



A compilation of Ozark County heritage and history

Times Past

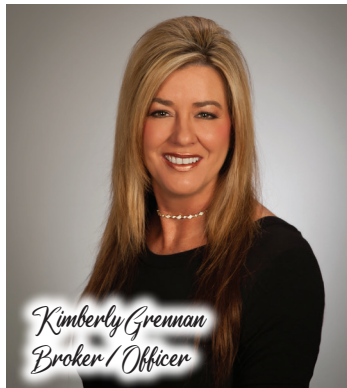
MAGAZINE

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2026 edition

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TIMES PAST

An annual publication of the *Ozark County Times*

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It's believed this picture was taken in 1901 as the casket of W. A. Love was carried down what is now Third Street in Gainesville from Love's home to the Methodist Church near the square. The *Ozark County Times* reported that the beloved man died of "chronic Bright's disease." He was a Civil War veteran who served Ozark County in several elected offices, including county and circuit clerk, state representative and prosecuting attorney. The tall house that can be seen in the background still stands today, one of the oldest remaining structures in Gainesville. It was built in 1898, making it 128 years old in 2026. Now, painted yellow and situated across the street from the Ozark County Health Department, it is being used as a private residence.

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 photographs 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.

Submissions of Ozark County-specific historical photos are always appreciated by the *Times* staff. Submit photos to Editor Jessi Dreckman at jessi@ozark-countytimes.com or PO Box 188, Gainesville, Mo. 65655.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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On this year's cover

This year's cover features three photos of a cabin from roughly the same location in what is now known as Taylors' Bottoms at Pinnacle Ranch, a few miles north of Gainesville. The top photo, taken 123 years ago in 1903, shows the pioneer cabin of John DeLoss and Eliza Lawrence with their children, Harry, Ruth Ellen, Alice May, Edith Mable and Isabel. Sometime during the 20th century, the cabin was modified, and it was still standing in the 1970s when the late Lee and Gladys Taylor purchased the property. In 1976, they painted an American flag on the roof in honor of America's Bicentennial, celebrating the nation's 200th anniversary (pictured at bottom left). The cabin was later demolished after it deteriorated beyond repair. This year, Lee and Gladys's son, Robert Taylor, joined by his son, Jaxon, and family friends Sy Jeckstadt and Ed Zimmer, built the cabin shown in the lower right photo on the same site. They recreated the flag design Lee painted 50 years ago, this time in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. A more in-depth feature about the cabin appears in the July 29, 2026, edition of the *Ozark County Times* or can be found by searching at www.ozarkcountytimes.com.



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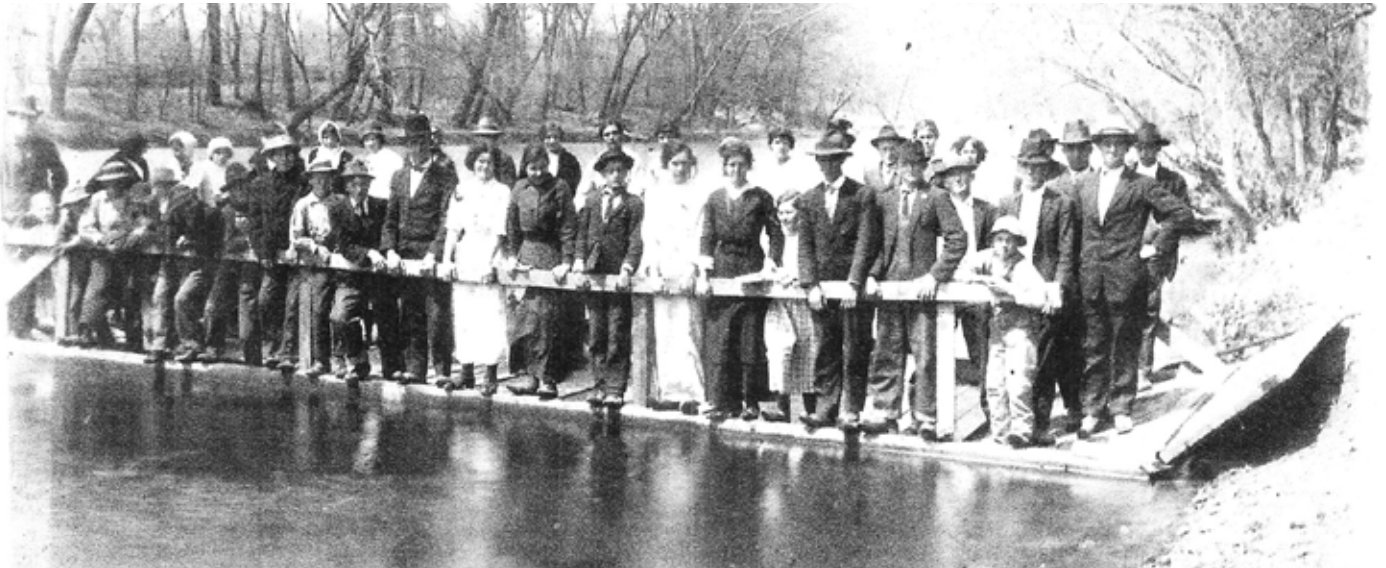
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This photo from the early 1900s shows a group of people on the ferry that operated across Bryant Creek near Hodgson Mill. It was shared several years ago on the Dora School Library Facebook page by retired educator Gina Uhlmann Hollingshad, who got the photo from Dora resident Eldon Russell. Eldon said he didn't know the occasion for the photo, but some have speculated that it might have been taken at an "egg roast," a event when as many as 500 eggs might be boiled, rather than actually roasted, for a unique kind of picnic.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News
March 15, 1883

OZARK COUNTY IN 1883

Home For the Poor As Well As the Rich.

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Population: Ozark county has a population of just over 6,000—who are principally natives of Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. They are social, generous and hospitable.

Its Surface is agreeably diversified with hill and dale, high and steep bluffs and low and gentle declivities and, also gentle undulating surface. Along the large streams we have wide and rich bottoms, merging, by slopes into the neighboring hills. That portion of the county drained by the two north forks of White river is very rich and productive. The uplands produce good wheat and corn.

Education: The county is pretty well organized into districts; but this one—and the most important, appurtenant to any community—has in the past been neglected to some extent owing to scarcity of teachers who were qualified to teach and willing to teach for the prices which the people were able to pay. This, it is hoped, and not without some reasons, will not be the case in the future since the people have begun to realize this primary necessity.

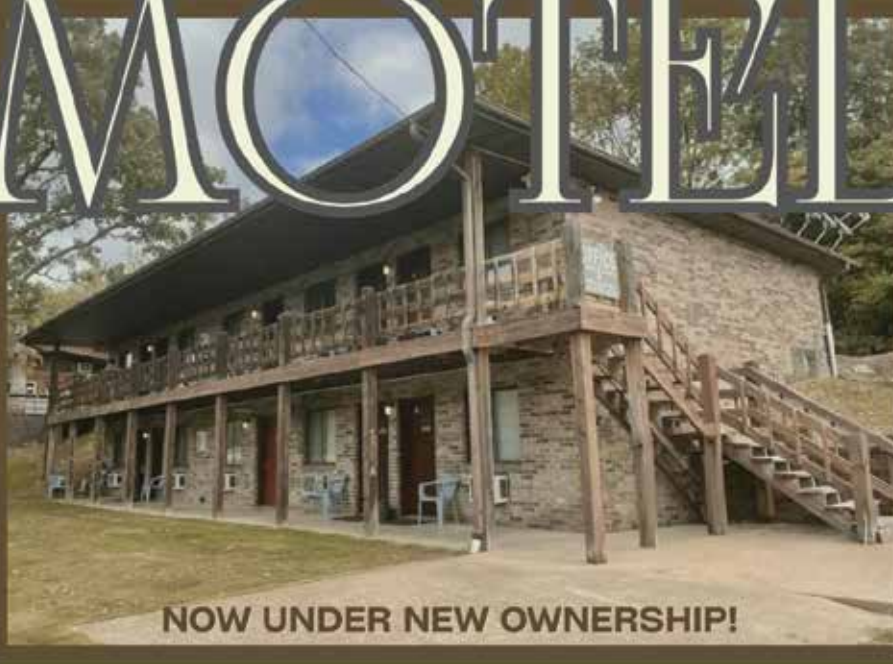
Religion: Nearly every denomination is represented; but churches are few, owing to the fact, we suppose, that there are too few who belong to the same flock that they are yet unable to build. This with other matter is becoming greatly changed—in a few years the domes and steeples will point from many of these hills where naught but log houses now stand to answer the twofold purpose of church and schools.

...Continued to page 10.



This scene shows the water of a flooded Ozark County river approaching a barn and cattle as a farmer, in the lower left hand corner, assesses the situation. It is thought to have been taken in the early 1900s. It is one example of why the government initiated the Norfolk and Bull Shoals dam projects in the mid-20th century as a means of providing better flood control to the area. The exact location of the photo is unknown, but it's thought to have been taken in the early 20th century on an Ozark County creek or river bottom. The picture is from an unidentified collection donated to the Ozark County Historium.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News
March 15, 1883

OZARK COUNTY IN 1883

...Continued from page 6

Politically: It may be thought that politics form no particular link in the description of county; but it may be of some interest to those who know us not. The two parties—Democratic and Republican—are nearly equally divided, which always insures more honesty and integrity among officers, than were it otherwise; the balance of the power being so small that the mere fact of political differences or prejudices can not affect such bad results as is often accomplished.

Fruit and other products: All kinds of fruit, including apple, pear, peach, grape and berries do exceedingly well here; in fact, no finer climate and soil for the production of fruit can be found anywhere. Corn, wheat, tobacco, cotton, oats, rye and buckwheat are and can be profitably cultivated here.

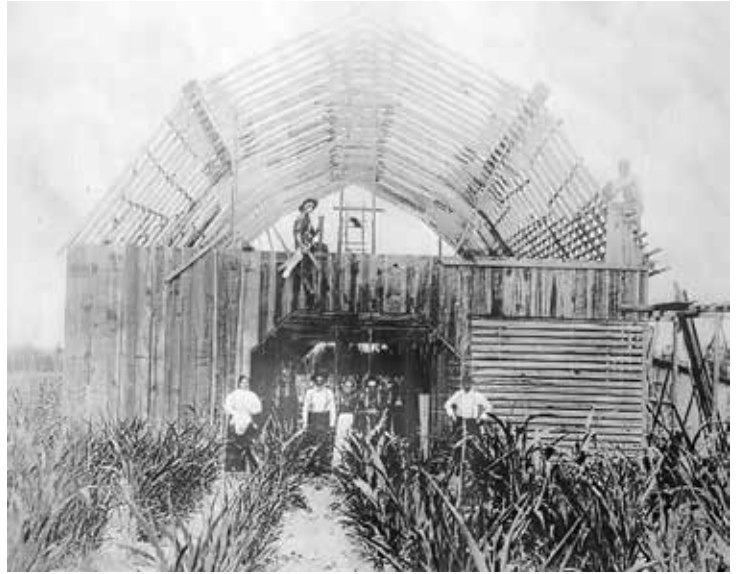
Springs and streams: This county is exceedingly well watered by fine springs and streams which are as clear as crystal year round—many of the springs affording sufficient water to run two sets of mill burrs and a saw mill. One or two springs in the county with power enough to run eight or ten.

Timber: This county is well timbered, the most of which is yet young, consisting of red elm, buckeye, yellow pine, cottonwood, white oak, burr oak, black oak, post oak, sycamore, white ash, mulberry, cedar, black cherry, box elder, hackberry, hone locust, black hickory, iron wood, sugar tree, white maple, red bud, black walnut, chinquapin, oak and many other varieties. Also all kinds of wild berries and grapes.

Stock-raising: This is beyond a doubt the finest country for raising stock in Missouri, in fact, second only to the large valleys of the west. The grass grows to the height of from three to six feet and furnishes feed almost the whole year round for young stock. In the bottoms, the grass is cut cured for hay and, at the proper season of the year, the flora is exceedingly rich, consisting of the yucca angustifolia, pentstemon grandiflora, oenothera serrulata, oxytropis, lambertis and gentiana purpurea.

The towns: Gainesville, the county seat, is beautifully and agreeably situated near the center of the county on what is known as Lick Creek. The neighboring hills present a grand and picturesque scenery on all sides of the town. The population of Gainesville is about 800; has two good stores, two cotton gins, a mill, hotel, good court house, church, printing office, two blacksmith shops, two carpenter shops, two doctors and six attorneys, etc. Isabella, nice little village situated in the western part of the county, 15 miles from the county seat, has two stores. St. Ledger is a small place 14 miles southeast of Gainesville. Also Rock Bridge, Thornfield and many other trading in points in different parts of the county.

...Continued to page 12.



A barn-raising on the Howards Ridge farm owned by Swannie and Mary Watts Baxter is featured in this 1918 photograph. The back of the photo identifies those in the photo as, standing, from left, Minnie Thompson Baxter, Samuel Moody Thompson, Elizabeth Ann Whitman Thompson, John David Baxter, Henry Edgar Baxter. The men working on the roof are thought to be Mitch Baxter (with saw in front) and Saul Strong (on roof on right).



This photo of the late Tom and Irene "Rene" Livesay Martin was taken at their home in Pontiac in 1910. Their home site was on what is now County Road 609 near Frontier Baptist Church. The photo was made by Vernon's Studio at Lead Hill, Arkansas, and was in the collection of the late Stella Martin Luna, who was raised by the Martins after the death of Stella's mother, Estella Upton Martin, five weeks after her birth in 1914. Stella's father, the late Newt Martin, lived nearby.

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This photo of Dr. Ernest Haskell Kyle and his wife, Kitty Blankenship Kyle, with three of their five children was probably taken around 1915. Dr. Kyle graduated from the University of Chicago Medical School in 1910 and practiced medicine at Hammond. He died of influenza on Nov. 16, 1918, and is buried at Thornfield. He was the son of Michael "Shell" and Defcy Brewer Kyle. Kitty was the daughter of W. H. and Mary Herd Blankenship. The photo is from the collection of Ozark County native Janis Wright Cantwell.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News
March 15, 1883

OZARK COUNTY IN 1883

...Continued from page 10

The Facts we have thus briefly endeavored to give the reader that you may know our county as it is in reality—contradistinguished from what the public supposes it to be.

The backwardness of our county, in many things, is mostly, if not entirely, due to the want of the true spirit of enterprise among her citizens. The county organs heretofore have almost neglected to furnish the public with such information as would lead them to a correct verdict on the merits of our county.

While we claim for Ozark the fore-

most place among the counties of the state for fruit growing and stock raising and such other incidental advantages as we have heretofore enumerated, we are far from seeking to disclose her demerits which of course she possesses like all of her sister counties.

But we repeat (and desire the news to reach every home in the land) that there are thousands of families who are now wearing away their lives upon the barren red hills of the east, oppressed by heavy rents and taxations, who can find homes for themselves and their friends, at almost insignificant prices, in this county.

Send the glad tidings to the poor and oppressed; extend to all a welcome voice, hand and heart!

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Let every one avail themselves of this offer and lend their aid in building up their county, and we assure you that in the end you will justly be applauded with: "Well done my good and faithful servant, etc.," and the only certificate that you will need on that day of days when He comes to judge of the laborers and their works will be a copy of the "Great Truth Teller" directed to your address and books balanced showing that you have done your part of the good work by aiding your county paper and home, which always, in return repays you ten-fold.

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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

May 5, 1911

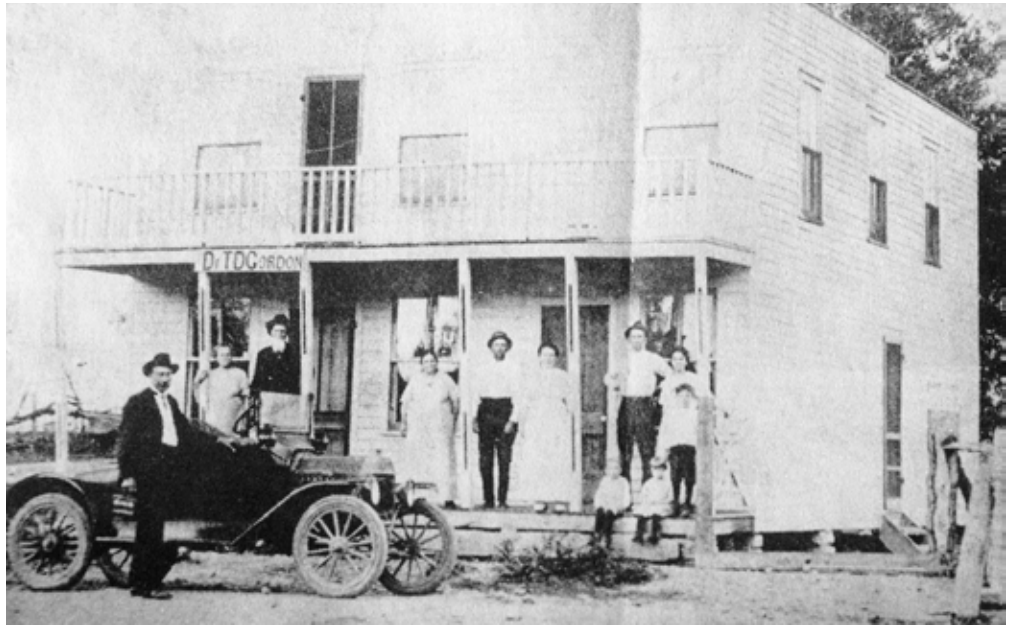
Dr. T. D. Gordon (see photo at right) is doing quite a bit of riding these days. He has been here but a few months and has built a fine practice. He is a splendid physician.

June 2, 1911

Dr. T. D. Gordon is traveling in style these days. He recently purchased a new set of harness from J. Decker & Son and this with his shiny red wheeled buggy make a swell turn out.

June 12, 1930

Dr. T. D. Gordon, 70 year old physician at Dora for the past 21 years... died in the Christian Hogan hospital in West Plains on Monday of last week of heart disease. Dr. Gordon had been in a serious condition for several months and was taken to the hospital in West Plains that he might be better cared for and his last days be made more comfortable.



This photo of Dr. T. D. Gordon's office in Dora was taken around 1916. Responding a Facebook post in 2016, Sue Houser Goodwin commented that her mother, born in Dora in 1914, had told her the first car she ever remembered seeing belonged to Dr. Gordon. Dora native, the late Clifton Luna told the *Times* that Dr. Gordon came to the family's home about 4 miles south of Dora when he was born in 1925, and the charge was \$5.



This photo of the 1918 Gainesville basketball team includes some of the team members mentioned in the report published two years earlier and included in the *Times Past* item from 1916 (at right). Shown in the photo are, standing, from left, Harve Webb (probably the coach), Hervil Grisham, Dewey Amyx and Ray Ebrite. Ray Amyx is pictured center front, but the men beside him are unknown.

Ozark County Times

Dec. 8, 1916

The Gainesville basketball team...played the Mtn. Home boys a close game at Mtn. Home on Thursday of last week. The score was 6 to 7 in favor of the Arkansas boys. On their way to Mtn. Home in an auto on Thursday morning, while passing the Dock Walker place on Lick Creek, unavoidably injured one of Mr. Walker's calves. On their return, the boys learning that the calf was more severely injured than they had believed, called on Mr. Walker, and to avoid trouble, paid him \$10 for the damages.

Dec. 26, 1916

A tree, which was located on the line between the McDaniel and the Joe Walker farm, seven miles south of Ava, was the cause of a shooting between John William McDaniel and Joe Walker... Albert McDaniel was shot through the hips by Walker with a 45 Colt revolver and is in a critical condition. If he doesn't change for the better, it is believed the wound will prove fatal. Joe Walker was shot through the heart with a Colt automatic revolver and died instantly...Walker claimed that part of the timber on the right-of-way between the two farms belonged to him. The McDaniels claimed they had given all the right-of-way and the timber belonged to them.



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Gainesville's Central Hotel, shown in this photo taken around 1910, stood on the northwest corner of the square and was built by B. W. Hogard in the 1880s.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County News
March 31, 1887

Drummer Brown made our town a visit Monday. Mr. Brown represents a whiskey firm in Springfield, and his popularity in Gainesville was well shown by a ball and supper given at the Central hotel in honor of his visit, Monday night, which was enjoyed hugely by the young people.

July 21, 1887

Mr. Preston is making some improvement in his stationary store at the post office; B.W. Hogard is putting new tiling in his well at the central hotel; J. W. Collins has given his yard fence a fresh coat of paint.

These little things show that the spirit of improvement is abroad in this city.

June 18, 1891

Ad- CENTRAL HOTEL, Gainesville, Mo. B. W. Hogard, Proprietor. I am now prepared to receive boarders and accommodate the traveling public; special attention paid to teams; sample rooms free; table supplied with best the market can afford. Meals can be had at all hours, Charges reasonable.

April 28, 1892

J.W. Terry, who was seriously injured by falling from the Central Hotel a few weeks ago, is now able to come to town again.

March 1, 1894

Quite a romantic wedding occurred at the Central hotel in this city last Monday. On that morning, Oscar Luther, of Mountain Home, Ark., and Miss Florence Hoover, of the

McPherson, Baxter county, arrived in a two-horse hack, accompanied by a young gentleman named Baker, of the same locality.

The party put up at the Central, and soon found their way to the recorder's office, where the necessary affidavits were made to procure a marriage license for Luther and Miss Hoover.

With this precious document, they returned to the hotel and the services of Rev. Henry Hambey being engaged, they were married in the presence of the usual crowd, which assembles on such occasions, after which they dined and departed.

From one of the party it was learned that the marriage was objectionable to the young lady's father, on account of young Luther's religious belief. Hoover is a

staunch methodist and Luther a firm Christian. The old man declared that no Campbellite should ever marry his girl, and determined to make her marry another young man, although she didn't love him.

With this intention the old man and his favorite suitor went to procure license for the marriage, but before their plan could be carried out, the lovers whipped off to Missouri, with the result above stated.

May 21, 1896

Gainesville can now boast of two barber shops, and two first-class, first-grade, first-rate hotels: as each hotel is supplied with that common necessity—a barber shop.

Last week, Mr. H. A. Ebrite opened a shop in the office room of the Central hotel.

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Photo at left: The **Ozark County Times** reported in its March 1, 1918, edition that about 200 friends and neighbors had gathered Saturday, Feb. 23, at the home of "Uncle Carroll Beasley" near Romance to share a dinner in honor of four "boys" about to leave for Army training camp. The *Times* reported that the four recruits, standing at back, from left, are Deggie Cantrell, Ed Beasley, Fred Eslinger and Rena Robinson. They had their picture taken with Civil War veterans who also attended the gathering: Carroll Beasley, H. W. Byrd, Rev. Bevins and D. W. Melton. The *Times* reported that "the evening was spent in singing." And Romance correspondent W. J. Melton wrote, "We believe the boys will do their part if they reach the front, and... we pray for their return when the work is finished." The late Russ Robinson originally shared the photo with the Historium.

Ozark County News
March 15, 1883

The Secretary of the Interior, in response to numerous inquiries of cattle men, has telegraphed that at present no leases will be granted in the Indian Territory.

March 23, 1893

Bacon is selling for 15 cents per pound in Gainesville and will be 20 to 25. The costliest watch charm a man can wear this summer will be a bacon rind. We are thinking of buying one. We know it would be

extravagant, but the *News* is prospering just now, and we don't care for expenses.

June 19, 1890

A new cigar case that extinguishes and saves up a half-smoked weed without letting

the stench escape is now out.

April 15, 1900

W. A. Love returned from Jackson Township where he was called to prosecute some boys for killing fish with dynamite.

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Follow our tradition-sharing activities and heartwarming events in the Ozark County Times and the Ozark County Historium Facebook page. Visit our website to order the historical books we've published or to peruse our wonderful old photographs. Or drop by the Historium to investigate your Ozark County connection in our genealogical library, court-records microfilm or Ozark County Times archives.

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The Ozark County Historium

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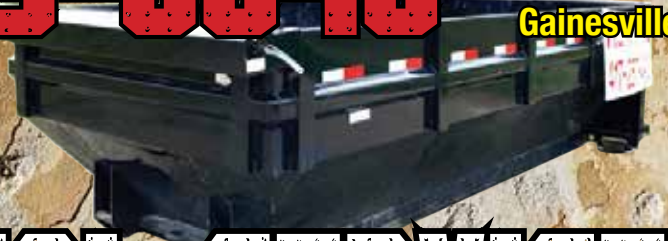
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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
July 22, 1954

Pontiac is possibly one of the oldest settlements in Ozark County—settled probably in the early part of the nineteenth century.

It is halfway between Isabella and Oakland, Ark., a distance of six and one-half miles each way. Until it was moved to its present location in 1905, the post office was located near the Arkansas line, about one mile south of where it now is.

Mail originally was carried from Ava to Thornfield through Pontiac to Oakland and Flippin, Ark. by horseback. One of the first postmasters that oldtimers can recall was Dave Brundridge. Ed Upton was another early postmaster.

Sam Martin went into the mercantile business at Pontiac at the age of 16 years and became the postmaster there. He sold his store to Ike Turnbo in 1903 and Mr. Turnbo became the postmaster. When he died in 1905 Andrew Jackson Johnson, who was already in business there, became the postmaster. When he died in 1941 his son, Guy Johnson, took over the job of postmaster and operator of the store...

Mrs. Newt Mahan (see photo on this page), who was born at Pontiac in 1873 and from whom we got most of this information, recalls the school she went to was located in an old log school on Spring Creek at Charity. Later, a school was established in Pontiac.

The first church organized at Pontiac was a General Baptist Church organized about 1875 or 1880...

Tommy Norris of near Thornfield, one of the old time preachers, would come and hold meetings under a shade tree on Little North Fork. He



This photo shows William Isaac Newton "Newt" Mahan and his wife, Margaret Ford Mahan, at their early pioneer cabin in Pontiac. Margaret provided most of the information for the article on this page, which was published by the *Times* in 1954, a year before her death. The picture was taken on the porch of their early pioneer cabin, which was made with hand-planed logs and features household furnishings of the time: a wooden water bucket with dipper on the porch shelf and hickory chairs with woven seats. According to Newt Mahan's obituary, published in the Dec. 2, 1943, edition of the *Times*, he was born in 1875 and was described as "an old pioneer settler" who had spent most of his life in Pontiac. He died Nov. 15, 1943, at his home after a long illness. An obituary for Margaret, published in the June 9, 1955 edition of the *Times*, said she was born in October 1873 in Pontiac and died June 2, 1955, at the age of 81. The photo is from the collection of Dean Wallace.

always carried a gun with him when he traveled to kill turkeys and other wild game on the way.

Old time camp meetings, also, were held at Pontiac in an old log building. People would come for miles around and camp there, going home only to wash out their clothes and return to stay a few more days.

Cotton was once a principal crop grown at Pontiac. Newt Turnbo operated a cotton gin there at one time. Mrs. Mahan doesn't remember just what dates the gin operated, but she says she remembers her father took a load of cotton to the gin the day she was married.

The great grandfather of

Mrs. Mahan served in the revolutionary war and his son probably came to Ozark County from Tennessee. Her father, James Ford, was born at Pontiac in 1850 and his wife, Sarah, was born there in 1853. They raised 11 children...

Many of the old settlers were buried in the old Turnbo graveyard. Before the inundation of the land by the waters of Bull Shoals Lake, the graveyard was moved to a site near the town above the level of the lake. The old way of marking the graves was to scratch the name, date of birth and death on a flat rock and place it at the head of the grave. Some of the names had been erased by the passing of

time and these have been marked "Unknown."

Many of the descendants of these early pioneers still live in Ozark County, but others, like all young members of each generation, have gone in search of "greener pastures," and are scattered to all parts of the United States.

With much of the tillable land covered by the lake, the principal farming done in this section is now stock farming.

Also, the tourist industry, naturally, is becoming more important all the time. Pontiac now [in 1954] has two modern tourist courts, two cafes, a general store and a commercial boat dock, all for the convenience of the fisherman, hunter and vacationist.



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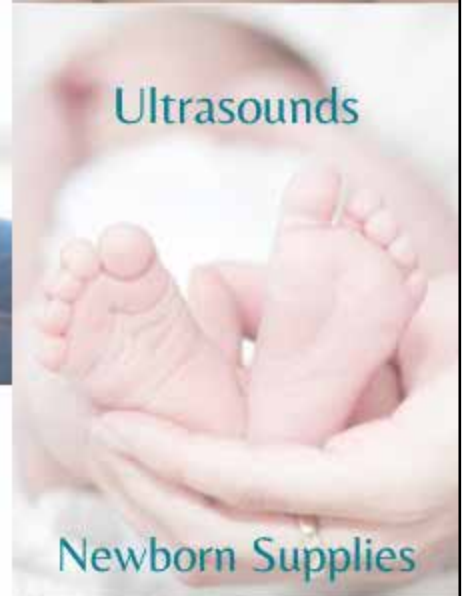
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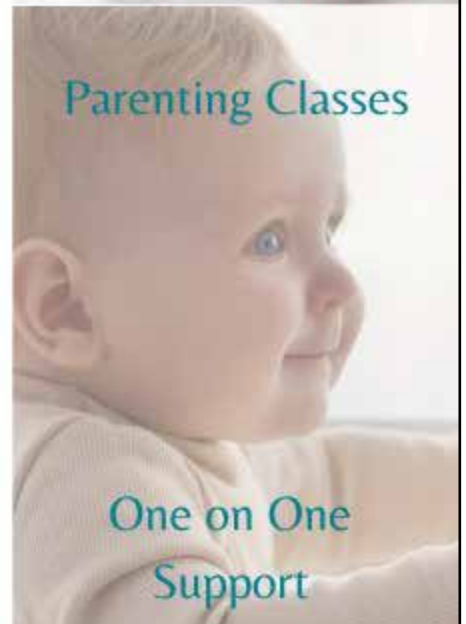


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This photo shows the mules that were used in the 1920s by N. L. Naugle, right, and another worker named Jake (last name unknown) when they were part of the crew that built what is now the winding, twisting “old” Highway 5 from Wasola to Gainesville. Naugle’s daughter, the late Wilma Fish, a native to the Romance area, told the *Times* in 2016 that she recalled her father saying the mules pulled a “slip” to haul rocks and gravel on. She also remembered that the construction crew included an African-American worker who “slid off a mountain” with his mule during the construction project. “The man lived, but the mule died,” Wilma said.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
July 22, 1927

Gainesville, the metropolis of Ozark county, nestled in the fertile Lick Creek valley, at the foot of Old Bald Jess mountain whose name and tradition is as well known almost as Dewey Bald of Harold Bell Wright’s novel, “Shepherd of the Hills,” was treated to the greatest of all treats here Monday afternoon when the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, with its nationally known Boy Scout Band, made a stop of almost one hour in our little village and furnished excellent music and entertainment.

At 3 p.m. a caravan of the representative citizens of Gainesville and good citizens of our county, congregated and with a goodly number of cars proceeded out Route No. 5 to meet and escort the “Good Willers” of Springfield into our little city....

We are certainly glad that Springfield remembered us as of old when the ox team and tadpole wagon with its tar bucket tied to the coupling pole, loaded with cotton bales and possum hides, deer pelts and bees wax from Ozark county, made regular tips to barter and trade cotton and produce for fat back, Hickory shirting, grey jeans by the bolt and Don’t Kick brogan shoes, all of which we appreciate as demonstrated by the fact of 2,000 of our citizens who came...

Time, of course, brings great changes. Since the days of the ox team, we have now one of the



This photo of Theodosia basketball players is thought to have been taken around 1928 at the old Theodosia school. The boys’ names, written on the back of the photo, are Weldon Burnett, Cecil Duggins, Carl Reich, James Chaney, Burl Schofield, Clarence Hale. The photo is from the collection of the late Stella Luna.

best highways in the state. Instead of taking two weeks to go to Springfield and back, we now eat breakfast at home, get into our cars, make the trip to Springfield, trade with Keet & Rountree [Dry Goods], Baldwin or McG Reps or Heers, or have a patient operated on by Dr. Wallis Smith and be back home in the evening to feed the pigs and chickens, milk our jersey

cows, drink all the good pure mountain water that we want from God’s given fountain of sparkling streams, say our bedtime prayers and lie down to peaceful dreams of our own native Ozark hills and splendid Chamber of Commerce of Springfield and its nationally famous Boy Scout Band, awake the following morning wishing the bunch would come again soon.



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It is thought that this May Day celebration photo was taken on the Gainesville's square in 1931. Pictured at center is the late Alma McDonald (Luna), who was probably a senior in high school at the time. She was named May Day queen and is leading the children (dressed as flowers) in wrapping one of the May poles, according to information provided to the *Times* in 2012 by Alma's sister, the late Mary Ruth McDonald Landers, who is pictured second from left in the photo as a first-grader. Others in the photo are Nadine Morrison Ebrite, far left, Mary Ruth, Maxine Shaw Shanerman, Marguerite Sanders Cobb and Juanita McClendon. To the right of Alma is Polly Stevens Carte and little James Henry Hunt. The girls skirts were made of crepe paper. Behind them is the east side of the square, including the Christian Church, which was purchased by the county and used as the courthouse for a time (see related photo/information, page 42). However, it also burned in 1937. To the right of it is the small stone building (now painted white) that still stands on the southeast corner of the square in 2026. It is utilized as storage by the Ozark County Chamber of Commerce for the square's holiday decorations. The outside features panels displaying seasonal artwork by Abbi (Harlin) Martin.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times March 21, 1930

Chickens will pay 11 cents a gallon for all the skim milk they drink, while the pigs pay only 5 cents. Feed the milk to the layers.

May 7, 1931

The May-Day Festival (see photo above), given on the court house lawn, Saturday evening by the Ladies Aid, Young Ladies Club and School, was quite a success. The evening was ideal, and the attendance large.

Refreshments were served at the lunch stands, and there were other stands such as the fish pond, fortune teller's and the fun maker's; the proceeds of all amounting to over \$46, which is to be used for the

benefit of the church.

The program consisted of the crowning of the May Queen, songs, folk dances and winding of the May poles.

Miss Alma McDonald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. McDonald, was chosen May Queen. She was attended by Miss Mary Luna, Mrs. Polly Stevens Carte, little James Henry Hunt and Mary Ruth McDonald.

As the music, furnished by Mrs. B.E. Downard and Mrs. M. T. Harlin, pealed forth, the queen and her attendants took their places on the throne, followed by a long line of school children, beautifully dressed in various colored crepe paper dresses.

After giving their songs and folk dances, they began

the other special feature—that of winding the May poles. There were four poles on the lawn, wound at the same time, by the high school boys, high school girls, intermediate girls and little tots.

This feature was directed by Mrs. M. T. Harlin, Mrs. Paul Boone and Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Ebrite, and was a very pretty scene. This program was again given on Sunday afternoon and pictures were made of those taking part in the exercises.

The ladies wish to extend their thanks and appreciation to everybody who assisted in making the festival a success.

Oct. 13, 1932

Hammond items—The address given by John S.

Brown of Kansas City was greatly appreciated, especially his talk on the liquor question.

By far the majority of voters around our little burg are standing pat for prohibition.

There are always some who oppose every good thing that is put in motion, and they say that making of whiskey would be a benefit to this country for it would make a market for the surplus grain. *Tammany rot.*

In the 21 years that I have lived here, there has been no surplus. Car loads and some years train loads of grain have been shipped in to feed stock and for bread-stuff. Here is for prohibition and the 18th amendment first, last and all the time. Money spent for booze won't buy shoes.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Jan. 3, 1935

CCC Camp Youth Killed. Truck Carrying Camp Boys to Ava Basket Ball Game Struck by Feed Truck in Fog. Merle Robertson, 19, who lived in the neighborhood of the camp was killed and 18 others injured, two seriously... when the truck they were riding in was struck by a feed truck driven by a man of the name Lethco, of southeast of Ava, about 7 o'clock Friday eve-

ning. The CCC party from Camp No. 733 were on their way to Ava to play basket ball. The accident occurred in the center of the road, and poor visibility because of the fog is to blame. The two seriously injured were taken to St. John's hospital at Springfield. One sustained a severe head cut, fractured leg, fractured ribs and a possible lung puncture. The other's injuries consisted of a fractured wrist and fractured ribs. The body of the

dead boy was claimed by the parents, who live in the vicinity of the camp. His death was the result of a fractured skull and broken neck.

Jan. 3, 1935

While L.D. Wallace, Gainesville/Dugginsville mail carrier, with five passengers, were on their way to Dugginsville from here Friday afternoon happened to an unavoidable accident while crossing the low water bridge

over the Little North Fork at Theodosia.

As the truck started over the bridge, the steering gear came loose and the truck ran off the upper side of the bridge, turning over on its side. As the bridge is of the low water type that slants upstream and is very narrow, Mr. Wallace, who is a very careful driver, had no chance to avoid the accident.

Luckily no one was injured but none of them deny being "skeered."



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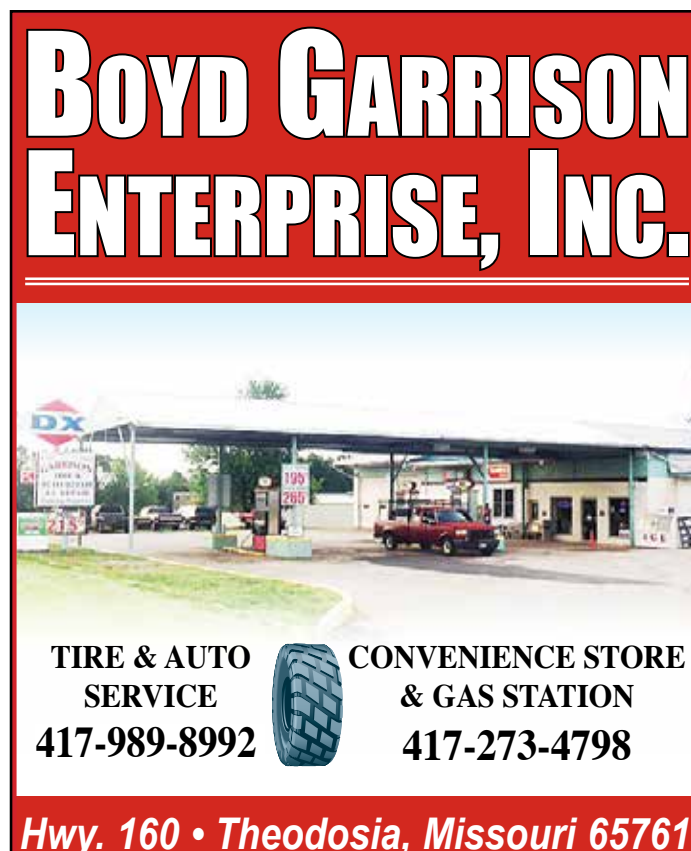
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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST



This photo shows one of the singing conventions held in the Gainesville School's gymnasium (which now houses the Gainesville post office). This one may have been the singing convention reported in the June 20, 1940, edition of the *Ozark County Times*, which said, "The crowd ... was estimated at more than 2,000 people." In the center, front, are John C. Harlin (wearing a long-sleeved white shirt and tie) and his wife, Clara (wearing the dark, wide-brimmed hat), standing next to the "preacher" (wearing suit and bowtie), who might have been Guy Howard, the "Walking Preacher of the Ozarks." The 1940 singing convention report said loud speakers were installed so that the overflow crowd outside could "enjoy the great song fest." A basket dinner was shared at noon, and at the 4:30 conclusion of the convention, the crowd sang, "God be with you till we meet again." The photo is from the collection of the late John Harlin.



The late Valeta Hathcock Crawford took this photo of horses grazing on the playground of the old Gainesville School in 1942 or 1943. "We had to move out of our river-bottom farm on the North Fork because the lake was coming in, and we were moving to Hammond the day I took the picture," she said. "I was with my dad, Robert Hathcock, in his 1936 pickup. He stopped at the Standard Station, and I always had my camera with me. I leaned out the window and took the picture. That was before the stock laws came in, so it wasn't anything unusual that the horses were out there." The truck's side mirror is visible at right. Mrs. Crawford died in March 2014.

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NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Jan. 3, 1935

Another New Year—As we threw last year's calendar into the wastebasket and hung up the new one with "1935" printed at the top, we paused to wonder how the world would look to us the next time we had this job to do.

It has been a curious and confusing year, the one we have just come through; the most confusing of all the five years that we have passed since the great Depression set in.

There has been more running around in circles, more talk about great events that were just about to happen, excitement over plans and projects to set the world right or shove it deeper into the hole, than in any of the previous depression years.

As we look back over 1934, it seems to us that nothing of any real importance happened in the year just ended. The economic and social picture remains unchanged, as we see it. Nobody was making any money a year ago: nobody is making any money now. Lots of people were out of work at the beginning of January 1934; about as many, perhaps a few more, are out of work now. A year ago, the only important money in circulation was that handed out by the Federal Government; today that is still true.

There were, of course, many exciting events in 1934. A king and a chancellor were killed in Europe; a couple of dictators put a lot of people to death without trial. Russia joined the League of Nations and Japan and Germany withdrew from it.

...Continued to page 38.

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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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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

...Continued from page 36.

Mussolini made a lot of warlike gestures, But the big war that many were sure was going to happen in 1934 didn't come off. Maybe it will in 1935: but our guess is the other way. Nationals can't fight when they are broke, and most of the ones that would like a scrap are broke.

A great steamship burned and killed a lot of passengers: a man who may have had something to do with the Lindbergh kidnapping was arrested: a lot of aviation records were smashed and several railroads began experimenting with funny-looking high-speed trains. Some folks were up into the stratosphere higher than anyone had ever gone: others went deeper below the surface of the sea than man had ever penetrated.

All of those things were interesting, even exciting, and in the old days when business and industry were running smoothly and everybody who really wanted to work had a job, we called a good many of that sort of thing progress.

What we would like to see in 1935 is real progress toward economic recovery, progress of the sort that derives from and is built upon every man standing on his own two feet and not leaning on Government. Whether there is anything of that sort ahead of us, however, we are not a good enough prophet to foretell.

Ozark County Times Jan. 31, 1902

Doctors and Editors—The doctor from Algonia said that newspapers are run for revenue only. What in the thunder do doctors run for anyhow? Do they run for glory?

One good healthy doctor's bill would run this office six months. An editor works half a day for three dollars with an investment of \$3,000; a doctor looks wise and works ten minutes for \$2, with an investment of three cents for catnip and a pill-bag that costs \$1.37.

A doctor goes to college two or three years, gets a diploma and a string of words the devil himself cannot pronounce, cultivates a look of gravity that he pawns off for wisdom, gets a box of pills, a broncho and a meat saw and sticks out his shingles as a full-fledged doctor.

He will then doctor you until you die, at a stipulated price per visit, and puts them in his thick as your pocket book will permit.

An editor never gets his education finished; he learns as long as he lives, and studies all his life. He eats bran mush and liver. He takes his pay in hay and turnips and keeps the doctor in town by refraining from printing the truth about him.

We would like to live in Algonia and run a paper six months and see if the doctor would change his



This old photo of the school building at Thornfield was shared by the Douglas County Museum and Historical Society Museum in Ava. The Thornfield Normal Institute opened in 1892 according to a history of Thornfield by the late Mrs. Al Evans that was published in the fall 1973 edition of the *White River Valley Historical Quarterly*. Thornfield had the county's second "Job high school," beginning in the 1920s, according to the "A History of Ozark County 1841-1991" book. It became a four-year school in 1937 when the present Thornfield School, a WPA project, was completed. Mrs. Evans wrote that the "old Normal Institute was torn down and its lumber was used to construct the two frame houses... located just west of the Methodist Church." The high school closed in 1945, and the K-8 school continues today.

mind about our running a newspaper for revenue only. If we didn't get glory out of it, we would take one of his pills after saying our prayers.

If the editor makes a mistake, he has to apologize for it, but if the doctor makes a mistake, he buries it.

If we make one, there is a lawsuit, tall, swearing and a smell of sulphur, but if the doctor makes one, there is a funeral, cut flowers and a smell of varnish.

The doctor can use a word a foot long, but if the editor uses it, he has to spell it.

If the doctor goes to see another man's wife, he will charge the man for the visit. If the editor calls on another man's wife, he gets a charge

of buckshot.

Any medical college can make a doctor. You can't make an editor. He has to be born one.

When a doctor gets drunk, it is a case of "overcome by the heat," and if he dies, it is heart failure. When an editor gets drunk, it is too much booze, and if he dies, it is a case of delerium tremens.

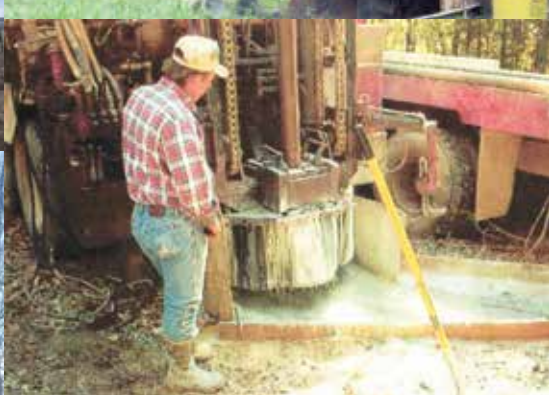
The editor works to keep from starving, while the doctor works to ward off the gout. The editor helps men to live better, and the doctor assists them to die easy. The doctor pulls a sick man's leg, the editor is glad if he can collect his bills at all. Revenue only? We are only living for fun and to spite the doctors. —E.x.

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1820; Revolutionary War
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as a pioneer in the 1800s



GIGIGIGIGrandfather
William Holt, 1799-1860;
Ozark County pioneer,
born in Henry County, VA



Virgie (Hughey)
Clarkson, age 1
Parents: Langston
Hughey, 1869-1944
Melissa (Richardson)
Hughey, 1871-1961



Corbin C. (1916-1997) & Virgie
(Hughey) Clarkson (1918-1989)



Corbin C. (1916-1997) & Virgie
(Hughey) Clarkson (1918-1989)

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Kirk, Lisa and their spouses
Working in Missouri



Clark siblings, 1996



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The Wilson, Clarkson, Hughey, Greene, DeShields, and Richardson families go back to the days of the Magna Carta, 200-400 years in the USA, and in the Ozarks since the 1790s!

We need to remember where we all came from. Our past family affects our future. We are all God's children. Treat each other as we wish to be treated. Luke 6:31 (KJV)

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This photo of the Ozark County Courthouse is thought to show the concrete curbing around the courthouse lawn installed in 1947-48. A Sept. 11, 1947, *Times* article explained that the county court ordered the "wire fence and wooden posts surrounding the court house in Gainesville be removed and sold to the highest bidder." The article went on to say the action was taken to "allow Main Street to be widened several feet on the west side of the court house square, so that more parking space could be provided." Two maples on the courthouse lawn were also removed to allow the expansion. The concrete curbing was then constructed to replace the wooden posts that had been removed. The photo was printed on a postcard from the collection of Mary Ruth Luna Sparks.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
Aug. 21, 1947

The in-again-out-again prisoner, 17-year-old Homer Whelehon, who escaped from the Howell County jail at West Plains two weeks ago only to surrender himself in the office of the *Ozark County Times* in Gainesville, has escaped from the West Plains jail again.

Whelehon, who is charged with the burglary of a store at Pottersville and the theft of an automobile, was returned to West Plains after he surrendered here to Sheriff Aud Rose. He escaped last Sunday night again in the same method as before.

This time, Glen Morgan, a city prisoner at West Plains, escaped with him. Whelehon previously escaped from the Algoa Reformatory, only to be captured at West Plains following the robbery at Pottersville. Charlie Hollaris, who was Whelehon's companion in the first break, is still at large.

Sept. 26, 1963

J.D. Collins and Leon Collins, who are charged with the beating of Mrs. Dora McCarty Pytt, 75, in Douglas county near Dora, escaped from the Ozark county jail sometime before 7 p.m. Tuesday.

They were being held in the jail here pending their trial in the November term of the circuit court. The case was brought here on a change of venue from Douglas county.

The prisoners made their escape by squeezing through a narrow opening in the bars and sliding down a rope made of blankets from a second floor window...

The escape was discovered by Bob Sullivan, deputy sheriff, when he took the evening meal to jail around 7 p.m. It is customary to leave the prisoners in the "bull pen" during the day and lock them in individual cells for the night, Paul Boone, prosecuting attorney, said.

Apparently the prisoners had worked for three or four days at removing putty around the outside window and had worked Tuesday afternoon at bending the bars apart enough to squeeze through.

The two are alleged to have beaten the elderly Mrs. Pytt and ransacked her home near Dora in an attempt to find money they thought she had. Her home is located about 3 miles from Dora, close to the junction of Highways 14 and H.

Oct. 26, 1967

Three prisoners, Latha Wells, Jerry Gene Strain and Charles Lee Gibson, escaped for the second time from the Ozark county jail about 1:30 a.m., Wednesday, according to Sheriff Herman Pierce and Deputy Sheriff Ray Hubbard. The men made their escape, according to the sheriff's office, by sawing the bars at a window and breaking them apart and then lowering Strain

to the ground on a blanket rope they had made. Strain then entered the courthouse through the coat chute and made his way to the sheriff's office, where he broke the lock, secured the keys and released the other men. Not all of the prisoners chose to leave, and they reported the chain of events to the sheriff.

One of the men who did not leave with them was Robert Bratcher, who had joined them in their October 15 escape. On that occasion, Strain and Gibson returned to jail of their own accord, Bratcher called and gave himself up and Latha Wells was apprehended by Sheriff Pierce near the Tecumseh bridge.

The first escape was made by the men having somehow secured the keys to the jail.

Jerry Strain, Dora, is charged with murder, Latha Wells, Isabella, with assault and Gibson, Charleson, West Va., with forgery.

NEWS FROM TIMES PAST*Ozark County Times***June 19, 1930**

George Blacksher, while engaged with others in shooting giant fire crackers Saturday afternoon, was badly burned about the left eye when one of the crackers exploded close by. He went to West Plains to have the eye treated, fearing that he might lose the sight of it. His eye was not as badly injured as at first believed and he will be able to go about his work again in a few days.

Jan. 28, 1932

I was making candy. The pan turned over. Excited, I grabbed it, just in time to get a hand full of boiling fudge. The burn was so bad, the flesh fell off my fingers until the bones could be seen. Today, my hand is perfect in every way, with not the least sign of a scar, and all I used was Patton's Perfex-shun. Family and Bowyer Liniment. I used the clear for human use. I wish every man, woman and child in the world knew what this medicine will do. Made by H. A. Patton & Co., Grafton, Ill., and sold everywhere. Parker & Wood, Gainesville, Mo.

March 21, 1940

Theodore Cowin, 19, was fatally wounded on last Saturday morning at his home at Ocie when a 12 gauge shot gun was accidentally discharged. He was intending to leave home on a wagon, taking his father's shot gun with him, and in getting into the wagon, set the gun butt down on the wagon bottom. There happened to be a hole in the wagon bed through which the gun slid and discharged it, the charge hitting young Cowin in the top part of the head, killing him almost instantly.

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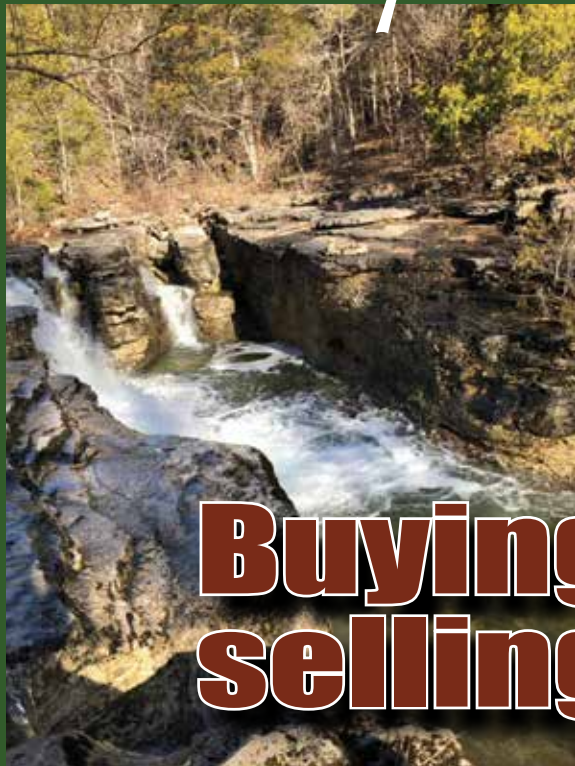
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This photo of the Sims Locker Plant in Gainesville is dated 1949. The locker plant provided freezer space for rent to Gainesville residents at a time when most homes only had small refrigerators that included tiny freezer compartments. The late John R. Sims who operated the business with his father, P.O. Sims, told the *Times* before his 2019 death that Egbert Robbins and Aus Shanks built the locker plant and the Gainesville cheese plant 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 mud 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 men pictured above are, from left: Odean Goodway, P.O. Sims, John R. Sims, Alton Kyle with son Jimmy, Neil Lawrence, Howard Wade, Jack Barger and Bob Kyle. The photo is from the collection of the late Phyllis Herndon and shared by her niece Rhonda Herndon.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
May 1, 1947

The new P. O. Sims Locker Plant is scheduled to be in operation by May 10 or 12th. Anyone interested in getting a locker box better come in at once. The Locker Plant has a nice building and also has the promise of a good business in the near future, and will be a great benefit not only to the people of Gainesville but the surrounding territory for several miles.

June 26, 1947

Directors of the White River Valley Electric Co-operative may let a contract for the stringing of wire for the new three phase electric line being constructed for

Gainesville... Mr. Harlin... said that cross arms for the electric poles are ready as far as Wasola, and that customers in that section will soon be hooked on to the line. The only delay for the stringing of wire is in obtaining the wire. However, it is expected that the power line will be completed within a short time. This will bring all the electric power necessary to Gainesville and will enable the town to secure new industries for this section. Later, a sub-station for the electric co-op will be erected on property near the Gainesville Cheese Company plant... However, the construction of the sub-station will not delay the arrival of the new power line, Mr. Harlin explained.



John R. Sims, left, is shown here with his parents Nannie and P. O. Sims, inside the Sims Locker Plant of Gainesville around 1947, the year it opened for business.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Aug. 10, 1950

For sale—160 Acres, 50 acres cleared, with 3-room house, screened porch, big spring in yard, barn, chicken house; 1 mile from highway, and 3-4 mile from Lake Norfolk; mostly all fenced; signed for electricity; 1-8 mile to grade school, and 1 1-4 miles to high school bus. Price \$1,850.00.

Jan. 10, 1952

To Anyone Interested:

Ozark County has been allotted \$2,500.00 through Disaster Food Relief Fund toward constructing a Bridge over Bryant River near what is known as the "Bell Ford." For further details, as to specifications, and for date to talk to County Court about said bridge, please inquire at the County Clerk's office in Gainesville, Missouri. By order of the County Court,

Dallas L. Herd, County Clerk.

Jan. 8, 1953

Another mining operation in this vicinity which has proved so successful that it is now undergoing changes that will double its capacity. It is located on the Robert B. King farm near Bakersfield.

Since July, the King mine has supplied a carload of iron ore shipped each day from West Plains by rail to Rockwood, Tenn., to the Tennessee Chemical Products Company. A carload of shipping ore means that three carloads of ore must be taken from the mine each day and concentrated into one wash-load by extensive water cleaning operations.

Mr. King has had previous mining experience as a boy with his father, George King, who was engaged in mining in Texas. When he first became convinced that there might be

valuable iron ore on his place, he got in touch with the Poplar Bluff company, whose estimates agreed with King's.

The King mine is located one-fourth mile east of Bakersfield and near a creek, which supplies water for its operation. It is not operating now, while new machinery is being installed to increase its capacity but will be in operation again soon. It is within a few miles of the Alice mine, which is now being re-opened.

Mr. King has operated a general store in Bakersfield for the last 25 years but has leased his store and is now retiring. He plans to continue with his livestock business on his farm.

June 9, 1955

Milk Cow Production Contest Results Revealed Today—The Dairy Day Committee supervising the testing of cows of Ozark

County revealed today the results for the month of May... The owner of the highest producer will receive \$50.00 in cash at the County Dairy Day on Saturday, June 11.

- "Judy" Holstein, owned by Richard Hawkins of Noble, produced 1,904 pounds of 3.57% milk which brought \$53.31;

- "Beauty" Jersey, owned by Lyle Price of Almartha produced 1,457 pounds of 4.5% milk selling for \$49.54;

- "Bess" Jersey, also owned by Lyle Price, gave 1,410 pounds of 4.3% milk valued at \$46.25

- "Yellow" Jersey, owned by Richard Hawkins, produced 1,433 pounds of 4% milk valued at \$44.58...

- "Paris" Jersey, owned by Henry Gault of Gainesville, produced 1,162 pounds of 4.7% milk valued at \$40.90.

[Many other cows were listed with milk details.]

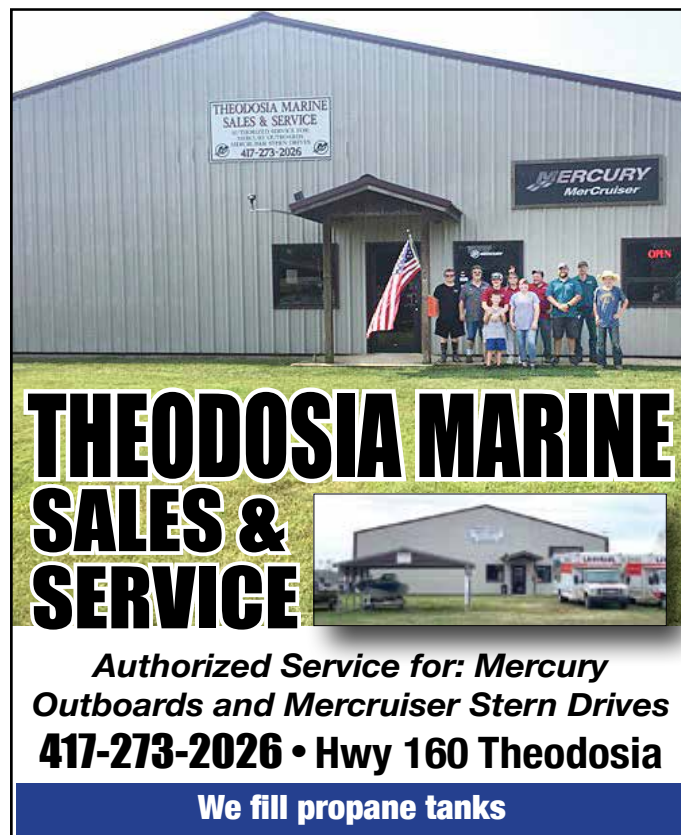


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This 1949 photo is thought to show an Extension-sponsored class, perhaps one that taught area women how to maintain their electric sewing machines. Before her death, the late Linne Ingram, who served as the faithful Tecumseh correspondent in the Times for decades, recalled attending the extension service's mattress-making classes in the late 1930s. This photo is from the collection of the late Phyllis Herndon, shared by her niece, Rhonda Herndon.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
Aug. 21, 1947

The 1947 edition of the Ozark County Fair starts Thursday morning on the Gainesville baseball diamond at the junctions of Highway 80 and E east of town.

Sponsored by the Ozark County Chamber of Commerce, the fair this year is scheduled to be one of the best ever held in the county...

The McCowan Midway Shows, one of the largest carnivals now touring the midwest, started moving into location Sunday. The carnival is featuring many thrilling rides, such as the ferris wheel, snap-the-whip, merry-go-round, and others. In addition the carnival brings at least 25 concessions in the form of games, eating houses, novelty stands and many other forms of amusement.

The Fair ground this year was made available through the courtesy of the Gainesville Baseball Club. It was agreed between the Fair Board and the managers of the Baseball team, that the Fair could

be held on the ball diamond if the fair board would help the club erect a fence surrounding the diamond.

In addition to the new fence, stock pens and exhibit buildings, the fair this year will boost a new deep well, which was drilled at the location by the Newton Brothers. Fresh, cool water will be piped to all parts of the fair ground for the thirsty sightseers.

The fair board.. said that "due to the livestock improvement program and its results, the outlook is for the biggest and best fair ever held in Ozark County."

...However, due to the increasing cost of operation and materials, it was found necessary this year to charge admission to the fair grounds.

This money will be used to pay for exhibit prizes and other expenses, and none will go for personal gain. The admission fee will be 25c for the car and driver and 10c for each additional person...

More than \$800 is being offered to

exhibitors. The 4-H clubs in the county have worked exceptionally hard preparing for the fair this year, and their exhibits are expected to be among the outstanding.

Another outstanding feature of this year's fair will be the exhibition of "Silver," the educated horse, owned by Jesse Mahan of Pontiac. Silver, one of the most intelligent and highly trained horses in the show business, will be on display at the fair grounds and will give regular performances to the audience...

Also, arrangements are being made to have a flight of airplanes on hand for the fair. These are scheduled to land at the airport, just across the road, and will be on display and will give exhibition rides.

All in all, this year's fair will be one to remember, and one that no one can afford to miss...

The best thing for you to do, is to climb into the old automobile and head for the fair, where a good time is in store for one and all.

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Lola, 15, and Finn Wade, 13, are the fourth generation of the Morgan family to live in Pontiac, and they love spending time on the lake.

PCM started out with a small store, featuring mainly fishing tackle and bait. The business has expanded and now features 300 boat slips, boat rentals, a scuba air station, fuel dock and a store that sells fishing licenses, bait, tackle, boating accessories, water toys, souvenirs, clothing, beer, soda, ice cream, snacks and more. In addition to the marina, the family business also includes the Pontiac Campground, Lake Harbour Resort, the Red Barn Lodge and Indian Point Lodge. The marina is adjacent to Just Jackie's and is located near Lake Bums BrewCo.



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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Aug. 23, 1883

Recipe for Hunting Pudding—

Two pounds of suet, chopped very fine; three-fourths a pound of flour; one pound of stoned raisins; two pounds of currants; half a pound of sugar; six eggs; six spoonfuls of rich cream; a wine-glass full of brandy; four glassfuls of white wine; a good teaspoonful each of cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon; mix over night and boil six hours. When turned out of the bag, sift white sugar over it. Use rich sauce.

Aug. 18, 1911

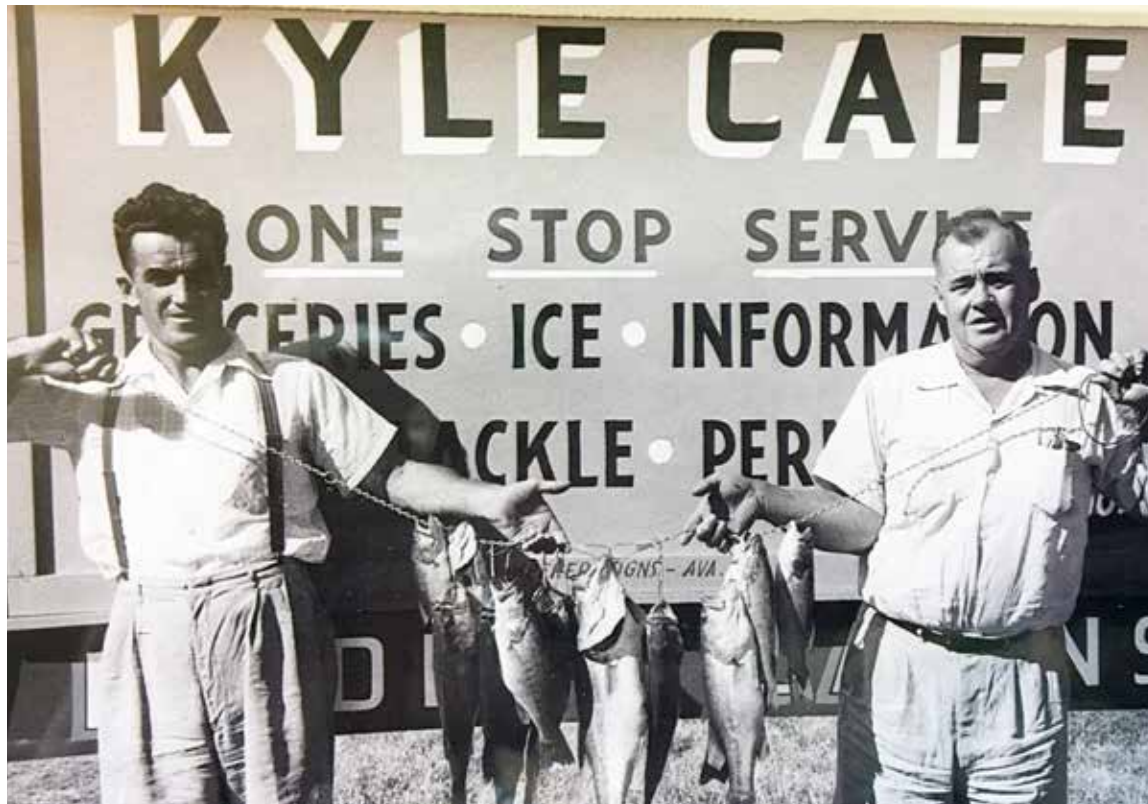
Lilly Ridge items—Quite a number of our men went wolf-hunting the other day. One wolf was killed and another was seen.

Jan. 14, 1943

One of our friends in the Ozarks says that when he needed fresh meat in the winter, he used to go coon hunting. As he can't get any ammunition this winter, he expects to eat the coon hound.



The late Bernice Morrison and his coon hound, Ol' Speck, are pictured here after a successful hunt in 1953 near the home Morrison shared with his wife, Velda, at the foot of Caney Mountain. The photo was shared with the *Times* by Bernice's son, Leroy Morrison.



This 1952 postcard advertises Kyle Café and One-Stop on Highway 160 in Isabella. The café and shop was owned by Alton and Linnie Kyle. Alton, left, is pictured here with his brother Glennie, showing off their catch. The Kyles' daughter, Joan Henningsen, told the *Times* that for the first seven years of the lake's impoundment, the Kyles operated the only café near the lake in the area, and that the family, which includes her brother, Jimmy Kyle, sometimes worked from dawn until 10 or 11 p.m., serving customers.



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This 1960 photo shows members of the Center Point quilting club posing with one of their projects still in the frame. It is thought to have been taken in the living room of Delphia McDonald's home in Gainesville. Seated are, from left, Mrs. Willmon, Mearl Rose, Leta Reynolds and Elois Breeding. Standing: Delphia McDonald, Cuba Collins, Mindy Cockrum, Mrs. Todd, Susie Pitts, Sue Nell Gault, Ola Herd, Thelma Sanders. The photo is from the collection of the late Mary Ruth McDonald Landers, shared by her daughter, Debbie Landers of St. Charles.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

Aug. 19, 1921

A listing of teachers for the 1921-22 school year listed these 90 school districts within Ozark County:

- Pine Valley,
- Dora,
- Dobbs,
- Silver Shade,
- Brush Creek,
- Lower Brixey,
- Mt. Nebo,
- Almartha,
- Oak Grove,
- Little Creek,
- Toledo,
- Red Oak,
- Otter Creek,
- Mt. Lebanon,
- Noble,
- Council Grove,
- Romance,
- Evening Shade,
- Upper Brixey,
- Smith Chapel,
- New Hope,
- Cedar Tree,
- Need More,
- Ball,
- Collins,
- Lone Pilgram,
- Oak Mound,
- Odom,
- Lottie Hollow,
- Seed Tick,
- Bushong,
- Luna,
- Brushy Knob,
- Pine View,
- Barren Fork,
- Nottinghill,
- Pond Hill,
- Thornfield,
- Fair View,
- White Star,
- Longrun,
- True Vine,
- Turkey Creek,
- Fluty,
- Oak Dale,
- Bare Foot,
- Lutie,
- Shilo,
- Isabella,
- Pleasant Grove,
- Center Point,
- Gainesville,
- Lilly Ridge,
- Sallee,
- Bratcher,
- Colvin,
- Mt. Olive,
- Valley Star,
- Fair View,
- Mineral Point,
- Dawt,
- Banner,
- Sand Ridge,
- Fav,
- Never Fail,
- Hazel Grove,
- Idumea,
- Theodosia,
- Stony Potat,
- Salem,
- Fair View,
- Dugginsville,
- Mud Point,
- Pontiac,
- Charity,
- New Hope,
- Mammoth,
- Howards Ridge,
- Liner,
- Udall,
- Hog Danger,
- Hawkins Ridge,
- Barren Creek,
- Plum Hollow,
- Bakersfield.

Editor's note:

Although there were 90 school districts 100 years ago, in 2026, the county only has five. There are K-12 schools at Dora, Bakersfield, Gainesville and Lutie, and one K-8 school at Thornfield.



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Ozark County's annual events

Aug. 1, 2026:

Ozark Countywide
Yard Sale

Sept. 5, 2026:

Pontiac Fireworks -
Pontiac Cove

Sept. 17-19, 2026:

Hootin an Hollarin -
Gainesville Square

Oct. 31, 2026:

Trunk or Treat -
Gainesville Square

Dec. 4, 2026:

Wonders of Christmas -
Gainesville Square

Dec. 5, 2026:

Theodosia Area Chamber
of Commerce Christmas
Parade

Feb. 27, 2027:

Mardi Gras

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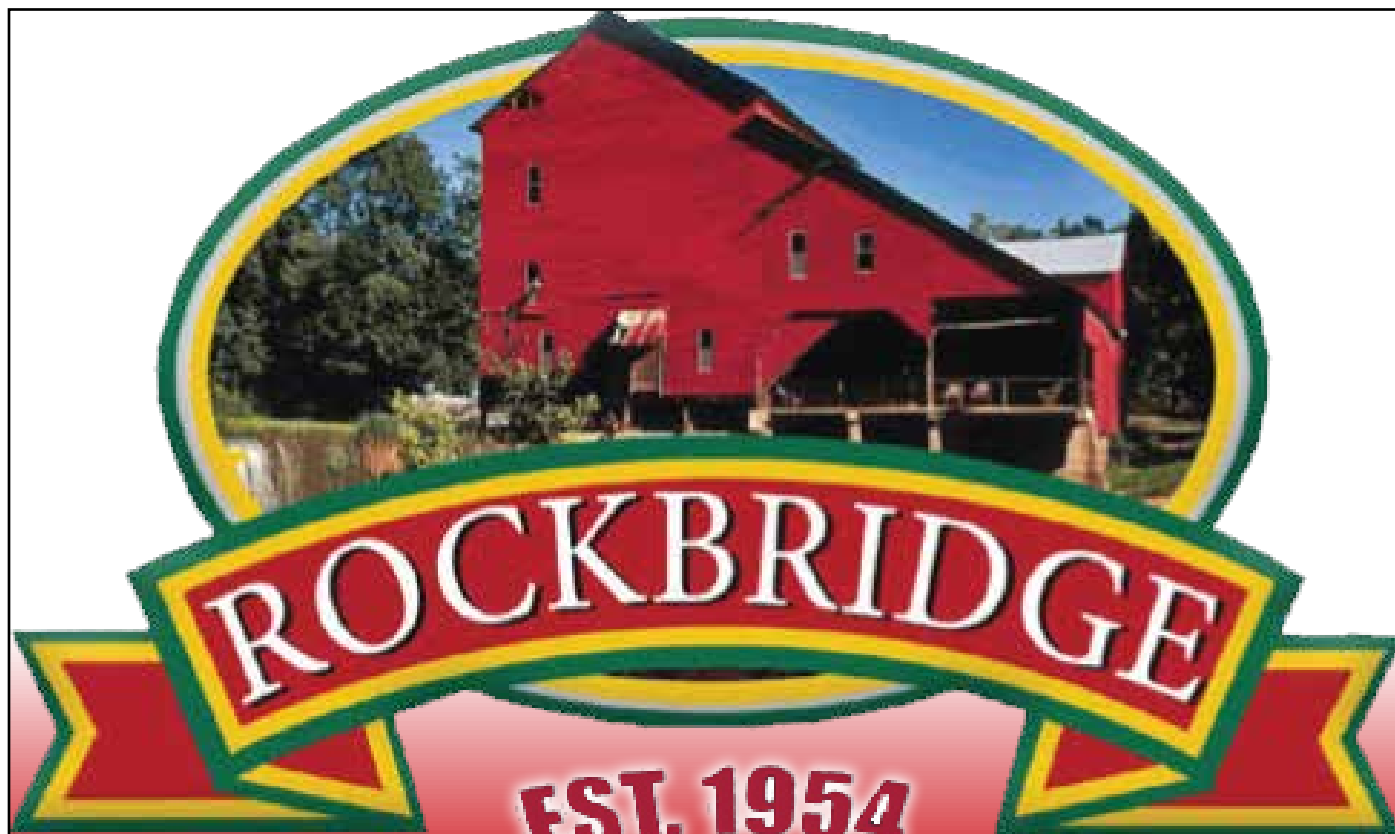
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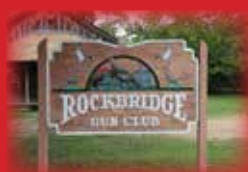
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This wintertime photo of the former Ray Hunt store at Dawt was taken by the late Orvil Jernigan, a salesman for Milligan Grocery Co. who took photos during the late 1940s of the scenic areas and rural stores he served in Douglas, Ozark and Taney counties. The stacks of soda bottles on the store's front porch recall a time when a deposit was paid on each bottle, and the cream cans in front of the door may be awaiting pickup for transport to West Plains or some other dairy processor in the area.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
Sept. 7, 1961

More than 3,000 persons, attracted by the speed boat races held on Bull Shoals Lake Sunday, were in the Theodosia park area this weekend. The estimate, covering Saturday to Sunday, was made on the basis of a counting of cars entering the area.

The counting device registered 1,053 cars entering the area where the races were held during the 24-hour period and according to the U.S. Engineers, the cars would average three persons to car.

The event, sponsored by the Gainesville Lions Club, drew a large enough number of entries to hold six races of two heats each instead of the five races originally planned. The races were staged with the cooperation of the Pop Riders Boat Racing Club of Springfield and the Kansas City Speedboat Association on a course just below the bridge on 160 Highway at Theodosia. The majority of the speed boats were raced by members of the two clubs,

although the races were open to all.

Jean Collett of Springfield was the only woman to race a boat, while the only Ozark county racer was Charles Luna of Gainesville.

Trophies provided by the Lions club were awarded to the first three place winners in each heat of the races. Miss Betty Rennaker of Almartha, who is employed at the Bank of Gainesville, was the queen for the boat races and presented the trophies.

The original arrangements for holding the races here were made by Paul Yager, commodore of the Springfield club, with L. B. Cook of Theodosia, who suggested the Lions sponsor the event. The Lions held a chicken barbeque and maintained a stand at the races to raise funds to pay expenses and provide for the trophies.

The officers of the Kansas City club are Speck Wilcher, commodore; Willard Kelley of Merrian, Kan., secretary; and Karl Kaiser, treasurer.

Commodore Wilcher served as announcer and referee and Mr. Morris

was the chief starter. The judges were Helen Morris, Ernestine Welcher, Lucille Gray, of Kansas City, Kancy Kelley of Merrian, Kan., and Virginia Gower of Topeka.

March 19, 1964

Four fat white bunnies are ready for Easter at the Batchelder Rest Home in Gainesville through the patient care and feeding of Gertrude Batchelder.

When the mother rabbit, Betsy, died giving birth to a litter of 12 on March 5, Mrs. Batchelder put the eight rabbits that were living out of the litter on milk, fed through a doll nursing bottle.

By feeding them at first every two hours and later every four, she was able to save four of the litter.

Mrs. Batchelder said the rabbits had no hair when they were born, but on the sixth day, they began to get frosty. Their eyes opened on the twelfth day and when they are three weeks old, they will eat lettuce and bread.

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NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
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 as he snarled around her before her father was about to knock the animal away with an axe.

Mr. Reed had spotted an opossum in the garage about 6 p.m. and Mary had gone out to see it, when the fox came at her.

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

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

Also taking anti-rabies shots is Floyd Mallow. A dog belonging to a neighbor attacked the Mallow dog, and when Mr. Mallow tried to separate the dogs, he was bitten by his dog. The neighbor's dog was proved to have rabies when the head was tested at the laboratory in Springfield.

Mr. Mallow killed his dog after the fight, and the head of the other dog was taken to Springfield by Trooper Bruce Dawson.

In another rabies incident recently, Paul Herd lost a calf which had been bitten by a rabid dog. Both were killed. Later, in a field near where the calf was pastured, a dead fox was found.

There have been numerous reports, throughout the county, of wild animals acting in a peculiar manner.



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OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times

April 18, 1974

Euell Gibbons, well known for his nature foods commercials on television, will be in Ozark county several days next week. He will be making one of his nature foods commercials at historic Hodgson Mill, nationally famous for its stone ground buhr meal products. With Gibbons, besides the tv crew, will be his agent, Paul McDonough, vice president of Benton and Bowles, New York, the firm which handles the production of the commercials. Gibbons, McDonough and others of the party will be staying at Theodosia Marina Resort. On Thursday, Gibbons is slated to be a guest of the Lions Club here at their noon luncheon. Presently, Hodgson Mill is also in the process of attracting national attention, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harrington, owners and operators of Hodgson Mill Enterprises, Inc. said. Herb Kinnear, photo-copy editor with the *American Farmer* magazine, is here this week doing a feature story on the mill.

July 11, 1974

The familiar lines of famed Hodgson Mill can now be seen briefly on national television in the new Euell Gibbons Grape Nuts commercial. After the exterior shot, the commercial shows Gibbons inside the mill running waterground meal through his hand and then outside at a picnic table eating "his breakfast."

April 3, 1975

Have you ever met a famous person? Well, there was lots of excitement last summer when we got word that the famous Euell Gibbons, himself, was coming to stay at a local resort for a few days. He was going to be photographed, they said, at Hodgson Mill, eating his cereal, along with red crab-apples, blueberries, wild hickory nuts or whatever else he could get his hands on.

Dale Riddle, the amiable man-about-town from down Guber Hollow way, kept us informed from day to day, up at the local cafe. "No, it'll be another two, three days yet 'til he gets here," he'd answer to our queries.

Finally, one dark day, the blow fell. Mr. Gibbons had come and gone, we were told. Yes, he had been in town for just a short while to put on a demonstra-



Famous actor, Euell Gibbons, is pictured here while letting grain run through his hands as part of a tv commercial for Grape Nuts, filmed at Hodgson Mill in 1974. When this photo was posted to the Dora Historical Ozarks Facebook page earlier this year, Sheila Calhoun commented that she interviewed him for a school assignment. "I remember seeing a huge pile of cereal on the ground from all the re-takes he had to do," she said. Monty Weins also commented on the post, saying he remembered his parents taking him and his five sisters and brothers to the mill to watch the commercial being filmed. "He chewed and ate the first bite. After that, he would spit it out upon being told cut," he said. Weins says Gibbons gave each of the six kids a signed red bandana that day, an item he still has.

tion for the kids at the high school. They said he even ate grass. But then... *poof*, he was whisked away.

Dale said he had been talking to a couple of disappointed men at the lumber company in town. It seemed they had reserved an especially good "two by four" just for Mr. Gibbons to eat if he came to town hungry. But their generosity went unnoticed by Euell. And the price of lumber being what it is, too!

Speaking of Dale, he was telling us some very sad tales the other day up at the cafe.

He said he heard about a man who just loved to go ice fishing. The last time he went out, he caught a 100-pound chunk. He brought it home to his wife, and the poor woman drowned while trying to cook it.

Now that isn't very funny, is it? Not any funnier than his other tale of the old sailor who wanted to be buried at sea. It seems his two brothers-in-law drowned while digging his grave.

By Marva Lee Klotz.

March 1, 1975

The four Douglas county jail escapees who abducted James Melton Taylor, 65, at Wasola, Saturday are now in the Ozark county jail charged with kidnapping...

The escapees, who were captured near Russellville, Ark., after midnight Sunday, at first refused to waive extradition but later did so. They were brought to the Ozark county jail Monday by Sheriff Herman Pierce and Douglas County Sheriff Clint McFarlin.

The escapees, who made their exit from the Douglas county jail by crawling through a duct into a furnace room about 5 a.m. Saturday, are Glen Purkeypyle, 21, Pontiac; Roger J. Denny, 17, Ava; Virgil Darby, 26, Seymour; and James Hoyt, 35, state of Louisiana.

Apparently stealing a 1973 Ford in Ava, the men drove south until the Ford ran out of gas near the Taylor residence, four miles south of the Ozark-Douglas county line on Mo. 5.

According to sheriff Pierce, two men walked to the Taylor home at about 5:30 a.m. One of the men told Mrs. Taylor they had an accident on the vehicle and needed a ride into Gainesville.

"I asked if anyone was hurt and he said, 'No, ma'am.'" Mrs. Taylor reported. "He was very congenial and polite."

Taylor agreed to provide the ride, and "they drove down the road a way and stopped," Sheriff Pierce said. That's when they apparently picked up the other two fugitives.

A highway patrol trooper who found the stolen Ava car near the Taylor residence inquired there and was told by Mrs. Taylor of the incident.

Patrol units and volunteers began combing the highways and back roads, and an Ozark county resident offered the use of his airplane, Sheriff Pierce said.



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Don't be fooled by the relaxed appearance. These Tecumseh volunteer firefighters are "gung ho" and ready to go when the fire call comes in. Showing off their three fire trucks with the Tecumseh fire station, scene of great monthly Auxiliary suppers during much of the year, are (left to right) Clifford Endicott, fire chief; Jack Daugherty and Robert Rogers standing in front of the 4x4 brush truck; Assistant fire chief Lynn Taylor; Richard Barcus and his grandson Jared Hayes with one pumper, and board president Don Pepmiller, with firefighters John Ingalsbe, Frank Longnecker, Jim Knappenburger Jr. and Reuben Ingalsbe with the other pumper. The department's 60-foot "Bangor" ladder, tallest in the county, is shown on top of the truck in the center.

OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

Ozark County Times
July 20, 1989

A combination of events brought about the creation of the Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Department, starting with a quarter-million dollar fire in May 1981 that destroyed Jack Daugherty's hog barn and killed 1,000 hogs.

In April 1982, following a devastating tornado and later a trash fire that got out of control and endangered several homes, Daugherty, Robert Burroughs, T. J. White and several others decided it was time for some fire protection in their area.

Thirty-two people came to the first meeting, held at T.J.'s Grocery near the Tecumseh bridge...

With annual membership dues of \$25, the new fire department proposed to provide fire protection to the area from highway H in eastern Ozark County to Gainesville, including Howard's Ridge.

In reality, until Lick Creek Valley MFD was formed in late 1985 and Dora VFD started in April 1986, it provided virtually the only general fire protection in the entire eastern half of the county except for the area covered by Bakersfield's fire department in the coun-

ty's southeastern corner. Of course, the Forestry Division crews were available to fight wildfires, but were unequipped to help with structural or vehicle fires.

In May, the new fire department got its first equipment, a 1973 1-1/4 ton four-wheel drive Jeep truck, from the Conservation Department. It already had its first 55 subscribers.

By July, John Pater and Pete Schroeder had the Jeep painted bright red. It was equipped with a 150-gallon water tank, 150 feet of 3/4-inch garden hose and a ladder. With Pater as fire chief and Denny Pepmiller as assistant chief, Tecumseh Volunteer Fire Department was ready to fight fires.

Its first chance came in October, when the crew was called to fight a fire near the intersection of Highways PP and H, north of Dawt, involving a logging truck. The firefighters couldn't save the truck, but they were credited with preventing the flames from spreading and causing a major woods fire.

By the following spring, with 126 subscribers signed up, Tecumseh VFD had a second fire truck and a building site for a fire station...

The fire station would be constructed on the site of the old Endicott Store on highway 160 just east of Highway PP. The store had been destroyed by the big Tecumseh tornado the year before, leaving only the concrete slab, which today forms part of the floor of Tecumseh's fire station. The fire department bought two acres of land from the Endicotts for \$6,000...

Although, the women of Tecumseh VFD pitched in to help from the start, a ladies' auxiliary was formally organized in November 1983. Aptly named the "Firebelles," its first president was Velma Endicott...

By the end of 1983, the department had three fire trucks... Construction on the fire station was well under way by January 1984, when it was the scene of a big auction that netted the department over \$1,000. During January, Don Pepmiller succeeded Pater as fire chief.

The 1,800 square foot firehouse was built with \$6,000 worth of materials, including a lot of salvaged steel, and, as with most of Ozark County's firehouses, all volunteer labor. It was heated by a wood-fired stove until January 1989.

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