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Times Past

MAGAZINE

2024 edition

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POST OFFICE GAINESVILLE MO.



Mary Ann Boone stands in front of the Gainesville post office in this photo, taken around 1940, when the post office was in a small storefront on the north side of High (now Third) Street just off the square. Mary Ann's grandfather, Willard Boone, served as postmaster from 1916 to 1924. Later her father, Claud Boone, would also serve as postmaster.

TIMES PAST

An annual publication of the *Ozark County Times*
PO Box 188; 504 Third Street, Gainesville, MO 65655
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A LOVE FOR OUR HISTORY

Whether they're natives or newcomers, Ozark Countians love stories about the people who lived before them in these rugged hills and hollers. Year after year, we're told that the *Times Past* column is the most popular weekly feature in the *Ozark County Times*.

Compiled each week by former *Times*

editor Sue Ann Luna Jones, the column includes short bits from newspapers that have been published here since 1882. Since 2016, we've compiled those weekly columns, plus other historical tidbits and photos, into the annual *Times Past Magazine*.

Thanks to all who contribute photo-

graphs and stories to this effort each year. 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.

Ozark County historical news clippings are interspersed inside between these photos and captions:

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On this year's cover

This photo of an Ozark County wheat harvest in the Pontiac area is from the collection of Paula Herd Rose. The workers pictured are unknown. The long-handled tool pictured in the hand of the man on the left is a wheat cradle, which would be swung from right to left to cut a swath of wheat. The wheat was deposited onto the ground with a slight tilt of the cradle to create a "sheathe" of wheat. Another field-hand would gather the sheathes into shocks, as shown between the reapers. Later, a thrashing machine would be brought in to thrash the wheat, separating the grain from the chaff. When the photo was posted to the Ozark County Historium's Facebook page, a commenter said that denim bib overalls were not readily available until 1891-1916 and were most likely available here sometime after World War I ended in 1918, helping to date the photo.



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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News May 3, 1883

Robert Q. Gilliland, the county clerk, and Wm. H. Smith left last Tuesday for Arkansas to buy cows. They intend to start a cattle ranch here with 150 to 200 head of cows. They will be absent some two or three months on this trip. Mr. Gilliland left his office in charge of Y. E. McClendon.

June 13, 1889

Quite a number of persons from town attended the dedication of the new Methodist Episcopal Church house at Romance last Sunday. The services were conducted by

Rev. Beggs, Presiding Elder of this District and editor of the *Springfield Methodist Episcopal Shield*.

A public dinner after the services was highly relished by the congregation.

July 18, 1889

Grabeel – Quite a number of people are expected to be at the meeting of the stockholders of the Grabeel Normal School. The names of the stockholders now number about 50. There will be about 100 shares in all, at \$100 each, which will give the school a fund of \$10,000 to start on. It is the intention for the school to be always progressive so

that it will be, in a short time, an institution of high order.

July 24, 1890

A trapeze was put up here Tuesday by the boys, and before night, Jimmy Mishler was trying his luck as a gymnastic performer when he fell. It is thought he fractured one of the bones in his arm. Boys, be careful.

Last Saturday, Dan Burriss shot and, it is thought, mortally wounded Hiram Lamberson of Jasper township. An old grudge is thought to be the trouble. On Monday Burriss came to Gainesville and gave himself up to the constable. He was then taken

before Sq. Wattenbarger, and the hearing of the preliminary was postponed to the 31st. Burriss entered into a bond in the sum of \$2,500 and was released.

Jan. 1, 1891

Dora – Col. 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.



This photo of Gainesville is believed to have been taken sometime before 1900, based on the structures visible in the picture. The two-story building on the middle-right side of the image is the former Gainesville School, and the large, two-story white building in the near right is the courthouse, standing opposite the row of businesses and the two-story hotel on what is now the west side of the Gainesville square. The two-story home on the left side of the picture, then known as the Ford house, has been remodeled and still stands on Third Street. The photo is from the collection of the late Ruby Robins, now preserved in the Ozark County Historium. Robins credited the photo to a photographer named Hogard.

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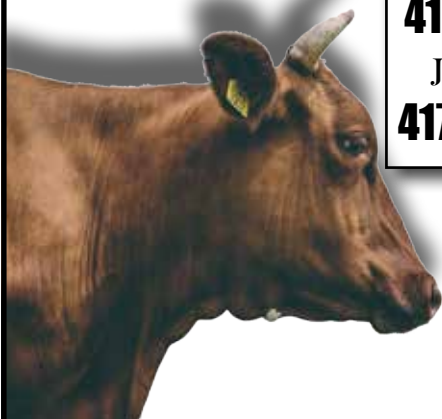
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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News

Feb. 12, 1891

A number of Gypsies have pitched their camp south of town.

Dewey Harlin has purchased the city barber shop of his brother Joe and will take possession in a few days.

Oakmound – A new post office at W. L. Tackit's on Bridges Creek. Its name is Sharp.

William Guthrie, our postmaster at Oakmound, is able to be up again after two months' sickness.

March 21, 1891

Mrs. Hettie Wells, of Ambrose, came near being burned to death on March 10th. Mrs. Wells' mind has been deranged for about two years, but since the death of her husband March 8th, she has been very bad.

On Sunday evening after the family was asleep, Mrs. Wells walked to the fireplace and stood so near the flames that her clothing caught fire. Her screams aroused the house, and the fire was extinguished but not until she was almost fatally burned.

A call term of the probate court was held here yesterday to investigate as to her sanity. The court adjudged her insane, and her son-in-law was appointed as her guardian.

March 24, 1892

J. W. Terry fell from a scaffold 18 feet high on Thursday while at work on Hogard's hotel. Mr. Terry was badly jarred by the fall, but we hope nothing serious will result.

J. A. Miller's residence and all his household furniture except one trunk were destroyed by fire on Monday. There was no insurance. Mr. Miller was at work in the Masonic hall, and his wife had left home a short time before

the fire was discovered. It is not known how the fire originated.

It leaves Mr. Miller in rather depressing circumstances, and the people have generously helped them. Mr. Miller will rebuild his residence at once.

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.

Dec. 21, 1893

Lively times are expected in Esq. Wattenbarger's court tomorrow. Elijah Ford Jr. and Jas. Ford Jr. are to answer for disturbing the peace of Julia A. Winter. All the parties live on Gouldy Spring Creek. The Winter girls were arrested and pleaded guilty two weeks ago for disturbing the peace of the Ford boys.

Miss Alice Rice, of the same vicinity, is to answer, in the same court, for disturbing public worship at Charity

school house. All of which goes to show that society on Gouldy is, in part at least, in a state of effervescence. Guy T. Harrison, now a full-fledged attorney representing the defense in these cases, declares that all the accused shall go free.

Dec. 28, 1893

We learn that the good people had a gay time at Smith Chapel on Christmas Eve by celebrating the occasion with a Christmas tree. One accident occurred that is deeply regretted. Miss May Cooper, who had kindly tendered the use of her organ for the occasion, had the misfortune to get her instrument badly smashed up. The driver, it seems, turned his team short, causing the organ to tumble out of the wagon.

Jan. 11, 1894

The Boss Liars' Club met Friday night, the meeting held in honor of the president of the West Plains club, Joe E. Harlin, who is visiting some of the brethren in Gainesville. The election of new officers was on the program and resulted as follows: president, Guy T. Harrison; vice president, Geo. McDonald; secretary, Osa Conkin; chief bottle holder, Tan Harlin; assistant, J. C. Speer; scavengers, Will Janney and John Small.

The office of treasurer was voted out of the order as upon investigation, it was found that among the 30 members present, there was only 17 cents in the crowd.

There was quite a tussle over the office of vice president, but Geo. McDonald was finally elected, the club voting him the laurels of being the most gigantic liar on earth, except the newly elected president [Guy T. Harrison]. ...

Prof. Wilbur made applica-

tion for membership but was rejected on account of his inability to comply with the rules of the club.

March 1, 1894

Great excitement prevails in three or four counties in Missouri and Arkansas over recent developments in regard to the murder of Hunter Wilson, which culminated in the organizing of a mob of 150 men who entered into the Baxter County jail at Mountain Home, Ark., last Monday night and riddled two prisoners with bullets, killing them instantly.

The names of the two victims are Anderson Carter and one Newton, whose given name we did not learn.

These, with Bart Carter, a son of Anderson Carter, were arrested about a week ago, charged with the murder of Wilson. ... Statements were made by Anderson Carter's wife to the effect that her husband and Newton and Bart had done the murder and that they had taken \$1,900 of Wilson's money.

Bart Carter, who is something over 20 years of age, was separated from the others on Sunday night and confessed the whole crime. Young Carter's confession implicated his father and Newton in the murder and robbery, and he told where the money was concealed. . . It is said of the money taken from Hunter Wilson's house, \$1,150 was recovered.

Nov. 7, 1895

Prosecuting Attorney H. C. Cobb was in town this week investigating the moral influence of this community.

The Bank of Gainesville has already let the contract for the new bank building. The work will commence as soon as the foundation can be made.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

April 4, 1894

The citizens met in mass meeting at the courthouse to devise plans for rebuilding our school house. . . .

The plan that was finally agreed upon and adopted is about as follows:

Main room to be 26 x 40 with belfry and main entrance in front. Extending from each side of the main structure will be a wing 20 x 30 feet and connected with the main building by folding doors and each having a front entrance.

Oak Mound – Rev. W. I. Vanpelt, a Christian divine, is holding a meeting at Lone Pilgrim. Satan has such a strong hold there that it will take hard work to tear up his (Satan's) nest at that place.

Mrs. W. H. Kelley of this place is very low with consumption. We long for her recovery.

Mrs. Frank McMahon died last week of consumption. She leaves a husband, four children and a host of friends to mourn her loss.

Uncle Johnnie Noble has bought the Reed mill, and we understand he is going to put in a good mill.

May 3, 1894

(see photo, above)

A new game called "marbles" is being introduced here, and it is so fascinating that we noticed several young men play at it all day Monday in the rain.

Nov. 22, 1894

The new school building is ready for occupancy, and school will begin Monday, Nov. 26. There is a great demand for houses in Gainesville. The school is attracting people to town. Lumber is being hauled for several new residences that are to be built. Verily, the boom is on at Gainesville.



An item in the May 3, 1894, *Ozark County News*, says the young men in Gainesville had become fascinated by "a new game called 'marbles,'" and in 1910, when it's believed this photo was taken on the southwest corner of the square, they were still playing the game. At right is the late Rufus Luna. Also in the photo is the late Jesse Allen. The other marble players are unknown.

Nov. 29, 1894

Prof. J. T. White was called home from the State University by the death of his father, but unfortunately, he did not arrive until after the funeral.

The Normal [school] had a very successful opening last Monday. The building was thronged with happy students at an early hour. . . . "The students separated for their respective rooms but gave three rousing cheers for the new building and for the noble men and women who have faithfully and generously aided in rebuilding the house. . . . The enrollment has already reached 70, and many other students are expected in a few days.

Rockbridge – The school at this place will close next Friday week. Mr. A. F. Hicks, who has been teaching for four months, has been quite faithful.

Wm. Mahan is having a new barn built.

Feb. 28, 1895

Last Saturday the

May 23, 1895

W. W. Evans, who now resides with his son-in-law near Isabella, was in town today. Mr. Evans is an old resident of this county, having lived here about 25 years except five years which he spent in the state of Washington.

Before he went to Washington in 1889, Mr. Evans owned and lived on the farm near Thornfield now known as the Frost farm. . . . Mr. Evans was influenced through some advertisement . . . to move to Washington. . . . When he arrived there, his finances were about exhausted, and he found the country badly misrepresented. . . .

During the five years he was there, he lost his wife and one son. In August 1894, he returned to Ozark County, leaving five of his children in Washington.

Since his return, he has purchased the grist mill on Bratton Spring creek formerly owned by Sam Guinn, and he is making a crop near there this year. He has come to the conclusion that he made a fatal mistake when he left Ozark County. . . .

June 6, 1895

Theodosia – The Theodosia mill is paying 80 cents per bushel for wheat. Wheat is going "straight up."

Decoration of the soldiers' graves was a grand success as it attracted a large crowd which assembled at the hall, and after the program was read, the throng proceeded to the cemetery in regular military form led by members of the G.A.R. Post. After the exercises at the cemetery, the people marched back to Theodosia, where dinner was served followed by speakers of the day.

April 11, 1895

The first nine of the Gainesville baseball team reorganized with J. R. Reed, captain. Captain Reed will soon commence training to contest the Mountain Home team.

The second nine of the Gainesville baseball team reorganized with Lewis Collins, captain. He is waiting for a challenge.

There will be a match game of baseball at Gainesville April 18 between the first and second nines. Come and see it, free.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News

Oct. 31, 1895

On Friday, Oct. 25, at their residence 10 miles north of Gainesville, Mr. Elisha Luna and wife, Mrs. Eliza Luna, celebrated the 60th anniversary of their wedding. There were about 400 people present. Of those present, the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren numbered 124. All the descendants of these good old people were not present, and from the best information they have about 315 descendants. ...

Elisha Luna was born in Lincoln County, Tenn., May 19, 1819. His wife's maiden name was Eliza Gray. She was born April 2, 1819. They were married Oct. 25, 1835. They had born to them 17 children, the first dying in infancy. The other 16 children (11 boys and five girls) all grew to manhood and womanhood, married and are all now living except one, James F. Luna who died a few years ago in this county.

Elisha Luna was a gallant soldier in the Mexican war. When the government called for volunteers, he was among the first to step forward to defend the honor and uphold the dignity of the flag of his country.

John Harris is having a cellar made on his premises this week.

Alex Holt has sold his claim on the hill opposite town and moved his family to town. Edgar Comer bought the claim and will homestead and move there as soon as possible.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness – so says George Boone. He is having a well drilled in his back yard and almost at his back door. That's right, George, plenty of good water at one's door is more essential to home comfort

than money in a bank.

Feb. 20, 1896

Work on the new bank building closes up a gap on the square which improves the appearance of the town.

Some of the young men in the vicinity are still carrying thimbles around in their pockets which they had forgotten to take out when they returned from the carpet rag tacking at J. R. Reed's.

May 14, 1896

Wild strawberries are now ripe. A small boy brought a big pail full to our office.

Good indications of zinc have been found on Edgar Comer's farm southeast of town.

Feb. 4, 1897

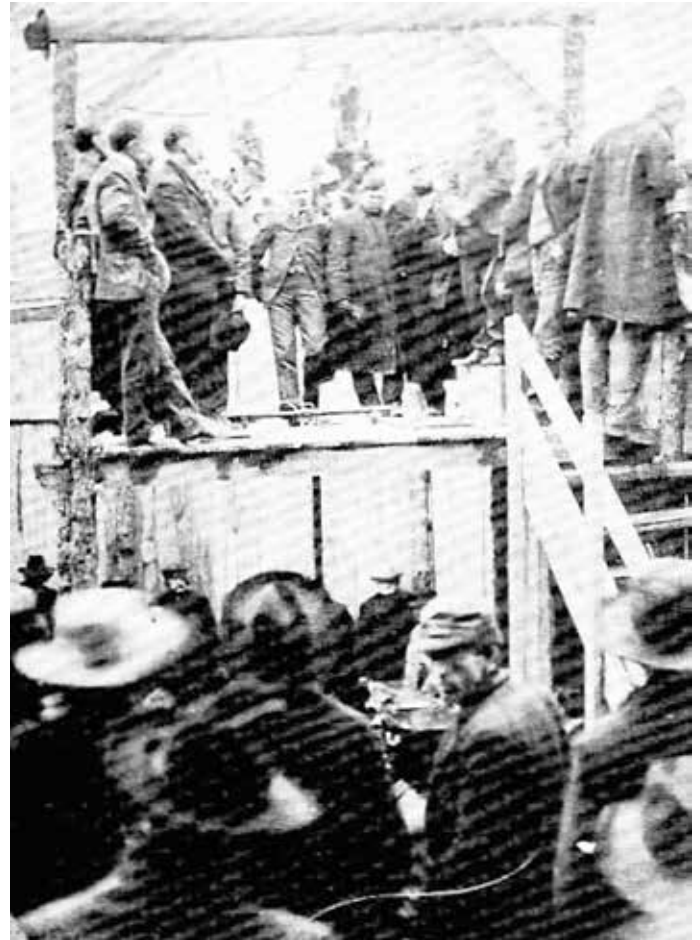
(see photo, right)

On last Saturday, Jan. 30, Ed Perry paid the penalty for the murder of the Sawyer family. Two thousand people crowded the streets of Ava and clamored for admittance to the stockade, but only about 200 witnessed the execution.

The people crowded the balcony of the hotel and the tops of adjoining buildings to see the trap spring and Perry disappear. The execution was performed in an orderly manner by the sheriff of Douglas County.

Previous to his execution, Perry made a talk and stuck strongly to his former statements that Wm. Yost, his uncle, was the leader in the crime, and the most guilty of the two. Perry's last words were, "Now sheriff, do your duty." ...

The Sawyer family were honest inoffensive people whose lives were taken in a cruel and barbarous manner for the purpose of robbery.



This photo shows the scaffold on which convicted murderer Ed Perry was hanged in Ava on Jan. 30, 1897, as described in the Feb. 4, 1897, item on this page. The photos originally appeared in the *Douglas County Herald* and were shared in a 2014 Facebook post by Ken "Ozark Uncle" Brown, citing a December 1985 *Historical Journal* available at the Douglas County Museum and Historical Society in Ava. The *Historical Journal* reported that Joda Hamilton, standing on a box at the top of the scaffold steps, is singing "Dying from Home, and Lost." The coffin awaiting Perry's body is in the lower center of the photo. The hanging took place on the southwest corner of the Ava square, near the present-day site of the Ava TrueView Family Theatre.

April 28, 1898

The latest enterprise that promises to be of any benefit to Gainesville and Ozark County is a scheme on foot to build a telephone line from West Plains to Mountain Home, Ark., via Bakersfield. The principal leaders have gone to work in a

businesslike manner. ...

If this line is built as proposed, it is probable that Gainesville will offer a proposition to cooperate with the managers and take a hand in the deal by connecting a line from Gainesville to the main line at Bakersfield.



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Lola, 13, and Finn Wade, 11, are the fourth generation of the Morgan family to live in Pontiac, and they love spending time on the lake.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News
April 29, 1897
 (see photo below)

Bill Naves, a prisoner confined in the county jail on a charge of grand larceny, made a break for liberty 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 9, 1898

Miss Alta Luna returned to town Sunday after spending a few days with home folks six miles north of town.

Dr. E. A. Morris of Rockbridge arrived in town Sunday eve according to his announcement and is at the Central Hotel prepared to do all kinds of dental work.

Aug. 25, 1898

Mrs. Eliza Luna, 79 years of age, who is the mother of 17 children and raised 16 to be grown, and raised one grandson, came to town Monday for the first time in over 20 years. Mrs. Luna is hale and hearty, for one of her age, and is still able to go about and do her house work. She is living on

the old homestead 10 miles northeast of town.

Samuel Miller and wife, living 6 miles south of town, lost two of their children Sunday from fever. The youngest, age 3 years, died early Sunday morning, and the other, aged 5 years, near midnight Sunday night. The remains of both were buried in the same grave Monday evening at the Miller graveyard. Others of the family have been seriously ill but at last accounts were slowly improving.

Pontiac – P. H. Martin & Son have got their mill house erected and will have everything ready for action in a short time.

J. N. Turnbo has declined the idea of building a roller mill in Pontiac, but we think that Martin and Neasby will push matters in that line in a short time.

April 13, 1899

Ad – Livery, Feed and Sale Stable. Hogard & Walker, proprietors, Gainesville, Missouri. Does a general livery business. Hacks, buggies and teams to let on reasonable terms. Stable and office west of Central Hotel.

Ad – John Harris, Blacksmith, Gainesville, Missouri. Horse-shoeing a specialty. Also has, in connection with his blacksmith chop, a first-class Wood-Work Department, conducted by experienced workmen. Wagon and Carriage Work and all kinds of repairing done.

Sept. 14, 1899

Quite a number of gentlemen of this place left Tuesday morning for Harrison Ark., to attend the series of ball games between the Gainesville and Harrison teams, which will commence Thursday and continue until Saturday. . . .

Among those who went

from here: Alex Crumley, John Harlin, Robert and Luther Shanks, Carter Wood, Walter Hill, Lewis Collins, L. D. Harlin, U. S. Frith, Joe Harlin, Chas. Harlin and Houston Conkin were the 12 men who constituted the ball team.

The editor of the *News* left here Tuesday morning for Harrison to attend the ball games. . . . This week's issue has been turned over to the "devil."

Aug. 23, 1900

Uncle Wesley Crawford, an old resident of this county who recently returned from the Indian Territory, ordered a copy of the *News* sent to Mrs. Sallie Sweeten, who now lives in the territory. Mrs. Sweeten was formerly a resident of this county and owns a good farm on Lick Creek south of Gainesville.

Aug. 30, 1900

Wm. Tetrick, an old and well-known citizen of Richland township, was killed near his home last Thursday by a man named Stevens.

Stevens owns a farm adjoining Mr. Tetrick's farm and was his near neighbor. Mr. Stevens, who is a young man, and Mr. Tetrick had some difficulty sometime before, and last Thursday it appears that Mr. Tetrick went to the field where Stevens was cutting corn to settle the difficulty.

When Stevens attempted to drive him out of the field, Tetrick refused to leave. Stevens struck him on the head with a corn knife, inflicting a fatal wound just above the ear from which he died that night.

Stevens remained home until late that evening when he disappeared, and all efforts of the officers to locate him have proved fruitless.



This photo of Ozark County's second jail, built in the 1870s, is from the collection of Judy Ford Lyons. According to "The History of Ozark County, 1841-1991," the two-story jail, about 12' x 18', was attached to the sheriff's dwelling. A small window was located on each level, and removable steps led to a second-story doorway. The lower jail level could be entered from the long porch fronting the sheriff's dwelling. The rough-hewn log jail and dwelling were "located in the field across Lick Creek, northeasterly from the town square, where Highway 160 bridge crosses the creek," according to the book. The jail was reportedly torn down in about 1900, so it's assumed that it was from this jail that Bill Nave escaped, as reported in the April 29, 1897, edition of the *Ozark County News* cited above.



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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST



These early 1900s photos of the Zanoni baseball team and two young women dressed in similar uniforms are from an album left in the estate of the late Pearl Hunt Luna. Pearl is the girl on the left in the photo (right); the other girl is unknown. Pearl's husband, Clifford Luna, is second from left on the back row in the boys' team picture. Few other identities are known, but it's thought that the man at the right end of the back row is Troy or Alton Hunt, the second man from the left in the middle row is A. P. "Uncle Doc" Morrison and the man on the right in the striped shirt is Ed Newton.

Ozark County News **Jan. 17, 1901**

Gainesville is now the center of all interest as we have a well-developed case of small pox in our town. John Woods, one of our old residents, is victim. He went to West Plains a few days before Christmas to take some parties to that place and returned bringing Press Miller, who came in from Texas to spend the holidays with relatives.

Miller had just got over the small pox, which he had in a mild form, and he said the doctors called it the Spanish Itch. John slept with Miller one night on the road home, and a few days later got sick. ... When he begun to break out, the doctor grew suspicious. R. Q. Gilliland and W. A. Love, both of whom have had the small pox, called on Mr. Wood and satisfied the public there was no mistake about it being small pox. ...

The citizens held a Mass Meeting Monday night in the

court house and elected a committee to draft quarantine rules and regulations and see that they are enforced.

Dec. 19, 1901

William Mahan of Rockbridge was transacting business in the city today. Mr. Mahan is talking up arrangements to get mail connections between Rockbridge and Gainesville. If his proposition goes through, the old Caney Post Office will be re-established on Pine Creek near Judge Amyx's.

This mail route is needed, and we hope it will be granted.

Dec. 26, 1901

We hear a great deal of complaint that the black smut, which is more plentiful on corn fodder this year and is killing numbers of cattle. Many farmers will not feed their shock fodder to stock at all, and many are feeding cane to their horses instead of fodder on account of the fatal

results reported from smut.

April 10, 1902

The contractors began building the telephone line from Gainesville to Pottersville Monday. They made their camp about three miles east of town and began work at Gainesville, setting the first post about 4 o'clock Monday evening. ... By a rough estimate, we judge that the line will be complete with connections to West Plains within 30 days.

This is the second boom to our town. First was the roller mill which has no equal in South Missouri, and the telephone is last but by no means least.

Jan. 2, 1902

Noble – Quite an unfortunate affair occurred at the Christmas tree Christmas night. The teacher, Mrs. Morris, while fastening the school room door after the people had left, was struck on

the face with a large stone by some unknown party and hurt but not seriously.

May 13, 1904

Quite a number of the citizens of Gainesville met in the bank on May 8, 1904, for the purpose of organizing a baseball club. ... Guy T. Harrison was elected permanent chairman with T. J. Luna secretary. The organization unanimously elected W. T. Harlin as manager.

Harlin immediately made his selections and reported a list of the following who will constitute the club for 1904: Luther Shanks, Carter Wood, John C. Harlin, J. R. Reed, C. C. Harlin, T. J. Luna, J. M. Wood, Alex Crumley, B. F. Wood, Austin Luna, Water Hill, Ed Hill and Bob Shanks. ...

It was unanimously carried that the club retain its original name, Gainesville Blues.



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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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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times June 22, 1904

A rather remarkable thing occurred west of Gainesville recently. A young man and lady were out buggy riding, and she lost her furs. They hunted high and low and could not find them.

The young man dreamed three times that the furs were under the corner of an old building. . . . He saw the young lady and told her the dream, and they agreed to go and make a search. So they went, and the young man pulled off his coat and gave it to the young lady to hold while he ran his arm under the corner of the building.

He felt something all covered with hair, and out he brought it, and it was a skunk. The excitement was so great that the animal escaped.

The young man was confined at home for several days on account of having his clothing buried. He says he never will believe in dreams any more.

Ozark County Republican Dec. 28, 1905

The court house and jail proposition seems to have died. Now the condition of our court house and jail is such that every effort possible should be made to remedy them. The only remedy is a new jail and court house.

Sheriff Mahan makes every effort to keep the jail clean, but it is little better than a hog pen, and it is disgraceful to the county.

The court house is a fire trap and likely to burn down any time.

Ozark County Times July 21, 1905

Guy T. Harrison, a prominent attorney who resided at Gainesville for many years . . . was shot and instantly killed



Ozark County native Marion Jackson Luna stands atop the left wagonload of hay in this 1910 photo from the collection of April Legler, a Marion Luna descendant. Others in the photo are not identified. The hay harvest image is one of dozens of photos in the book "On the Banks of Pine Creek: The Lunas in Ozark County" published by the Ozark County Historium. The 100-page, fully indexed book focuses on Ozark County pioneers Elisha and Eliza Gray Luna, who migrated to the Zanolini area from Tennessee in the 1850s, and their 16 children. Marion, the Lunas' 15th child, was born in 1860. He married 17-year-old Margaret Jane "Peggy" Breeding, and they raised eight children on 160 acres of land they homesteaded in Ozark County.

this morning by C. C. Walker, a neighbor who resided on an adjoining farm. Mr. Harrison was dogging hogs belonging to Walker out of his corn field when he encountered Mr. Walker in the field, and a dispute arose which culminated in Mr. Harrison's death.

Glennie, the 15-year-old son of Mr. Harrison, was nearby when the trouble came up. . . .

Mrs. Harrison and family are visiting relatives in Wayne County, and the news was telegraphed to her immediately. . . .

Mr. Walker gave himself up to Deputy Sheriff Conkin.

Aug. 25, 1905

C. C. Walker, who was tried in the circuit court last week on a charge of murder, was found guilty of murder in the second degree, and the

jury assessed his punishment at 10 years in the penitentiary. . . . Later on, the defendant, by his attorneys, abandoned the idea of an appeal and concluded to take the sentence and go on to Jefferson City. . . . Walker left here in company with Sheriff Mahan early Sunday morning for Jefferson City.

Before leaving, Mr. Walker issued a public statement. . . . Aug. 19, 1905. To my many dear friends:

It has become a well-known fact that I have been convicted and sentenced to serve a term of 10 years in the state penitentiary for shooting and killing Mr. Guy T. Harrison, which shooting I do not deny, but I only killed Mr. Harrison to save my own dear life. . . . When he came upon me in a fit of anger . . . with his revolver in his hand and

swearing that he would kill me, I had to do what I did to save my own life. . . . He punched me down with his revolver, and I shot him, and for this I have been convicted, but let it forever be borne in mind that I have no prejudice or ill will toward anyone who took part in my prosecution. . . . I am now a convict and all that I can say or ask of my friends is, "Do unto me and my family as you would that others should do unto you and yours."

March 15, 1907

B. W. Hogard, while preparing to make garden on a patch of land east of the Gainesville Roller Mill one day last week, found the ballots which were stolen from the circuit clerk's office shortly after the Republican primary election last summer.



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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST



One hundred twelve years ago, on April 4, 1912, a huge fire destroyed businesses on the west side of the Gainesville square. It's thought that this photo from the Ozark County Historium's collection shows the J. N. Ford Store building, still standing next to the burned-out area, and the back portion of the Alta and Willard Boone home behind the rubble.

Ozark County Times **July 24, 1908**

Lilly – On Tuesday evening the mail driver had quite an experience with a billy goat in front of Wm. Blacksher's house. The goat attacked the team, but fortunately no serious damage was done. The owner of the goat should at once confine him as he is a dangerous animal at large. ...

Aug. 7, 1908

Mattie Davis, the 18-year-old-stepdaughter of Mac Ingram of near Theodosia, after getting vegetables from the garden for Sunday dinner, returned to the house and told her folks that she had been warned she was going to die. She bid them all good-by ... and in a few minutes collapsed and died at 8 o'clock that night. Miss Ingram was a stout healthy young lady and had not been complaining in any way.

Nov. 5, 1909

Sycamore - John Burleson has rented George Hodgson's farm on the ridge east of the mill where he is intending to put in a cotton crop next year.

Nottingham – The new Baptist church at Thornfield is about completed.

Ned Garner, cashier of the Hammond bank, and Miss Green, a daughter of Philip Green, were married Sunday.

Thornfield – J. J. Kyle is getting his new drug store building pretty well finished.

J. A. Morris completed Jack Blair's chimney this week, and they will soon be at work on a flue at the new drug store.

Jan. 20, 1911

Caney – Amyx & Co. are making up for lost time since they got their new planer. They are prepared to furnish the trade with anything in the lumber line now.

Aunt Minerva Loftis was treated to a surprise dinner on the 5th, it being the 67th anniversary of her birth. Aunt Minerva was visiting a sick neighbor that morning. When she returned, she was greatly surprised to find all of her children except a daughter who lives in a distant state, and a number of her neighbors assembled at her home. A count revealed that 42 persons partook of the feast prepared.

Bakersfield – W. M. Vaughn, who has been sick so long with Bright's disease, died Jan. 13.

Will Morris and Mrs. Wells

were married last Sunday and moved to Mr. Morris' farm, north of town, this week.

May 5, 1911

Nottingham – Wolves killed a dog near here last week. We think that is getting pretty bold.

Hardy Baker bought two nice colts Monday.

Luna – W. C. Boone was at Luna one day last week. He is working on his farm near this place.

For groceries call on E. E. Luna & Co. at Luna.

April 12, 1912 **(see photo above)**

One of the most disastrous fires that has ever burned in Gainesville broke out at 11 o'clock Thursday night of last week in the west end of the Red Store building. Judge G. W. Collins, who was stopping at the Hogard Hotel and had just retired, discovered the fire from the light reflected into his room. He at once gave the alarm and in a few minutes the people were aroused and rushed to the scene. ...

It was impossible to save any of the Luna Merc. Co.'s stock except a few hundred pounds of flour that was taken from the show window in the

front of the building. For a time it seemed certain that all the business portion of the town would be destroyed. ...

The Luna Merc. Co. are the heaviest losers, their loss on buildings and fixtures is about \$1,500 on which they carried \$1,000 insurance; their loss on stock is about \$5,500 on which \$3,500 insurance was carried.

The Masons who owned and occupied the upper part of the Red building carried no insurance. They saved nothing. Their loss was about \$400.

The Star Grocery Co. carried no insurance on building nor goods. About two thirds of the contents of the building was saved. Their loss was about \$500.

Dr. J. T. White carried no insurance. His loss on building and contents is \$400. (His office was in the Star Grocery.)

The Wood & Reed Merc. Co.'s damage will likely reach \$500-600, on which insurance was carried. ...

Had the wind been blowing, like it generally does at this time of year, Gainesville would have been wiped out, but we were fortunate in that there was scarcely any breeze stirring.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

April 25, 1913

Ad – LOST. On April 20 between Gainesville and the O. J. Breeding residence at Center Point, two dental forceps. I will pay a liberal reward to the finder for their recovery. L.M. Harrison, Gainesville.

Birda – Mary Pitcock got in an order from the Lee's Dish Co. a few days ago.

Ocie – Several attended church at Pate Duggins' Saturday night.

Mammoth – Mr. Aaron McGinnis died at his home near here on the 19th after an illness of about two weeks. Rev. Sullivan conducted the funeral services. The remains were laid to rest in the Miller graveyard.

The death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Graves on the 13th and claimed for its victim their two-week-old baby. A short funeral service was conducted by Rev. Shanks and the remains laid to rest in the Miller graveyard.

Nov. 20, 1913

Pontiac – Born to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Wray, a girl. John Willbanks is all smiles now, the above puts him on the grandpa list.

March 13, 1914

Sycamore – The ferry boat is now almost ready for services at the Lotty Hollow ford on Bryant.

Luna – Will Lawson, with his family, while going home Saturday, upset his hack and threw them all into the creek. No one was badly hurt.

New Hope – Henry and Macky Pearson sawed five cords of wood for Jno. Luna last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Luna have a new well. It is 60 ft deep with 20 ft of water.



The date of this photo is unknown, but it was apparently taken at one of Ozark County's farm fairs, like those described in the item below. Perhaps it was that farm fair - or maybe the third annual fair, held in September 1917, when the *Times* reported that the displays were "artistically arranged ... a wonderful sight to look at the many rich and luxuriant things produced by mother earth such as ... tobacco, cabbage, sunflowers, corn, wheat, oats, rye ... apples, peaches, pears, quinces, etc."

April 10, 1914

At our school meeting here Tuesday, a tax of \$1 on the \$100 valuation was voted. This was necessary in order to maintain our high school and receive the \$800 aid from the state.

T.J. Luna on Wednesday traded his residence in the northwest part of town for Dr. J. T. White's residence on High Street, the Dr. paying a difference of \$1,500.

In the circuit court of Howell County last week Judge Evans granted a change of venue to Ozark County to Wiley C. Goldsby in his damage suits against James Black, Geo. W. Brown and Ras Wright, who the plaintiff alleges accused him of being a woman masquerading in male attire.

Birda – Church at the Ball and baptizing at Lottie Hollow Sunday.

Zanoni – Bro. Garner will preach at the Luna Saturday and Sunday nights and at Smith Chapel on Sunday.

Locust – Stray notice – one yellow rooster about one year old at Jno. McGinnis's. Has been there two months. John says he would be glad if the owner would come and get him.

June 19, 1914

On Thursday afternoon of last week, lightning struck and killed a team of horses belonging to S. T. Edmonds at Isabella. Mr. Edmonds was driving from the field with a load of oats as a thunderstorm was coming up. He had stopped to rearrange his load, and a bolt of lightning struck the wagon and team, killing both horses. Mr. Edmonds escaped without serious injury.

July 24, 1914

The school enumeration of Ozark County this year is 4,158; males 2,160, females 1,998. The county is divided into 88 school districts, three of which have an enumeration of less than 20; 14 districts have more than 20 and less than 30; 38 more than 30 and less than 50; 29 more than 50 and less than 80 and four districts have an enumeration of 80 or more.

Sept. 17, 1915

(see photo above)

If you were not at the Ozark County farm fair, you missed the greatest event that has ever taken place in the county. About 3,000 people were in attendance. ... No disturbance of any kind occurred during the fair Friday and Saturday. ... The people were imbued with the spirit of the occasion, and all enjoyed a good and profitable time.

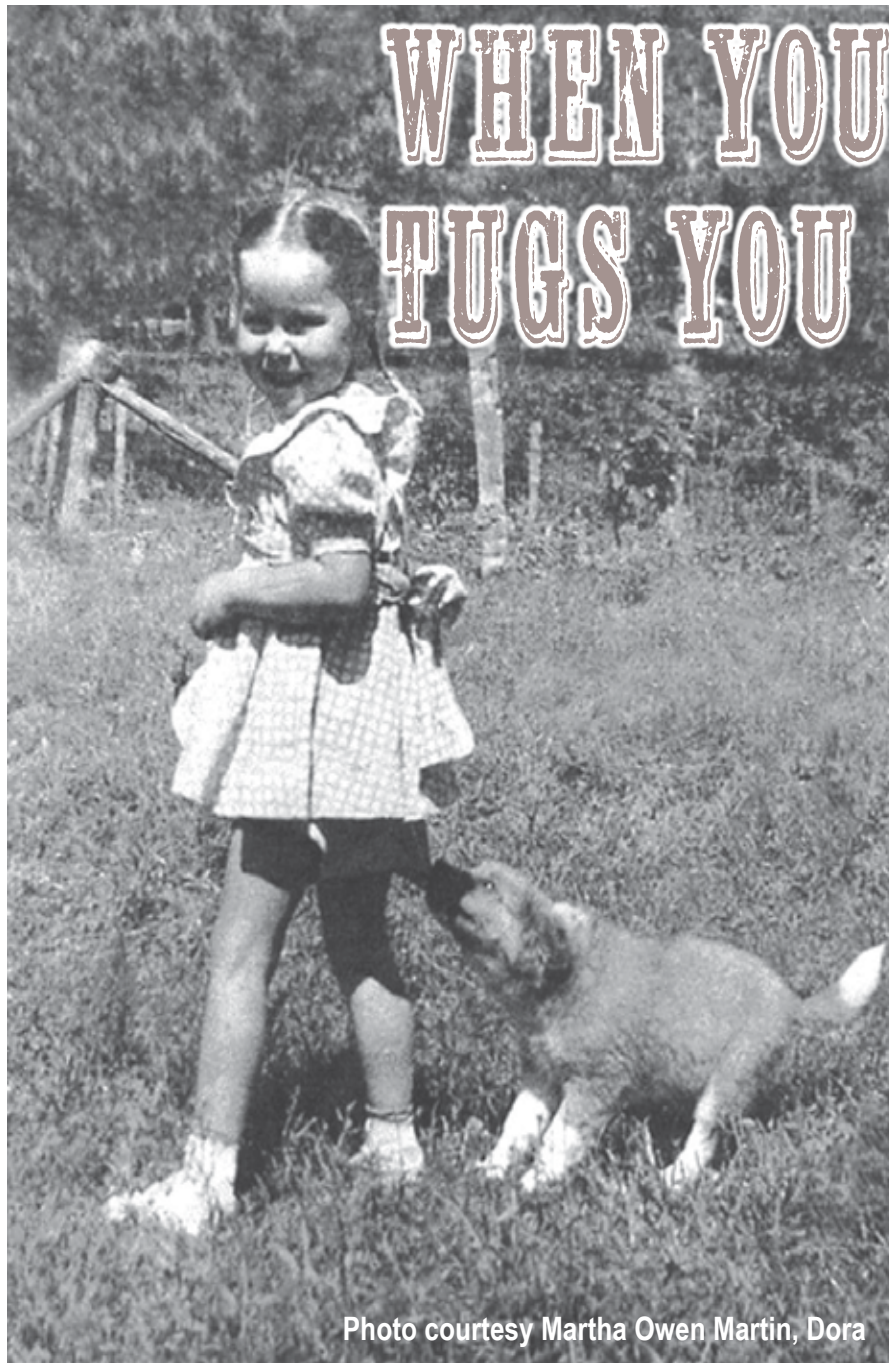


Photo courtesy Martha Owen Martin, Dora

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Oct. 18, 1917

W. M. Colvin made 180 gallons of molasses from one acre of cane and also cut several shocks of feed cane.

June 7, 1918

The total of young men in this county who have reached the age of 21 since June 5, 1917, is 96. That number registered here Wednesday.

S. F. and Dewey Amyx left here Thursday for St. Louis after two new Ford cars. S. F. will go on to Camp Grant, Ill., to see his brother, Sigel, who expects to start for France soon. County Clerk Baxter Gaulding accompanied the Amyxs to St. Louis.

Nov. 15, 1918

Almartha – We were glad to hear the good news, the war is over. We long for the time to come when our boys come marching home.

News reached here that Newt McGee had gone "over the top" nine times and never received a scratch.

We hear that Paul Howard has gone "over the top" once, receiving no wounds. News like this is good for us all.

Dora – Dr. Gordon is the busiest man in our vicinity at present. But glad to report that the sick folks are better.

Lewis Welker has the influenza.

News was received this week of the death of Bud Bird in Oklahoma due to influenza.

Dec. 27, 1918

Thurlow, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Mullins of Bakersfield, died Oct. 4, 1918, somewhere in France and was laid to rest Oct. 6.

The angels came with silent tread

And gathered round dear Thurlow's bed.

Unto their shining home

above

They bore him in their arms of love. . . .

Farewell, dear Thurlo, sweetly rest.

By his sister, Jennie Mullins

March 28, 1919

Sharp – Miss Eva Yandles attended the Kesner sale the 20th and bought several head of sheep.

Lawndale – Lee Hamilton traded his saddle horse to Joe Howard for a jennet.

From our Soldier Boys – Pfalz, Ger., Feb. 11, 1919. Dear Ones at Home: . . . John came down Saturday and stayed until 4 p.m. Sunday. I was sure pleased to see him although being with him made me think of home. I never have seen him looking so well, a big square-shouldered Yank who has had his share of war. Thanks to God for our safety so far and for our meeting. Little did I think one year ago that we would meet in Germany. Mother, we talked of you and wished you knew we were sleeping in the same Dutch bed, sound and well. Who knows but what you might have dreamed of us. . . .

I am teaching an advanced class in English now. . . . George Mullins, Co B 342nd M. G. Bn.

Dec. 11, 1920

Souder – Gordon Bennett had a wood cutting last Saturday.

Charley Walker is preparing to cover his house.

Center Point – Edith Owens is the owner of a barrel of new dishes.

Aude Rose sports a new car.

Jan. 6, 1922

Ad – Blacksmithing, Horse Shoeing, and Ford Repairing

of all kinds. Genuine Ford parts in stock. . . . Charges reasonable. Luther Davis, Noble, Mo.

March 10, 1922

Bids for the contract to construct the state road from Gainesville to the Howell County line, a distance of 21.214 miles, will be received by the county clerk until March 28.

N. B. Owens of west of town happened to a very serious accident late Tuesday afternoon when he was thrown from a wagon engaged in hauling rock on the Gainesville and Arkansas road. Mrs. Owens was holding to the brake pole. When the wagon gave a jerk on crossing a small ravine, it pitched him in the ground. He bruised and crushed his left shoulder. He was taken to his home where Dr. J. T. White attended to his injuries.

Aug. 10, 1923

Pontiac – We certainly mourn the death of President Harding. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Harding, also to his cabinet.

Rockbridge – A destructive electric storm passed through this vicinity last Thursday evening during which George Leek's barn was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

Uncle John Byerley has been very low with typhoid fever.

Lawndale – The teacher and pupils scrubbed the Colvin school house Friday.

June 27, 1924

The Smith & Creech Construction Co. this week completed their contract on the big hill north of town, and it has been accepted by the authorities. It yet requires a covering of six or more inches

of dirt or gravel to make it a good road. This is not put on now on account of the great expense, the dirt having to be hauled a half mile or more, and the commission claims there is no money available at this time. The building of this mile and a quarter of road has now cost about \$19,000, about \$7,000 more than was estimated.

Glen Looney of Sand Ridge had two fine yearling mules killed by lightning during the thunder shower last Friday. The mules were standing under a tree close to a wire fence at the time.

Dora – On last Sunday morning the worst storm of the season passed through this vicinity. Lots of big timber and fences were blown down. A tree fell on the Cash boys' mules, killing one and injuring another badly.

Longrun – The high water has taken out several bridges, but the bridge just south of here stands the test.

Nov. 21, 1924

The trial of Mrs. Minnie Smith, 37, of Branson, charged with murder in connection with the killing of Sheriff N. D. Boles in Taney County, which was tried in circuit court here last week, resulted in a hung jury, the jury standing five for acquittal and seven for conviction.

The jury was out from noon until 8:30 that evening. Mrs. Smith will be given another trial at the May term of the Ozark County circuit court.

Jan. 23, 1925

Guy Johnson is now listening to the merry music and dancing of the large cities over his new radio.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

April 17, 1925

Ad – Coming to Gainesville Monday Night, April 20, the P & E Electric Movie Show under canvas. Will show six nights. Will show such popular actors and actresses as Tom Mix, Neal Hart, Johnny Dooly, J. Warren Kerrigan, Eva Dorrington, Lois Wilson and others. Admission 10 and 20 cents.

May 29, 1925

Luna – Ed Newton has sold \$10 worth of strawberries.

Lloyd Morrison has purchased a banjo.

Ray Hunt attended the foot washing at Clear Springs Sunday.

Feb. 12, 1926

Center Point – A few youngsters gathered at Arthur Reynolds' Saturday and picked cotton for him as he has not been able.

Souder – Tom Gardner and wife helped Gordon Bennett's hang paper last week.

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.

April 20, 1928

Forty or probably more people were killed and 18 injured ... as a result of a mysterious explosion which occurred at 11:05 o'clock last Friday night in the garage of the Wiser Motor Co. on East Main Street at West Plains,

and which wrecked the Bond Dance Hall on the second floor of the building where a dance was in progress.

Most of the dead and injured were those attending the dance and the members of the small orchestra who were providing the music. ...

The blast came without a moment's warning in a deafening roar, a burst of fire that lit the sky and the floor that held the half hundred dancers was shot toward the ceiling to crash into the garage below, a flaming mass of timbers, bricks, stones and human beings. ...

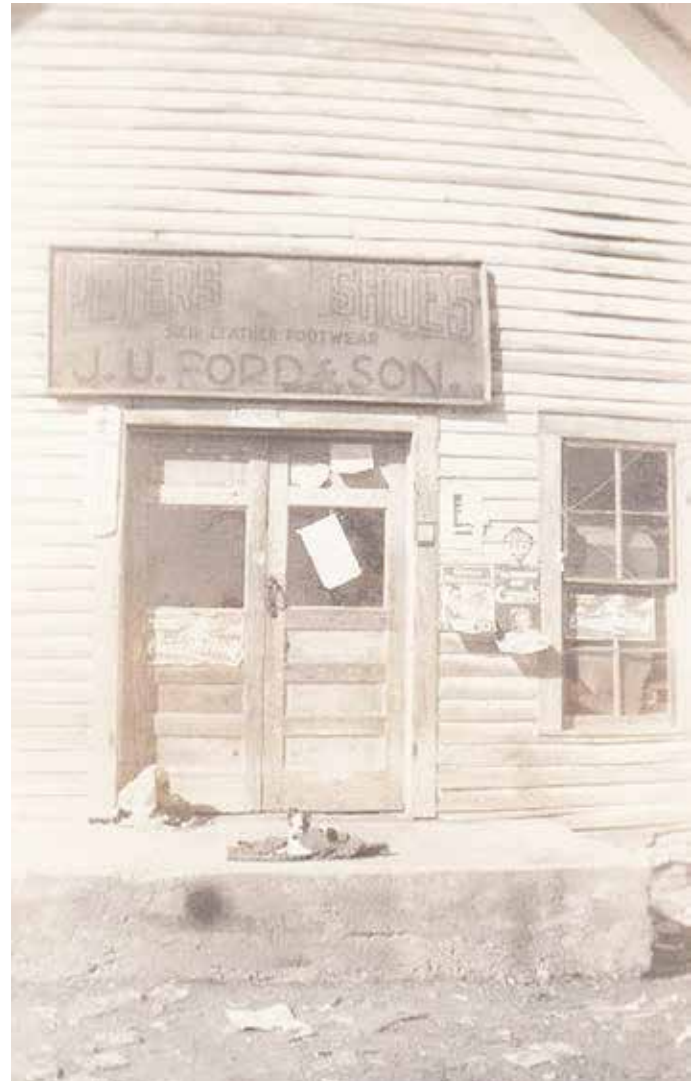
Feb. 1, 1929

On last Thursday during the heavy rain, Mrs. Vada Rogers Jonnigan, clinging to a tree after being thrown into the icy waters of Spring Creek near Elijah for seven hours, was drowned while attempting to crawl to the bank along a rope which those on the shore had thrown to her.

Mrs. Jonnigan's tragic death followed desperate efforts of farmers of the vicinity who worked for hours to rescue her and her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Johnson of Elijah. Johnson and his wife were helped from the water soon after Mrs. Jonnigan was drowned. ...

The tragedy occurred at the Hensley crossing of Spring Creek on the Kelly-Wylder ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Jonnigan were riding on a wagon loaded with furniture. As they attempted to cross the ordinarily small stream, a wall of water suddenly swept down upon them, turning the wagon over and throwing the three into the raging stream. ...

Mrs. Jonnigan was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Casey of Elijah.



The news item below (Nov. 1, 1929) mentions the death of James U. Ford at his store in Pontiac. The store resembled Andy (and then son Guy) Johnson's store that stood a short distance south of Ford's. The photo is from the collection of Judy Ford Lyons.

Nov. 1, 1929
(see photo above)

James U. Ford dropped dead at his store at Pontiac on Wednesday morning of last week.

He had assisted in putting gasoline in a car for a customer and, complaining of being cold, was told to go in doors.

He started toward the store door when he suddenly crum-

pled to the floor, death overtaking him immediately.

Burial services were conducted and burial made at Pontiac Friday.

Ocie – Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hampton took their small daughter Mona to the hospital at West Plains. She has had a severe case of diphtheria.

The Salem school has been dismissed on account of diphtheria.

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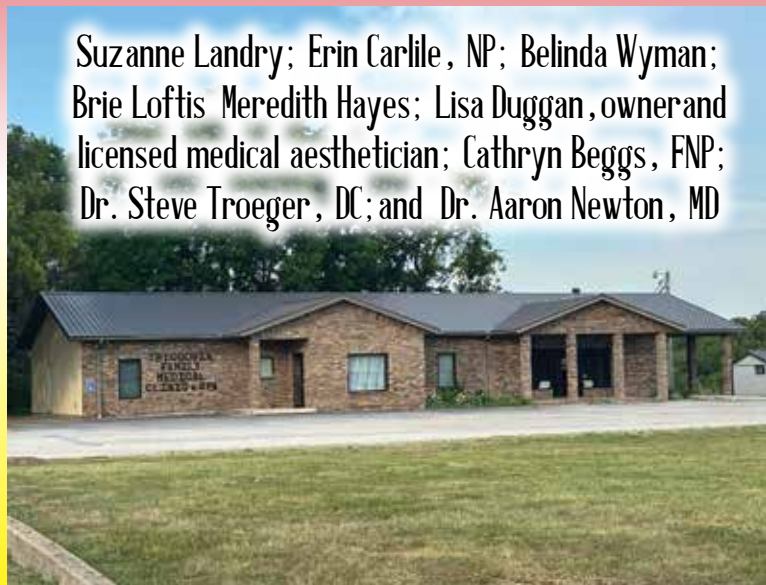


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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times Jan. 10, 1930

Dr. L. E. Amyx, dentist, will be at his office in the Amyx Auto Co. Building, on Jan. 15 prepared to do all kinds of dental work. Come early.

Claude Rogers, small son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Rogers of this city, while playing Saturday afternoon with other town boys, was accidentally hit with a shot from an air rifle in the hands of one of the boys. It hit about an inch above his left eye. The shot went to the bone where it flattened out. He was taken to West Plains Sunday to have the shot taken out, but the physicians decided to not disturb it for the present.

Jan. 29, 1931

On Monday afternoon, Isaac Pryor, 17-year-old son of Jim Pryor who lives on Bridges Creek, walked into the bank at Bakersfield with a revolver leveled at the cashier, Albert Morris. Pryor told Morris he needed money.

Mr. Morris, looking into the muzzle of the revolver and at the bandit, asked how much he wanted and whether \$2.50 would be enough.

Pryor evidently knew he was recognized and lost his nerve and told the cashier that he guessed it would be and taking the money with the revolver still leveled at Morris backed out of the bank and walked off. . . .

Mr. Morris at once spread the alarm. The constable, Roy Cropper, and others started in pursuit of Pryor. . . . Pryor, who at first being called on to surrender, drew his revolver, but on being faced with a number of guns, he surrendered.

He was brought to Gainesville where he waived preliminary hearing and was

placed in jail to await the action of the circuit court.

Feb. 5, 1931

Locust — Mrs. J. L. McGinnis' white Leghorn hens are still climbing over the top in their egg production. During January she gathered 193 1/2 dozen eggs from the 153 hens.

Ted Upton, who is employed with the Neyer Construction Co. near Billings, Mo., paid his family a short visit Sunday.

March 12, 1931

Gainesville school notes: The walls for the new school building are now completed.

The seniors have decided to go to Eureka Springs, Ark., on their Senior Picnic, April 25.

The art class will soon begin making Black Print cards for Easter.

Aug. 20, 1931

Bids for buses and drivers for carrying pupils to the high school in this city from the Mammoth district and east to the Swain place on No. 80 were opened at the county superintendent's office Monday. In the Mammoth district, Bob Robbins had the low bid; it was \$295 per month. Ralph Amyx had the low bid on the eastern route on No. 80. It was for \$75 per month.

Hammond — Quite a number of our folks went to Thornfield Thursday night and listened to an interesting discourse by Rev. Floyd Hitchcock of Ava. He is a returned missionary having been in Japan the last six years.

Frank Barner has been cutting wood for the Hammond mill.

Jan. 14, 1932

On Tuesday evening when



This photo, from the Rhonda Herndon collection, depicts Gainesville dentist Lawrence Harrison working on his patient, Avril Harrison.

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.

Oct. 20, 1932

Hammond — An interesting address given by Calvin Coolidge was broadcast from New York Tuesday evening. He has been dubbed "Silent Cal," but he was not silent that night.

New cars can be seen here any day. W. K. Hobbs, R. M. Barner and J. W. Bradshaw are each the happy owners of new cars.

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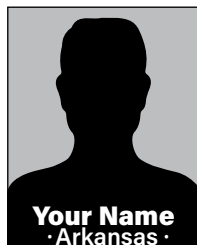
Michelle Brake
Willow Springs



Sabrina Lee
Willow Springs

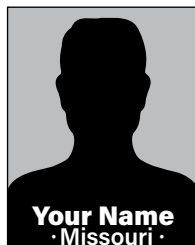


Irina Smith
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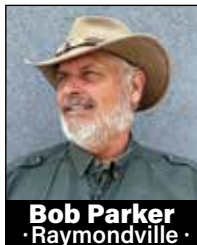
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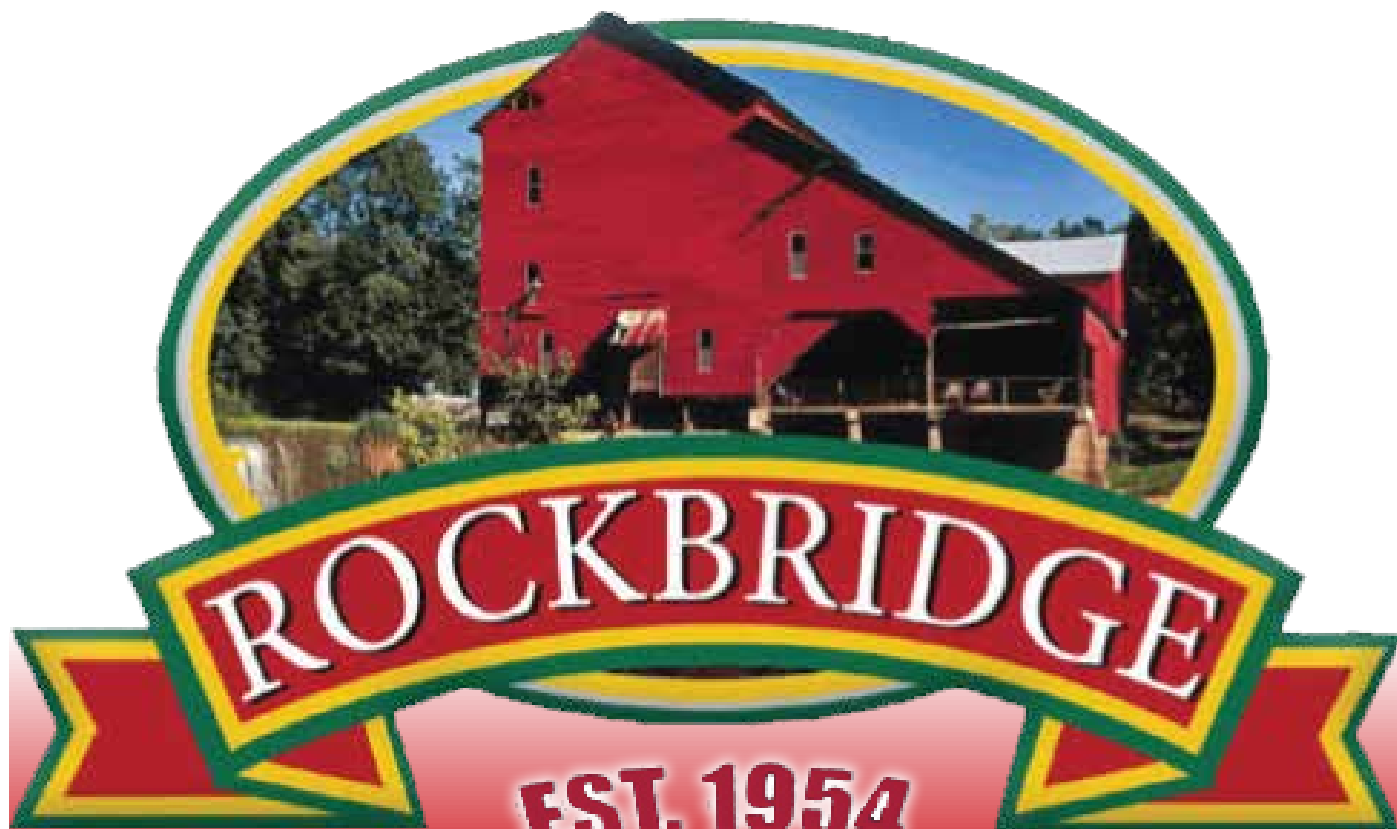
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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
July 24, 1933

A jail delivery here was discovered Friday morning when Sheriff Daniel went to the jail to feed the prisoners. Missing were Orval Hosey, alias "Blackie" Williams, 30 years old, Springfield crook, and Jack Dillon, 43, of Cushing, Okla., held for the Hammond Bank robbery on May 10. They had been freed from the jail about 2 o'clock that morning by confederates on the outside who removed the two heavy bars from the jail door.

A third suspect in the robbery, Ray Miller, 23 years old, of St. Joseph, Mo. ... refused to accompany them. ...

Hosey and Dillon admitted their participation in the bank robbery following their capture 48 hours after the robbery near Gamaliel, Ark., where they were trailed by bloodhounds and forced to surrender. ...

A few weeks ago Walter Hartley of Mountain Grove was arrested by Willow Springs highway patrolmen as the alleged driver of the bandit car in the Hammond bank robbery. ... He is being held in the jail at West Plains.

Sept. 7, 1933

Judge Robert L. Gideon was here last Thursday holding a special session of the Ozark County Circuit court to try the three alleged Hammond bank bandits, Orval Hosey ... Jack Dillon...and Ray Brickey. ...

Dillon and Hosey, who had previously confessed to complicity in the holdup on May 10, entered pleas of guilty and were sentenced to the penitentiary for 40 years each.

Brickey ... pleaded not guilty and took a change of venue to Douglas County where his case will be called



This photo shows the Ozark County Courthouse that stood on Gainesville's square for several years – until the fire reported in the Nov. 29, 1934, news item on this page. The fire, of unknown origin, destroyed the county treasurer's books and the probate court records. This photo is from the collection of the Ozark County Historium.

for trial Sept. 18. ...

Hosey and Dillon escaped from the jail here on the night of July 20 but were recaptured in a cave near Chadwick on Aug. 4.

A week following the escape of Hosey and Dillon, ... Walter Hartley of Cabool, alleged accomplice of Hosey and Dillon, escaped from the jail at West Plains. ... He has not been recaptured.

Dec. 21, 1933

Authorization for the employment of 945 civilians under the CWA within the limits of the Pond Fork Forest Unit was announced last week by E. N. Lee, Ranger in charge of the unit.

This number is exclusive of the C.C.C. boys. The 947 men to be employed will be divided equally between Taney, Douglas, Ozark and Christian counties, giving each county 237 employees. ... This force of men, for the present, will be employed

largely in rebuilding and improving county roads within the unit. Permission has been obtained from the county courts of the four counties to proceed with this work.

Jan. 4, 1934

John Cockrum, residing on the farm of his father, L. S. Cockrum, 5 miles northwest of town, on Saturday morning in trying to crank his car, set it on fire. The car and the barn in which it was housed were destroyed by the fire.

Lawndale – Some from here helped Leonard Anderson build his home and barn Friday and Saturday.

Zanoni – Mrs. Floyd Pitcock and Mrs. Joe Morrison spent Sunday at U. H. Morrison's of Tecumseh at the bedside of Aunt Linnie Upton, who is ill.

Nov. 29, 1934
 (see photo above)

The fearful call of "Fire" sounded through out little city

about 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning when fire was discovered issuing from the southwest and northeast corners of the court house. By the time citizens arrived on the scene, the fire had gained such headway nothing could be removed from any part of the building. ...

All the records and books stored in the vault are not damaged. The books of the treasurer were most all destroyed as were those of the probate judge. ... The origin of the fire is a mystery.

June 20, 1935

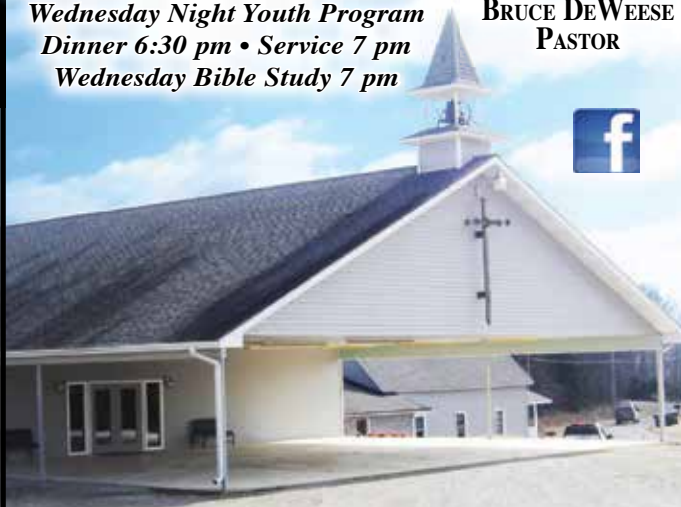
Hammond – The spit and whittle club have made a fish net. Took a lot of holes and tied them together with strings. Charles Gaulding bossed the job.

David Wallace agreed to cradle five acres of wheat a day, paid in advance so he could have plenty of smoking tobacco.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Aug. 6, 1936

Thirty-five more old-age pensions were received by aged people in this county the past week, making a total of 74 pensions granted in Ozark County. Of this number, 10 have died.

News reached this city Saturday evening that Hiram Clayton of Longrun had been instantly killed when a truck he was driving turned over, catching him under it and breaking his neck.

Jan. 14, 1937

Ozark County is again without a courthouse. The old frame courthouse burned two years ago last November. The building that was just burned was considered almost safe from fire.

When the fire was discovered about 12:30 o'clock Saturday morning, fire was breaking out through the windows and roof in the northeast end of the building. Inside, from the basement up, the whole east end of the building was a roaring furnace. The heat and smoke was so dense in the other part of the building that it could not be entered and nothing could be saved.

The origin of the fire is not known but is believed to have started from a newly installed furnace in the east end of the basement. No insurance was carried on the building, insurance companies refusing to insure on account of the stove pipe arrangements.

The record books of the different county officers had been placed in the vault that evening, but all papers on file in different offices were destroyed.

In the County Superintendent's office more than \$2,000 worth of school



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, Voice 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 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, Voice 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.

books were burned.

Dr. P. E. Bushong, head of the old age pension board, had an office in the basement. He lost all his medicines, instruments and some valuable medical books.

Dec. 29, 1938

The Clarence Hicks residence and the large "Y" store at Wasola were completely destroyed by fire last Wednesday night which started from candles on a Christmas tree in the Hicks home.

meet Dec. 30 at which time new plans for the courthouse will be studied, and again advertised for bids.

July 20, 1939

Frank Morris of Rockbridge had his thumb and two fingers of his right hand badly crushed when the hand was drawn into the rolls while at work in his mill on Thursday afternoon. He came to this city and had Dr. White dress his hand.

Some from this city attended the Rollins Hospital opening at Gassville Sunday. All were surprised to find such a wonderfully well-arranged and equipped institution for the care and treatment of the sick.

Jan. 2, 1941

The new theater recently established in Gainesville by the Pettits is nearing completion and, on 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.

Dec. 31, 1942

On Saturday night between 9 and 10 o'clock, while the heaviest rain since 1929 was falling, lightning struck the large barn of Dr. P. E. Bushong in the south part of town.

The building became a roaring furnace, and none of the contents could be saved. A fine young bull, being kept in an enclosure in the barn, all the harness on the place and many other things and much feed were destroyed. . . .

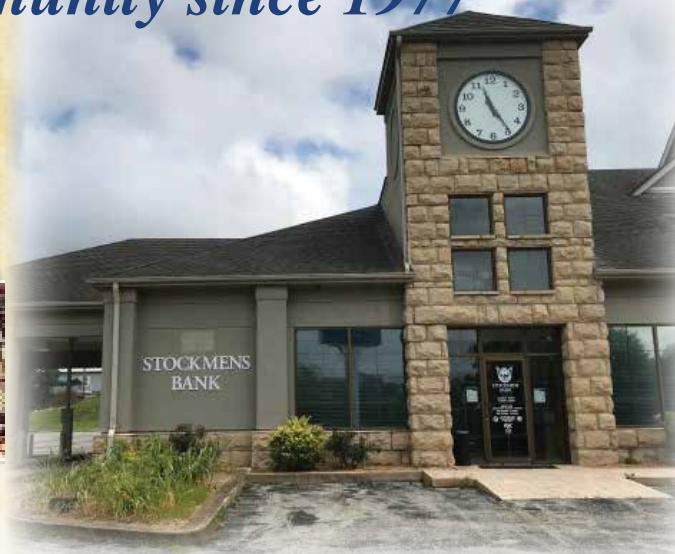
The electrical discharge that set the barn on fire also blew out most of the lights in town. Many radios were burned out.

The fire spread so rapidly that not much of the contents of either of the buildings was saved.

The county court was in session here on Friday and opened bids for construction of the new courthouse. There were three bidders, but all were far more than the \$35,000.

The court continued consideration of the bids until Tuesday when all bids were rejected. . . . The old and new county court and architect will

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

July 29, 1943

Ninety-two friends and neighbors met at B. I. Walker's Sunday with well-filled baskets to spread a welcome dinner for their son, Verl A. Walker, who is in service for the freedom of our country. May God watch over him with the many other soldier boys who are so willingly giving their freedom for ours.

Feb. 10, 1944

The youngsters at Gainesville school are now enjoying hot lunches.

The program began Monday, and lunches are being prepared and served by Mrs. Lillie Story, assisted by Mrs. Careful Gilliland and Mrs. Ola Hambelton.

Isabella – Mrs. John Blair has been at Joe Murphy's helping care for the little twins who are very sick.

Mrs. Iva McDonald is having some fencing done.

Barefoot – Several gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McGinnis at a farewell party for their son Lester, who has gone to camp.

Feb. 22, 1945

Our Boys in the Service – Jan. 12, 1945, Somewhere in Germany - I'll try and write a few lines today as we have pulled off the line for a few days rest.

I shaved for the first time since Dec. 30. We have been out in the snow for 11 days and nights so you can see about how I feel, but I had a good night's sleep last night and all the pancakes and bacon I could eat for breakfast.

This is all we look forward to over here, a good night's sleep and a good, hot meal.

The snow is knee deep here now and snowed more last night. . . .

I am with the First Army so



Isabella schoolteacher Dallas Herd stopped by his school to say good-bye to his students on the day he was leaving to go overseas in World War II, probably sometime in 1942, says his daughter Jeannie Jackson, who shared this photo. She doesn't know the students' names or who took the photograph. Herd, son of the late Joe and Mae Herd of Isabella, served with the Army in England, France, Belgium and Germany. After the war, he returned home and served Ozark County as county clerk for 40 years. He died in 2007.

you can read in the papers what we are doing. I got my picture taken the other day when we were taking a town. Don't suppose you would know me if you could see my picture.

Well, folks, I would give anything to be home, so I could go to church and live a good life. I don't curse any more, and I pray as often as I used to curse. I haven't gotten religion yet, but if I live to get home, I'll live the rest of my life serving the Lord. I want you all to pray for me that I'll come back home some day.

I may not get to write any more for a while, so don't worry. – Pvt. Alva Wray

March 15, 1945

T. Sgt. Dennison entered

the service on Nov. 19, 1942, went overseas in February 1944, and was an engineer ball-turret gunner on a B-24 airplane when shot down over Germany April 18, 1944, and taken as prisoner of war.

Sgt. Dennison was awarded the Air Medal, which was presented to his wife on Feb. 22 by Cpt. Thos. N. Weems of the Vichy Air field, Vichy, Mo. The medal was given "For meritorious achievement while participating in heavy bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe."

His wife, Maxine Dennison, and small daughter reside in this city.

Nov. 1, 1945

The school carnival Friday

night was attended by a very large crowd. . . .

The students worked hard getting votes for their queen and prince charming. The juniors were the winners, with Miss Ida Mae Rackley and Paul Herd as the queen and prince. The seniors chose Ethel Poe and Don Eslinger, the sophomores Daisy Byerly and Joe Marshall, and the freshmen Joan Lawrence and Troy Herd.

Ras, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Farless south of town, who has been suffering with infantile paralysis, was taken to the Home for Crippled Children at Columbia Tuesday in a McClure ambulance.

His condition seems somewhat improved.

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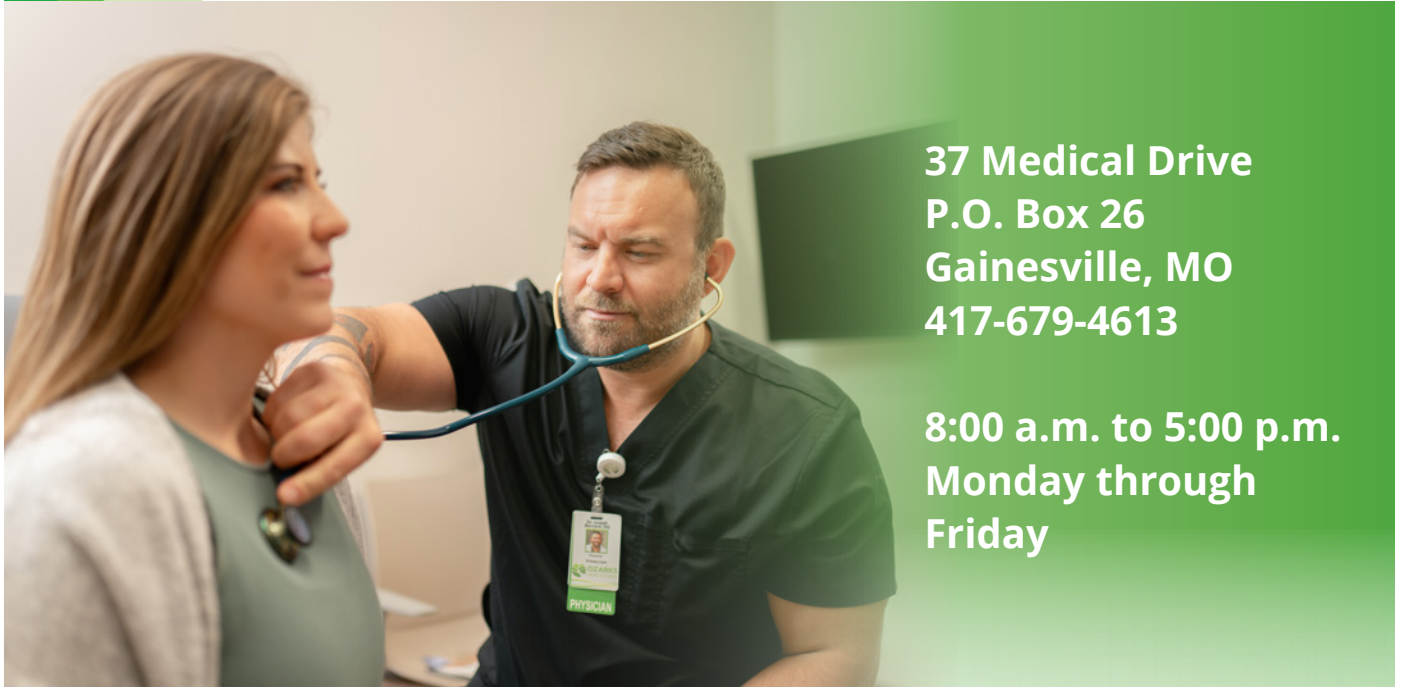
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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

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. . . .

His widow, Mrs. Force, is a sister of Frank and Guy Wood of West Plains.

Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Hogan of West Plains received a message a few days ago from Washington stating that information from the German government through the International Red Cross listed their son, Sgt. John E. Hogan, as killed in action over Germany Sept. 13. Sgt. Hogan was a tail gunner on a Flying Fortress in the 92nd bomber group, which participated in the mass raid over Germany on Sept. 13 when losses of both bombers and fighter planes was said to be heavy. . . . The family had hoped the crew had bailed out and were probably prisoners of war. Sgt. Hogan was a very popular young man of West Plains and a graduate of West Plains High School of 1942.

May 16, 1946

Dr. Hoerman has been having this office print letters to send to his patients telling them about opening the maternity clinic in his office starting Monday, May 20. Under the old plan, many mothers came to the office when the first indications of labor appeared. . . . [and] were unable to obtain the services of Dr. and Mrs. Hoerman because of their being out on other cases. In the new clinic, two or more mothers may be cared for at the same time. . . . No patients will be cared for the last 48 hours of each month starting Aug. 29 at midnight. This will give the



This photo of the Gainesville High School basketball team was taken Dec. 10, 1955, after the team won first place in the Thayer tournament. From left, back, are coach Nolan Morrison, Carl Johnson, Charlie Hunt, Larry House, Doyle Owens, Don Hathcock and Ivan Corp. Front row, Dolan Hawkins, Ronnie Goodwyn, John Ault, Joe Scott and Darrell Crisp. The photo, is from the collection of Marv Looney.

doctor and his wife time enough to have dental work done, shopping and a little vacation of their own.

May 1, 1947

The new Crisp Theatre is now nearing completion. The plastering of the walls was completed the first of the week. Some painting and touching up is now being done, making ready for the installation of the machinery in a short time.

Nov. 13, 1947

The annual deer hunting season in Missouri, which opened in Ozark County for the first time in many years, was successful beyond all expectations. . . . Approximately 20 legal bucks were taken in Ozark County during the three-day

season.

July 21, 1949

Tommy Story, 14-year-old son of Glenn Story of Ava, died about 6:15 p.m. Saturday in a Clinkingbeard ambulance from Ava which was waiting on the airport apron in Springfield.

He was brought from Ava about 12:30 Saturday to a child specialist at Burge Hospital, who immediately examined Tommy . . . Shortly after he was taken to the hospital he developed paralysis in his breathing which proved fatal. The physician termed the polio a "very unusual and severe attack."

Polio cases in Ozark County to date:

Jimmie Lee Rose, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Rose of Gainesville, who is

improving nicely.

The 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Willbanks of Gainesville, who is also at the University Hospital at Columbia and reported as getting along all right.

Emily Miller, 19 months old, of Wasola.

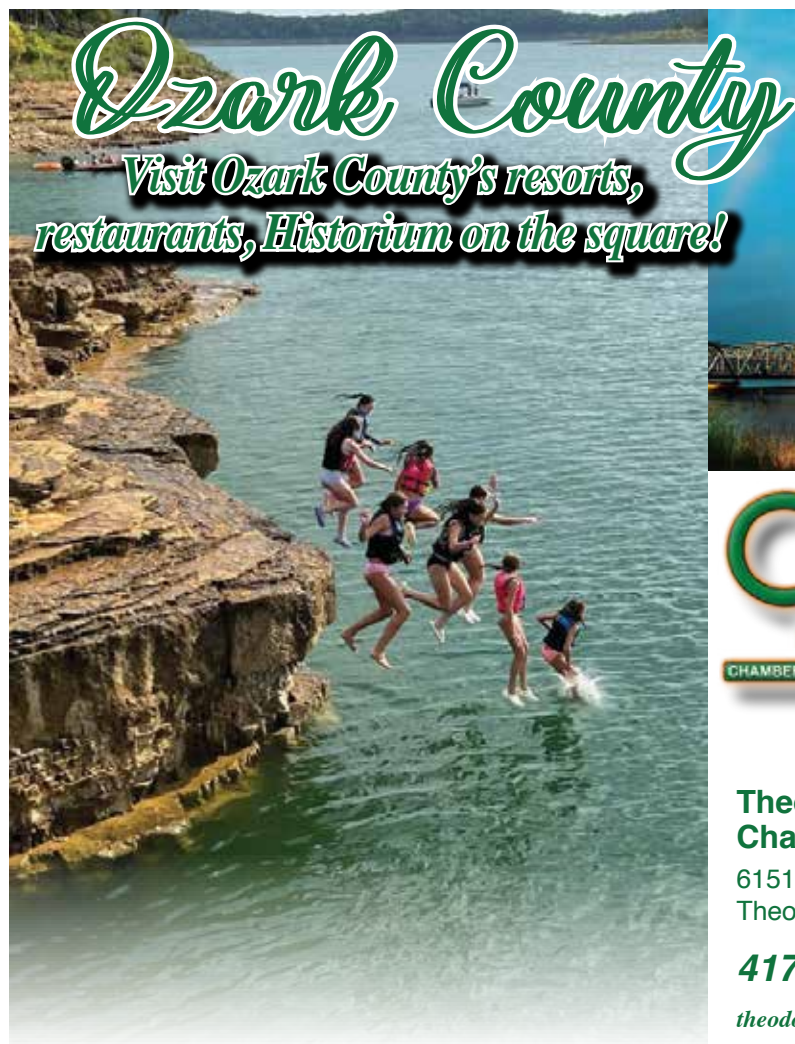
Joyce, 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ellison of Pontiac.

A boy at Bakersfield whose name we failed to learn.

Alfred Byerley's 2½-year-old daughter, at Souder.

Mrs. Peggy (Gott) Taylor, about 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gott of Gainesville.

Rex Dwayne Blisard, 2½-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Blisard of Gainesville.



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Gainesville Square

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
Oct. 21, 1948

Jesse Mahan, formerly of Pontiac, and his trick horse Silver will be featured in a motion picture short to be made within the next few weeks at Kansas City.

July 14, 1949

A few years ago Ozark County had a few cases of polio. A son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Farless of the Never Fail district was stricken. He was taken to the hospital at Columbia, where his life was saved, but he still has to walk on crutches. A few other cases were reported then.

Last week, Jimmy Lee Rose, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. A. Rose, became suddenly ill. His father, who is sheriff of Ozark County, said the first indications of the disease appeared on Sunday when he noticed the boy walked stiffly and complained of pains in his head.

By Tuesday he had a temperature of 101 and was taken to a physician in Gainesville. ... On Thursday night he was taken to Springfield for further treatment and then sent on to University Hospital at Columbia where he has been critically ill but at this time is reported to be much improved.

A second case reported at the University Hospital at Columbia is Louanna, 20 month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Byerly of Souder, who is very ill, but we understand, is improving.

Oct. 6, 1949

Wallace's new sale barn brought the largest crowd to Gainesville that has been here for ages, despite the heavy rain that beat down all day.

There was so much livestock and other items for sale



This photo of the crowd attending the dedication of Bull Shoals and Norfork dams in July 1952 was taken by the late J. W. Daniel, former *Times* owner and editor. No one is identified in the photo, but it's thought that some Ozark Countians can be seen, including Stella Luna (far left, standing and leaning forward), Addie Lee Lister (standing, wearing sunglasses) and Nadine Ebrite (below Lister, wearing glasses and broad-brimmed hat). Daniel's report appeared in the July 3, 1952, edition of the *Times*, but no photos were published, perhaps due to the rather long and expensive off-site process of preparing pictures for publication during those days of hot-metal type. The photos were shared with the Ozark County Historium by Daniel's daughter, Sheila Daniel of Flippin, Arkansas, who retired from the *Los Angeles Times*.

that it took until 10 o'clock at night to get it sold.

To Patrons and Friends: I will only be in my office on Fridays and Saturdays of each week as there is not enough practice here for me to devote all of my time here. I have been here over one year, made many friends, enjoyed my work among you. ...

Should the demand for more of my time here be made manifest, I will try and be here more days. Elmer H. Barrett, Dentist.

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 cer-

emony. 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

March 8, 1951

Grabeel - Relatives gathered at the N. A. Hawkins home Sunday and helped Aunt Sallie Smith celebrate her birthday.

Ralph Walker made a trip to Ava Saturday where he traded for a nice Studebaker car.

Doin Watson is building a tool shed for Carl Newton.

March 22, 1951

Mrs. Bug Farel returned one day last week from Arizona where she had been

visiting relatives and hoping to benefit her health. Mr. Farel met her at Springfield.

Romance - Billy Ray's many friends will be glad to hear that he has entered SMS and is favorably impressed. As usual, Billy is not idle. He does a few hours extra work after school hours and on Saturday.

Cecil Satterfield is still in Korea. He has been on the front lines and was taking a rest when he wrote to his aunt, Cora Robinson. He sent her a picture of the mountains in Korea where he is located.

July 3, 1952

(see photo, above)

President Harry S. Truman, on July 2, officiated at the dedication of the two mammoth dams in north Arkansas (Bull Shoals and Norfork).

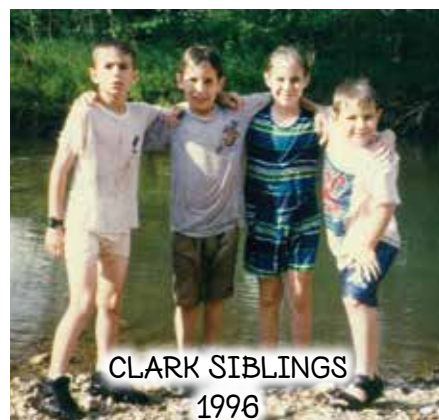
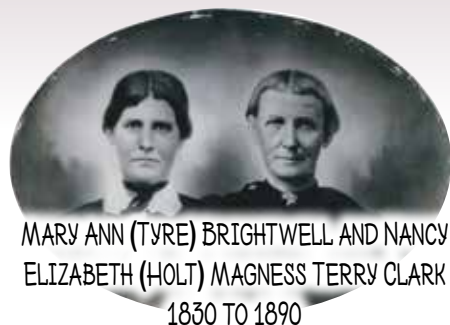
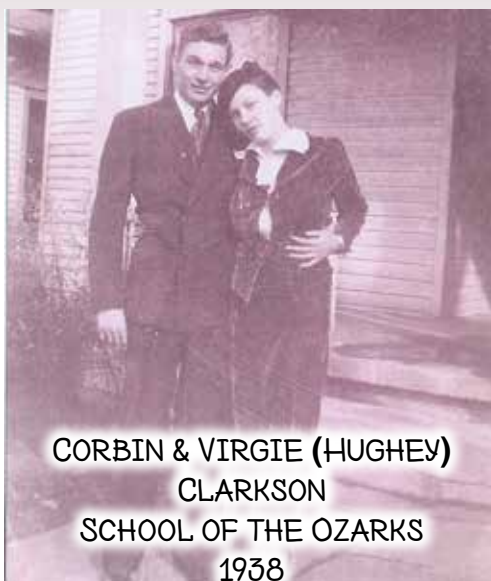
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John 3:16

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST



This photo shows Amyx Auto Co. before a remodel in 1959. It's thought that the office of dentist Elmer Barrett, mentioned in a Oct. 6, 1949 news item (see page 54), was on the building's second floor. The photo prompted interesting memories when it was shared on the Ozark County Historium's Facebook several years ago. T.J. Lewis recalled that his dad, the late Grady Lewis, ran through the flashing red light (upper left corner of the photo) the first time he went to town after it was installed. When the city policeman stopped him, Lewis told the officer "he would stop the next time through if he didn't forget," T.J. said. Jerry James reported that his dad, former Amyx Auto employee Vernon James, thought the car in the photo

is a 1946 Pontiac. The building, built in 1926 by the late Sid Amyx, served as Gainesville's Ford dealership until the inventory was sold off in 2002. In 2010, Sid's grandson, Don Amyx, sold the building to the city of Gainesville. The Gainesville City Hall continues to operate from the building today.

Sept. 23, 1954

Rockbridge – More than 40 families are hauling water from the Rockbridge springs and from as far away as 10 to 12 miles. Work is still progressing on the fish hatchery project, and the place is being visited by many sightseers daily.

Mrs. Dean Hale is still busy quilting and is now working on the 38th quilt for a lady in Colorado.

Ad – Ozark Theatre, Gainesville, Mo. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Friday Sept. 24, "Pack Train" Gene Autry & Champion ... Saturday, Sept. 25, "Killer Ape," Johnny Weissmuller ... Sunday, Sept. 26, "Creature from the Black Lagoon."

Ad – Sunset Drive-in 4 miles west of Gainesville on Hwy. 160. Show starts at 7:30. Admission 45 cents.

June 23, 1955

Mary's Beauty Shop was moved yesterday to the J.O. Wood building just north of the telephone office. The new location just off the southeast corner of the square has been completely redecorated with a new tile floor, Venetian blinds and new paint for the walls and ceiling.

Barbara Turner and Wilbur Cowart were united in marriage June 19 at 2 p.m. at the home of the groom's parents in a double-ring ceremony performed by the Rev. Mont Reich of Lutie. Walter Cowart, brother of the groom, served as best man, and Arlene Turner, sister of the bride, served as bridesmaid. ... Barbara is employed as a stenographer by the Division of Welfare in Gainesville. Wilbur is employed as parts man for the Kerr Chevrolet Co. in Gainesville.

Ozark County Times
Jan. 22, 1953

Truevine – The home of Aunt Betty Griffith was destroyed by fire early Friday night. She had taken the ashes from the stove and spilled a few through the porch, causing the fire.

Aunt Betty is 81 years old and lived alone. She is worthy and will appreciate anything anyone wants to contribute to her in the loss of her home. You may leave your contributions at the John Rose store or send them to Longrun.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Nov. 17, 1955

The new fire truck for the city arrived Monday afternoon, and fire chief John Luna lost no time in calling the volunteer firemen for a practice session.

Dec. 1, 1955

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Graves have purchased the Exline Shoe Store, and the Rose Shoe Store here and will open the new store Saturday in the Exline Shoe Store building.

Al Farless of Al's Radio and TV Shop has been appointed dealer for the Norge line of appliances.

Cecil McSwain and A. E. Crewse announced that the Gainesville Cheese Co. has established a receiving station here for Grade A milk.

Dec. 8, 1955

Ray Wallace, local cattleman and owner and operator of the Gainesville Sale Barn, last week announced he has signed a contract to purchase the Mountain Home Sales Pavilion now under construction.

June 14, 1956

Jackie Robbins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Robbins of near Mammoth, was graduated from the Burge School of Nursing on May 28. Miss Robbins will attend Drury this fall and plans to get a B.S. in nursing, which she hopes to complete in 10 months. She is a graduate of Gainesville High School, class of 1953 and entered Burge School of Nursing in September 1953.

July 1, 1954

Plans are almost complete for the blacktopping of several streets in Gainesville. Just what streets will be blacktopped will depend upon the property owners since they will be required to pay a small



The house in this photo was originally built in 1898 by Hawk Walker. His wife died in 1904, and her will called for the house to be sold. Since then the house, which still stands at High Street and Harlin Drive opposite the Ozark County Health Department, has been used in several different ways. According to the ad mentioned below from the May 16, 1946, *Ozark County Times*, it was a "funeral parlor" for Roller Funeral Home. It was also the Clinkingbeard Funeral Home in the 1950s (as pictured here) and later was a boarding-house operated by John and Mearl Rose. The home is now occupied by the women's division of Action Recovery Center, a long-term drug and alcohol addiction recovery program.

portion of the cost. Signatures are being obtained now of the property owners desiring the blacktopping. ...The work will be done by the Duderstat Construction Company who are at present resurfacing Hwy. 5 north.

March 12, 1959

The most important single group of manuscripts in existence concerning the history of the White River country in the Missouri-Arkansas Ozarks region has been purchased by the Springfield Art Museum, according to Kenneth M. Shuck, director. These manuscripts, written in the late 1880s by S. C. Turnbo, early Ozarks newspaper publisher, are the only known comprehensive source of important historical incidents of the White River country in the period from the coming of the

white man in 1815 to shortly after the Civil War.

May 6, 1954

J. J. Pace and Donald Rackley announce that they will open on Sunday, May, 9, the "Dairy Princess," located one block west of junction U.S. 160 and Hwy. 5. They will specialize in soft ice cream, cold drinks, coffee, hot dogs and barbecue.

Aug. 27, 1959

The Harlin Real Estate Agency and the Walker Lumber Co. here are cooperating in the building of a series of new, modern homes in Gainesville to meet the housing demand. They have already started on the first house which is under construction on the bluff east of Gainesville in the Harlin subdivision. The three-bedroom home with a carport

will be available at a price of between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

Sept. 10, 1959

Six persons were killed and two others seriously injured in Ozark County's worst motor accident when two cars crashed head-on about 2:15 p.m. Saturday on Hwy. 160 between Ocie and Lutie about 20 miles west of Gainesville. ...The only two survivors of the eight persons in the two cars are in serious condition in a hospital at Branson, but investigating officers are certain that one of the cars driven by Donald Clark, 20, of Protem was "in the center of the highway" at a hillcrest when the crash occurred. The dead were: Donald Clark, Protem; Joseph A. Hermann, 37, Isabella; Douglas A. Hermann, 5, his son; Robert M. Steele, 36, Dup[can't read], Ill.; Harriet Piel, 45, St. Louis; James Lord, 17, Protem.

May 24, 1962

The Bakersfield R-4 failed to get funds for a needed increase in the size of its building facilities when a proposal for a \$70,000 bond issue was turned down Tuesday by only 17 votes. The vote was heavily for the bonds in the Bakersfield precinct with 270 favoring the issue and only 30 against. At Elijah there were 154 votes cast, and only 10 voted for the bonds. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast was needed to carry the proposal.

March 28, 1963

A project to secure an electric scoreboard for the gymnasium at the new Gainesville High School has been started by J. J. Pace, Don Rackley and Rex Johnson. They are asking alumni and friends to contribute \$1 each toward the purchase of the scoreboard.

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