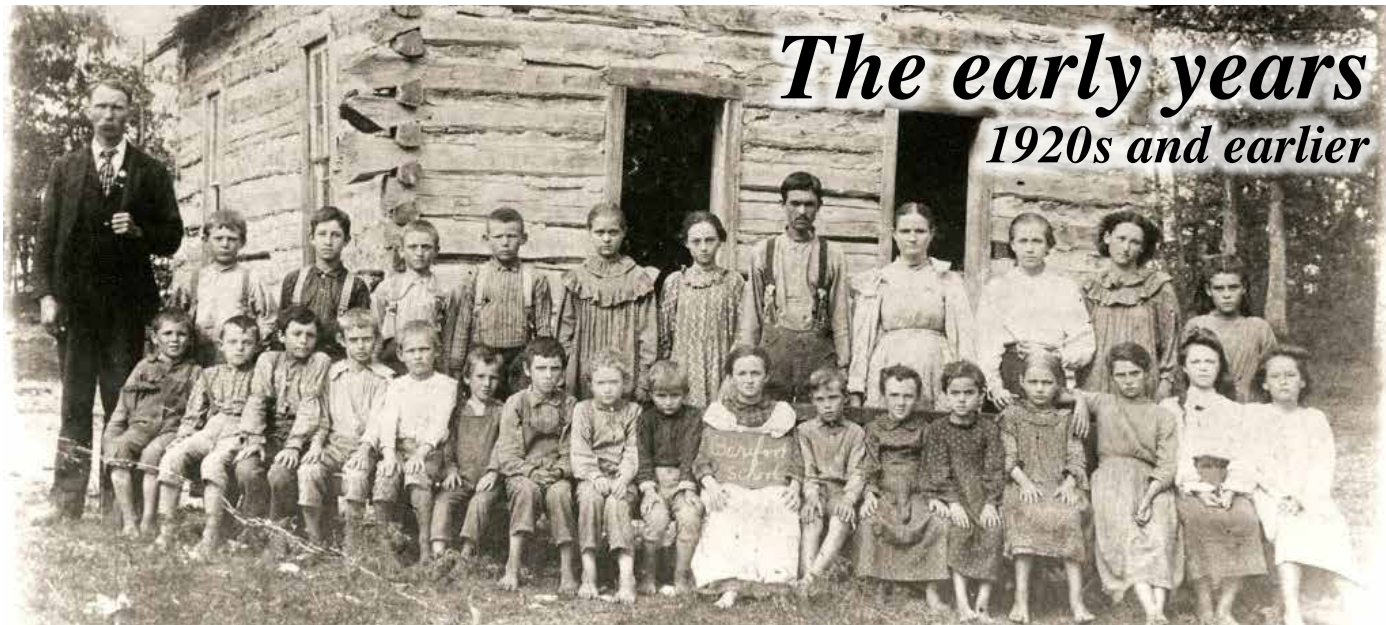
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About the cover

Thanks to Leda Howard Blair for sharing this year's cover photo with us. In the picture, taken in the 1940s, Leda, right, stands with her sister, Reba Howard McGinnis, beside the gasoline pump in front of the old Dormis store and post office, which operated on what is now H Highway about 4 miles south of its intersection with Highway 181 near Dora. Leda told us, "The stains on our dresses, mine especially, were watermelon. We had been to the county election polls. One of the candidates brought watermelon." A photo of the girls' dad, John Howard, at Dormis store is on page 38.



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The early years 1920s and earlier

Barefoot School

This circa-1902 photo of the Barefoot School may have been where Longrun residents “attended the Christmas tree at Bare Foot,” as reported in a Jan. 2, 1920, item in the *Times*. The two schools were about 3 miles apart on the far west side of Ozark County. A 1974 story in the *Taney County Republican* said the log building shown here was the second Barefoot schoolhouse on this site. Writing in the Ozark County Historium’s book, *Lard Buckets and Paper Pokes*, former Barefoot student Dene Hughes of Ocie said by the time he attended Barefoot in 1939, the school was a “white-pine-sided house with two front doors.” It’s not known when the log building was replaced. According to Marilyn France, the photo is from the collection of Dollie Worthington Wolf. Pearlie Hicks (Rueter), then 11, is holding the blackboard. True to the school’s name, there’s not a shoe in sight, except for those worn by the teacher, Grant Tannehill.

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Ozark County News**Jan. 9, 1890**

Alexander W. Blackburn died at his home on Big North Fork on the 2d of January, having lived a few months over 58 years.

Mr. Blackburn was born in East Tennessee and spent the most of his life in this county. His death resulted from throat trouble. He was sick but three days and suffered much.

Jan. 1, 1891

Dora – Co. P. P. Dobozy tells us he will begin the work of developing the iron on Allen Stone's place shortly after the holidays. The Colonel stopped work while he was away in the vicinity of Gainesville as he wanted to be here to superintend the work. We understand that he intends to develop the iron on property he has purchased 3 miles north of Gainesville.

Sept. 8, 1892

The death of Prof. W. F. Holland, who died at his residence in Gainesville Sept.

5, cast a mantle of gloom over our village from which it will not soon recover.

Prof. Holland was born in Marshall County, Ky., in October 1852 and came to this county when quite young. During his boyhood days, he manifested an intense desire for his books, and not withstanding his limited finances in early life, by close application and diligent study, he became master of everything he undertook and was ... a self-made man. ...

In caring for the interests of his students, he was unsurpassed by any of his contemporaries ... ever thorough, watchful, tenderhearted and sympathetic, his students learned to love and trust him as a true friend. ...

His funeral will be preached at as early a date as his students can attend.

John Hogard was taken sick on Tuesday while teaching and was brought home. He is now under the doctors' care.

April 29, 1897

Bill Naves, a prisoner confined in the county jail on a charge of grand larceny, made a break for liberty on Tuesday evening just before dark while jailor Walker was attending to his duties at the jail.

The prisoner took Walker by surprise and darted past him while the door was open. Mr. Walker called to B. W. Hogard, who was nearby. Mr. Hogard went in pursuit of the flying fugitive while Mr. Walker closed and locked the door to save the other prisoners. The fleeing prisoner was caught a quarter of mile west of town. . . . He says it was understood between him and the other prisoners that he was to make the break, and the others were to follow.

June 24, 1897

Mr. Charles Grove of Theodosia boasts of having five acres of the best corn on his new homestead in Ozark County. He also has a claim on the North Fork of White River and is interested in the fishing interest. Last week he captured a fine specimen. It was a turtle which weighed nearly a hundred pounds.

Howard & Norton's mowing machine which they have in stock was put to test one day the latter part of last week exterminating the dog fennel which abounds in the court-house yard. The appearance of the town has much improved.

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“The Honor of a Cowboy” play

The Times reported in June 13, 1913, that Gainesville’s “young people” had presented two performances of a “beautiful western play” titled “The Honor of a Cowboy.” A series of postcards was published depicting scenes from the play, including the two shown here: **Above:** “Seene 1: The Hold Up.” **Below:** the “10th Seene: Ta! Ta! Poor Devils.”



1913: Gainesville's young people produce ‘The Honor of a Cowboy’

The June 13, 1913, edition of the *Times* reported that “The people of Gainesville are noted for acting when they decide a thing needs doing, so the young people here decided to put on the play ‘The Honor of a Cowboy.’”

The story continued, “This beautiful western play produced at the school house June 6 and 7 was one of the best home talent productions ever witnessed here....The following people were characters in the play: L. M. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Harrison, Mack Harrison, F.A. McClendon, Eugene McClendon, Guy Wood, Arthur Burk, Roy Burk, Arthur Luna, Everett Luna, Ray Ebrite, John Hill, Agnes Luna, Helen Ebrite and Lura Wolfe.”

A series of photo postcards was produced in conjunction with the play, each hand labeled with the “Seene” number and a brief description, including “The Hold Up” (gun-wielding bandits ambush the victims), “Completely stripped” (showing the victims stripped of their belongings) and “The Selebration” showing villains Texas Joe, Panhandle Pete and Alkali Ike hoisting liquor bottles and happily firing their guns. “Seene” 9 shows an improvised hanging, described in the label as “The old and onley way to secure justice,” and the last postcard shows the former victims – now members of the lynch mob, looking at the corpses and muttering “Ta! Ta! Poor devels.” The postcards are from the collection of Judy Ford Lyons, preserved from the estate of her grandmother, the late Ara Luna Gilliland. Brothers Mack and A. D. Harrison are believed to be two of the young men in the postcard pictures shown on page 8.

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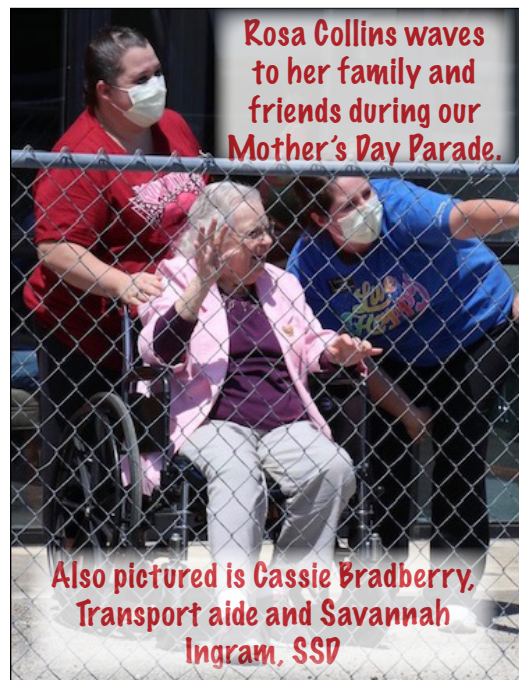
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Ozark County Times

Dec. 21, 1899

Rev. A. L. Simmons, pastor of the M. E. Church of this place, returned Monday after holding a three-week revival meeting at the Howard Ridge Church. He reports a good interest in the meeting resulting in 15 additions to the church, six by letter and nine on probation.

Aug. 2, 1900

Pine View, Mo., July 31 – The Rev. Edward Upton of near Gainesville has been holding a protracted meeting at this place which has had a great moral effect on this community. The meeting has attracted the attention of the whole country around here, and large crowds at all the services.

The entire series of meetings since the 21st has resulted in 23 conversions and two restored. Rites of baptism were administered last Sunday near George Roof's farm on Barren Fork, where 17 converts were baptized in the presence of great throngs of people who gathered to witness the ceremonies.

Oct. 24, 1901

Our County Clerk, John C. Harlin, has purchased the newspaper outfit formerly owned by W. W. Harris at Cabool and has moved it into the old bank building and will establish a new paper here which will bear the name of the "Ozark County Times."

Mr. Harlin has secured the services of his brothers-in-law, Moss and Hugh Layton, to manage and do the mechanical work of the paper. This is Mr. Harlin's first venture in the printing business. ... We certainly wish Johnny success in the undertaking.

Jan. 10, 1902

Bakersfield – A busier man than A. B. James would be hard to find. He is riding almost night and day rounding up his cattle.

A Mr. Perry of East St. Louis passed through Bakersfield the first of the week with a large drove of cattle for the St. Louis market.

Wm. McFarlin is dispensing twine and wrapping paper for W. R. Kellett in Jim Kellett's old stand. He would be pleased to greet old friends.

April 17, 1903

J. T. Luna Sr., who lives 10 miles north of Gainesville, happened to the misfortune of losing his residence by fire last Monday night. The house caught from the smoke house and as to how the smoke house caught fire is a mystery to Mr. Luna.

He saved some few of his household goods but lost all his meat, lard, etc., of which Mr. Luna always had plenty. It leaves Mr. Luna in a very bad condition. Mr. Luna is one of Ozark County's best citizens. The good citizens of Gainesville contributed quite a little sum to Mr. Luna, who was here Wednesday buying supplies.

Ozark County Democrat

Jan. 4, 1905

Ad – JOHN S HOGARD, photographer. Portraits from life in platinum or gloss surface paper. I do copying and enlarging. Stamps and Buttons. Studio back of Masonic hall. Doors open Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Dora Oddfellows

This picture of the Dora Oddfellows picnic, reprinted from the March 2007 *Old Mill Run*, was given to Inez Harrison Barker by her Aunt Esta, daughter of Goodall Harrison, and eventually became part of Noble Barker's collection. A Jan. 3, 1919, item in the *Times* reported a fire that destroyed the group's meeting hall. The late Bess Sweeton Cropper, writing about Dora in *A History of Ozark County 1841-1991*, said I.O.O.F. Lodge 555 was active 1898–1937, and the picnic began in 1910 or 1912; this photo may have been taken during the first picnic. Seated in the buggy at left are Jim Rieger and Ruth Wheat. At right is Benny Pitcock's "blue" mule and new Springfield wagon. Pitcock reportedly bought so many new wagons that Davis-Ross gave him a two-seated hack as a premium. Seated, from left: Hays McMurtry, Goodall Harrison, Freddie Myers, Bud Bartlet, Ed Kirkman, Jim Bumer, John Hallie and unknown. Standing: John Southards, Sam Hammond, Essau Fox, unknown, Laussy Halley, Mun Biggs, Sam Scott, Henry Scott, Henry Tetrick, Clarence Pease, Tom Freer, Delbert Bragg, Bill Moody, Albert Russell, a Mr. Carter who helped Hammond at the mill, and Mort Reary.

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Gainesville's Hambelton hotel

The Hambelton family stands on the porch of the Hambelton Hotel in Gainesville, probably in 1918 after the death of patriarch Sidney Chancey Hambelton. From left: sons William Lester Hambelton and Everett Hambelton, son-in-law John Johnson Culpepper, grandson Foss Culpepper, daughter Eva Hambelton Culpepper (Hill), granddaughter Ada Irene Culpepper, daughter Neva Hambelton Patrick, daughter Adda Agnes Hambelton (Sullivan), son John Houston Hambelton and Sidney's widow Ellender Cope Hambelton. In a story for the Oct. 23, 1975, *Ozark County Times*, Ruby Robins interviewed Earl Hogard, who said that B. W. Hogard and his son, John S. Hogard (Earl's father), operated two hotels in Gainesville for a while. The Hogards built the building pictured here around 1910 and operated it until B. W. Hogard died in November 1917. It was located on what is now North Main just off the square. Sidney C. Hambelton purchased the hotel from the Hogard heirs in February 1918 but died soon after the purchase.



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Memories of Gainesville's Hambelton Hotel

By Deloris Hambelton Hobbs

Reprinted from the August 2008 *Old Mill Run*

My grandfather, Cydney Chancey Hambelton, died in 1918, leaving my grandmother, Ellendar Cope Hambelton with several children still at home. Not long before my grandfather died, he'd bought the Hogard Hotel from the Hogard family. Thus, my grandmother had a way to make a living for herself and her children after his death. . . .

The hotel was north of the Amyx Auto building, just off the square in Gainesville. Just a few feet separated the porch of the hotel and the Amyx building.... The hotel did not have electricity. They used oil lamps and had an ice box for keeping food and probably a wood stove for cooking.

My dad [Houston Hambelton] . . . had a barber chair in the hotel and worked there. . . .

My siblings Reba, Thelma and Harold were born while our parents were living at the hotel.

The following are memories from my sister, Reba Hambelton Bean. She was 9 when she moved from the hotel.

Family-style meals were served in a dining room on a table that seated 20 people. You could eat for 25 cents, but later the

Continued to page 14

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HAMBELTON HOTEL

continued from page 13

price escalated to 50 cents. This was a family-style meal, always with a half slice of peach served in a little green-stem dish. There was a large bell that would ring for the meals. I think this was referred to as "dinner bells" at that time. . . .

There was a well on the back porch, and Harold dropped a loaf of bread in the well once. Another time he poured kerosene in the well. Marjorie worked there during the time the road to West Plains was being built. Our parents had to get up at 4 a.m. to prepare breakfast and make sandwiches for the men to take to work.

Ozark County Times

Jan. 5, 1906

Almartha – Enoch Shindler and Otis Herndon went to Mansfield the latter part of the last week and brought back two big loads of household goods.

Mrs. James Hawkins arrived here Friday from the Indian Territory. Mrs. Hawkins was left a widow about two weeks ago. Immediately after the death of her husband, she left for this place with her wagon, horses and cattle. She was met at Billings, Mo., by her brother, C. A. Beach of this place.

Her husband was a former resident of Ozark County, moving to the Indian Territory several years ago. . . . He leaves, besides his wife, three little children and a host of warm friends and relatives to

mourn his taking away. Mrs. Hawkins is a daughter of Mrs. S. A. Beach of this place.

April 23, 1909

News reached this place Wednesday morning that the Wood, Herd Merc. Co.'s store at Theodosia with all its contents was destroyed by fire last Tuesday night. . . . It is supposed that lightning was the cause, either through the telephone or by striking the building. We are informed that they had about a \$15,000 stock of goods and carried only \$4,500 insurance.

July 1, 1910

Romance – Misses Reed Julien, Maude White, Lora Cooper and Claud Melton, Marvin Pare and Marshal Young

had a very exciting game of croquet last Saturday.

Everyone is busy getting ready for the picnic July 4. Some are going to Noble July 2, some to Arp the 4th, and some are going to be very patriotic and go to both.

Sept. 9, 1910

James Pumphrey of near Bakersfield died on Thursday of last week. He was taking the Keely cure and had entered the institution only four days previous to his death.

Lilly – Thos. Blacksher fell and hurt his right arm while climbing over a rock fence last Saturday.

The people in our neighborhood are busy in their corn fields saving fodder.



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Bakerfield's Morris Store circa 1915

Former Ozark County resident Mary Belle Head Greene shared this old photo that is thought to have been taken at the Morris Store in Bakersfield perhaps around 1915. Greene thinks the man and woman in the photograph may be Hattie Smith Morris and her husband John.



Barefooted child helps with the livestock

Very little is known about this photo of a barefooted child in what looks like a rocky creek bed feeding a sow from a bucket while the sow's piglets chow down too. The undated scene was among photos that were donated to the Historium by Gainesville resident Jerry Luna, and the child is thought to be a member of the Cleo and Carrier Luna family, probably taken between 1912 and 1920.

Ozark County Times
July 7, 1911

Rockbridge – There will be services at Lower Brixey the Fourth of July conducted by Rev. Thomas of Bryant. Mr. Thomas seems to think we are committing a sin by observing Independence. For our part we can see no sin in meeting together in honor of the day we received our freedom. In remembrance of our great hero Geo. Washington.

B. V. Morris has bought an electric light plant. Rockbridge will soon be lit up with electric lights.

Jan. 5, 1912

Dawt – We are proud to say that the Blanche Nickens Photo Co. is doing some of the finest work in outdoor photos we have ever seen. Some interesting views were taken at this place.

Oak Grove – Ben Denny had a house raising last Thursday.

Nottingham – Born to Landon Gaulding and wife on Dec. 31, a boy.

Nov. 15, 1912

News was received that Sherman Mankin accidentally shot and killed himself while climbing from his buggy at the Levi Dickerson place 8 miles east of Ava. He and Bid Reynolds and Mr. Chambers went over there to a sawmill his morning. Emmett Mankin and others immediately left for the scene. The city of Ava is in mourning. ... Mr. Mankin was manager of the Pero Lumber Co.

On Saturday afternoon, Bolivar Haskins was seriously injured in a run-away. He and Miss Lela Gilliland were starting out buggy riding and had reached the rock fence at the foot of the hill in the north part of town when some children ran out from behind the fence, scaring the team. When the horses jumped, one of the breast straps broke, letting the tongue and yoke strike the horses so that they soon became unmanageable.

Bolivar, in order to give Miss Gilliland a chance to escape from the buggy, reined the team to a side, and she escaped injured. He was unable to get the team back in the road, and they ran on to the high bank at the creek. The buggy was

pitched, turning it completely over, end for end, Bolivar landing on his left hip and side some distance ahead of the buggy.

He was carried to his home, and his injuries dressed by Dr. White. His hip and back are badly bruised, and likely some bones are broken. He will be confined to his bed for a number of weeks.

Toledo – Some farmers are going to sow more wheat now since they hear that Wilson is elected. They say it will grow well under a Democratic administration.

John Martin went to Ava to cast his vote as he had not been here long enough to vote.

Oak Grove – Several from here went to Douglas County this week and bought apples at 15 cents per bushel.

A new roof is being put on the church house here.

Lutie – For sale: Republican crowing roosters 3 cents per carload, Bull Moose horns 4 cents per thousand pairs. Drive around to back alley.

W. T. Herd took five wagons to Mansfield last week to get roofing for his barn



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Motoring with the Sweetons

This photo of the Henry and Dicey Sweeton Nash family in their first car, probably taken around 1920, accompanies a story in the February 2020 edition of the *Old Mill Run* by Gina Hollingshad and her mother, *Ozark County Times* correspondent Marty Uhlmann. The story follows the Sweeton family's history in the Dora area, including the history of Sweeton Pond, Sweeton Cemetery and the Sweeton Church / Community Building.



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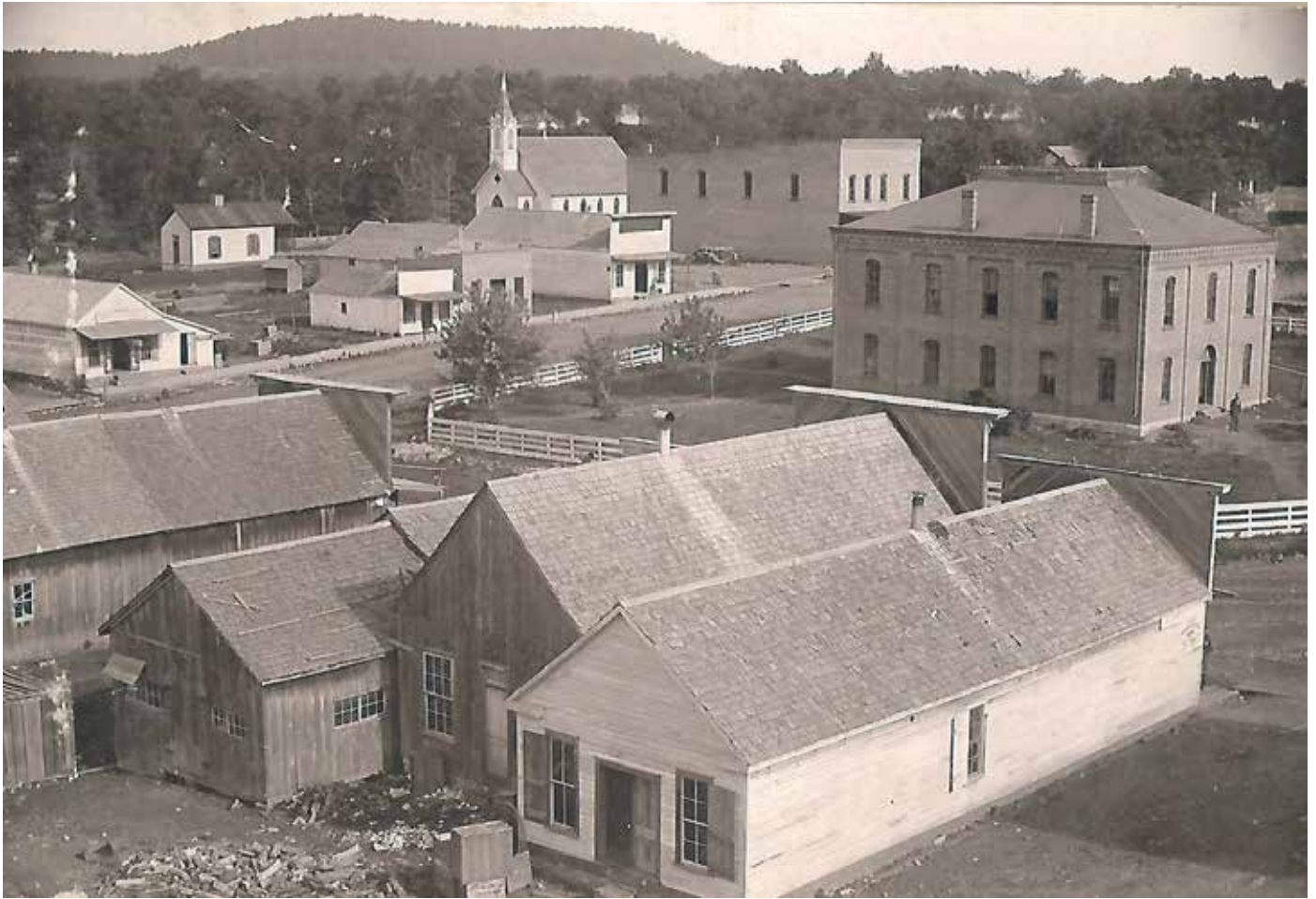


Photo courtesy Baxter County (Ark.) Historical and Genealogical Society (baxtercountyhistory.org.)

This photo of Mountain Home, Arkansas, is thought to have been taken in 1895. The view looks northwest across the square with the county's second courthouse in view. The First Christian Church, built in 1893, stands just west of Main and Sixth streets. The photo is from the collection of Sherri Sayers, the great-great-granddaughter of Robert Martin Hancock, who was Baxter County Sheriff in 1895. Writing about his visit to the town in 1882, Brock Storts, the editor of Gainesville's *New Era* newspaper, was very impressed by all the structures that were painted.

A visit to Mountain Home, Arkansas, 1882

Editor's note: Brock Storts, "Editor and Proprietor" of Gainesville's New Era, wrote this description of his visit to Mountain Home, Arkansas, in the newspaper's June 10, 1882, edition:

Last week, accompanied by Mr. H. E. Howell, a gentlemanly attorney of Springfield, Mo., we visited the neighboring town of Mountain Home, the county seat of Baxter county, Arkansas.

We were agreeably surprised upon our arrival there, finding what far surpassed our anticipations and imaginations as a town in its general make-up, appearance and people.

Mountain Home, a town of about, we judge, 850 inhabitants, is situated in the midst of a thickly settled farming country and has a good court house, academy, church (in the course of erection), four general stores, two drug stores, a hardware store, boot and shoe store, good hotel, printing office, three blacksmith shops, and restaurant together with several minor businesses and the usual number of professional men and their respective offices....

The article that adds most to the general appearance of a town and signifies the taste and enterprise of her citizens (and this we have cause to believe will not be refuted by a single lady in the Union and by very few married ladies--if any) is by no means forgotten, and that is paint. We found every house neatly painted. Even the leading blacksmith shop has a painted front....

The people of Mountain Home are well-behaved, benevolent, liberal, sociable, and we may well add, from our experience, sober. Although circuit court was in session, not a drunken man or a drop of ardent liquor chanced to meet the public gaze or mortify the pride of her moral citizens during our stay.



Photo courtesy Vincent Anderson

Mountain Home, early 1900s

When this photo of Mountain Home, Ark., in the early 1900s was posted on Facebook, commenters noted the hilltop "signal tree" in the distance.



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Ozark County Times
Sept. 4, 1914

G. W. Boone, J. C. Harlin, E. W. Ebrite, Jack Patterson and Everett Luna arrived home Sunday evening from Ozark, where they had been attending court on Saturday. They made the trip as far as Seymour by automobile. In spite of the rain and muddy roads, they made the trip without mishap and in good time. The boys say you can go most anywhere in a Ford car.

Dormis – Andy Cobb moved his stock of merchandise from Birdtown to his new storeroom near Dormis this week. Ben Cobb and Walter Hill hauled Cobb's stock of merchandise.

Pontiac – During the storm Sunday morning, lightning struck the kitchen flue of Henry Mahan's residence, tearing part of it down and knocking down the stove pipe and bursting a hole in the floor about a foot long.

Jan. 1, 1915

William Wood was born in Bedford County, Va., July 25, 1840, departed this life Dec. 15, 1914. ... He was married to Miss Mary Coil in 1867, and to this union five children were born. Two of them preceded him to the better world. His

widow and three children, D. B. Wood of Dormis, Mrs. Chas. Colvin of Mammoth Springs, Ark., and Mrs. Ada Luna of Gainesville are left to mourn. ...

Mr. Wood served in the Union army, moved from North Missouri to Ozark County about 27 years ago where he spent the remainder of his days. ...

The funeral services were conducted at the residence of the deceased near Dormis by Ulysses Morrison.

June 4, 1915

Mammoth – Geo. Dye captured a hive of bees on Monday. They were hanging to a fence rail.

W. S. Robbins robbed a bee gum the first of the week and got 50 lbs. of honey.

A small crowd met at our cemetery Sunday and decorated the graves and set Saturday, July 31, for cleaning off the cemetery.

June 25, 1915

Almartha – Wm. James of this place died Monday. Mr. James was 85 years of age. He leaves many relatives and friends to mourn.

Green Parker was seen out binding wheat Monday. Even the merchants have to work during these hard times.

There was a wedding since our last writing. Mrs. Floy Beach and Leslie Ramsey were married at Ava during the [probably teachers'] examination there.

Ad – Notice! I have received a complete line of samples for Picnic Stands. You should see me before you buy. Can give you the best and quickest service. ... I'll be in Gainesville every Saturday. Everett Luna, Gainesville, Mo. Salesman for G. D. Milligan Grocer Co., Springfield, Mo.

Jan. 5, 1917

Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Ford of this city, a fine boy on Thursday of last week.

Romance – Chas. Allen and D. P. Watson attended the Xmas dinner and pie supper at Brushy Knob and report a good time.

Fred Eslinger, who is attending school at Seymour, is home for a two weeks' visit.

Rena Robinson accompanied Miss Herd home for a Xmas visit.

Dawt – Ben DeBoard and the Cowart boys have been working on the Dawt and Dora phone line. We can talk to Dawt now for the first time since the high water last spring.

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Relatives gather on the porch of Benjamin Breeding's old Locust store, circa 1913.

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its people are cherished and hill-country traditions are carried on.

We're on temporary hiatus during the pandemic, but our work continues behind closed doors. Follow us in the Ozark County Times and on the Ozark County Historium Facebook page. Visit our website to order historical books or to peruse our collection of wonderful old photographs. Whether you're an Ozark Countian by birth or adoption, or if you have a long-distance affection for the Real Ozarks, we look forward to seeing you again soon!

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Ozark County Times**June 8, 1917**

On account of hard times, the singing convention at New Harmony on the 4th Sunday in June has been called off.

A great many of our people motored down Lick Creek Sunday to the Jas. Pratt farm and spent the day out among nature. The children enjoyed romping up and down the shady valley and occasionally racing through the creek.... Everyone enjoyed the day's outing and most especially did Uncle Dick Martin and Uncle Ab Daniel, who felt so young that they carried several armloads of vegetables out of Harve Webb's garden and prepared them for the big feast. These two old veterans remained at the table about six hours and kept four hands busy waiting on them.

Dora – A few met and scrubbed the church house floor Saturday. We would be glad if the boys would spit their tobacco outdoors.

Dec. 21, 1917

Toledo –The thermometer registered 21 below zero Monday morning of last week; 15 Monday morning; 8 Tuesday

morning and 4 Wednesday morning.

Caney – D. L. Mayberry has sent every boy at Camp Funston from Ozark County a big apple, and he sent his nearest relative, Jas. L. Loftis, a present.

Locust – Everett Shelton caught a gray fox last week. Also, Arthur Reynolds caught one.

Shiloh – Leonard Chaney purchased an organ last week.

Sept. 20, 1918

London – Sept. 13 – Official admission was made by the German war office in Berlin today that the Germans have fled the St. Mihiel salient, where the Americans began their great offensive yesterday.

This emphasized the magnitude of the American victory southeast of Verdun.

A heavy counterattack was delivered by the Germans against the right wing of the new American front east of St. Mihiel this morning. The assault...was completely repulsed by the Americans.

Isabella – J. W. Jones sold his buggy to Ransom Swayne and bought another one from Tom Martin.

Will Friend sold some hogs to Bret

Friend last week.

Dec. 20, 1918

Bakersfield – Word was received here that Thurlow Mullins, son of Jim Mullins, of two miles west of town, died in France the 4th of October. He leaves a host of relatives and friends to mourn his loss. Darling Thurlow, he has left us.

Jan. 3, 1919

Arthur Epps of near Dora was here Thursday of last week.... He reported the destruction by fire of the Dora I. O. O. F. hall on the night of Dec. 14. It is believed the building was set on fire. Two hundred dollars' worth of Thrift stamps that were in the lodge are supposed to have been taken out before the building was set on fire.

Aug 5, 1919

Andrew Carnegie died at his summer home, Shadow Brook, on the morning of Aug. 11. The cause of death was bronchial pneumonia. He was ill less than three days. Etycl Willhoit, who has been attending a summer term of school at Tahlequah, Okla., arrived home Friday to

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spend a short visit with his parents, Mr. and Ms. J. R. Willhoit....He has been employed to teach in Hominy, Okla., the coming term.

Ad – Going to have a sale? Let me cry it for you. Otto Enloe, Rockbridge, Mo.

Noble – Elza Ludwig is building a new house on the streets of Noble.

Mack Mead and son are drilling a well at the Noble schoolhouse.

Brixy – Our school is progressing nicely under Mrs. Beulah Smith.

Mrs. Effie Haynes of Welsford, Kansas, passed here en route to Caney to see her father, Uncle James Loftis.

Willhoit – Mrs. Baxter Gaulding and son and Paris Sims and wife were at C. B. Coppinger's after peaches last week.

Jan. 9, 1920

W. C. Morrison....died at his home at Zanon on Friday of pneumonia.

He was 77 years old. He was laid to rest in the Smith Chapel Cemetery on Saturday.

... He served the county as an assessor, collector and at the last election was elected judge of the eastern district.

Gainesville School Notes – Guy Harrison was out of school last week because of sickness.

Remember that the school gives a program every Friday evening. Visitors are always welcome.

Dora – Bill Moody was in the neighborhood buying cattle this week.

The Sylvester Watkins' have a new boy at their home.

Roy Hunt is teaching a successful term of school at Pine Valley.

July 7, 1922

Sheriff Geo. A. Rose, becoming quite expert on the hunt of whiskey stills, has been

diverting some of his hunting experience of late to that of finding a bride. His efforts were crowned with success when he made a raid on the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Owens a few miles west of town where he found their accomplished and charming daughter, Miss Tressie. They were married at Lutie on Saturday.

S. A. Morrison, assistant project engineer on the state road now building from the Howell County line to Gainesville, was at this place a few days ago. He says the bridge across North Fork will be built and that work will begin on it in about 90 days.

Sept. 22, 1922

Dawt – Quite a few have gone to Southeast Missouri to pick cotton.

Melvin Bushong made a trip to St. Louis and drove back a new Ford.

Luna – Henry House and family spent Saturday night and Sunday at A. C. Luna's.

Rev. Patrick filled his appointment here Sunday.

July 4, 1924

Longrun – The Lower Pond Fork and Hammond ball teams crossed bats on the Pond Fork diamond Sunday. The score was 2 to 4 in favor of Pond Fork.

Joe and George Willhoit put a wheat binder together for W. E. Robertson last week.

Henry Simpson is helping Fred Robertson cut oats this week.

On June 22, the relatives and neighbors of Mrs. Margaret Taber surprised her with a birthday dinner on her 50th birthday. A fine dinner was served, and all enjoyed the day.



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The middle years

1920s to 1950s

Sims Locker Plant

This 1949 photo of the Sims Locker Plant in Gainesville, from the collection of the late Phyllis Herndon, was shared by her niece, Rhonda Herndon. From left are Odean Goodway, P.O. Sims, John R. Sims, Alton Kyle with son Jimmy, Neil Lawrence, Howard Wade, Jack Barger and Bob Kyle. The late John R. Sims, who operated the business with his father, P.O. Sims, told the *Times* in 2017 that Egbert Robbins and Aus Shanks built the locker plant and a cheese plant in Gainesville at about the same time, around 1945-46. John R. and Eddie Shanks “mixed mud all summer” for the blocks used in constructing the locker plant; they then joined Hayden Carter in mixing the “mud” used for the cheese plant blocks. That summer the Rural Electric Authority ran the first three-phase electrical lines to Gainesville to provide power for the two facilities. The locker plant provided freezer space for rent to residents at a time when many homes had no electricity, and those that did had small refrigerators with tiny freezer compartments.

March 27, 1925

Division headquarters at Willow Springs advise that an effort is being made to place 53 miles of new road work under contract in the Ninth Division in the April letting. The work contemplated includes ... a section on Route 5 north of Gainesville.

Dec. 3, 1926

More than 35 persons are known dead and scores injured in the path of a tornado from Arkansas through Southern Missouri extending as far north as Knobview, a small town on the Frisco near Rolla on Thanksgiving day.... In and near Heber Springs, Ark., the death list totaled more than 30....

Brandsville, 20 miles south-east of West Plains, was almost wiped out. Three persons were killed and many were injured. ...

The tornado gave little warning of its approach. Citizens were enjoying the Thanksgiving meal when a roar was heard.

Two persons were instantly killed and two others were so badly injured that they died soon after ... when an automobile in which they were riding was struck on a railroad crossing at West Plains last Wednesday by a Frisco passenger train. ...

Charity - The radio concert wasn't given Friday night. Everybody come again when it is given.

Jan. 13, 1928

The Gainesville-Ava basketball game resulted in defeat for our team. The score was Gainesville 11, Ava. 27. Considering the chance for training which the teams have, our girls are to be commended. About half of our team had never played on an indoor court.

The car in which our girls rode had an accident near Ava, and one player was slightly injured.

The lineup was as follows: Gainesville - Clark and Young forwards; Garret and Endicott centers; Landers and Blackburn

guards. Ava - Pettit and Hicks forwards; Gentry and Martin Centers; Coats and Sterman guards. Young scored 9 points for Gainesville and Clark 2. Lorene Wood, a center substitute, and Doris Looney played well. Let's boost for an indoor court for Gainesville.

April 6, 1928

Geo. W. Collins arrived in Gainesville on the West Plains mail truck on his return to his home at Brixey from Springfield Sunday morning where he had been attending the wedding of his daughter, Miss Lois, to Mr. Elmer Satterfield, superintendent of the Eastern Circus company showing at the Shrine mosque. It was a real circus wedding, performed by a local minister amid the glamor and tinsel of the circus with all the performers in costume on the stage and with the circus band playing the wedding march ...

Miss Collins met Satterfield a few months ago at Ponca City, Okla., where he was playing at the time and Miss Collins was a secretary with Marland Oil Co.

June 15, 1928

A wind storm late Tuesday did thousands of dollars damage at Bakersfield. The two church buildings, the schoolhouse, two large Horn barns, the Thompson cotton gin and five or six residences were blown down or wrecked. Fortunately no person was seriously injured.

Jan. 25, 1929

Dora - Uncle Allen Stone... died at his home here on Jan. 9 after a short illness of flu and pneumonia. He was laid to rest in the County Line Cemetery. He leaves a wife to mourn.

Quite a crowd attended the Boys and Girls 4-H Club meeting at the church house Wednesday night. The program was unusually good, but the County Agent was delayed on account of bad roads.

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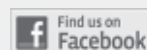


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Nov. 22, 1929

The William "Ma-Ha-Ba" medical show has been drawing large crowds every night at their free show here this week. If the tonic will cure all the ills that are claimed it will, doctors in this vicinity will have the opportunity for taking that long-planned vacation.

Feb. 14, 1930

Lilly Ridge – The telephone boys are

at work here now.

Mae Reynolds, Ruth, Edith and Linnie Crawford visited Mrs. Ed Clark at Gainesville Saturday morning.

Several of the women attended the quilting party given by Mrs. Becky Crawford Tuesday.

Jan. 14, 1932

On Tuesday evening when Mudge Stevens entered the jail with supper for

the prisoners, McDonald, who is being held on a car theft charge, knocked young Stevens down and ran out over him. McDonald failing to halt when called, Stevens fired two shots at the fleeing prisoner before bringing him to a stop.

The first shot went wild, but the second passed through the fleshy part of his left thigh. The prisoner is in no serious condition but is nursing a painful wound.



Althea Spring

This photo of the dam and powerhouse at Althea Spring is reprinted from *A History of Ozark County, 1841-1991*, which is available on DVD from the Ozark County Historium. A story by the late Dale Morrison accompanies the photo, explaining that the area around the spring, now a Missouri Department of Conservation access point on the North Fork of the White River, was purchased by Karl W. Schmidt, owner of Builders Steel Co. of Kansas City, on May 9, 1958. Schmidt built a home, office, machine shop and caretaker's home as well as the dam across the spring branch and a generator and powerhouse that provided power for the Schmidt home. On Aug. 24, 1977, David Wagner drove Karl and his wife, Willa, to Springfield for doctors' appointments. As they were returning home, all three were killed in a single-vehicle crash near Seymour. In 1980, MDC purchased the spring and surrounding property for \$200,000. The waterfall on the mill dam is a popular cooling-off spot for those floating the nearby river.

Ozark County Times
June 30, 1932

The Gainesville Light and Power Company is again in running order after a week or more of darkness.

To make sure of a plentiful water supply at the cheese factory here, now owned by S. F. Amyx, a 250-foot well is now being drilled.

L. F. Ebrite and wife of this city left here Sunday night on a touring trip to Riverside and other points in California. They expect to spend three weeks or more on the trip. Orr Hill accompanied them as far as Kansas City where he has employment.

Romance – A large crowd attended the musical entertainment at Logie Naugle's Saturday night. Some excellent music was rendered by J. R. Willhoit, Dewey Moody, Elmer Blair and Roy Wilson. It was greatly appreciated by all.

The Almartha ball team crossed bats with the Fry team Sunday on the Arp diamond. The score was 2 to 4 in favor of Fry.

Arthur Watson is holding a few days meeting at Barren Fork.

Jan. 5, 1933

W. W. Luna, 81 years old, died at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Blair, in this city at 11 o'clock Tuesday night. He had been ailing with a cold for a day or two but on Tuesday had a severe heart attack....

Mr. Luna was serving his second term as Justice of the Peace of this township. He also had been elected and served a term of sheriff of the county a number of years ago. ...

Funeral services were held at the Christian Church on Wednesday afternoon, Elder Joe Deatherage officiating. Burial was made with Masonic ceremonies in the Gainesville Cemetery.

The public school here remained closed this week on account of the many cases of flu.

April 13, 1933

Pontiac – Eunice Mahan was stung by a centipede Sunday morning.

Vance Blisard drove the school bus for Mr. Grisham last week.

Lutie – Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Ledbetter have a new boy at their home.

Horse Shoe Bend – Mr. and Mrs.

Virgil Newton are the proud parents of a girl born March 23.

Aug. 31, 1933

Hammond - Kidnappers came to Ben Welch's and took a stand of bees. The stand was full of honey.

Lilly Ridge - Steve Prock had a tree which made \$7 worth of stave bolts.

Jan. 18, 1934

New Harmony – Anyone wanting home grown tobacco should see R. E. MacAllister.

March 28, 1935

The Senior Play, "He was a Gay Senorita," will be presented at the Gainesville High School Auditorium March 30 at 7:45 p.m.

The cast of characters: Glane Epps, Harvel White, James Hill, Helen Carter, Loran Grisham, Marie Stevens, Ruth Jones, Ola Megee, Lennie Johnson, Pamela Robbins, Glen Mahan, Paul Johnson.

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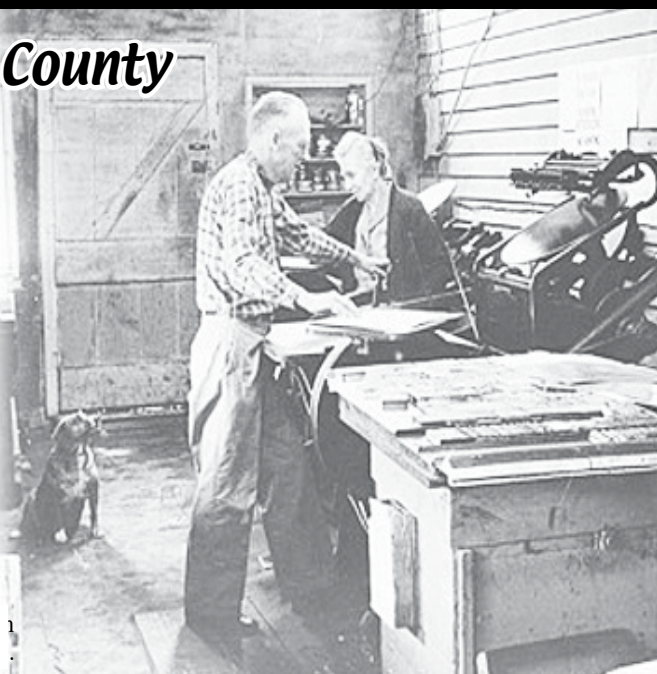
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Dewey Ebrite and Helen Ebrite Blisard work on a *Times* edition on the old letterpress as Dewey's dog Phoebe watches



Ozark County Times**Dec. 10, 1936**

Pleasant Grove – John Rose has been cutting Christmas trees for Gene Pettit.

Mammoth – Frank Sanders and a bunch of W. P.A. workers had a car wreck Friday evening. Willie Dye was pretty bad hurt. The rest were bruised up except Richard Walrath, who escaped without a scratch.

May 12, 1938

Rockbridge – The Mountain Grove mail carrier failed to arrive here Saturday due to the heavy rain of Friday night.

New Hope – Miss Faye Holmes, Mona Stewart, Noah and Gene Webb celebrated their birthday anniversaries Sunday with a dinner on the ground at the school-house.

March 30, 1939

Mrs. Mary E. Culpepper, a pioneer

resident of Howards Ridge, passed away at her home last Thursday following an illness of several weeks. Funeral services were held Friday, and burial made in Howard Ridge Cemetery.

The county court has received notice from the P.W.A. office at Omaha, Nebraska, that the contract with James Douglas for the construction of the courthouse is approved, and Mr. Douglas was notified on Tuesday to begin work on March 29.

Pontiac – Rozell Graves closed a very successful term of school at Charity Friday. A dandy program was given Friday night. About 300 persons attended.

June 15, 1939

The Judy & Mac Green Players vaudeville show, comprised of some 15 or 20 persons, with a large tent, comfortable seats, large stage and much scenery

for the different acts...put on a show two nights, but on Thursday morning, the sheriff served a warrant on Mr. Greenfield, the proprietor, charging him with violating state law, that of running a gambling game—selling candy boxes in which prizes were included.

Mr. Greenfield was taken by surprise... he believed it was entirely legal to sell the candy boxes. He got in touch with a few friends, and they and an attorney prevailed on the prosecuting attorney to reduce the charge from a felony to a misdemeanor so that he might pay a fine and get on with the show...

Mr. Greenfield paid the fine and supposed the trouble was all settled. He left off the candy sale on Friday night.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Greenfield was notified that if he did not get out of town by noon, the prosecuting attorney would continue filing gambling charges against him.

**Chicken riches**

Chickens and their eggs were an important source of income for many Ozark Countians in the 1920s and 30s. This photo of the late George B. and Florence Hunt with their chickens near their Dora home during that time is one of three photos illustrating "Chickens Produced Revenue in Ozark County," a story in the February 2020 edition of the *Old Mill Run* published by the Ozark County Genealogical and Historical Society.



Photos record the life of WWI vet Fred Wright

Ozark County native Fred Wright's life is recorded in these photos that are part of the collections of his daughter, Janice Wright Cantwell, and relative Cinita Brown (whose husband, Kenneth, scanned and shared them with the *Times*).

Above: This photo was taken in 1919 near Nottingham when Fred, standing left, was honored at a family dinner celebrating his return home from World War I. Beside him is his mother, Gertrude Wright; his father, John Wesley Wright, is seated across the table. The gathering was bittersweet. While the family surely was relieved to have their soldier home from war, they mourned the death of his twin brother, John, who had died Oct. 2, 1918, in France "of fever," according to the Nov. 1, 1918, report in the *Times*. John Wright is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Right: Fred Wright and his children Janice (holding little sister Jo) and Freddy stand on the swinging bridge near the town of Hammond, probably around 1947.



Left: Fred and Bonnie Wright, Hammond store

Fred Wright married Bonnie Gardner, and for many years they operated the general store and post office in Hammond. They're shown here in the store with their granddaughter Carol Cantwell in September 1955. The Wrights were the last owners of the store. Fred Wright died in 1971. Bonnie Wright served as Hammond postmaster from 1953 until 1975, the year the Hammond post office closed. She died in 1997.

Ozark County Times**Jan. 18, 1940**

F. A. Grisham has rented the Hambelton hotel just north of the Amyx garage, and they are now prepared to care for customers. Mr. Grisham states that as soon as arrangements can be made, he will commence the building of a fireproof hotel on his own property.

New Hope – Verdin Belt had the misfortune of cutting his leg with an ax while sharpening posts. Dr. Pace took several stitches in the wound, and Verdin is doing nicely.

Jan. 2, 1941

The new theater recently established in Gainesville by the Pettits is nearing completion, and an inspection of the building was very surprising to us. Mr. Pettit bought the old M. E. Church building and has completely remodeled it from top to bottom, making a building that is beautifully decorated inside and very comfortable for the patrons.

Modern picture machines and new sound have been installed. At present, it is equipped with 200 modern theater seats. ...

Dec. 2, 1942

Orpha Lee of Drury has a cow that had

twin calves born 15 days apart. Both calves are males.

Jan. 14, 1943

Luna – Friends of Arvis Strong will be glad to hear of him. He is with Uncle Sam's forces in Alaska. He writes that the bears come into camp and steal their meals and that Alaska is a cold place in the winter.

Aletta Hambelton is recovering nicely after being threatened with pneumonia. Ted Hambelton spent a two-day visit with home folks on account of Aletta's sickness. Ted looks fine and says he likes army life.

May 6, 1943

Leslie J. Breeding, who is in the Army, Mrs. Alvin Mahan and Mrs. Fred Owens of St. Louis spent a visit over the weekend with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Breeding, and brother Benton and wife.

Pvt. Tony Sullivan came in on Wednesday of last week, called here by the death of his grandmother, Mrs. Harvey. He spent a few days with relatives before returning to camp.

Mrs. Steve Pace, who is a patient at Mt. Vernon hospital, spent a week's visit with home folks and friends in and near this city, returning to Mt. Vernon on Wednesday. She has many friends who will be glad to know

she is improving very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Phillips of this city received the news Wednesday that their son, Pvt. Norman Phillips of Camp Gruber, Okla., is in the hospital suffering from lock-jaw, thought to be caused from a wisdom tooth.

June 10, 1943

A farewell party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Friend of near Lutie Monday night in honor of their sons, Pvt. Quentin Friend and Pfc. Earlin L. Friend, who are in the service, and also for Pvt. Noel Burnett. A very large crowd of relatives and friends were present.

The evening was spent in playing games and songs by Fern Pierce and Lorene Friend.

Lt. Arnold Martin, who has been stationed at Williams Field, Ariz., for some time, and Miss Rose Joccum of Sacramento, Calif., were recently married at Chandler, Ariz.

They spent a few days with home folks at Pontiac before going to a new field at Ephrata, Wash.

Lt. Martin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Martin of Pontiac.

**Leonard & Hattie Chaney****Stanley Chaney**

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Leonard & Hattie Chaney started this business in 1935. In the early 1960's it became L.H. Chaney & Son. Dub & Dorlene Collins bought the company, then known as Chaney Monuments, in 1971 from Stanley and Barbara Chaney after returning from Vietnam. Rob Collins took over the operation after Dub's death in 2007. Chaney Monument Works, LLC continues the tradition of serving Ozark County and the surrounding area.

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Gainesville square, 1953

This postcard photo is dated 1953, a time when two-way traffic flowed through the Gainesville square, a service station operated on the southwest corner of the square (to the right of the blinking light), and the Bank of Gainesville, now Century Bank of the Ozarks, was located in the small, stone-block building between Johnson's Store and Bushong Bros. Mercantile (before it moved to the north side of the square).

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Class of 1937 at Hodgson Mill

This photo was taken at Hodgson Mill (before its ornamental water wheel was added) during an outing of the Gainesville High School class of 1937. The photo is from the collection of Joann Blackburn, whose mother, Vloice Langston Blackburn, stands, center, wearing a dress with black buttons. Most others in the photo have not been identified, but the class roster, listed on the Gainesville School's website (gainesvillebulldogs.com) includes Clinton Beach, Hobert O. Beard, Faye Blackburn, Flay Blackburn, Donnie Breeding, Leta Ford, Fern Graves, Roselle Graves, Lucille Hale, Margaret Hammond, Lonz King, R. G. Landers, Vloice Langston, Joe Neal Luna, John H. Luna, Mona Luna Roberts (wearing a dress, second from right in the photo), Noel Luna, Muriel Mahan, Lucille McCullough, Ruby Perry, Marjorie Pettyjohn, Elsa Prock Ronda Prock, Beatrice Rector, Russell Reid, Wilma Robbins, Oscar Sanders, Frank Stevens, Opal Upton and Vernie Watson.

Ozark County Times
Feb. 17, 1944

New Harmony – The pond diggers were in our neighborhood last week. Those having ponds dug were: L. S. Cockrum, Paris Sims, Newt Martin, Alva McDonald, John Flack and Allan and Don MacAllaster. They are getting ready for water when it comes.

Mrs. L. S. Cockrum has 800 eggs set, 400 to hatch next Sunday and 400 two weeks later. They are for Scott Price. We know where to go for fried chicken.

May 24, 1945

Mrs. Ruth Boyle of Hammond has received a telegram from the War Department informing her of the death of her husband, Pvt. Arnold J. Boyle, on April 24, 1945, on Luzon Island in the Philippines.

We are told by Dr. and Mrs. M. J. Hoerman that their new office building will be open to the public for inspection Sunday, May 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Construction was started last October on the lot where the Judson Luna family lived for several years....It is a beautiful

building, made mostly of brick and is quite an addition to our little city.

... Later when nurses and other professional help become available, he hopes to add hospital rooms to the south of the building.

June 14, 1945

Willie Wilbanks of Pontiac, who has been employed in Kansas City for some time, was killed Tuesday morning in a car wreck while on his way to work. Two other men were also killed.

Mr. Wilbanks is survived by his wife and six children, one son being in the service overseas.

Funeral services and burial will be made at Pontiac Friday morning.

On Wednesday morning of last week, when M. L. Kesner went to the pasture to get his horses to go to work, he found them both dead under a walnut tree. They had been killed by lightning the evening before during the electrical storm.

Mr. Kesner is a prominent farmer of the Tecumseh community.

Jan. 4, 1945

Harry N. Force, 68, former well-known druggist of this city, was fatally injured Saturday morning. It is believed he stumbled and fell in his drug store on State Street in Springfield. He died that evening in Baptist Hospital without regaining consciousness. ...

June 13, 1946

Pvt. Utah Strong, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lisses Strong of Sallee District, spent a 17-day furlough with home folks. His mother has been quite sick. Pvt. Strong joined the army in January and completed his training at Camp Lee, Va. He reported at Camp Kilmer, N.J., on the first of June where he and 76 other boys will leave soon for overseas.

Pontiac – Folks, the way to learn how much profit the other merchants make off your dollar is to come to Pontiac and trade at J. H. Hollingsworth & Son store. You not only see it, but your pocketbook can feel the difference.

Jesse Shaw and Blanche Mahan took the teachers examination at Gainesville Friday and Saturday.

Come shop at our newly remodeled store!

Deli Platters - Made To Order

5 for \$25

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Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

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Town & Country
SUPERMARKET

**OPEN 7 DAYS
 A WEEK**

**Gainesville, MO * 417-679-4584
 Store Hours: 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m.**

Ozark County Times
June 30, 1949

Something to boast of, Aunt Martha Herd, who lives on A. D. McDonald's farm on Hogard Creek, is 70 years old and can still outrun a gray fox.

One day last week a fox caught one of Aunt Martha's chickens. She took after Mr. Fox and was about to catch him when he dropped the chicken. Mrs. Herd had chicken for dinner.

Jan. 5, 1950

Miss Guavana Eslick became the bride of John R. Sims in a double-ring ceremony at 2 p.m. Dec. 24, 1949, at the home of the bride's parents near Rockbridge. Rev. Joe A. Deatherage of Gainesville performed the ceremony.

Mistletoe was the main feature of decoration in the home. The bride wore a dress of aqua blue with accessories to match. Miss Nina Enloe was maid of honor, and Mr. Wilbert Cowart, a close friend, acted as best man.

Nov. 9, 1950

Announcements have been received of the birth of a new son to Mr. and Mrs. Don Blisard, now of Tulsa, on Oct. 30. He has

been named Paul Dean.

Nottingham – We hope to have electricity in the not too far future. They scattered poles for the wire through here this week.

Ben Harly and K C Williamson made molasses this week.

April 3, 1952

The city election in Gainesville was quiet with less than 100 votes cast. The following officers were elected: Mayor, Gradie Sanders; Alderman, J. W. St. John, Everett Herd, Howard Wade and M. L. Kirkpatrick; police judge R. O. Gilliland; and city marshall John Miller.

Jan. 22, 1953

Longrun – Aunt Betty Griffith had the misfortune of losing her house and contents by fire Friday night but was lucky to get out as she lived alone.

Mr. and Mrs. Arley Wallace are the proud parents of a boy who arrived Jan. 13 and has been named John Robert.

July 23, 1953

The cake supper given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Nance for their son, Lyman, was well attended. There were 150 people present, and 40 cakes were served.

Following the supper the group was entertained by instrumental music by Albert Nance, Loyd Loftis, Ancel Stewart and Gary Walker. Gary also did some good singing.

Lyman left Tuesday for an Army camp.

Brixey – Mrs. Lawrence Smith and James Stewart helped Wm. Livingston saw lumber last week for H. Hubbard to use in getting ready for his rodeo at Gainesville beginning Thursday of this week.

Lilly Ridge – Elwood and Clinie Russell and families were here last week attending the funeral of their brother, Clifford, who died suddenly, and was buried at the Ball Cemetery.

Souder – Mrs. Charley Walker received a telegram telling of the death of one of her nephews, Wayne Parton. He was killed by lightning while combining wheat on July 4th while in Kansas.

Also, Charley Walker received word that his son-in-law, Carl Ward, who was bitten by a small rattlesnake while they were visiting here about a month ago would be able to be moved home soon. Blood poisoning had already set up when he reached a hospital at Enid, Okla.

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April 29, 1954

Brixey – We folks around Brixey feel we are having our share of rabies. Curtis Taber lost a nice 2-year-old cow Friday. Wayne Clark lost a cow recently and has another sick.

May 13, 1954

Believing that one of the most critical needs of the city of Gainesville is an adequately equipped volunteer fire department and realizing that the financial condition of the city does not permit the purchase of the necessary equipment, the Gainesville Lions Club voted unanimously to give the entire net proceeds of their forthcoming play, "Flying High," which is to be given in the high school auditorium May 27 and 28, to the City Council to be placed in a fund to be used eventually to purchase a fire truck, hose and other necessary equipment.

June 21, 1956

The Junior Dodgers won their first game of the season, beating Summers Market of West Plains 7 to 6 in a game played at West Plains Monday night.

Going into the final inning, the Dodgers were leading 7 to 4. The Summers came up with two runs, one an error. Then the play of the game came when Bryon of West Plains hit the next pitch against the left-field fence, bringing the second run in and trying to stretch his hit into a home run. Sam Exline, playing left field, fired the ball to David Norman at short. Norman quickly and perfectly threw the ball to the catcher, Wayne Stewart, who put the tag on Bryson....

Jarrett Robertson did the hurling for the Dodgers, holding West Plains to five hits, striking out nine and walking five....

The next practice session will be held at 4 p.m. Friday. At the last practice, Charles Luna was elected team captain.



Gary Walker, music man

Songs written by Ozark County native Gary Walker were recorded by some of the most famous country music artists in the 1950s and '60s, including Kitty Wells and Carl Smith, according to a Dec. 6, 1956, item in the *Times* that cited an interview in the *Nashville Banner*. Walker, one of the five sons of the late Arles and Ivy Naugle Walker, was born in Romance. He and his wife, the former Peggy Jo Boone, spent most of their 66 years together in Nashville, where Walker died July 8, 2020. He was 87.

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lodging and Just
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Pontiac Cove Marina has been in the Morgan family for more than 55 years. It began when Joe and Alice Morgan bought the business in 1964. Now, the third generation is a part of PCM's management.



PCM started out with a small store, featuring mainly fishing tackle and bait. The business has expanded and now features more than 275 boat slips, pontoon, tritoon and fishing boat rentals, water toy rentals, a scuba air station, fuel dock and a store that sells fishing licenses, bait, tackle, boating accessories, water toys, souvenirs, clothing, beer, soda, snacks and more. In addition to the marina, the Morgans also operate the Pontiac Campground and own and operate Lake Harbour Resort and the Red Barn Lodge and Loft.



From left: Lola Wade (9) and Finn Wade (7) are the fourth generation of the Morgan family to live in Pontiac, and they love spending time on the lake.



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A good night's catch

Marv Looney, left, told the *Times* when we first published this photo that he thinks it was taken around 1958 when he and his friends, the late Jollie Pace, center, and Don Rackley, caught three limits of bass one night on Bull Shoals Lake while fishing out of what was then Pontiac Boat Dock. He believes they were fishing from a boat owned by Pace and another friend, John R. Sims, and it "probably had a 10 hp motor on it." At the time, Looney and his wife, the late Delores Robbins Looney, owned the Rod and Gun Motel on W Highway near Pontiac, and Marv also taught school in Gainesville. He would go on to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas and serve as president or chancellor of several colleges around the country, retiring back to Pontiac and ending his career as chancellor of what is now the Missouri State University campus in West Plains.

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The names of the man and boy in this photo of the original Pontiac Boat Dock could not be confirmed, but the man is thought to be the original leasee, James Funchess of Texas. The photo was shared by Mary Lou Robbins Snelson.

A new lake, a new kind of business

The Oct. 2, 1952, edition of the *Times* reported that “bids for leasing sites for four commercial docks in the new Bull Shoals reservoir were opened last night in the district office of the U.S. Corps of Engineers at Little Rock.”

The high bidders were: Pontiac, James B. Funchess of Houston, Texas, \$3,199; Buck Creek, near Protem, William Langham of Gassville, Arkansas, \$1,200; Oakland, Arkansas, Gene Mooney of Mountain Home, Arkansas, \$1,512; and Lakeview, James Lieb of Mountain Home, \$6,122. The leasees would pay 4 percent of their gross receipts plus the annual rental fee.

“Agricultural and grazing land around the rim of the reservoir” was also put up for rental, the *Times* reported. “Seventy-five percent of the total amounts received is returned to the counties for school and road purposes.”

Funchess quickly sold the Pontiac lease to brothers Sandford and Jimmy Robbins. Sandford eventually bought out Jimmy’s share and later sold half ownership to his daughter Darlene Crawford and her then-husband Floyd. In 1959, George Labuta bought the business and hired Jake Martin and Barney Jenkins to run it; in 1964, Labuta traded the boat dock to Joe and Alice Morgan for the Indian Point Resort they had built nearby. In 1978, the Morgans’ son Tim and his wife Johnna took over the business. Today the facility, now known as Pontiac Cove Marina, includes 275 boat slips and offers a variety of services, rentals, fuel and a retail shop. Tim and Johnna Morgan’s daughter and son-in-law, Jabet and Matt Wade, manage the marina, the adjoining campground and other family-owned lodging facilities. (Thanks to Marv Looney and Tim Morgan for helping with this history a few years ago.)



Tonja Cox, of Price Place, Arkansas, found this 1950s Pontiac Boat Dock postcard among photos taken or collected by her grandmother, the late Argie Willbanks, whose husband, Lawrence, worked as a fishing guide on the newly impounded Bull Shoals Lake.

Ozark County Times**Aug. 30, 1956**

Several new teachers will be on the Gainesville faculty this year. They include Mr. and Mrs. Paul Herd. Mr. Herd will teach social studies while Mrs. Herd will teach at Pine View....

Another new teacher will be Mr. Floyd Pitcock. Mr. Pitcock, a long-time rural school teacher, graduated from Arkansas State College at Jonesboro this summer. He will teach civics and English I.

Miss Louise Cotter of Viola, Ark., a recent graduate of Arkansas State University, has been employed to teach home economics....

School will open without the services of a music teacher. A summer-long search for a teacher to replace J. M. Hobbs, who resigned to accept a music position at Weston, Mo., has been unsuccessful, to the present.

Oct. 10, 1957

Dates of the Polio Clinics to be held in

the county are Oct. 11 and Nov. 8 in Dora, October 18 and November 15 in Gainesville, October 25 and November 22 in Thornfield. Free polio shots will be given to all persons under 20 years of age and all expectant mothers.

Tecumseh – Wolf Clark of Tecumseh attended a farm sale Saturday. The children and parents of the Odom district were overjoyed to see Mr. Clark. He had taught the Odom school for several years. He is teaching at the Luna this year and Mrs. Clark teaches at Dawt.

***Theodosia general store***

This undated photo of the old Theodosia general store is from the collection of Dale Schofield, who said the store stood near what is now the campground at Theodosia Marina Resort on the south side of Highway 160 near the bridge over today's Bull Shoals Lake.

***John Howard at Dormis store***

This photo of Clarence Braden "John" Howard, from the collection of Leda Howard Blair, was taken in the 1940s at Dormis, on what is now H Highway south of Dora. Howard's father, William Thomas "Bill" Howard, lived near the store and also ran a blacksmith shop and mill at Dormis. Some of the former owners of the store, Leda Blair said, included Joy and Cindy Thornton, Henry and Effie Howard and a Morrison family. Nothing is left of the store now. Leda and her sister, Reba Howard McGinnis, are pictured at the Dormis store on the cover of this year's *Times Past Magazine*.



President Truman: 'These dams belong to the people'

On July 2, 1952, President Harry S Truman arrived by train at Cotter, Arkansas, to officiate at the dedication of Bull Shoals and Norfolk dams. *Times* owner and editor J. W. Daniel covered the event and wrote a story published in the next day's edition. The event was held at Bull Shoals Dam, where Truman told the crowd, "These dams belong to the people." He said that, in addition to flood control and hydroelectric power generation, they would provide "wonderful opportunities for fishing, camping and recreation," adding that he'd been told "more than 700,000 people visited Norfolk Lake last year, and more than 750,000 pounds of fish were caught in the lake area." He also said he had asked Congress for money to build Table Rock Dam and hoped the project could start later that year.

Dec. 29, 1960

Three Christmas babies were born in Ozark County at the two clinics here.

Two of the babies were born on Christmas day at Dr. M. J. Hoerman's Clinic. The first was a son born at 4 a.m. to Mr. and Mrs. George William Merriman of Duggingsville. Robert Dean was their fifth child. ...

The other baby born there arrived at 6:45 p.m. It was a son, Arthur Clifford Sewell II, born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Clifford Sewell of Isabella. ...

The third baby on Christmas day was born at Dr. Arthur Beard's Gainesville Clinic. It was a daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. Don Ewing of Springfield. ... The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sallee and Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Ewing of Thornfield.

Feb. 1, 1962

Dora – A celebration in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Southwards' golden wedding anniversary was held Sunday, Jan. 14. Friends and relatives gathered for a basket dinner at the Needmore Church, where they have been active in the church for some 30 years or more.

Mr. and Mrs. Southwards have, with the exception of a few years, always resided in Ozark County. They have for the past 40 years lived on a farm that was homesteaded by Mrs. Southwards' father on Bryant River near the scenic Aid-Hodgson water mill.

Three of their four children were present for the occasion.

Aug. 9, 1962

In the five contested races in the Republican primary in Ozark County,

Henry Gault was nominated for representative, C. R. Hutchison for judge of the eastern district and Clifford Warrick for collector, but the other two nominations will not be decided until the county court meets Friday to make the official tally, count the absentee votes and tally the Spring Creek vote.

In 16 of 17 precincts reported, the closest race was for judge of the western district, where two men in a field of seven are only three votes apart. O. R. Ledbetter has 255 votes, and Floyd Graham has 258....

In the contest for presiding judge, C. I. Holmes and Glenn Gardner are only 40 votes apart....

There are enough absentee votes to make the absentee votes the deciding factor in both of these races.

Jan. 14, 1965

Virgil Duren, 35, who faces first-degree murder charges for the knife slayings of Oscar and Ruby Kempe of Theodosia on Aug. 17, was held for trial without bond Tuesday at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing before Judge G. W. Rogers in the Ozark County magistrate court.

After the hearing, Duren was taken by Sheriff Herman Pierce and Deputy Loyd Hamblen to Ava, where he will be kept in the new Douglas County jail, which offers better security than the jail on the second floor of the Ozark County courthouse.

Clyde Rogers was in Jefferson City Tuesday to argue the case for an appeal before the state supreme court for Grace Deyo, who was convicted of the murder of her husband, Kenneth Deyo, at Almartha.

Mrs. Deyo was convicted in a trial held in Gainesville and given a life sentence. The case was appealed, and the supreme court remanded the case for a new trial. At the second trial in Christian County on a change of venue, she was again convicted and given a life sentence.

Joe Morgan was elected president of the Pontiac Resort Area association at the January meeting of the group. H. W. Phillippe is vice president while Fran Gregory is secretary and Guy Johnson is the treasurer for the year.



Dairy Day parade

This photo of the Noble 4-H Club's float in the 1959 Dairy Day parade in Gainesville also gives a glimpse of the businesses that lined the north side of the square 61 years ago – Amyx Auto, Gradie's dry good store and Bushong Brothers food market. The float's banner says "Boil 'em in butter / makes 'em better." Larry Evans drives the tractor pulling the float. The photo is from the collection of the late Janice Frazier, who served as Ozark County home economist for several years and who died in 2019. The photo was shared with the *Times* by her daughter, Kathy Frazier.

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East side of the square, Gainesville
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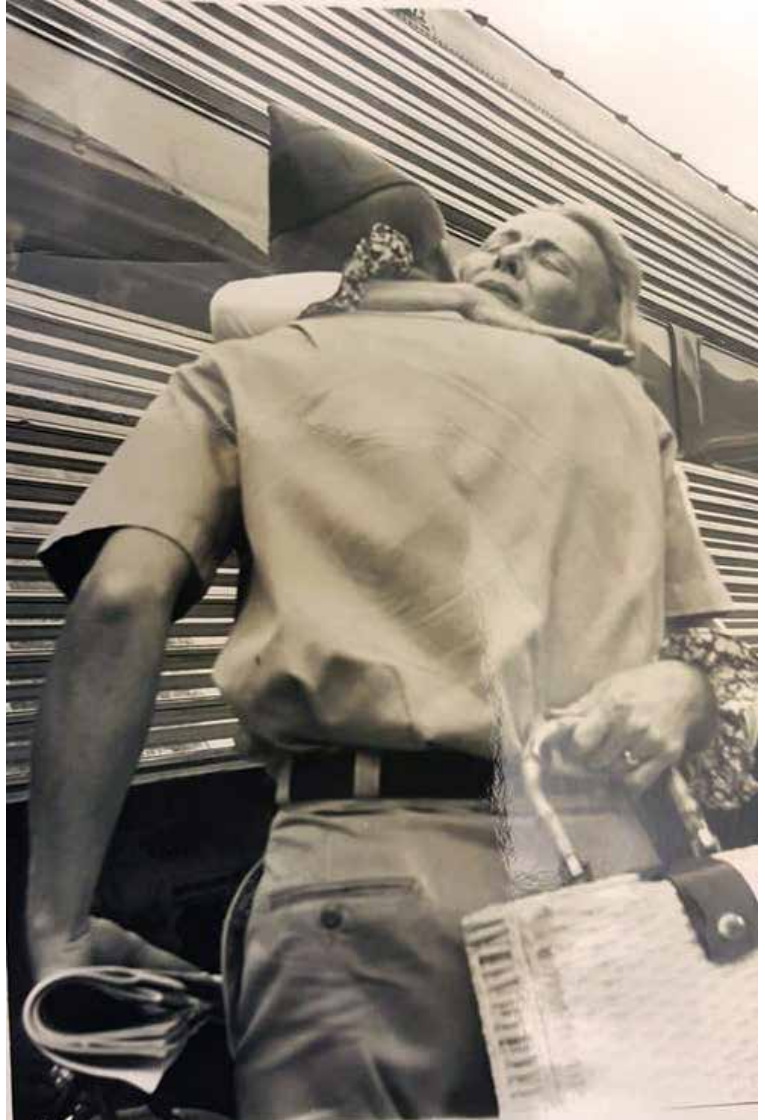
A mother's embrace

Gainesville twins Ron and Don Luna were two of the 11 young men listed in a Nov. 18, 1965, Times story as inductees heading into the armed forces.



Above: Five of the 11 Ozark County draftees who left Gainesville in November 1965 were back home for Christmas. From left, Ed Gault, Paul Greenstreet, Don Luna and Ron Luna. Seated, center: Gary Hambelton, who didn't get inducted because a previous case of polio had left him with a bad foot.

Right: This photo of Don Luna and his mother, the late Helen Marie Luna, was taken in later in 1966 in West Plains, after Don had been home on leave and was boarding the train to Memphis on his way to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for more training. Don's wife, the former Barbara Rackley, told the *Times*, "One reason Helen Marie was so emotional was that Ron was already in Vietnam at this point, and she knew Don would also be going." Both men were discharged in 1967 after completing their tours in Vietnam.



Nov. 18, 1965

Eleven men from Ozark County will leave Monday to be inducted into the armed forces for the November quota, which is the largest for this county for some time.

They are Eli General Williams, Clifford Calvin Beavers, John Delano Nash, Johnnie Ray Baxter, Lyle Dwight Thornton, Edward Dean Gault, Paul Avis Greenstreet, Gary Wayne Hambelton, Donald Gene Luna, Ronald Dean Luna

and Danny Ross Smith.

Three from the county have enlisted in a reserve unit. They are Dorman Ray May, David Earl Morrison and Frankie Lee Evans.

June 1, 1967

Our entire community was sadly stricken when the death angel called our beloved brother in Christ, a neighbor, a friend a relative, a big wheel in our little church here at Brixey, Leonidas Smith. He was a

lifelong resident here and will be greatly missed.

Miss Janice Allene Gaddy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gaddy, will graduate June 6 from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a BA in education, English major.

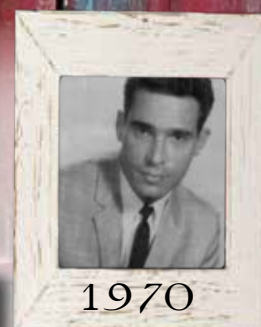
Mr. and Mrs. Gaddy will attend the graduation ceremonies. Miss Gaddy will teach in the Boonville school system next year.

In Memory of
Darrel Clark Wilson
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1938

GGrandparents Corbin
 C. (1916-1997) and Virgie
 (Hughey) Clarkson (1918-1989)
School of the Ozarks graduates



1970

grandfather
 Garland
 Clarkson

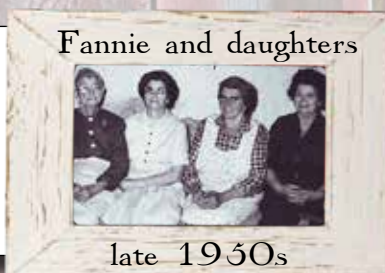


Melissie

late 1930s

GGrandmother
 Melissie Hannah
 (Richardson) (1871-
 1961)

GGrandmother
 Essie Mae (Brightwell)
 Clarkson (1896-1987)
 GGGGrandmother Fannie
 Effie (Clark) Brightwell (1873-
 1968)



Fannie and daughters

late 1930s

GGGGGrandfather James Wiley Richardson
 (1846-1924)

GGGGGrandfather Richard Richardson
 (1794-1846)



GGGGGrandfather Patrick
 Henry Clark (Civil War
 veteran)
 --married in 1865--
 GGGGGGrandmother Nancy
 Elizabeth (Holt) Magness
 Terry (1836-1907)



GGGGGrandfather Daniel
 Richardson (1754-1820)
 Revolutionary War veteran
 moved to Missouri as a
 pioneer in the 1800s

GGGGGGGrandfather
 William Holt (1799-1860)
 Ozark County Pioneer
 born in Henry County, VA



Clark was named after his ancestor, Patrick Henry Clark, who married a daughter of William Holt, one of Ozark County's first pioneer settlers • Many of their children and descendants have stayed in the Ozark Mountain area • We raised Clark to visit his family and the area of his ancestors.

To be born in the Ozarks is something very unique and to be very proud of.

Especially if your family has been here for centuries.

Its remoteness and natural beauty need to be preserved and treasured.

borninozarks2012@gmail.com

Ozark County Substance Abuse Task Force (OCSATF) is a group of Christian community members who are working to keep our community safe from the harms of substance abuse

We recognize the danger substance abuse poses to our families, community, and our way of life, which is why our mission is to provide awareness, promote skills, and act as a community facilitator for people who need treatment or support.

Our prevention group's focus is to provide active education to prevent the misuse of addictive substances. We actively participate in community events to provide information to community members.

The task force meets once a month every second Tuesday at Gainesville Lions Club at 6 p.m. All community members are welcome to attend.

Our desire is to instill hope into people who are most often overlooked in our world and provide for them the reflection of Jesus and ultimately peace in our Father.



For more information please
feel free and reach us at:

Phone: (417) 679-3334

E-mail: emailOCSATF@gmail.com

Address: PO Box 793 Gainesville, MO

**Ozark County Substance Abuse
Task Force Board Members:**

David Evans, President • Rhonda Hardcastle, 1st Vice-President
• Jeff Dotson, 2nd Vice-President • Rhonda Suter, Treasurer
• Masa Kinoshita, Secretary



Ozark County Times**Dec. 28, 1967**

The Jarrett Hicks home about 5 miles northeast of Gainesville is roofless, a victim of the line of tornadoes which skipped across sections of Arkansas, Missouri and into Illinois beginning around 10:30 last Wednesday night and extending into the early hours of Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hicks, who were in bed when the tornado struck their home, were not injured.... Extensive damage was done to the interior of their home.

A new factory building to house the Aromatic Cedar Products Company is under construction here, according to Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Snelling, owners and operators. The factory building was destroyed by fire Oct. 26.

Mr. Snelling said that land for the factory, which will measure 40 by 100 feet, was obtained from the Gainesville Industrial Corporation and is the old feeder pig sale lot east of Gainesville on 160 Highway.

Jan. 2, 1969

Last Monday night, 9-year-old Mary Reed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Reed of Dora, was attacked by a rabid fox which scratched her foot ... before her father was

able to knock him away with an axe. ...

The fox also attacked a family cat before Mr. Reed knocked it out. He later shot the fox and removed the head, which Deputy Sheriff Don Smith took to the public health lab at Springfield.

The head tested for rabies, and Mary is taking a series of 14 anti-rabies inoculations.

Also taking anti-rabies shots is Floyd Mallow. A dog belonging to his neighbor attacked the Mallow dog. When Mr. Mallow tried to separate the dogs, he was bitten by his dog. The neighbor's dog was proved to have rabies.

May 22, 1969

John Ed Ray, 17-year-old Army veteran who grew up in the Almartha community, was killed in enemy action in Vietnam May 13.

Ray, 36, who held the rank of sergeant first class, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ray of Almartha. He is also survived by his wife and five children who live in New York.

June 11, 1970

In a ceremonial burning of mortgage papers Saturday night, the new Robert Burns Lodge hall was declared free of

debt.

Dr. M. J. Hoerman, finance chairman, said a loan of \$300 from the Gainesville Chapter of the OES has been paid.

Crossroads - Otto Hambelton is working for Gerald Hambelton at Cross Roads store.

Lana Owens and Bessie Freeman picked cherries on Monday.

Clifton Luna is running two shifts at his sawmill, one in daytime and one at night.

July 9, 1970

Randy Ebrite, former Gainesville resident, now a Navy hospital man in Kittery, Me., was driving home from night duty at Portsmouth Naval Hospital when he saw a man fall from the steel works of a bridge under construction.

Randy pulled his car off the road and ran to the scene, where several injured workers were strewn about. He administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to several of the injured men before ambulances arrived. . . .

The accident occurred when a platform slung under the approaches for a new high-level bridge collapsed. Four men were killed and several others were injured.

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Ozark County Times

Aug. 6, 1970

Chester Lyday was employed as instructor for the Building and Trades class at a special meeting of the Gainesville R-5 school board last week.... A decision was made to purchase the Wess Luna property in Gainesville as a building site for future projects.

West Dora – Many people gathered at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Barker of Mtn. Grove July 25th to watch the Barkers thresh wheat. The wheat was grown on the Barker farm, and an old steam engine was used to run the thresher. The wheat was hauled in by wagon and a team of mules owned by Willard Newton of Dora and a team of horses owned by Lyle Hutchison of Vanzant. Robert had to help pitch some wheat to the thresher. Many people had never seen anything like this before.

Sept. 17, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lister have sold their drug store here to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Baker of Mountain Home, who will take over the business in approximately one month.

Lister Drug Store was opened here on Dec. 5, 1961, [editor's note: date is probably wrong] in the store building now occupied by Jim's TV and two years later it was moved to its present location on the east side of the square.

...Terry's Dime Store, which the Listers opened here 10 years ago, will continue under the same operation.

Jerry James, who entered the linotype and offset printing school at the University of Missouri in Columbia Monday, has been awarded the Mearle Luna Memorial Scholarship for 1970....

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon James, Jerry has been employed at the *Ozark County Times* during the past three years.

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In 1940, the Clinkingbeard Family opened a funeral home in Gainesville, MO. In 1950, Clarence, along with his son, Lyle, built a new facility in Gainesville where it remains today. It was also in the 50's that Bob Usery, Licensed Embalmer and Funeral Director became manager of the Gainesville firm. Upon Bob's retirement in the early 1970's, Charles Fish and his wife, Wilma, managed the home in Gainesville for several years. Dave Goodnight, who joined the firm in 1990, took over the Gainesville facility when Charles Fish retired. We were very saddened to have lost Dave from a short illness in 2008.

3rd generation Lyle, who passed away December 2016, is pictured sitting next to his wife Florence, along with their children, Toni (Clinkingbeard) Van Dyne and Kirk Clinkingbeard who are 4th generation co-owners. Kirk and Toni are both Licensed Funeral Directors and operate the Ava location.

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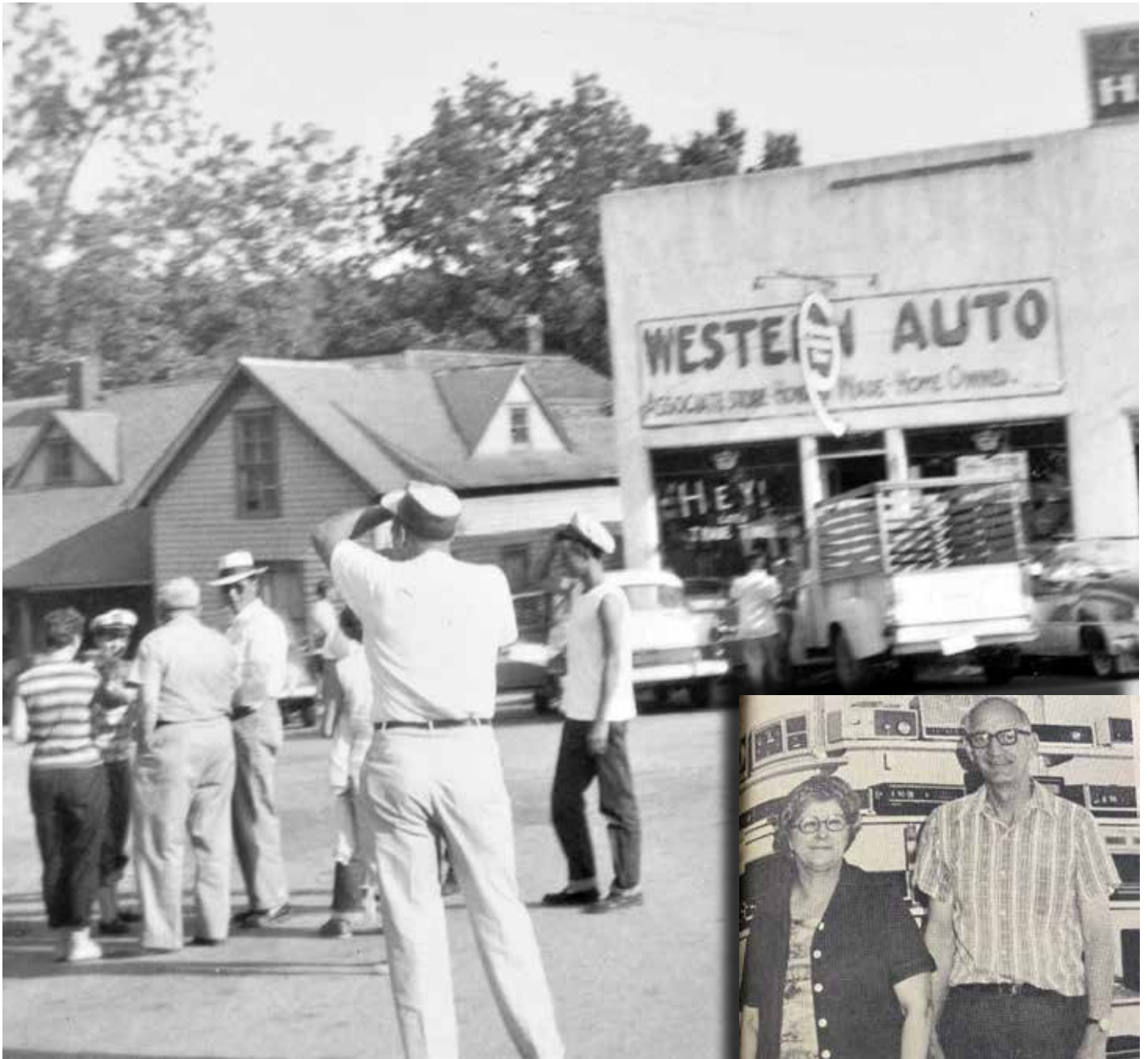
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Above: When the Wades first opened the Western Auto store in Gainesville, it was located between the Goodwyn hardware store and the Ebrite property adjacent to the Ozark County Times office.

Right: Howard and Lou Anna Wade “sold the toys clean to the shelf” on the day they opened in 1947, but two hard-to-get electric washing machines didn’t sell at all. Most Ozark Countians didn’t have electricity then.



Wades remember Western Auto’s grand opening 30 years ago

Ozark County Times, June 2, 1977 (edited for space considerations)

When Howard and Lou Anna Wade opened their Western Auto Store here on June 7, 1937, it was the first new business established here after World War II. For their grand opening, Western Auto supplied two electric washing machines, hard-to-get items at that time. They also received a stock of toys.

"We sold the toys clean to the shelf, but we didn't sell the washing machines. Western Auto thought they were being good to us to give us those washing machines, but we didn't have electricity except right here in Gainesville, and that was broken half of the time," Howard Wade recalled.

"I remember later," he said, "I ordered 10 gasoline washing machines, and Western Auto wrote me a letter wanting confirmation of the order. They couldn't believe we were selling gasoline washers in this area." . . .

It took \$5,000 for the Wades to open and stock their store here. "We had to sell our car to get that much money together," Wade said. Their first location was in a room they built on the south side of the O'Dean Goodwyn Hardware store.

The Goodwyn store was located in the old frame building that had once been occupied by the pioneer mercantile firm of Wood and Reed. . . . Between the Goodwyn store and the old Ozark County Times office were a dwelling and garden plot.

After the Wades had chosen the location for their store, they decided to tear down the old room at the hardware store and build a new annex. Feed and shoes had been sold in the old room, and there was a pot-bellied stove and a lot of tobacco spitting went on. Mrs. Wade said she remembers saying that there would be no tobacco spitting around the stove in the new addition.

The first Western Auto franchise in Gainesville had been held by Wade's father, D. P. Wade, who opened a store here in 1942 in partnership with the late Ora Murphy. Doin Bushong operated the store. . . . Later Wade bought out Murphy, but obtaining merchandise became almost

impossible because of the war so the store closed in late 1943.

Three years before the Gainesville store opened, Howard Wade had established a Western Auto Store in Marshfield, and the stock from his father's store in Gainesville was moved to Marshfield. Again it became impossible to secure merchandise, and Wade sold the Marshfield store to Springfield Auto Parts.

Wade, who had been drafted in 1941, was in the Army at the time. During the time Wade was in Marshfield, he met and married Lou Anna Cupps, a home agent with the University of Missouri Extension Service. After he was discharged in 1945, he and Mrs. Wade lived in Marshfield for a brief time. Wade was then working for Standard Oil.

"Housing was scarce, so we decided to move down to my parents' farm at Almartha. From there we came to Gainesville and opened our store," Wade said. . . .

[Howard and Lou Anna Wade] are the parents of five children. . . .

The Western Auto Store took on its present appearance in 1962. Wade bought the hardware store building from his brother-in-law, O'Dean Goodwyn, after Goodwyn had purchased the Ebrite dwelling and garden plot for a new hardware store. Later Goodwyn sold the hardware business to Don and Juanita Eslinger and Vasco Newton and the late Essie Newton.

"We have been fortunate to have increased our volume of sales each year except one," Wade said. "The people of Ozark County have been good to us in our 30 years. . . . It seems like a very short time as we look back on it all."



Howard Wade operated the Western Auto store in Gainesville for several decades.

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Ozark County honors a homegrown hero

The accomplishments and then the death of Army Gen. Jarrett Robertson were reported in his hometown newspaper, the *Ozark County Times*, including the two items shared here.

He was born Sept. 3, 1940, the son of Lonnie and Thelma Robertson, well-known early radio entertainers in the Ozarks. He graduated from Gainesville High School in 1958 and held degrees from what is now Missouri State University and the University of Missouri.

He was the father of five daughters.

He served 30 years in the Army, including two tours in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry. Later he served as commanding officer or deputy commander of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 3rd Infantry Division, and the 1st Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm and V Corps.

In addition to the Silver Star (with Oak Leaf Cluster), he also received the Legion of Merit (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Bronze Star (with two Oak Leaf Clusters) and the Combat Infantryman

Badge.

He died Feb. 23, 1993, in Germany. After his death, his longtime friend and GHS schoolmate Bill Cook led the effort to rename the Highway 160 bridge over Bull Shoals Lake at Theodosia in Robertson's honor.

Jan. 2, 1969

Capt. Jarrett J. Robertson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Robertson, formerly residents of Theodosia, now living in Springfield, recently was awarded the Silver Star.

The citation accompanying the award stated in part: "For gallantry in action while engaged in military operation....Capt. Robertson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on Nov. 13...while serving as commanding officer of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry, during a combat mission in the Republic of Vietnam....Capt. Robertson's unit began to receive intense enemy rocket and small arms fire...causing some confusion....Immediately Capt. Robertson assessed the situation and while exposed to the intense hostile fire reorganized his men and posi-

tioned them to meet the greatest strength from the north and to protect the flank and rear. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Capt. Robertson, encouraged his men and directed their fire. From an exposed position, he called in and adjusted artillery fire on the enemy positions...."

March 3, 1993

Jarrett Robertson will come home Friday. Home to the community where he played as a boy. Home to the one-room school where he attended classes through the eighth grade.

Boyhood friends will join his family and friends from around the world as they pay their last respects to Robertson, a major general in the U.S. Army who died last week in the explosion of an Army helicopter in Germany.

Funeral services will be at the True Hope Baptist Church in Theodosia, formerly the community's one-room school....

"We were best buddies," said Bill Cook of Theodosia. "When we moved here, I was the city kid. He took me



Maj. Gen.
Jarrett Robertson

under his wing and took me to school at the little one-room school house" where they were two of the 28 students in grades 1-8. "He could have made it big in country music," Cook said. "I remember when a then unknown Porter Wagoner came to Gainesville to perform. The first person he called up on stage to perform with him was Jarrett."

When the friends had evening plans, "we'd always have to wait for Jarrett," Cook said. "He had one Jersey cow, and he always had to milk that cow before we could leave."

Burial was in Lutie Cemetery....

Ozark County Times Feb. 5, 1976

The Fackler library staff reports that 235 persons used the library in January. There were 526 books checked in and out, and \$6 was made on the book sale.

A budget totaling \$479,969 for operating the government of Ozark County in 1976 was approved by the county court last Tuesday following a public hearing.

Last year, the 1975 budget was estimated at \$391,571. The estimated assessed valuation in the county last year, at the time the budget was approved, was \$15,008,831. This year the assessed valuation is estimated at \$17,339,625.

Sept. 30, 1976

Mary and Nelle's Beauty Shop, the only one in Gainesville or Ozark County when it opened in 1939 and Gainesville's fourth oldest business operated by the same family (the Gault sisters) since established, was sold to Joe and Joan (Hambelton) Nash. Mrs. Nash has been with the shop since 1969. The other stylists are Sonja Grisham and Gayle Thomas.

June 17, 1992

About 40 national, state and local candidates gathered at the gazebo on the square in Gainesville on June 12, and in five-minute speeches, did some old-time political stumpin' before a crowd of about

200 possible voters at the first Old Fashioned Political Stump speaking sponsored by the *Ozark County Times* and the Bank of Gainesville.

Aug. 23, 1995

The decision of whether to build just a jail or a full justice facility was a hard one to make, according to all three Ozark County Commissioners, Gary Collins, Rex Robertson and Gerald Hambelton.

However, on Monday,...commissioners voted 2-1 in favor of just a jail with Hambelton and Collins voting for a jail only, and Robertson voting to proceed with a justice center.

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2/13/21: Taste of New Orleans - Lake Bums Brewco - Pontiac

7/3/21: 4th of July fireworks - Theodosia Marina Resort

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