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1/14/2009

J. F. RICE HOUSE

The Old Homestead

(Compiled by J. D. Rice)

Located three miles northeast of Center on Highway 19.

Living on the same farm for 71 years that has been in the same family for 100 years, is a little out of the ordinary so I have been requested by the Center Herald to give an account of some of the happenings in that time. The four rooms in the middle ... were built in 1852, was remodeled in 1892.

My father, J. F. Rice, moved to Missouri with his father and his father's family about 1845. They built a house about one mile east of here in 1850. My father went to California during the gold rush. He was 19 years of age. The first man he met that he knew when he reached California was his old Sunday School teacher, to whom he had gone before coming to Missouri. You guessed it - he was running a gambling table. That came near to wrecking my father's faith in religion. Turning from the antique story, I think we should be very careful with the example we set before the young girls and boys.

My father worked in the gold mines two years, returning home on a boat by way of New York. He built the old homestead, then decided to go back to California. By this time they saw the need of live stock in the west and he hired to a company to drive cows and sheep by wagon train. He started with a mule to ride, intending to sell the mule when he arrived in California. In the first skirmish with the Indians his mule got killed; he walked the rest of the way to California. He lost one brother on the way, it is supposed that he was killed by the Indians. They were six months on the road - quite different from today. My grandson and his buddy in the army made the trip in an auto from Hollywood to Hannibal in 45 hours last summer.

My father stayed about six years this time, returned by water again to New York, then home. He then married Miss Margaret Small in September 1859. The old homestead had been vacant during his second stay in California.

There were six children born to them, I being the youngest. The old homestead was built one-fourth of a mile south of here on the old Mexico road. When my father returned the second time the traffic had changed to the road in front of the present location and he moved the house to where it now stands. He moved it with oxen. The sod had to be plowed with oxen. It being so hard to order, they planted some of the corn by cutting a slit in the sod with an ax, after it was plowed, and dropped the corn in the slit. (Slower than today.)

The old homestead being about the half-way place between Perry and Hannibal, many stock men stayed overnight in the old homestead. Here the latchstring hung on the outside.

There was no railroad by here until 1892; getting stock to market then was a big problem.

We children grew up about the same then as they do now. Did not travel quite so fast. I went to school at the traditional little red school house, then I took a business course, bookkeeping and banking at Quincy. I got so homesick while at school I decided if I got back on the farm I would stay there - and I did.

In 1895 my brother and I bought a farm on Salt River and moved to it. I lived there six years. While living there I found, I think, the finest girl in the world, Fannie Warren,

and married her. I also got with her the finest mother-in-law and father-in-law that a young man ever had, Mr. And Mrs. J. H. Warren. I you never met Mr. Warren you have missed something in this life pen cannot describe. He was a ray of sunshine.

After we married we lived in the bottom three years, then moved to the old homestead in the fall of 1902. I later bought 123 acres of the old home place. The land, by this time, was pretty well run down. We milked and farmed in a general way for several years.

We became the parents of seven children, all still living. Our pathway was not strewn with roses. The land became poorer, the family larger, until I became discouraged and decided to do something about it. I had been offered a good price for the old homestead so I started out with my real estate agent brother-in-law. We traveled thousands of miles looking for a farm, making three trips from northern Montana to the Rio Grande River. I came back with tales equal to the ones brought back by the three men sent to scout the land in Bible times, but my good wife would shake her head and say she thought we could make it here. (I still kiss her when I think how near we came to leaving, and stayed on her account.)

Well, things got pretty bad, two droughts and the depression. Then someone discovered the land needed lime. That was applied. Then they added some fertilizer, then hybrid corn; then lespedeza and soybeans were added to crop rotation, and other methods of better farming were practiced until things were so changed that if Rip Van Winkle had taken another 20-year sleep, between 1932 and 1952, he would have seen a greater change than he did when he took his 20-year sleep long ago. This country made the greatest move for the better in those 20 years than was ever known. I am still glad I did not leave the old homestead.

It is useless to tell you my old neighbors are all gone. Only three farms between Perry and Hannibal are owned by the same family as they were when I was a boy. They are not occupied now.

I have had good health all along, still make a full hand in the field, and will be 78 in May. I raised the largest cash crop last summer I have ever raised.

If you don't think time moves on, settle down at the side of the road and stay nearly 72 years.

Fishing and hunting are my hobbies. I fish with a swine and I have fished in every suitable hole from Joanna to the Glascock Island, east of New London. I will not tell you how much the biggest one weighed; you would not believe me anyhow.







Perry MO Coal Mining

New London "Times" June 26, 1866

Perry—This little town, which we visited on Saturday last, presents a prosperous and flourishing condition, although much can yet be done to improve its appearance, quite a number of handsome frame dwellings and business houses have been erected and others are on the way of construction. A little judicious advertising by the owners of lots and the business men of the place, will attract the attention of others, give tone and energy to its business houses and manufactures and soon the now little town will swell to such vast proportions as to surprise even the residents. It is a good situation for a manufacturing town, from the fact that coal is abundant and cheap and wood plentiful and of good quality. We wish the town of Perry and its enterprising citizens in their laudable efforts to build up a city.

Hannibal MO "Clipper" October 17, 1874

Perry Coal Beds

In view of the fact that inexhaustible beds of bituminous coal are found near Perry, Rawls (Ralls) County, on the line of the proposed railroad from Hannibal to Mexico, Audrain County, it is passing strange that no company has been properly formed for the development of the mines. Thousands of bushels of this coal find their way to Hannibal every year by wagon conveyance and is sold at high figures for blacksmithing purposes. When in the completion of a railroad to this point, the coal can be sold at figures warranting its use, for not only mechanical but for fuel purposes. Being of a superior quality to any ordinarily used in the city, it would take precedence over all other and consequently be a source of revenue of the greatest importance to the proprietors. The only reason advanced thus for not taking hold of the matter, is the supposed theory that the coal is all on the surface and has no depth justifying the expenditure of capital in the purchase of lands and development of mines. Of its superiority, there is no shadow of doubt as it has stood the test for manufactures for many years and pronounced equal to the famous Pittsburgh coal and as to its all being on the surface and not of sufficient depth, who has ever sunk a shaft in order to test the matter? No One! The development of the mines would undoubtedly not only enrich the company, but would be an incentive to renewed energy in the matter of completing the proposed railroad, now in running order from Hannibal to New London, a distance of 10 miles, leaving only 15 miles to be built to tap the coal regions. The distance being of no great importance, 25 miles, the products of the mines would be sold at a lower rate than is charged for our present supplies and would not only prove a saving of many thousands of dollars per annum in the price of household fuel, but would make Hannibal an extensive coal market double or triple our manufactures. Let those mines be developed it will not only add to the wealth of Rawls (Ralls) County, but will give an impetus to the business of Hannibal that will assure her of untold prosperity.

“Catalogue of Perry Public School” 1899-1900 “
Mining Interests

A rich vein of coal underlies the town and surrounding country. This is now being worked by two mines operating neat town, which give employment or seventy-five or hundreds men. With the extension to the road to the south-west, which seems a favorable possibility for the near future, the mining interest and other business enterprises of Perry will be largely increased. At present there is no vacant property to supply the constant and increasing demand for house.

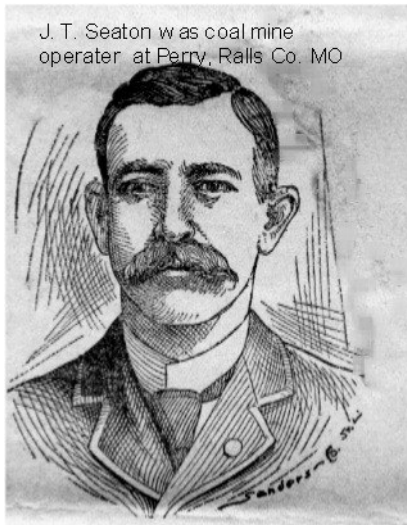
(Ads shown in the above catalogue ;)

Ralls County Coal Company, Producers and Shippers, Bituminous Coal, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in grain, flour and all kinds of mill staff, call and see us J. T. Seaton, Sec’y.

Clark Coal Company, Producers and Shippers, Bituminous Coal, Perry Missouri

Perry Missouri “Enterprise” January 18, 1900
Peacock Coal Mine

Thomas A. Fitzpatrick and Mathew Elliott have leased the privilege of mining on Sam Gill’s farm near Perry, west of the Lick Creek Bridge. They have five men at work taking out coal for local trade. It is said to be a first-class quality of coal. It has been given the name of Peacock Mine. The vain runs about 28 inches thick.



Perry Missouri “Enterprise” June 21, 1900
Ralls County Coal Company
A Trip To The Coal Mine

Not long since an Enterprise representative with J. T. Seaton, superintendent and secretary of the Ralls county Coal Company took the train and went to the shaft which is located about a mile from Perry, after arriving there Mr. Seaton, arrayed us in a jacket and cap with a miner’s lamp attached and then descended into the black cavern about 35 feet from the top, he acting as guide took us through. Take some note of the main line of a railway around a depot and you can draw some conclusion as to how coalmines are

manipulated down in the bowels of the earth. A long entry is tunneled out in a certain direction and a track is laid down and from the main entry other entries are tunneled out with tracks likewise. The rooms where the coal is mined are distributed along the various entries. Mules are used to draw the coal cars through the mine. It is a regular network of tracks down in the mine, with switches etc. A large air is constructed in such a manner as to give the entire mine a good circulation of air.

The shaft is right at the edge of the railway, with a switch, which will hold about a dozen cars.

A fine roof over lays this fine coal bed, making it easy and safe to mine the great black diamonds as black as night. Coal, coal, coal in every direction. And it ranks along with the Illinois fuel or any other state's coal that is being taken out of them.

The company was incorporated August 15, 1895 and has been run by various parties. Since the dating of Mr. Seaton's connection with the company it has had a large increase of business much more than in former years. A few weeks ago he purchased all of the stock in the concern. The company is incorporated for \$4,000 and is paying a very nice dividend in as much its business is increasing rapidly.

The output of coal is about eight tons per day or twenty-five thousand tons per year.

The coal is used by the St. Louis & Hannibal railroad, the Hannibal Electric Light Station, Stillwell's ice plant at Hannibal, Hannibal Press Brick Company's powerhouse and the different breweries and flour mills in various towns during the winter season.

About 60 men operate the mine including the day men and those that work in the 46 rooms in the mine.

It has been estimated that fully 250 mouths are fed from the labor in connection with the mine, to say nothing about those that are benefited in an indirect manner.

The men all earn good wages and it is all spent here in Perry. The mine is worth thousands of dollars every year to the towns. We could write for a week about the mine and then xxxxx through

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" September 20, 1900

J. T. Seaton was leased and also taken an option on Will Salling's farm near town for the purpose of prospecting for coal. He will prospect along close to a ravine in the farm about a quarter of a mile from the railroad. If he is successful in finding a paying vein of coal, which seems to be no doubt, he will run a spur from the railroad down the ravine in Judge Hubbard's farm to the Salling farm. The coal will be mined out of the side of the hill and run into the railroad cars with out hoisting it out of a shaft, which is a greater saving of expense. It is the intention of Mr. Seaton if he finds coal to buy the entire farm of 96 acres and operate on it and at the present place he is now engaged.

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" April 18, 1901

J. T. Bittick is thinking of having the work commenced on his new brick business room about the 15th of May but if Frank Fry, S. C. Gill and A. A. Richards conclude to put up brick business rooms, he may put off the construction of his room until latter on and see if all parties can't go together and get brick burned at Perry. By burning the brick at home no doubt it would be a saving of money in the way of freight charges on shipping brick here. And another thing it would furnish employment to several hands, who would

spend the money earned right here at home. There is nothing like keeping money at home. It is the duty of every citizen to help and encourage these gentlemen in the erection of these brick buildings. A nice brick building along the side of Mr. Bittick's brick room a couple of brick rooms between Roswell & Fry's furniture store and Henry Yancey's store would add largely to the appearance of the town. Every substantial step taking in the way of erecting business rooms or dwellings makes the town more attractive to our town people and the outside world. Take for instance the stranger that comes to our town he is bound to take notice of our electric light plant, the large flouring mill, large brick business buildings, the large up to date stocked store rooms and another thing the coal shafts which are putting out a large amount of coal daily. All these things go to make Perry a thriving town. Any day of the week you can see people here from a long distance trading. Some of them right from a short distance from other towns. There is bound to be some reason for this. What is your solution of the people coming here to trade from a long distant? This problem is not hard to solve. In the first place our business firms have a large up to date stock of goods and in next place they are selling goods at a small margin and in the next place they are paying from one to two cents more on the dozen on the average the year around for eggs and fowls of all kind always bring high prices the year around in Perry. Stop, reason and you can plainly see why so much trade is drawn to our town

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" January 18, 1900

Peacock Coal Mine

Thomas A. Fitzpatrick and Mathew Elliott have leased the privilege of mining on Sam Gill's farm near Perry, west of the Lick Creek Bridge. They have five men at work taking out coal for local trade. It is said to be a first-class quality of coal. It has been given the name of Peacock Mine. The vein runs about 28 inches thick.

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" November 15, 1900

Labor Trouble in Perry

Jeff Seaton of the Ralls County Coal Company at Perry was in the city yesterday on business. He informed a Journal reporter that he is having labor troubles at his mines as a result he is now only working a small force whereas heretofore he had been employed about seventy men. The trouble is all over the refusal of Mrs. Seaton to raise the scale of the wage of the miners from 85 to 91 cents a ton. All matters will probably be satisfactorily adjusted to all concerned in a short time. Wednesday's Hannibal Journal

"The Perry Enterprise" 1902

Farm Products Shipped From Perry By Freight During The Year 1901

Car Loads

Cattle.....	150 cars
Hogs.....	99 cars
Sheep.....	30 cars
Horse & Mules.....	19 cars
Coal.....	920 cars
Cord Wood.....	10 cars
Live Poultry.....	2 cars

Dressed Poultry.....2 cars
 Hard Lumber.....2 cars
 Oats.....1 car
 Baled Hay.....30 cars
 Junk.....1 car
 Total 1,274 carloads

Less Than Car Load

Poultry.....154 coops
 Dressed Poultry.... 12,813 Pounds
 Eggs.....4,161 Cases
 Butter.....15,680 Pounds
 Game.....10,090 Pounds
 Green Hides.....11,751 Pounds
 Furs.....105 Pounds
 Tallow.....1,680 Pounds
 Feathers.....1,298 Pounds
 Wool.....38,845 Pounds
 Potatoes.....38,845 Pounds
 Clover Seed.....5,100 Pounds

The above only includes the freight shipments, saying nothing of almost as much more forwarded by Express the same year.

February 6, 1902

A BRANCH COAL YARD

The Ralls Couty [sic] Coal Co. is to Engage in Business Here – Frank Owens is Agent

Jeff Seaton of Perry, Mo., manager of the Ralls County Coal Company, whose mines are located in the vicinity of Perry, was in the city yesterday arranging to open a branch coal yard in Hannibal. The necessary arrangements are about completed and the yard will be located temporarily at the corner of Tenth and Collier streets.

It is understood that Frank Owens, the wood dealer will be the representative of the coal company here for the present at least.

There is a well-***** [copy unreadable] rumor afloat to the effect that the Ralls County Coal Company has a lease on the vacant ground formerly occupied by the J.P. Meyers plainning [sic] mill on Monroe street, between Fourth and Fifth streets which will be occupied as a coal yard in a few months. This would be a convenient location for the ***** [copy unreadable] proximity to the Short Line tracks and depot. – Wednesday's Hannibal Journal.

July 9, 1920

J.T. SEATON CLOSING HIS COAL MINE.

Jeff T. Seaton, who has been operating a coal mine on the railroad near Perry for something like twenty-five years, is removing all of the equipment from the mine preparatory to closing it down. This will leave only the Clark Coal Co. mine in operation on the railroad. Mr. Seaton is not in good health and has been figuring on the step he is

taking for several months. He has considerable mine machinery, steel track, etc. The Enterprise regrets to see Mr. Seaton go out of business. He has been a valuable business man to Perry. – Perry Enterprise.

The Perry Enterprise – undated article
SUDDEN DEATH OF JEFF T. SEATON.

Jefferson Thompson Seaton died Monday afternoon about 6 o'clock of apoplexy. He was watering some small trees and fell over dead. He had been complaining for several weeks. The body was taken to the home of A.H. Martin. Rev. H.T. Guthrie conducted funeral services at the Martin home Wednesday at 12:30 o'clock, and the remains were conveyed to the Barkley Cemetery in New London for burial. The Masons conducted services at the grave side. Mr. Seaton was identified with the business interests of Perry, having been manager and owner of the Ralls County Coal Co. from 1895 to 1920.

Mr. Seaton was born near Frankford, July 21, 1860; was married to Miss Clinnie E. Hays at New London Oct. 29, 1885, and to this union two children were born: Mrs. Thomas (Lura) Waterston and Miss Margaret, of Hannibal, two grand children Virginia and Eleanor Waterston, together with the wife survive the deceased. Mr. Seaton had three brothers and three sisters: Ben, Hugh, Frances Sewell, Robert, Mary Mitchell, and Ellanora Goode, the last three of whom are living, also one half-brother, Hannibal Jones, and two half sisters, Mrs. Adazilla Hubbard, and Lottie Jones who are deceased. Their father and mother were John R. and Mary Ann Seaton. To the bereaved we extend deepest sympathy.

The Perry Enterprise, Thursday, February 14, 1924
A SAD ACCIDENT AT ONE OF THE PERRY COAL MINES.
Frank P. May Electrocuted.

Frank P. May, of Perry, was killed at the Clark Coal Co. Mine Monday by coming in contact with a 250-volt electric wire in the mine. It was the custom of Mr. May to go to work early and work late, and many times entered the mine before the other workmen began their work, and Monday morning he went to work between 6 and 7 o'clock, loading out dirt in his room preparatory to taking out coal. He did not come home for supper, and along about 8 o'clock his daughter became uneasy, and requested that a search be made. Clarence Rosenstengel, Fred Herman and Ed Leonard went to the mine and were horrified to find Mr. May dead. They gave the alarm and several men joined them at the mine and the body was brought to town on the railroad small motor car used by the section men. The body was taken to the Undertaking establishment of Roselle & Fry.

On Tuesday afternoon, an inquest was held. E.H. Ralls, Justice of the Peace, acting Coroner in place of Coroner John Hulse, of Center, who was unable to be present. The following men were jurors: E.P. Hanna, J.W. Dye, F.M. Rich, R.V. Rogers, M.V. Davis and Lafe Heckart. They made an examination of the body and the following witnesses testified: Clarence Rosenstengel, Fred Herman, Ed Leonard, Dr. J.E. Brown, T.S. Clay, Geo. C. Roselle and Lawrence Anderson. A verdict was brought in to the

effect that Frank P. may came to his death by coming in contact with an electric current at the Clark Coal Mine. The witnesses stated in part that Mr. May's body was found lying against the side of the wall forming the passage through the mine in a half-sitting position. A track, over which cars were operated into the "gob" room was lying over an electric wire against the wall on which the body of Mr. May was lying. His feet were on the main iron rail of the track, and his body on the extra track made a complete electric circuit. A badly burned place was found on the small of the back of Mr. May. Also one of his hips and one elbow were burned. The men who removed the body are of the opinion from surroundings that Mr. May only worked a short time before the accident occurred. He was not seen all day and he had not eaten his dinner.

Electricity is used in mining coal at the Clark Coal Co. mine. There have been coal mines out on the railroad track for something like 31 years and this is the first death by accident.

Fitzpatrick Bros. compose the Clark Coal Co. They regret the accident, and if there is anything wrong with the operation of the mine they are putting themselves in a position to find out as they have wired the State mine Inspector to send a man to go over the mine. Also will pay the burial expenses. Jno. W. Fitzpatrick went along with the family to Monroe City to render assistance.

A brief sketch of the life of Mr. May: He was born in Cairo, Randolph Co. October 31, 1882, aged 41 years, 3 months and 11 days. His mother died when he was a small child and at the age of five years was adopted by John May, of near Lakenan. Mr. May was married to Miss Essie Blanche Kennett on Jan. 8, 1900, to which union three children were born: Mayme Lee, Stella Virginia and Walter Henry, all living together with their mother. The deceased is also survived by three sisters and one brother – the deceased being the youngest of the family. Early in life Mr. May joined the Catholic Church. The remains were taken by rail to Monroe City Wednesday, where the funeral will likely take place Thursday and burial at the Stoutsville Cemetery. Mrs. May was at Shelbina at the time of the accident. She arrived home Tuesday, accompanied by her mother and brother, Mrs. C.W. Kennett and S.W. Kennett. Mr. May and family came to Perry from Monroe City about four years ago. He engaged in making ice cream and soda pop for a couple of years, and then taking up the mine work. He was a hard working man and held in high esteem by all. To the deeply bereaved family the entire community extends sympathy.

CARD OF THANKS.

We want to express our thanks to the friends and neighbors who were so kind to us during the sudden death of our dear one; also for the many pretty flowers which were given by the High School and Tillett School

MRS. F.P. MAY and Children.

Perry Enterprise; June 12, 1924

Put inn Electric Mine Machinery

Boudinier & James have installed the latest improved electric mine machinery at a cost of several thousand dollars. Boudinier & James stated started up a mine on Martin L. Barr's

land along the railroad track 15 months ago. On order to get power they put in an insulated wire from the substation at the edge of Perry to their mine. They have the wiring throughout of the best material on the market and consider it is arranged so there is no danger in the operation of the machine. The machine was put in operation Monday afternoon. Both of the mines on the railroad track are electrically equipped and they can put out a large amount of coal each day

Perry Enterprise, December 26, 1926

Clark Coal To Sink A New Shaft

To Install An Electric Hoisting Machine And Other Improvements

D. B. and J. W. Fitzpatrick, owners of the Clark Company mine will begin about January 19th, if the weather will permit to sink a new coal shaft on Gill Clark's land. The new shaft is to be a fourth of a mile west of the Highway and southwest of the present shaft a quarter of a mile. The present shaft was sunk about 30 years ago and the coal has been taken out fro a half a mile which makes the haul longer then the owner desire and they will put down the new shaft in order to have the coal nearer to the shaft. It is estimated they will have to go down around 60 feet. Also an electric hoisting machine will be installed, along with some other improvements. Fitzpatrick brothers have been in the coal "game" a long time and have made good. They experienced a hard battle at first, but by honest and fair dealings have won out.

April 25, 1929

Coal Prospecting Machine Here

C.A. Carpenter and E.W. Graves, of Mulberry, Kansas, unloaded a coal prospecting hydraulic drill here Monday, which will be used by the Home Coal Company in drilling test holes in the local coal field. H.J. Whetsel of the Home Coal Company stated this morning that the work would begin at once. This community is greatly interested in this enterprise and will watch the developments closely.

Perry Enterprise JULY 25, 1929

CLAY AND COAL RESOURCES OF THE PERRY AREA

An extended article under the above head appeared in the Biennial Report of the State Geologist and it was written by H. S. McQueen of Rolla, who is well known here. He was in this community for some time when the prospecting for coal and fire clay was done and it was under his supervision that the tests were made. This write-up contains all the details of the survey and gives several maps of the mineral deposits around Perry.

The following is from Mr. McQueen's article:

The Cheltenham fire clay horizon near the base of the Pennsylvanian series has produced a considerable tonnage of plastic semi flint clay and smaller amounts of non-plastic flint fire clay at Mexico, Farber, and Vandalia, Audrain County; Fulton, Callaway County; and Wellsville, Montgomery County. Field studies of the clay, made in 1927,

have indicated a northern extension of this plastic clay seam into the area contiguous to Perry, Ralls County. Outcrops of non-plastic flint fire clay and two seams of coal also occur in this part of the state.

At the request of the Chamber of Commerce of Perry, a reconnaissance geological survey was made by this Bureau to determine the extent of the clay and coal. Samples of each were collected, and firing behavior tests of the clay and analyses of the coal were made by the Missouri Clay Testing and Research Laboratory, and the Mining Experiment Station, both located at Rolla, Missouri. As a result of, and subsequent to the field work, a number of diamond drill holes were put down in the area to obtain additional information regarding the quality and extent of the clay and coal.

The area studied is a part of the glacial plain of north Missouri, and in general presents a rolling appearance, except near the larger streams where the country is moderately dissected. The geologic formations are well exposed in the broken parts of the area, and outcrops of the fire clay and coal bed are numerous. In the case of the last mentioned, the nature of the topography has permitted slope and drift mining. Shaft mining is employed in the drift covered areas.

Clay Resources

The clay resources in this part of the state are practically undeveloped. A few years ago some drilling was done and a small tonnage of plastic fire clay was mined from an outcrop on Gallaher Branch. The clay was considerably stained by iron oxide, but the fusion point was reported to be sufficiently high to classify the material as fire clay. However, the presence of impurities, chiefly iron, resulted in unsatisfactory fire brick. A study of the exposure showed iron-stained clay, marked by an astringent taste due to the presence of soluble sulphates.

The Cheltenham clay in this area, as well as in east central Missouri in general, rests upon an uneven chert conglomerate, and locally sandstone, floor. Consequently it varies in thickness from a few to possibly 25 feet. But on the average will be about twelve feet. "Rolls" or ridges in the conglomerate result in thinning of the clay, but in the accompanying basins a greater thickness is usually found. A notable example of a "roll" in the conglomerate in this area occurs on the English farm.

As shown by outcrops the plastic fire clay is usually light gray in color, with local masses tinged a bluish gray to blue. It is often stained red from oxide and the weathered portions of the clay are soft and very plastic. An examination of drill cores shows some sand in the lower part of the clay in a few holes. Pyrite is very common, and forms the chief impurity. However, it does not occur in any greater quantity than generally noted in the Cheltenham clay in other parts of east central Missouri.

Outcrops of non-plastic flint fire clay were noted in two places in the area. As in other parts of the district, it appears to be confined chiefly to the deeper depressions between the "rolls" in the conglomerate floor. The most accessible outcrop noted was on the Richards farm where the clay outcrops for a short distance on the north side of a small valley. Soft plastic clay and chert conglomerate outcrop a short distance south. The local geology indicates a basin-like depression in this locality and a diamond core drill hole was put down. White clay was reported at a shallow depth beneath the glacial clay overburden, and the hole was reported to have penetrated 25 feet of fire clay before the conglomerate was reached. Unfortunately no cores of the clay were recovered for testing. The outcrops show light colored flint clay on the surface, slightly stained with

iron. The iron stain appears to be confined to the surface, as material from a shallow test pit showed light colored clay of good quality.

The other observed exposure of this clay occurs on the Powell farm where the clay outcrops near the base of a low bluff. Two and one half to three feet of heavily iron-stained clay is exposed. This material would probably not be satisfactory for the manufacture of fire brick, but higher grade material might reasonably be expected back in the hill.

Flint fire clay was also cored in a hole drilled on the Willard farm. The clay was found between the depths of 50 and 54 feet. It was overlain and underlain by more plastic clay, the total thickness of the clay reported being 15 feet.

A diamond drill hole on the Alford farm was reported by drillers as ending in two feet of slate. An examination of the core however showed hard, very dark flint fire clay. Unfortunately, the thickness of this clay was not determined. It was overlain by gray plastic fire clay having a reported thickness of 13 feet. The top of the clay was found at a depth of 25 feet.

A test consisting of a mixture of 80 per cent flint fire clay and 20 percent plastic fire clay was made to determine the possibilities of manufacturing a high grade fire brick.

The results of this test indicate that the clays of this mixture are suitable for No. 1 flint fire clay refractories.

The chemical analysis indicate the clays in the Perry area are comparable to those from other parts of the district, except perhaps the sample from the cistern dug in the town which is slightly higher in silica than the average. It was overlain by glacial clay and there may have been some mixing of the two.

The sample obtained by core drilling shows considerable iron, due to the presence of pyrite. This impurity is common to the Cheltenham seam, and locally is often found in considerable amounts, or again in very small amounts.

Coal Resources

The coal resources of the area while not fully developed have probably received the greatest attention, and a number of shaft and slope mines have been in operation for a number of years. The distribution of the coal appears to be confined to three distinct areas. The first, a basin lying east and northeast of Perry, second a small area south of Perry on Gallaher Branch, and third, the area west and north of Perry on the west side of Lick Creek. The coal-bearing areas appear to be affected by structural features, and those on the east side of Lick Creek appear to be confined to shallow synclinal basins, resulting from low folding and possibly faulting.

The vein worked in this field is normally 22 to 26 thick, exclusive of a thin clay parting from one-half to one inch in thickness. In the Boudinier mine, northeast of Perry the coal is 22 to 26 inches thick, with a clay parting (the 'snubbing band' of miners) 4 to 6 inches above the base.

The coal above the "snubbing band" is jet black in color, fairly hard and comparatively clean. It contains some pyrite and gypsum (white scale) along plane surfaces. Below the clay parting or snubbing band the coal is softer and slacks into dust upon exposure to the air. The cost as observed on the outcrop in various parts of the area has a rusty color due to the presence of iron which coats the white scale.

The demand for coal from this field is greater than the present production. The coal producing areas as outlined cover some 18 square miles, and the coal available is

estimated at several million tons of which only a small part has been mined. While the vein is not exceptionally thick, it furnishes coal of good quality and could be developed on a larger scale than at present. The vein underlies over 3 square miles east of Perry, and a large tonnage is available from this part of the field. It is well located with respect to transportation facilities, and should become a more important shipping and local producer. The coal in this part of the field would have to be mined from shafts, due to the thickness of the overburden which amounts to 60 to 70 feet, or from slopes along the belt of outcrop.

The possibilities of stripping in this area are local and limited to places along the outcrop bordering the valley. Some local stripping has been done on the Alexander farm. However, the thickness of the coal is not sufficient to handle the rock overburden over large areas. Plans are now being made for strip mining operations in the first locality mentioned.

The basin south of Perry, adjacent to and lying in Gallaher Branch, offers possibilities for slope and shaft mining. This part of the field is 2 miles or more from the railroad and shipping mines would require a railroad spur of that length. The coal is of good quality and this area could very easily become a more important producer.

West of Perry, on the west bank of Lick Creek, the coal outcrops extensively along the "breaks" and appears to be more widespread. Many drifts have been driven in the 22-26 inch bed for the production of local coal. The rock overburden appears to be of too great a thickness over most of this part of the field to offer more than local areas for stripping, the extent of which would not justify any great outlay for this type of mining. Local stripping has been done on the Parks farm in Monroe County.

A second bed of coal was noted during the investigation. It lies about 10 feet below the bed mined and will average 10 to 12 inches in thickness. It is not sufficient thickness to be of commercial importance, and appears to be absent locally. It outcrops generally on the west side of the basin east of Perry, and in the field on the west side of Lick Creek.

The coals compare favorably with other coals from the state, and there is no reason why they should not fill the demands of the northeast Missouri markets.

The field work and subsequent core drilling have indicated an area capable of producing fire and plastic fire clay, suitable for the manufacture of high grade fire brick. A bed of coal of workable thickness is also available. The results of core drilling and a study of the shaft and slope coal mines indicate that the strata overlying the clay and coal are of sufficient strength to afford a satisfactory roof for underground mining. No great amount of water should be expected in the deeper mines. The results of this investigation are such as to indicate considerable development in this part of the state during the next few years.



Perry Missouri "Enterprise" September 19. 1929

\$100,000 Coal Corporation Organized At Perry

Final Arrangements For New Coal Company Made Her Friday

After several years work in the development of our coal field by A. G. Elam, President of the Perry Chamber of Commerce, and other members, arrangements were completed last Friday for the organization of a new \$100,000 coal company to be known as the Perry-Hannibal Coal Company with headquarters in the city. We think this a great achievement

for the community and especially for those who have worked hardest to get the job done, but we do not believe that the people of the community realize what a big project is to be undertaken. For that reason we are going back a few years into the history of the development of Perry's natural resources. In several previous issues we have published data on the results to test that have been made.

The Perry coal field has been worked for a number of years by shaft mines and it has been generally known it was very productive field, four of five years ago A. G. Elam and Mr. Ramsay, manager of the Perry Short Line, met John Ringling, owner of the road, in Chicago and while discussing the railroad situation, Mr. Ringling asked why the Perry coal and clay field was not prospected. He was very much interested and a year later at another meeting he offered to match dollar for dollar with the Chamber of Commerce for purpose of making tests for both coal and fire clay. Then two years ago, the Chamber of Commerce asked Mr. McQueen, State geologist from Rolla, to make an investigation of the field. He made the survey and verified our opinion that coal and clay was here in large quantities. Mr. Ringling was met in Hannibal where Mr. McQueen made a report which was very satisfactory. The Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Ringling went 50-50 on a demonstration of the field and spent about \$2,000. This demonstration consisted of getting accurate tests of the quantity and quality of the coal and fire clay. A diamond core drill was used and a very exhaustive investigation was made in the field north of town.

About this time Mr. H. J. Whetsel came to Perry and took charge of the Boudinier mine. He was an experienced coal operator and he came with the idea of expanding the field in the future. Since that time he has been one of the guiding hands in the promotion of the coal project. Since the other tests were so satisfactory, Mr. Whetsel made a demonstration of the field himself and acquired leases on 520 acres of land lying north of Perry. After all possible data had been obtained; Messrs, Elam, Whetsel and Ramsay met with Mr. Ringling in New York about a month ago. For some time the method of mining by stripping had been discussed and it was decided that this was the most profitable and practical method of mining. Mr. Ringling stated that he was willing to go in with any practical coal-stripping outfit to mine the coal and would rebuild the railroad. The gentlemen all considered it a big proposition and they remained over a day or so in New York to interview J. M. Carey, the President of Madison Square Garden, a multi-millionaire coal operator with large mines in the Virginias. The proposition was explained to him and he said at this conference that if the field was anything like as good as the tests showed, and if 1,500 or 2,000 acres of land around Perry could be leased, he would go into the project in a big way. There are three fields of coal near Perry, one out south, one west and one north. Mr. Ringling and Mr. Carey are high type men and if the options can be obtained on 1,500 or 2,000 acres of desirable land they will spend their own money to make demonstrations. They would be prepared to install 3 16-yard stripping shovels in the near future. In case this project is successful Mr. Ringling has authorized Mr. Ramsay to rebuild the railroad and to run spurs in every necessary direction. This would assure Perry of a good and permanent railroad and is a proposition that the people of this community cannot afford to let go by. This big mining enterprise has not been finished yet, but one company has already been organized and will begin stripping soon.

The Perry Hannibal Coal Company, a \$100,000 corporation is the first material result of the work done by Messrs. Elam, Whetsel, Ramsay, Ringling and the Perry

Chamber of Commerce. This company has been organized for the purpose of strip mining coal and the seven stockholders are H. J. Whetsel, of Perry, John Ringling, of New York, Andrew Gesslein, D. M. Moore, W. M. Morgan, W. C. Waterman and C. M. Guthrie, all from Pittsburgh, Kansas coal fields. They have been in the coal mining business from 10 to 30 years and are all successful operators. Mr. Whetsel has turned over his lease to the Perry Hannibal Coal Company. The machinery for the work has been ordered and some of it is on the way here now. A 7-yard steam shovel will be used in the stripping of the coal. A tippie, costing \$30,000, will be erected on the Gill Richards land, northeast of the city, and at the tippie four or five grades of coal will be prepared for market. A railroad spur will start at the corner of the city park and go northeast across the Richards land. The track will run down to the tippie where the empty coal cars will be delivered and loads received and the coal will be hauled to the tippie from the strip pit by 20-ton dinkie engine, in as 8 or 10 tons automatic coal car. These cars will be dumped automatically and the bottoms closed automatically. The coal will be hoisted into the tippie automatically and as it goes up it will be hand picked and graded according to size. The coal vein in this field is 26 inches thick and the average depth under the ground is 24 feet. Although in some places it crops out on the surface of the ground. This equipment will have a minimum tonnage of 120,000 tons a year, or 15 car loads a day when running good. It will take about 30 men to operate the mine and the payroll will be \$50,000 a year on this 7-yard equipment. It will mean that there will be about \$2,500 a day coming into the community. The outlet for this coal is assured and it will have a cheaper freight rate than the coal from the Illinois coalfield to Hannibal.

As we have said before, the people of this community should realize what a great thing this mine will be for Perry. A lot of other communities have raised large sums of money to have industries come into their towns but this corporation has called on the people of Perry for one cent. Messrs. Elam, Whetsel, Ramsay and members of the Perry Chamber of Commerce have worked hard and long on this propositions and have spent much of their time and money to help out the town and community. The men who are backing are men of capital and as they are thoroughly interested and are willing to put their money into it, there is no doubt but that it will be a success from the start. We maintain that Perry is most fortunate in having men of this caliber interested in its welfare and we are safe in saying in saying that Perry is one of the small towns in the state, which is due for a boom. We hope that the people who are personally interested in the projects will get together and secure a larger number of leases so that other companies will come in in a bigger way.

The Perry Enterprise, Thursday, January 9, 1930

LARGEST STRIP MINE IN THIS SECTION OPENS AT PERRY

Another big business for Perry and community starts with a boom with the Perry-Hannibal Coal Co. begins their strip mining operations. This immense plant at the east edge of our city has been in the process of construction since last September 15th and as completed is the largest coal mining operation in this section of the state. The history of the organization and foundation work for the mining operation dates back several years, an account of which was given to The Enterprise last September. This operation is the

result of much hard work, many long trips and a lot of time spent by members of the Perry Chamber of Commerce.

The Perry-Hannibal Coal Company was organized Sept. 13th, 1929, with the following officers: H.J. Whetsel, president; C.M. Guthrie, Sec'y-Treasurer; Vice President, Wm. Morgan.

The engineers started work on the plant Sept. 15th and the job was practically completed by January first. The tipple, built by the Pittsburg Boiler and Machine Company of Pittsburg, Kansas is constructed of steel throughout and is modern in every respect and is built especially for the purpose of producing clean coal. Mr. F.H. Smith was the boss of construction for the company and he certainly knows how to build a tipple. During the period of construction the St. Louis and Hannibal railway rendered a very efficient service by prompt delivery of all material.

The Perry-Hannibal Coal Company will offer their trade five different grades of coal, separated, hand picked and absolutely clean. They are going to concentrate on standard preparation.

Late years have seen vast strides in the development of improved coal preparation equipment. Operators have realized the necessity for perfect preparation of their product for both domestic and industrial markets. The consumer demands that the product must conform to specifications with respect to size and be free from impurities. It is with the idea of giving its consumers clean, first class coal that the Perry-Hannibal Coal Co. spent a vast amount of money on its tipple. A person must really visit the plant to get an idea of the work done in the tipple. The main tower of the tipple stands 50 feet high. The main uprights are all set on concrete pillars.

Three railroad tracks will enter the tipple and three grades of coal can be loaded at one time. There is also a hopper which will hold 10 or 12 tons of coal for local use. Wagons and trucks will be loaded at this point. The tipple is all electrically controlled by one man from a central control station and will handle 175 tons of coal per hour.

The coal will be brought from the strip pit to a large hopper near the tipple by a small locomotive in 40 or 50 ton trips. The coal will be conveyed from the hopper to the crusher in the top of the tipple. The crusher can be adjusted for any size coal. The coal then goes onto the shaking screen where the slack is taken out and the other coal is separated into the various sizes. The coal is received on conveyors which carry it past picking tables where the dirt and other refuse is picked out by hand. There are five conveyors in the tipple, one handles slack, one nut coal, one dirt, and the other the larger lumps of coal. These conveyors are all driven by individual motors ranging in size from 5 to 40 horse power, using Missouri Power & Light Co. electricity. The coal is delivered into the car without breakage by loading booms.

These booms can also be used as conveyors when not in use loading cars.

The steam shovel is a giant affair and is the largest ever brought to this section. It will be operated by three men, an engineer, fireman and oiler. The dipper is 7 yard capacity, and has an 85 foot boom and 58 foot dipper stick.

This machine will operate two nine hour shifts. C.M. Guthrie will be superintendent of operation.

The Perry Enterprise, September 18, 1930 [? year not listed on copy]
PERRY HANNIBAL COAL CO. BEGINS SHIPPING NEXT SATURDAY

The new machinery at the Perry-Hannibal Coal Co.'s strip mine has all been installed and everything is in readiness to resume operations and start shipping coal. Much time and money has been spent in an effort to put on the market the very best quality coal at a low price. Mr. T.F. Miller, of Pittsburg, Kansas, is the superintendent of the plant and he is a capable and efficient strip mine operator.

A new Montgomery washer, costing several thousands of dollars and capable of handling 250 tons of screenings a day has been installed to guarantee the success of the operations. The Montgomery washer is used universally and the screenings which go through the washing process come out 98 per cent pure.

The company shut down several weeks ago to install this new machinery when it was found that about 25 per cent of the slack was dirt, although the lump and nut coal was as high a grade as could possibly be desired and stands a test of 18,000 B.T.U. The slack or screenings is about 33 per cent of the total output of the mine and in a highly competitive field of slack market, it was found to be compulsory to wash it. The stockholders, desirous of putting on the market a quality product, decided to invest in this modern Montgomery washer, and feel sure that it will give the satisfaction expected of it.

The Perry Chamber of Commerce as a whole and individual members have cooperated with officials of the coal company in an effort to add to Perry's industries and make this a more prosperous community. This is a gigantic enterprise and when it attains capacity output, will be one of the most important industries in Northeast Missouri.

The Perry-Hannibal Coal Company will offer their trade five different grades of coal, separated, hand picked and absolutely clean. They are going to concentrate on standard preparation.

Late years have seen vast strides in the development of improved coal preparation equipment. Operators have realized the necessity for perfect preparation of their product for both domestic and industrial markets. The consumer demands that the product must conform to specifications with respect to size and be free from impurities. It is with the idea of giving its consumers clean, first class coal that the Perry-Hannibal Coal Co. spent a vast amount of money on its tipple. A person must really visit the plant to get an idea of the work done in the tipple. The main tower of the tipple stands 50 feet high. The main uprights are all set on concrete pillars.

Three railroad tracks will enter the tipple and three grades of coal can be loaded at one time. There is also a hopper which will hold 10 or 12 tons of coal for local use. Wagons and trucks will be loaded at this point. The tipple is all electrically controlled by one man from a central control station and will handle 150 tons of coal per hour, 1200 tons each day of 8 hours. This is an output of 24 railroad cars a day.

The coal will be brought from the strip pit to a large hopper near the tipple by a small locomotive in 40 or 50 ton trips. The coal will be conveyed from the hopper to the crusher in the top of the tipple. The crusher can be adjusted for any size coal. The coal then goes onto the shaking screen where the slack is taken out and the other coal is separated into the various sizes. The coal is received on conveyors which carry it past picking tables where the dirt and other refuse is picked out by hand. There are five conveyors in the tipple, one handles slack, one nut coal, one dirt, and the others the larger lumps of coal. These conveyors are all driven by individual motors ranging in size from

5 to 40 horse power, using Missouri Power & Light Co. electricity. The coal is delivered into the car without breakage by loading booms.

These booms can also be used as conveyors when not in use loading cars.

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Perry Missouri, "Enterprise" February 26, 1931

947 Cars of Product Shipped From Perry In 1930

659 Carloads Incoming Products --- 434 Cars Material For Highways

The St. Louis & Hannibal Railway Company handled 947 cars of products from Perry to the outside world during the year just closed, and in some lines it handled more cars than in any previous year. The largest one single item was 345 cars of coal from this field, which was consumed by the railroad itself. The amount of this coal consumed by the railroad amounted to approximately \$42,000 for the community. The R. S. Buchanan Company was the next largest shipper with 216 carloads of poultry and eggs. This enormous total of product was secured from this immediate community and also from their various buying stations near here. The Buchanan shipments consisted of 1,553,874 of dressed chickens, totaling 80 cars; 378,218 pounds of dressed geese, totaling 19 car; 25,095 pound of dressed ducks, totaling 1 car; 46,658 cases of eggs, totaling 116, cars. Other products shipped were 6 cars if horses and mules; 62 cars of cattle and calves; 94 cars of hogs; 27 cars of sheep and goats; a total of 189 carloads of livestock. There were 186 loads of commercial coal shipped from the mines here; one car of lumber, and 110 cars of other forest products, principally walnut logs.

The incoming products, not including the shipments to various business men; consisted of 16 cars of cattle and calves to be fed; 3 cars of sheep; 3 cars of live poultry; one car of eggs; 2 cars of Anthracite coal; 22 cars of Bituminous coal; 19 cars of Iron and steel to be used in highway construction, 265 cars of gravel; 53 cars of sand; 71 cars of crushed stone; 26 cars of cement; and 169 car of corn, oats, hay, feed and flour.

An interesting and valuable part of these incoming products was the amount of material used in highway construction. There was a total of 434 cars of this material shipped in and used on the roads around Perry. The past year has been the best year in state road building we have had and we are grateful for it. The outgoing livestock was not nearly as great as is has been in past year. Some of the decrease was due to truck hauling and some of it to scarcity of livestock on the farms. Taking it on the whole the railroad has enjoyed a very good business for Perry station. We are grateful to Mr. T. S. Clay, the agent here for many years for the above statistics.

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" March 10, 1932

Coal Tipple and Shovel Being Dismantled

Messrs. Cliff Leabo, of Chanute KS and Harry Brentz, Pleasanton KS, arrived in Perry the first and began the preliminary work which will lead to the dismantling and moving of the Perry-Hannibal Coal Company tippie, shovel and other equipment at the strip mine at the east edge of Perry. This equipment has all been idle for some time and those interested in it have decided to tear it down and place it in storage at some point not yet decided upon. The men in charge think it will require about six weeks time. Local labor will be used on the job as far as possible.

Perry Missouri Enterprise, February 7, 1924
(Article giving 1899 locations of businesses in Perry)

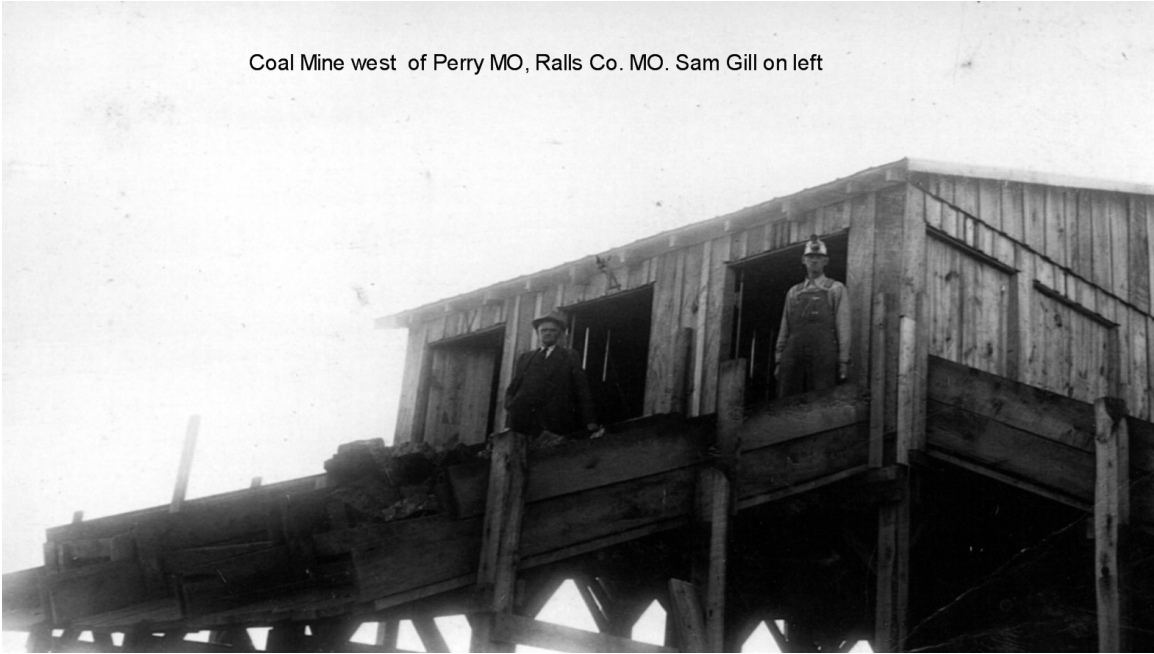
Next was a blacksmith shop. Later occupied by T. W. Crump, blacksmith. A harness shop by S. P. and Wm. Bybee. These buildings were all frame and were destroyed by fire about 23 years ago. The building now occupied by Roselle and Fry furniture and undertakes and the main room by Frank Quinn, a line of furniture. Some upstairs were occupied by the Ralls County Coal Co.

The Clark Coal Co. had an office in part of the building. James T. Bittick, barbershop with the room above used as a courtroom and city office. Next was Judge Edwin Hubbard's large frame house, garden and orchard.



Perry Mo Coal Operation Archie Hayden photo

Coal Mine west of Perry MO, Ralls Co. MO. Sam Gill on left



Coal Mine west of Perry MO, Ralls Co. MO. Sam Gill on left Ray Phears on the right



COAL MAPLE VALLEY Shaft Coal
Can Now Load Your Trucks Promptly
BEST TO STOCK UP EARLY

<p>ANALYSIS</p> <p>Ash 9.20%</p> <p>Fixed Carbon44.18%</p> <p>Volative Matter46.65%</p> <p>Sulphur 5.65%</p> <p>B. T. U. Dry Basis..12.000%</p>	<p>Mine ½ Mile West of Perry, Mo. On Hard Road</p> <p>RUSSELL ITSCHNER Operator</p>
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Coal miners at Perry, Ralls Co MO mines; Front row left to right Charles Stahl, Claude Shannon & Bernard Myers; Back Row Ote Meyer, Arthur Myers, Ray Seavers and Chick Stahl kneeling

E. D. LONG & SON'S COAL CO.
DEEP COAL MINE

COAL

Sold to *Clay Pen* 1 1/2 Miles East of Perry, Mo. *Mar 26* 19*19*
Taken by *Mer G...*

	WEIGHT	KIND OF COAL	PRICE	CASH	CHARGED	TAX
GROSS...		<i>Lump</i>	<i>Duplicate</i>			
TARE....						
NET.....	<i>4000</i>					
Driver.....	On..... Off	Signed <i>M.D. Coal</i>				
		Received <i>#612</i>				

Cincinnati

Note from Laura Anne Hamm

from archives of the ralls county record and microfilm of the early records of ralls county The building in the ralls county history book was the old hotel built by John Marshal Clemens (mark twains father) in 1835 for the salt river navigation company in partnership with William Muldrow Shallow draft boats did reach town but it was short lived and the land was sold to David Blue who laid out the townsite consisting of four sections of lots and streets i have seen the layout of the town in the ralls county land records you can view it also at the courthouse record books. Cincinnati was a natural ford of salt river the water there was and still is only about 4ft deep The Stone church was on the oposite side of the river along with the southern ferry landing and a mill was there a shortways down stream ,back to the townsite...there was the hotel two stories and a similar builing next to it for dances and meetings ,the general store ,a blacksmith shop, a ferry operater, the methodist church , a orchard and the huge tree in front of the hotel my father put cables on the upper limbs and you could swing out over the river this tree to this day was one of the largest i have ever seen I have a pic which i will scan and send to you the attached photo is of Mike and Jerry a horse/mule team my father plowed the fields with More Later.



This building at Cincinnati was the old general store and post office and the add-on building at the side was the blacksmith shop. The Cincinnati Methodist Church was torn down by my great uncles to build the barn which is the only building still standing today.



This is how Cincinnati old hotel looked in the 1930s. The building was said to have been originally in an L-shape and much larger when built.



Cincinnati 1936

1936

DOGPATCH IT'S WAYS, REMEDIES & CURES

Bee or wasp sting --rub fresh cut onion on the sting and hold breath for one minute. After 5 minutes cover with soda paste For a snake bite sit down and count to one hundred then take knife and make an insicion and get it to bleed if possible. Apply iodine after bleeding stops.

For a bad cough-- one drop of kerosene on a teaspoon of sugar put it in your mouth, let it dissolve slowly. Check to make sure you have a will while the cough subides.

Hay fever-- rose hip vitamin c natural
uncooked honey
apple vinegar

mix one part of each of the above ingredients.
Take (3) tablespoons once in the morning and in the evening.

prevent cancer--- eat the apple and grapefruit seeds of the fruit that you eat. Chew well and smile widely all of the time.

How to remove skunk smells--- apply generously tomato juice to your body then run a quarter of a mile.

How to get rid of pin worms especially in children drink lots of black tea without sugar then lie down and take a good rest. Keep a record of your dreams.

How to remove berry stains from your hands---use the wooden matches strike and move around over your hands until the stain is gone.

How to clean the roots out of garbage drains---two hand fulls of pentahydrate(copper sulphate) into drain and let it set overnight then flush. This can also be used to remove algea from your pond using a mixture of one part of copper sulfate to 1,000,000. parts of water.
To clean out hog troughs we used the old fashioned washing soda 1 cup per gallon of hot water let set overnight then wash out.

To tan hides, clean, scrape, and allow to dry. Then bury hide covered in wet wood ashes. Tannic acid and water will tan hides or furs. Watch out for live wolves at dusk.

Soybean oil (lecithin, modern concentrate) 19 gr tablet per day keeps blood vessels open, an anti clog characteristic and helps transmit better nerve impulses.

Frightful(scary) dreams or dreams of being in an awful hurry often foretell a change in the weather, particularly when the wind direction has changed to easterly.

1438

DOGPATCH (Cincinnati Landing)
 Ralls County, Missouri. The town of Cincinnati Landing was laid out and registered August 31, 1836. I have a copy of the original platte in my book.

Our home was the Cincinnati Inn at which many notables have stayed. The Inn was a 2-story log house with oak sheeting placed over the logs. It had 4 rooms, 2 downstairs and 2 upstairs with the colonial fire place and quaint winding stairs. They were kind of hard to walk down when you were half asleep in the early hours of the day. The walls were about 18" thick and the windows were inset. You could readily see this looking out the boxed-in windows.

The general store with iron bars and heavy oak closures over the windows, which could be closed in the event of an Indian attack, was our workshop and general tool shed. The long display tables and shelves were still intact. I found 2 muzzle loading firearms there. The old blacksmith shop, we used as a chicken house. The barn was built from the old Methodist church. After every rain we would go looking for Indian heads, axe heads and other Indian tools and artifacts.

We allowed a pair of giant king snakes to live in the barn. They were about 10 to 12 feet long. They were frequently seen at eye level along the manager we used as a hallway. They kept the place clean of rats and mice. The inside crib was generally full of ear corn and feed stored in the hallways. Cincinnati Landing was the last point up salt river that was navigable. In early days supplies were brought up the river to here then over land to it's final destination. At the west edge of the farm high in the bluffs are the famous Indian paintings. A lot of the folk lore and ways were taught to us by uncle George Settle, mother's brother. He taught us how to rock fish, how to use a trammel net, a water pipe for a fish trap, to skin rabbits and squirrels proper, the use of the moon signs to raise crops and animals, to even make flint arrows. We were penalized for bringing home game that was not shot through the head. The penalty was our allotment of ammunition was withheld for a week.

The papaw was in abundance at dogpatch. It was also called custard apple. It was from 2" to 6" long and dark brown when ripe. It's flesh is yellow and has a banana taste. It's oval leaves are 6" to 12" long and has dark purple flowers. It can grow to 40 feet tall. We ate a lot of them. Dowsing for water, the searchers were called a dowser or as we called them a water witch. Across the ground, water or oil will be found at a depth of half the distance the witch has walked. I usually used a willow or elm branch about three feet long held between my hands. I could also locate metal coins etc. using the same method.

* I.T.'S WAYS, REMEDIES & CURES

You can remove labels and stickers from plastic surfaces by a liberal application of peanut butter allowing to stand for 5 minutes then wiping off with a dry diaper cloth or rag. This should be done with an empty stomach

Cut open a persimmon seed (ripe) if you see a knife you will have extremely cold winter with very little precipitation, when the shape of a spoon, lots of precipitation snow or rain, medium mild weather. Shape of a fork medium warm, medium rain or snow.

For people on a diet: drink fennel tea to ease the appetite. For kidney disorders, hardening of the arteries, and yellow jaundice: eat fresh watercress. Picked from ponds.

For delicious edible Greens:
dock (sharp), plus lambs quarter (mild), plus dandelion (sharp), plus mustard (mild), then add a chunk of sow belly. optional carpenter square.

My regular deserts for most meals was chilled and blocked whey served with cream and sugar. Squirrel fried crisp in lard was usually served at breakfast sometimes for supper. Fried mush between two slices of home made bread was our usual lunch put in the lunch box.

Salsify soup was a usual evening meal entree. It tasted very much like oyster soup. Also boiled and creamed. We grew it in abundance in the garden. Gravey made with milk and flour was served on biscuits with every meal. We had our own corn meal ground from white corn and was a staple for corn bread, muffins, etc. We hand churned our own butter and hung it in the well to keep. Apples were covered in a hole in the ground to keep.

To check for coming winter from the thanksgiving turkey use the wish bone. Dry out thoroughly, the oil in the bone will indicate weather by the condition of the bone. Dark solid color---severe and hard winter and closed- cold. Light solid color---mild winter open constant. Streaked--- Very changeable 1st severe then mild. We always checked for the thickness of the fur of the squirrel for a weather indicator. Also the wooley bug was a good weather indicator. The gauge was the type, size, and color of the stripe.

All baths was taken and hair was washed in soft rain water from the rain barrel. We used vinegar as a hair conditioner. Pa^vPaⁿ's was a delicious fruit in the fall. Persimmons were good after the first hard freeze. We always planted, and cut hogs in the right sign of the moon. This was very important. Our medicine consisted of turpentine, Raleigh's salve, quinine, kerosene (coal oil), skunk oil, iodine, calcidin (black pills), and castor oil. We had no such things as swim suits- swimming in the nude in ole' salt river before work and after work. The only paper in

We also found tannic acid in the bark and wood of trees usually nutgalls which are growths on trees caused by parasites.
We used old sow belly as a poultice for thorns, splinters etc. I still use it to this day.very successfully.

For water purification, we used an iodine solution of 5 drops of 2% tincture of iodine per quart of water. Let set for 20 minutes and it's ready to use. Double the dose if the water is cloudy. Better.check your insurance policy before drinking.

Remove warts:

Put peel of a very ripe banana on the wart. Use peel that has turned brown, the browner the better. Use twice a day for at least a week.

Preserve peel by wrapping in foil and placing in the ice box.

Squeeks in the floor can be remedied by placing a 8 penny box nail between the floor and the sills as a small wedge. The use of loose boxer shorts in lieu of tight briefs can improve a man's lack of impotence.

Fried Quail-soak in cold water and vinegar use 1/2 cup vinegar to a gallon water.Season salt and pepper-roll in flour fry deep hot fat -brown add 1 cup hot water, slowly cover -simmer for 1-hour increase heat cook-crisp.

BBQ wrap quail with bacon grill twice the distance from the heat that the meat is thick until ~~it~~ done.

Baking soda has lots of uses as a cleaner it is gentle and will not scratch. You can deodorize your carpet by ^{sweep} sprinkling baking soda on it,wait 15 minutes then vacuum.
Put in the refrigerator or the ice box to sweeten the smell.

To open clogged drains use 1/2 pound washing soda [soda carbonate]. Dissolved in 2 cups of boiling water.Once a week 1 cup of washing soda in gallon of hot water, leave in the drain over nite flush in the morning.

White vinegar is a mild cleaner that is also a good grease cutter.Use for cleaning windows, stove tops and chrome polish.Mix with salt into a paste. You can buff copper,brass and aluminum.Use a few tablespoons of salt with enough vinegar to dissolve it. Rub mixture then rinse in clear water, polish dry.Use to clean deposits from coffee pots.Use 1/2 cup of white vinegar to a quart of water you have an all-purpose cleaner. Do not use on marble.

Lemon juice Can be used to remove rust and mildew. mix lemon juice with salt to remove mildew on the bathroom tile.For heavy mildew on tile,cellar walls, and hog troughs mix this way. 1 pint liquid chlorine bleach,1-tblsp liquid dishwashing detergent3-tblsp trisodium phosphate 4 1/2 qts of water. Scrub with stiff brush.

Lemon juice clean copper, make a paste of lemon juice, salt and flour and rub on copper, metals and polish.

the outside privy was the Sears and Roebuck catalog. It only contained hard slick paper.

We dried our own corn, cut off the cob and placed on the roof of the over hanging porch, spread out on homemade sheets. We used kerosene lamps for study as well as to light the house. The enjoyment of jumping into the river real early before work was real, usually an early morning mist or fog hung over and usually just at daybreak--the only thing better was the evening bath in the river after a dirty day in the field.

We traded chickens for Raleigh products and for the Missouri Ruralist subscription. One source of cloth was gold medal flour sacks, all of my under clothes were made from these. Once Keith a cousin of mine, made fun of me in front of the whole school when my homemade under shorts shown out from under my basketball shorts, pointing me out to all the girls, was I ever embarrassed. We used flat irons wrapped in cloth to warm our feet at night.

Did you know that the only meat we had with the exception of very rarely chicken, was rabbit or squirrel on the table. We never had hogs--We had milk cows. The calves were kept for milk cows or sold as stock yearling calves. We drank milk, made cheese, whey for breakfast and butter from some cream. We sold cream, chickens, eggs, and maple syrup for food and supplies money.

We had a flock of hens--We ate eggs, sold eggs and sold chickens. *Fried chicken*
 Fryers door to door when available. we never had the luxury of ~~fried chicken~~, beef, or pork until sometime in college. *practically*
 Practically all rabbit, about ~~80%~~ of the table meat.
 My first bath in a real bathtub was in my 1st year of college at Kirksville, Missouri at Marilyn Busick's in Green City Missouri on a weekend. The only exception to the above if a chicken got killed or died we had baked hen.

Rabbit squirrel & fish

Our first car was a 1927 model T ford. We traded mother's coca cola ice box for the car from a neighbor, Bill Wilson who lived with Georgia Berry, Kenneth's mother, when mother was away attending a sewing circle at Marvin Herrin's, which hardly ever happened. Imagine her surprise to come home and find a car sitting on the front porch, and her ice box gone. There was another time when the U.S. marshall and his cronies were hunting on our place. We called to them that we didn't allow hunting. They cussed us back, J.W. yelled we'll see about that and all three of us boys, J.W. in gum boots and with an old shotgun went tearing down there. They left real fast and didn't look back.

We boys got it in our head to build an airplane in the barn loft we had some plans from the magazine popular mechanics. We built the fuselage out of pine wood. It was quite a sight, course it never flew but was quite a conversation piece.

Another note and photo from Laura Anne Hamm (January 2003)



the stone church was catholic and im told it preceded the one at indain creek after the one at indain creek was build it was abandened several people used for awhile then it was torn down the stone porch floor at the hotel was made from it some say it was St Peters or St Pauls Im sending a pic of the tree and my aunt swinging it was destroyed in a fire along with the hotel in the 1950s such a shame.

Dear Editor

I too read the story about "Old Cincinnati" written by Larry Hamm and me being about two generation older than Larry I think I can add quite a bit.

I knew Larry's father and grandmother and well remember when the Hamms lived at Cincinnati. I guess there was one more family lived there after the Hamms. That was Lorelle Murphy. While he lived there the old house burned on one of the coldest days in winter.

My father and mother bought a Hannibal Courier-Post, July 8, 1977 (Letter to Editor) farm 1 mile east of Cincinnati and settled here on 1884. I'm the last member of the family that's living and I'm still living on the old homestead settled in 1884. I was the youngest of the Griffin family.

I've heard my mother and father say when they moved here in 1884 that there was quite a bit of river traffic up and down Salt River and the hotel was going strong at that time. It was having big suppers and balls. They attended quite a few of them.

When Cincinnati was first planned it was laid out on streets and blocks and for years they had a store. You could buy most anything there from pickles in a barrel to stick licorice and calico by the yard. There was a post office there for years. Many times I've gone and bridled a horse and went to Cincinnati to mail a letter or get our mail.

There was a blacksmith then, run by Bill Jacobs as long as I can remember. Then there was the Methodist Church there which I joined when 12 years old. My, we some big protracted meetings held in the winter and fall. My Dad would shuck corn all day and leave the team hitched to the wagon and the whole family would get in the wagon and go to church after supper.

When it rained all the men in the neighborhood would go up to the store to visit and swap big tales and oh, the good times we had at dinner there given in the old house. It had big rooms (at one time a hotel). This was mostly when Charles Ware lived there and kept store and as I think back I can name a lot of the people that kept the store. They would drive to Hannibal in a wagon and get supplies. These are some of the names that come to mind of the men who kept store there: Perry Tipton, Mrs. Sibley, Bill Auss Utterback and his son Sutton Utterback, Bill Jacobs, John McCollum, George Keller

Charley Ware, whose daughter was my best friend Oneta Ware, stood up with me when I was married. I knew and loved the Settles boys, Larry great uncles, whom he talked about.

When my granddaughter Joyce visited here from Texas all summer Uncle George as she fondly called him, would take the girls to Sunday school and swimming. He was a bachelor and loved every child in the neighborhood. I well remember the big old tree that stood between the house and river and my granddaughter swung on it many times as well as the other girls and boys.

The old buildings are all gone now, just fond memories, the old inn, blacksmith shop and church, the old store still stands. I wish it could be made into a memorial but doubt if it will.

A little more history can be added to Old Cincinnati. My father Abe Moyers and his mother Catherine Davis were married at the old Inn January 21, 1885. The priest from St. Paul church crossed Salt River on the ice to tie the knot. Then I could add a line about the old historic Indian paintings about 3-4 miles from the Cincinnati store that was first painted by a tribe of Indians on the old bluffs facing the river. They are still there but have been repainted several times. We youngsters used to love to go there on Easter Sunday with a picnic lunch.

I just had to add a little more history than Larry gave a I imagine I'm among the last that has lived here this long and still and love old Cincinnati and its fond memories.

Lucille Griffin Moyers, Center MO

1837 "GAZETTEER OF THE STATE MISSOURI" By Alphonso Wetmore

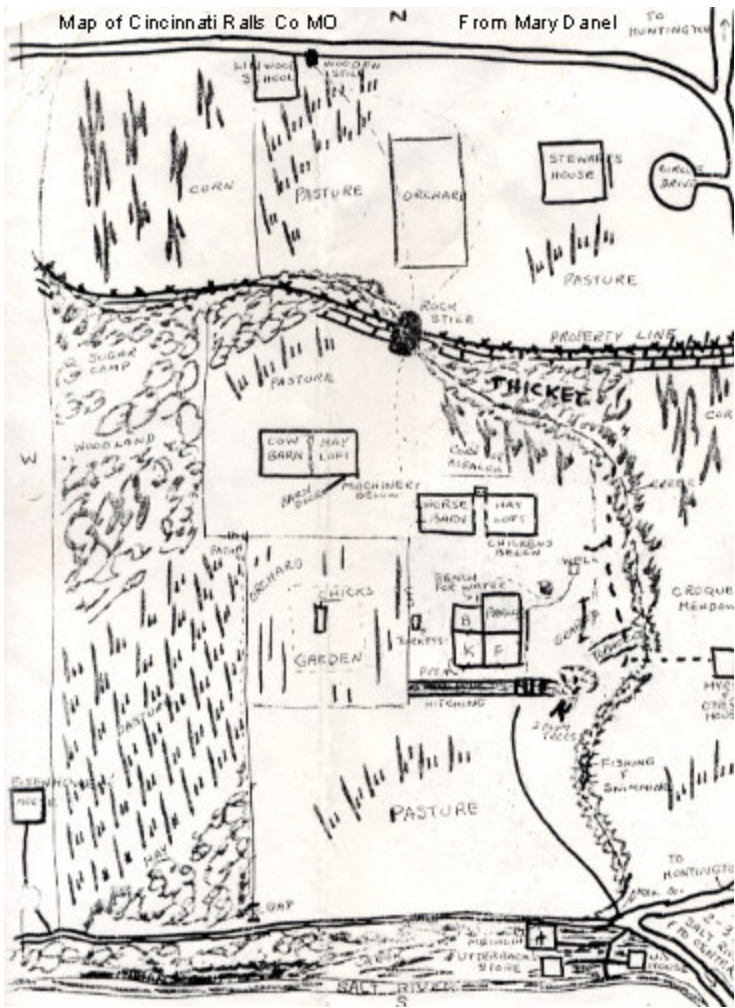
Cincinnati, a town on the north bank of Salt River, has two stores, a post-office, and tavern.

Perry Missouri, "Enterprise" February 22, 1900

Business Career Of 31 Years Ended

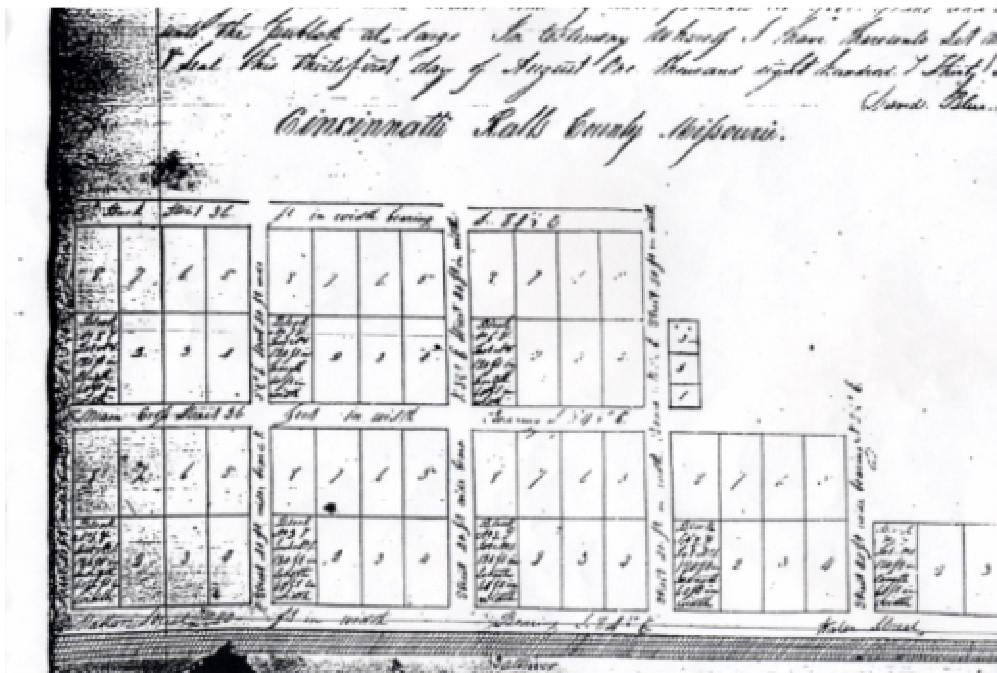
Marion Richards Sold His Interest In The Firm Of Richards Bros. To A. A. Richards His Partner

We will give a brief history of the business career of Marion Richards, who retires from mercantile business after engaged in it the long period of thirty-one years. The subject of the sketch resided on a farm near Perry until about 20 years of age, and at this age he had the desire to embark in the merchandise business. Quitting the farming business, and came to Perry and went to clerking for M. P. LaFrance and Thomas Gill for about 18 months whereupon his ambitious and aspirations were to have an interest in a business, and he went to Cincinnati Missouri, and with only a few hundred dollars started in business on partnership with LaFrance & Gill, known as the firm of Richards & Co. he conducted business there for nine months and came back to Perry, and with E. H. Ralls bought out LaFrance & Gill's stock, which goods were sold in the frame building located on the ground were Williams Hanna & Co. store is.





Left to right back row; (Edward) Ward, Grace, Rebie, Myrtie Norman. Myrtie married Ocea Newell of Greenlawn. Left to right front row: Helen (Snell), Gershom Oliver Norman, Grover, Margaret Elizabeth (Gray) Norman with Sadie (Firtch) standing next to Grandma Norman. Sadie married Wesley Firtch who was a cousin to Imogene. Mom's mother, Georgia Anne Norman is the little girl standing in front of Grandma Norman. Ward, Rebie, Myrtie, Helen, Grover, Sadie and Anne all taught in Ralls County.



BALLS COUNTY HERALD-ENTERPRISE MAY 21 1949

Settles Make Home On Old Village Site

THE CENTER HERALD
October 27, 1949

When Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Settles decided to make use of the old buildings which remain on the site of the former Salt River village, Cincinnati Landing, they chose the inn built of massive walnut logs for their home. Mr. Settles and his brother, George, have owned this group of buildings and the bottom farm which lies between Joama and Norton bridges for more than twenty years.

The most recent tenants of the inn had been squirrels and other wildlife of the river country, but the century-old walls were straight and true, and the floor in a good condition considering that the river had been high as the fourth step of the black walnut stairway at one time. This stairway, with its quaint thumb-latch, batten door at the base of the curve, is broad and one could soon stow the furniture upstairs if the river, which hasn't been in since 1928, should pay another visit.

The inn has sheltered countless people, including General Grant, and the Settles have retained the sturdy simplicity of frontier days in restoring this house which was erected in 1836. No major changes were necessary and the ghosts of pioneer guests would feel very much at home in the low-ceilinged rooms, with their simple beds, bureaus, and the hickory-bottomed ladderback chairs made by Settle's great-grandfather.

Mr. and Mrs. Settles installed electricity as one of the first steps in making the place livable. There are odds and ends of china on the long mantel and the parlor boasts a reed organ. Fur rugs on the floor were made by Mr. Settles and the refitting of furniture was done in his own workshop.

The old village store and post office building (the mail was brought in by boat twice weekly)



The old inn at Cincinnati Landing after restoration.

made an ideal place for the workshop. The shelves and counters were left intact, and Settle's tool and work materials are even better arranged than the original stock of staple groceries and dry goods.

The slope to the river landing has been made into a blue-grass lawn. At the landing where Indians slipped in in canoes and later the salt barges of the French and of a navigation company picked up the salt brought overland by traders, two motorboats are moored. On the bluffs upstream are the Indian paintings, cryptic in meaning, but which legends say the Indians painted before leaving this vicinity forever after a bitter defeat at the hands of the early settlers. These headless figures with upraised hands bear out the conjecture, and a generation ago bullets embedded in the trees and shells found in the rifles of the river verified the stories of a fierce battle before the red men gave up their efforts to hold this territory. They resented being pushed back from their traditional sources of salt but lived peaceably with the white men until the war of 1812 aggravated the trouble.

For a time the village at Cincin-

nati flourished, goods were brought overland. The railroad soon came, however, and better freight facilities and transportation removed the need for this and scores of other small settlements. The little church fell into ruin, and the sawmill which was operated by Hasson and Wedge went out of business years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Settles are natives of the Salt River country, and spent the first years of their marriage in Monroe City. It was about three years ago when they returned from living in Phoenix, Ariz., that they conceived the idea of living in this historic shelter. Now their home is a popular gathering place for family reunions and for the older folks who like to sit in the shade of the flagstoned veranda and watch the river roll by while they tell about the days when wild turkeys, deer, grouse and bobcats were familiar sights. When their son comes home from California or their daughter and her friends from Washington D. C., come for brief vacations, they enjoy the comfort of the present, and report that the facilities for fishing, swimming and boating have not changed.

Perry MO “Enterprise” May 23, 1907; The South Fork “Famous” Wolf Captured Alive



The “famous” wolf which has played havoc among sheep, young pigs and fowls, in the South Fork neighborhood, was captured this morning about 7 o’clock on B. F. Vaughn’s farm six miles southwest of Perry.

R. M. Hight, of Edmond, Okla., arrived in that neighborhood about ten days ago with two dogs of his own and four belonging to J. J. Brown, of the place he came from, and four dogs of Vint Spalding, of near Monroe City, and did not succeed in starting the wolf until about 6 o’clock this morning. The chase was started one-fourth mile north of B. F. Vaughn’s horse barn, and ran north and east towards J. E. Waterston’s, then made a circle south and was captured in front of B. F. Vaughn’s house. The dogs caught the wolf, and were in a fight with it, and had it about bested, but it was about to get through a wire fence, and Nathan Vaughn ran in among the dogs, and succeeded in capturing it before the dogs finished it up, and Vint Spalding run in and assisted Nathan in gagging and roping the wolf. Two of the dogs were badly bitten by the wolf in the skirmish. The dogs names are: Jeff, Bill, Mae, Buster, Buck, Jim, Dollie, Flirt, Get-away and Callie. Bill was the first dog to get a hold of the wolf, Dollie and Jim next, the later two were the ones bitten. The Oklahoma dogs have been in several wolf chases, and succeeded in killing them, most of the time in a stream. Mr. Hight says the wolf is of the timbered specie. It is female, measured 5 feet and 2 1-2 inches from tip to tip, 25 inches tall, legs and sides tan color, and back dark gray, and very poor, long sharp teeth, and tail looked something like a fox’s tail. It is estimated that the wolf has killed \$500 or \$600 worth of

stock and fowls. It has been in the South Fork neighborhood 3 years. Mr. Hight thinks it is about four years old, and has had one or more litter of pups. 15 months ago a litter of young pup wolves were found 1 mile west of Santa Fe, which is supposed to have belonged to this wolf.

The wolf after being captured was taken to W. G. Vaughn's house where its throat was cut, and knocked in the head. It took quite awhile for it to die. It was laid out in front of the hounds and a picture taken. After which Mr. Hight skinned it and will take its hide home with him.

Perry MO "Enterprise" 1907; \$77.50 Reward For Killing Wolf.

Several Monroe County farmers, of South Fork and Jefferson townships have made up a reward of \$77.50 which is deposited in the People's Bank of Perry which is to be paid for the killing of a wolf that has been killing the sheep in that locality. This sum will be paid to the person or persons who will at any time hunt and kill the wolf. But in case of a general hunt when the wolf is being chased by hounds belonging to some person or persons who has brought them there for that purpose and the wolf is shot and killed by some one of the crowd, then the man shall have \$26.50 and the wolfs pelt and the owner of the hounds \$51.50. This plan is advised by the subscribers of the reward. HOMER POWERS, Treas.

Buchanan “Blossom Brand Produce”

The Perry “Enterprise”, October 7, 1926

Large Poultry Plant To Be Located At Perry.

R.S. Buchanan to Erect Two Large Buildings on Railroad Grounds.

R.S. Buchanan, manager of the Blossom Brand Produce Co. at Center has had it under consideration for several weeks in locating a large poultry plant in Perry. A few nights ago while in conference with citizens in Perry stated he would locate a poultry plant in Perry, for the purpose of buying live fowls, eggs, sweet cream, hides and wool. Fowls will be fed for a time and dressed and shipped out in car load lots. Likewise eggs will be shipped by the car load. If weather permits, Mr. Buchanan expects to start the erection of two buildings on October 15th. One to be 100 x 100 ft. using brick and tile. This building is to be used as a refrigerating room. Also for ice plant and office rooms. The other building to be 100 x 180 feet for live fowls, feeding and dressing them for market. These buildings are to be erected on the railroad ground, west of the depot and facing the north. There will be a space of thirty feet between them with double railroad tracks for handling cars. Mr. Buchanan expects to have the buildings completed and equipped for business by May 1st. It will take 50 people to operate the plant, except in the Fall and Winter season when there is a heavy run on fowls, it will require as high as 150 men to pick and dress the fowls and load them out. Mr. Buchanan has done as high as a million dollars worth of business with his plant in a year at Center. He expects to spread out over a big territory, Perry being centrally located in a large territory for cream and produce of all kinds. He has been in the poultry business since boyhood and knows how to handle the business on a big scale. This business will be a big boost for Perry and the surrounding country. Perry people are very enthusiastic over the plant to be located here. Mr. Buchanan will find that the citizens of Perry and surrounding country will stand back of him in establishing the business and will assist him in every way. He has rented the J.E. Boulware property, which he and his family will occupy. At this time these are about all the facts we have as we did not have a personal interview with Mr. Buchanan. We will keep the people posted on the developments.

The Perry “Enterprise”, October 8, 1926

Packing Plant Building Beginning To Show Up.

The big force of men on one of the packing plant buildings is making a big showing. They have the foundation in for the 100 x 100 feet building to be built of tile. The grading for the railroad double track between the two large buildings is finished and the work men will begin this week to lay the track. Clay Roland, of Center who is superintending the work thinks the walls and roof will be completed in four weeks if the weather permits. R.S. Buchanan is anxious to get this building completed so that he can install the machinery. Lloyd Evans is drilling a deep well to secure the water for the ice plant, and refrigerating purposes. As soon as the workmen get this building completed another building will be erected, to be 100 x 180 feet. It will take lots of material to erect these buildings. Also giving employment to a large number of men. Something like

1200 loads of gravel will be used. Mr. Buchanan is moving this week to the J.E. Boulware property from Center.

**The Perry “Enterprise”, November 11, 1926
Plenty of Water at Packing Plant.**

The well being drilled by Lloyd Evans at the Blossom Brand Packing Plant site was finished one day last week. It was drilled to the depth of 112 feet where plenty of water was found. It flowed 20 gallons a minute and raised to within 21 feet of the top of the ground. Mr. Buchanan, manager of Blossom Brand Produce Co., estimated that the plant would use from 10 to 12 gallons a minute and was well pleased with the amount of water found. The crew spent five days in actual drilling and all of the 112 feet with the exception of 16 feet was through solid rock. The well is 8 inches in diameter.

**The Perry “Enterprise”, November 18, 1926
Wall Blown Down.**

About two-thirds of the north wall of the Blossom Brand Product Co. building being erected in Perry, was blown down by the heavy wind Sunday morning. The wall was laid up of tile, and had only been constructed a short time, and on account of the damp weather and the mortar not being dry the wind forced the wall out of line and it fell. The wall was a hundred feet long, and it is a considerable loss. The tile were not all damaged and most of them are being put back in the wall. It was quite a job to clean the mortar off the tile. The workmen have been unable to put in full time for a week on account of the heavy rains. If the weather continues pretty the balance of the week the walls will be completed and ready for the roof. After the roof is on and the windows put in, the concrete floors can be laid.

The Perry “Enterprise”, December 2, 1926

The Blossom Brand Produce Company's force has been working at top speed for the past two weeks dressing geese at the rate of a thousand a day. Two carloads of live geese were shipped in from Sedalia and Clarence as local receipts were not enough to meet the demand of the local plant. Several loads of dressed geese were shipped to the New York markets for the Thanksgiving market – three carloads going forward the first of the week. Picking and dressing is now going forward at a lively rate to supply the Christmas market. Manager R.S. Buchanan has a market for 75,000 geese alone and is doing his best to meet the demand. With the completion of the Perry plant now under construction the Blossom Brand concern will be in position to double their output and besides give employment to a much larger force of workmen –Center Herald.

**The Perry “Enterprise”, February 17, 1927
Blossom Brand Produce Co. Buys Mexico Plant.
Firm Name Will Be Changed.**

The W.L. Davenport Co., one of the most prominent cold storage and produce plants in North Missouri was purchased this week by our local company. One of the main objects of the Blossom Brand Produce Co. in finally deciding on Perry as its main place of business was on account of its central location, being 28 miles from Mexico and 32 miles from Hannibal. It also shortens the mileage by several miles to its several other stations on the C & A railroad. The deal for the Mexico plant has been pending for several months and was finally decided at their annual meeting of the Board of Directors recently.

Two large buildings are being erected in Perry. One building, which is 100 x 100 feet is about complete, in which the refrigerating machinery is being installed and it will also be used for office rooms. The foundation and basement for the other building has been put in, and as soon as the weather is suitable work will be started on erecting the building, which is to be 180 x 200 feet. With these large buildings and modern equipment Mr. Buchanan will be in shape to handle the produce and cream business of the entire territory surrounding Perry and will draw business from many other towns and their territory. Perry is fortunate in being favored with such an immense plant.

The Blossom Brand Co. will render Mexico and Perry the same good service that is now being carried out at its other points. It will establish sweet cream and egg routes through the country which will operate daily and on a regular schedule and will render the farmer a great service that has long been lacking.

The name of the corporation will be changed from Blossom Brand Produce Co. to R.S. Buchanan Co. Inc., but will continue to pack its products under the same widely advertised Brands as before.

The Perry "Enterprise", March 31, 1927 **R.S. Buchanan To Open The Poultry And Cream Plant Monday**

R.S. Buchanan has put his whole energy and mind on the erection of his large Poultry, Ice and Cream plant at Perry for several months. There has been some delay in receiving some machinery in equipping the ice plant but it will be in readiness for operation in a short time. Mr. Buchanan is working out detail work of the plant to receive poultry and cream, and will be ready for operation Monday. Have you looked the buildings over? If not, you have a surprise coming as you will find one of the largest poultry, cream and ice plants in the state. We shall have more to say in the future as we are crowded for time this week.

The Perry "Enterprise", April 7, 1927 **First Car Shipped Out By R.S. Buchanan Co.**

A car load of eggs was shipped out Tuesday and one on Wednesday by the R.S. Buchanan Co. poultry, produce and cream plant. Mr. Buchanan has a big announcement in this issue. Read it over. He is sparing neither time nor money in establishing the largest and most complete plant in Northeast Missouri. This plant will be one of the biggest drawing cards for this part of the State. It does not only represent Perry, but the entire country as an enterprise. While Perry is proud of the large plant, but does not lay

claims to it as solely a Perry institution. It belongs to the people in this part of the country as their marketing place.

The Perry “Enterprise”, May 12, 1927

Shipped A Car Of Dressed Poultry To New York.

R.S. Buchanan Company Shipped 8 Cars of Poultry and Eggs in One Week.

The R.S. Buchanan Co., Inc., is doing a big business shipping out eight cars of poultry, eggs and cream from its three plants, Perry, Center, and Mexico, to the market last week. The first car of dressed poultry ever shipped out of Perry was shipped to New York Friday. To give the public some idea as to the value and weight of a car of dressed poultry, there are 25,000 pounds in a refrigerator car and the value is around \$6,500. The ice used in the car is manufactured at the Buchanan plant in Perry. The people in this section of the country should look upon the business with appreciation and as to what it means to all to have a large plant such as the poultry plant is, at Perry. Also take into consideration the vast amount of money distributed for poultry, eggs and cream. To say nothing about the money paid out for wages. Not only men make good money in picking chickens, but a number of women and boys make money. The poultry and cream business of the country is bringing in thousands of dollars. Mr. Buchanan is a hustler and is certainly giving the people good services and his prices are right.

Perry Missouri “Enterprise” July 7, 1927

Large Poultry Plant at Perry

300,000 Pounds of Dressed Poultry and 70 Cars Eggs Shipped in 12 weeks

The R. S. Buchanan Poultry Plant located at the south edge of town has been operating about two and half months and in the time the volume of business done has increased greatly. The two large buildings afford ample space for carrying on all the work and this plant one of the largest in Northeast Missouri. All the different departments are functioning in an efficient manner and gaining in input all the time.

It is quite interesting and well worth anyone’s time to visit this plant and see how the work is carried on. In the poultry dressing room, which is 60X40, there are at present about 31 people employed in killing and dressing the fowls. They are first brought in on double racks, killed with a sharp steel instrument, dipped in hot water for an instant, and then hung up to be picked. Most of the fowls are brought in by truck and are taken care of in a large room outside the dressing room. This room has a capacity for 240 batteries where 30,000 head of birds can be fed at one time. When these batteries are full it looks as though all the chickens in the community are there and one is surprised that there are so many to be had at all times. This industry has assumed enormous proportions. Farmer who formerly had 100 to 200 chickens now have from 500 to 1,000. When this department is operated at full blast it requires six men to feed the chickens each day.

Both men and women pick the chickens and they have a modern, well-equipped place in which to work. There are baths and dressing rooms for both men and women. Mr. Buchanan says he does not know of another plant of this size in the State where these modern conveniences are provided. The greatest number of fowls that has been dressed in one day, so far is, 2,100, but from 4,000 to 5,000 can be dressed when the rush reason is

on. The most up-to-date and best-known methods of dressing the fowls are used and the Blossom Brand Products have an enviable reputation on the market.

After being picked the chickens are hung on cooling racks, holding 190 birds each. They are allowed to air and dry for 30 minutes and then they go into the cooling room, where the temperature is kept at about 36 degrees above zero. Here the heads are wrapped and they wait until the next morning when they are packed. The birds are packed in three different grades in wooden boxes, which contain 12 birds each. The boxes are all numbered in different classes so that one can tell exactly what is in the box without opening it. The packed boxes are then placed in the freezing room where the temperature is from 5 to 10 degrees above. The boxes are kept in the freezing room from 24 to 48 hours and thoroughly frozen. When they have a carload ready to ship they pack the boxes in an ice packed refrigerated car and started for New York City. The forth morning after leaving Hannibal the car reaches New York City. A car of dressed poultry at this time of year represents a value of about \$6,000.

The egg candling room is 12X40 and 14 candlers are employed to grade the eggs. This department has a maximum output of 600 cases per day. In this departments also, the most modern methods of packing the eggs are used. Formerly the eggs were placed in a cold room when received and then when candled were taken to a room of about 90 degrees. This caused the eggs to sweat. Now, at this plant, the work is all done under refrigeration. The eggs are kept before candling in a room at about 36 degrees and are candled in a room that is about 50 degrees above. The eggs are packed in three grades. Thirty dozen are put in a case and 400 cases fill a car. They are shipped out in car lots to New York City. Mr. Buchanan said about 360,000 dozens were shipped during the month of April and had an approximate value of \$72,000.

The sweet cream department is another of the big assets of the plant. This industry started from nothing at the opening of the cream business until at the present time \$750 is distributed each week in this community by this one firm for cream. Several farmers will install milking machines and increase their dairy herds as a result of this. Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon this industry as a moneymaker for the farmer. It pays a man well to buy good cows when getting his dairy herd because it costs just as much to feed a low producing cow as it does a high producer and the original cost is not much greater. The cows should be tested and the ones which are not profitable disposed of. Six cream routes are operated out of Perry and they are in charge of three drivers. These drivers deliver ice along their route as well as collect the poultry, cream and eggs.

The ice plant is a big asset for Perry just by itself and is the backbone of the plant. One could spend several hours just in this one department watching it operate. It has a capacity of 13 ½ tons in 36 hours and operates both day and night. A. I. Inlow and James Menefee are the men in charge of making ice. Most manufacturer ice used to have a slick taste and the odor of ammonia was very strong. Very few manufactures could get a good, clear cake of ice and people did not like to use the snowy ice for drinking purposes. The ice made at the Buchanan plant is made according to the new method and is pure and clear. It is made from perfectly filtered water with no taste or odor and is free of germs. All ice plants are adopting these modern methods and a plant recently installed in Hannibal cost \$70,000. It costs more to put in a plant of this kind but it pays in the long run.

The ice plant is run by one 40 horsepower motor, one 20 horsepower motor and three small motors. The water used is pumped from a well in Lick Creek near the bridge west of town. Eighty-eight cakes of ice are being frozen at a time and each cake weighs 300 hundred pounds. They are frozen in tanks surrounded by circulating salt water and ammonia pipes. These tanks hold 40 gallons of water and about three of them are usually filled in an hour. It takes about 28 hours to freeze a 300-lb cake. It is very interesting to watch the process of filling the tanks and pulling the ice. Air circulating through the tank of water aids in the freezing process. The ice when pulled is run down a slide into a room where it is stored until distributed in the community.

Seven trucks are operated from the plant to bring in the produce. Mr. Buchanan estimates that 300,000 pounds of dressed poultry and 70 cars of eggs have been shipped from this plant in the 12 weeks of operation. This plant is indeed a big asset to the town and community and everyone takes an interest in it.

The Perry "Enterprise" July 24, 1930 Aireator Installed at Buchanan Plant

R. S. Buchanan has installed at his poultry packing plant an aireator which is used to cool water in the refrigerating plant. During this extremely hot weather the refrigerating system was overtaxed and it was necessary to put in the aireator. The ammonia used in making the ice becomes very hot during the process and the water from the aireator tends to cool it before it is used again. A concrete vat holding 9000 gallons of water has been built. Water is pumped out of this vat into the refrigerating system at the rate of 100 gallons a minute. It circulates thru the system and then returns to the aireator where it is forced up about 35 feet to the top. From the top it drips down from one board to another back into the vat. There is a differential of 40 degrees in the temperature of the water at the top of the aireator and the water in the tank. The Buchanan plant

The Perry "Enterprise" November 6, 1930 16,000 Geese in feed pens here Are Fed Two Cars Corn a Week – Dress 1800 a Day

The goose population at the R. S. Buchanan Packing plant in Perry numbered over 16000 yesterday and there were more to come in. These geese have been coming in from various points in Illinois and Missouri for the past three weeks and it is by far the largest flock this firm has ever handled here for the Thanksgiving market.

The geese have been transported by trucks to the feeding, packing and shipping plant here. The company operates quite a fleet of motor trucks, some of them hauling as many as 950 head in one load. The five branch plants, at Center, Bowling Green, Laddonia, Mexico and Fulton, have bought up most of the geese.

11,000 of the geese are in pens at the plant, while the rest of them are in a pasture across Lick Creek from town. After being received here they are placed on a full feed ration to make them as fat as possible before dressing them for shipment. Last week they ate two car loads of corn. They are watched over both day and night, several men being required to feed and water those across the creek, besides the usual force at the plant. Bill Colliver has a tent pitched in the pasture and he takes care of them at night. Lafa

Nette hauls the water and feed to them, hauling 48 barrels of water Sunday. The big, long-necked birds make a beautiful sight to a person driving by the pasture, and a number have taken time to stop and look them over.

The market for the geese has been very good this year considering the price of other poultry, 12 cents having been paid during most of the buying period. The work of dressing the birds started Monday and approximately 1800 can be dressed in a day. One hundred people are employed in the entire plant, about forty being employed in the dressing room. After being dressed they are carefully packed for shipment. There are three different grades. The shipments to market will begin about the 14th and stop the 19th. The 16,000 live geese will dress out 8 cars and they will be shipped direct to New York.

New equipment has been added this year for the cleaning of the feathers which are a very important item. The feathers are washed in a large vat of a powder and boiling water, where the coop stain is entirely removed. They are then dried and sacked ready for sale. Two drying machines are operated one for the white and one for the gray feathers. It usually takes three geese to make one pound of feathers. The down which is very light and hard to handle, is the most valuable, being worth about \$3 a pound. The feathers are not sold until later in the year.

Perry Missouri, "Enterprise" February 26, 1931

947 Cars of Product Shipped From Perry In 1930

659 Carloads Incoming Products --- 434 Cars Material For Highways

The St. Louis & Hannibal Railway Company handled 947 cars of products from Perry to the outside world during the year just closed, and in some lines it handled more cars than in any previous year. The largest one single item was 345 cars of coal from this field, which was consumed by the railroad itself. The amount of this coal consumed by the railroad amounted to approximately \$42,000 for the community. The R. S. Buchanan Company was the next largest shipper with 216 carloads of poultry and eggs. This enormous total of product was secured from this immediate community and also from their various buying stations near here. The Buchanan shipments consisted of 1,553,874 of dressed chickens, totaling 80 cars; 378,218 pounds of dressed geese, totaling 19 car; 25,095 pound of dressed ducks, totaling 1 car; 46,658 cases of eggs, totaling 116, cars. Other products shipped were 6 cars if horses and mules; 62 cars of cattle and calves; 94 cars of hogs; 27 cars of sheep and goats; a total of 189 carloads of livestock. There were 186 loads of commercial coal shipped from the mines here; one car of lumber, and 110 cars of other forest products, principally walnut logs.

The incoming products, not including the shipments to various business men; consisted of 16 cars of cattle and calves to be fed; 3 cars of sheep; 3 cars of live poultry; one car of eggs; 2 cars of Anthracite coal; 22 cars of Bituminous coal; 19 cars of Iron and steel to be used in highway construction, 265 cars of gravel; 53 cars of sand; 71 cars of crushed stone; 26 cars of cement; and 169 car of corn, oats, hay, feed and flour.

An interesting and valuable part of these incoming products was the amount of material used in highway construction. There was a total of 434 cars of this material shipped in and used on the roads around Perry. The past year has been the best year in state road building we have had and we are grateful for it. The outgoing livestock was not nearly as great as is has been in past year. Some of the decrease was due to truck hauling

and some of it to scarcity of livestock on the farms. Taking it on the whole the railroad has enjoyed a very good business for Perry station. We are grateful to Mr. T. S. Clay, the agent here for many years for the above statistics.

The Perry Enterprise, November 26, 1931
Quincy-Herald Whig Says Much Activity in Perry
Coal Mines Are Busy While the Town's Largest Industry, the R.W. Buchanan
Company, Is Rushed to Supply the Eastern Markets With Dressed Poultry
By Fred J. Baldwin, State Editor, Quincy Herald-Whig

Perry, Mo., Nov. 22 – Depression is a word almost unknown in the dictionary used in Perry, an eastern Missouri town almost midway between New London and Paris on Highway 26. Especially at this season is activity at its height in this town, with its coal mines working to capacity to furnish both domestic and foreign trade with high grade Missouri coal for winter use and with the R.W. Buchanan company, the town's largest industry, working at capacity to furnish fat fowls for the holiday tables.

Perry is a town, slightly under a thousand in population and at this season of the year one-seventh of the entire population of the town is actively engaged in the Buchanan plant, one of the largest plants of its kind in eastern Missouri. Others in the town are either employed in the mines or are engaged in one of the many busy business houses in the town.

The Buchanan plant features its dressed poultry, which is all shipped to eastern markets but no small item is its byproducts of feathers, ice and produce.

Is Goose Season

The plant, which covers several acres, includes two buildings, one of the main office and the cold storage plant, and the other the poultry house and picking plant. Between the two plants is the company's switch track where the refrigerator cars are loaded and prepared for shipment to the eastern market. The plant also includes a large goose yard, where those fowls are fattened before they are dressed for market.

Picking of geese for the Thanksgiving market stopped last week but at the present time there are some 9,000 geese being fattened in the yard for the Christmas trade. They are being brought in at the rate of about 4,000 a day. These geese are fed a ration of cooked corn for two weeks before they are dressed. The management says that at one time there were as high as 20,000 geese in the yard at one time.

In the picking plant are some 12,000 chickens which are also fed for two weeks before they are ready for the pickers. Although picking of geese is limited to a certain season, chickens are picked the year around and at one time there were as many as 22,000 chickens in the pens of the yard.

Pick Many Chickens

Between 2,500 and 3,000 chickens are picked and prepared for shipping each day the plant is running full time. Between 1,500 and 2,000 geese can be picked in a day. The chickens or geese are taken to the picking room in rolling crates and from there are transferred one at a time onto an endless chain. There is one man whose job it is to stick and kill the fowls. From the sticker they travel through a vat of scalding water and on to the other side of the room. After leaving the pickers the fowls are put on racks for drying and are later taken into the cooler to be cooled and packed. About thirty pickers are employed.

The chickens are packed in boxes and the geese are packed in kegs. They are then placed in refrigerator cars which have been filled with ice from the plant. The plant ships from two to six cars of dressed poultry each week.

One byproduct of the plant which is of great importance and value are the feathers. One section of the upstairs of the picking plant is devoted to caring for feathers. There they are sorted, washed and dried. These feathers sell for as high as \$3 a pound. In the plant at the present time are about 1,600 pounds of feathers while about 20,000 pounds of feathers are stored in another building owned by the company in a nearby town.

Specialists Do Work

The plant is kept clean by a corps of workmen and the rooms where the chickens are kept do not have the appearance of an ordinary poultry house. Other groups supervise the feeding while still another group keeps the place disinfected in order to kill all disease germs and insects that may come in with each new load of poultry.

The plant employs between 125 and 140 persons and operates almost every working day in the year. The business is especially heavy at this time of the year because of the holiday trade, but even at other times in the year the plant is a busy place. Each man working for the company has his job. There is the office force, the feeders, the feather men, the cookers, the pickers, the truck men, the packers and the cold storage men.

The chickens are secured from western Illinois and eastern Missouri and most of the geese come from Illinois, in the vicinity of St. Louis. Most of the geese are hauled in in trucks. The company has four other stations aside from the plant in Perry. These stations are located at Center, Mexico, Fulton and Bowling Green. Trucks make the trip each day, bringing in more poultry to take the place of those killed and shipped out that day.

The Perry "Enterprise" November 5, 1931 15,000 Geese at Buchanan's

15,000 head of geese are being fed for market at the R. S. Buchanan Poultry Plant at Perry. For the past several weeks Mr. Buchanan has been busily engaged in buying and every day his trucks have come in loaded with big white and gray geese, the geese have been obtained from all the various buying station of the company in this section and other points in Missouri and Illinois. They seem to be as plentiful this year as ever and are

bring a very good price. The trucks went to Clay City and Ashley Illinois Monday evening for 2,500 head.

The dressing of the geese started Saturday and they are being prepared for the market at the rate of 1,500 a day. They will be shipped to New York for the Thanksgiving market.

The Perry "Enterprise" August 4, 1933
Shortline has a busy ten days

The Perry Branch of the St. Louis & Hannibal Railroad Company has had a rushing business during the past ten days. Between seventy and seventy-four trains, counting in and outgoing, have been over the tracks during that time. In one day there were as many as five coming in and five going out, a total of ten trains. So many extra trains have been run that we have been awakened at all hours of the night by the whistle and the bell and the switching of cars at the depot. Included in the business handled by the railroad has been 113 cars of gravel for highway construction work, 2 cars of live poultry and five cars of eggs and dressed poultry from the R. S. Buchanan Plant and five car loads of cattle by Judge M. T. Gill.

The Perry "Enterprise" October 19, 1933
Buchanan Plants employing 130 people

The R. S. Buchanan poultry packing plant in this city and their stations in neighboring towns are working more than their capacity and all together are employing one hundred and thirty person. In the plant here, there are one hundred and ten persons on the payroll, fifty-five of whom are in the picking room. The plant will give employment to many of our people now at a time when it is greatly needed and appreciated.

Geese are beginning to roll into the local plant by the thousands, the first truck being brought in from Illinois Friday. All together five loads have come in so far. Mr. Buchanan expects to have ten car loads dressed and ready for the Thanksgiving market.

The Perry "Enterprise"
Buchanan Building New Wareroom
Will Establish Routes; Deliver feed, Flour and Ice

The R. S. Buchanan Company is wrecking a two-story frame and iron clad building they own at Center and are removing it to Perry, where they will construct an iron clad wareroom size 32 by 100 feet on ground just east of their present building. The new wareroom is to be used for the concentration of car lots of feed and flour, which will be distributed to all of the company's other plants for resale.

It is understood from reliable sources that the Buchanan Company will place in service truck routes out of most of their stations, including Perry, and will deliver feed, flour and ice direct to the farmers, and will at the same time gather up eggs, poultry and other kinds of produce. The company is a present handling approximately two cars of feed and flour weekly through their Mexico and Fulton plants and it is the idea of the

company to bring all car lots of feed and flour into Perry and to distribute and retail a general line in all their houses.

They also plan to establish a new plant at Wellsville and it is understood that Orville Mabry, who has been bookkeeper for the company for the past several years, will be in charge of the new plant.

Other improvements at the local plant will be made in the refrigeration department. The demand for Perry ice has increased to such an extent that this company is doubling their ice-making capacity.

Glenn Martin, who has been salesman for the A. W. Willams store for several years, has resigned his position and will be placed in charge of establishing truck routes and will also have charge of the purchasing and warehousing of the feed and flour.

The company held their annual meeting at the Hoxey Hotel in Mexico, Tuesday, February 6th with all managers of the different plants present.

The Perry "Enterprise" November 22, 1934 Picking 1000 chickens an Hour at Buchanan Plane

The busiest place we have seen lately was the R. S. Buchanan plant Tuesday when about 1000 leghorn hens were being picked an hour. Monday afternoon the feeding room was filled to capacity, about 20,000 chickens being ready for killing. Tuesday morning an extra force was put on, about 70 pickers working and over 80 others being employed in various tasks about the room. The conveyor was for a while carrying one chicken on each hook, about 500 an hour for the pickers, but this amount kept too many pickers waiting in line; so two were put on each hook, thereby doubling the number being handled. It kept two men busy putting the chickens on the hooks, one busy killing, six busy roughing.

The plant has also been very busy with geese and thousands have been prepared for market.

The entire second floor of the dressing and feeding plant is devoted to the business of caring for the feathers. A new machine has been installed for separating the goose quills from the feathers and it is proving very satisfactory. Feathers from 12,000 geese have already been shipped.

The packing of the geese is very interesting. Mr. Buchanan takes great pride in putting his products on the market in the very best condition possible. On each goose is tied an attractive tag bearing the Blossom Brand trade mark. The ribbon also has the firm name printed on it. These marks assure the customers of quality and dependable products and make them more readily sold. After all the geese are packed in a box lined with paper, a large sheet of parchment paper with the trade mark printed on it, is placed where it will be the first thing seen when the box is opened.

There are well over 150 employed at the plant now.

Perry Missouri "Perry Enterprise" August 26, 1937 Most Disastrous Fire In Perry History \$126, 000 Damage In Fire At R. S. Buchanan Plant Tuesday Night

Fire caused damage estimated at \$126,000 broke out in the feeding room of the Buchanan Company plant here Tuesday night about 11:45 and swept through the story and a half frame building and into the hollow tile building to the north of it which housed the offices, ice plant, cold storage rooms and egg candling departments. The cause of the fire is unknown and when it was first discovered, had gained tremendous headway in the feeding room. A. L. Inlow, night man at the plants, turned in the alarm and among those first at the fire were C. W. Goodin, Merl Long and F. C. Faw.

The Perry fire department responded to the call and fought the fire valiantly, being able to save the mill and feed buildings, with the assistance of the Hannibal and Paris fire departments.

This is the most disastrous fire in the history of Perry. It eliminates for the time being, the biggest patron of the Shortline and the municipal light and water department and most important of all it eliminates our biggest payroll, the principle factor in the last eleven years in the growth and progress of Perry.

Needless to say Mr. Buchanan, his family, the officers of the company and the employees have the sympathy of the people of the community in this great loss and hope is expressed on every hand that the plant will be rebuilt immediately. Mr. Buchanan, Glen Martin and Jim Carter was busy this Wednesday morning trying to make arrangements for the handling of the produce which the company had on hand.

The loss includes the story and a half frame building 200 X 300 feet in size, on the south part of the ground need for the feeding of the chickens, picking department, storage and handling of feathers and egg case making department: the hollow tile building, 200 X 250 feet, housing the ice plant, offices, cold storage rooms for poultry, eggs and ice, and the egg candling department, a car of dressing poultry in the cold storage room, the value of which was estimated at \$3,000, and which would have gone over the Shortline this morning; 50 batteries or 5,000 head of live poultry in the feeding room; two storage box cars which were filled with egg case supplies; one truck' all ropes, truck racks and tarpaulins used on the trucks.

Saved from the fire was the feed mill and plant, a galvanized meal building; most of the records out of the front office; box cars used for storage near the mill; practically a car of eggs; and all of the truck except one.

Nearly everybody in town and surrounding country came to the fire. Cars from the country were parked clear to the top of Church Hill. Reports have come in that the fire could be seen for distances of twenty miles around.

The two ammonia tanks of the refrigeration system exploded, the largest was under 800 pounds pressure. It blew the four by four beams over it clear down into the Martin pasture, a distance of 250 feet, and the cap off of it landed clear down by the stock pens, 450 feet to the south.

S. M. Ross, who delivers ice over town, was on his route as usual this morning, ice being salvaged from the storage room, where the fire was beat down by the fire fighters as quickly as they could get to it.

The members of the Hannibal department responding to the call were Chief Elmer Miller, assistant Chief Dennis Mahoney, Clark Bush, and Milton Druell. Their equipment was a powerful outfit. They made the run out here which is 30 miles or better over a ten mile detour, in 40 minutes. They have the thanks and appreciation of the company and the community for their aid.

Jim Hohimer, Roy Powers and Freddy Branham bought the Paris fire truck over and aided greatly in putting out the fire. We appreciate their interest and cooperation.

Mr., Buchanan, estimates his loss at \$126,000 about forty per cent of which was covered by insurance. His loss is keenly felt by the whole community.

The R. S. Buchanan Company came here from Center eleven years ago this December, their plant covered about three acres of ground and its one of the best known poultry plants in the state. It ranks as one of the most modern and as one of the largest shipper in the Middle West. The plant employed a minimum of 50 men and women and a maximum of 140. Besides the home plant here, the company operated thirteen buying stations in other nearby towns.

The trucks were gotten away from the fire by Merl Long and C. W. Goodin, who not having keys to them drove them by using the starter. One of them was inside the building and was loaded with feed.

Old Bill, the pet goose, which had had the run of the plant for eleven years, lost his life in the fire. He was 2 year old when Mr., Buchanan got him and he stayed all the time in the feeding room. His death brought sorrow to all the plant force.

The Perry fire fighters deserve a lot of commendation for the way they fought the fire. There was plenty of water thanks to our municipal water system and the boys did a wonderful job considering the equipment with they had to work.

Some one reported it took 50 minutes for the fire to spread from the feeding room, where it started to the other building.

The company has estimated temporary offices at the Home Telephone Company and Mr., Carter has moved his books to his house.

Perry "Enterprise" March 24, 1938

Buchanan Building Ice Plant

The R. S. Buchanan Company started rebuilding Monday morning when work was started on a new ice plant. The building will be 60 by 100 feet, tile on the east and front sides and drop siding on the west and rear. This was done so that additions can be made on the two sides. The new ice plant will have double the capacity of the old one. Clay Roland, of Center, is the foreman on the job.

A new feature of the plant will be the installation of a cold storage locker room which will be rented to customers. The locker room will contain 50 lockers size 24x27x30 inches. These lockers will be most convenient for customers who want to keep meats and other perishable foods.

We are mighty glad to see the work start on the ice plant as it is a much needed community enterprise and we hope that Mr. Buchanan will soon add other units to his buildings.

The Perry "Enterprise" April 6, 1939

Buchanan Starts Turkey Farm

R. S. Buchanan last week began the construction of a building in which to brood and raise turkeys in large quantities for the coming season. Mr. Buchanan expects to raise

and handle approximately 9000 turkeys. Eggs have been purchased and are now being hatched.

This building being constructed is 120 feet long by 50 feet wide and is composed of 8 pens with sun porches. The building formerly used by the R. S. Buchanan Co. mill is also being remodeled to provide six pens for turkeys. The rear portion of the mill will be used for mixing and grinding feed and the manufacture of the Blossom Brand mashes as in the past.

A farm of 120 acres has been rented on which to range the turkeys after they attain an age when they can be taken from the brooder pens. This farm is northwest of Perry and is considered an ideal place for turkeys.

Mr. Buchanan expects to personally supervise this turkey project and will devote most of his time to it.

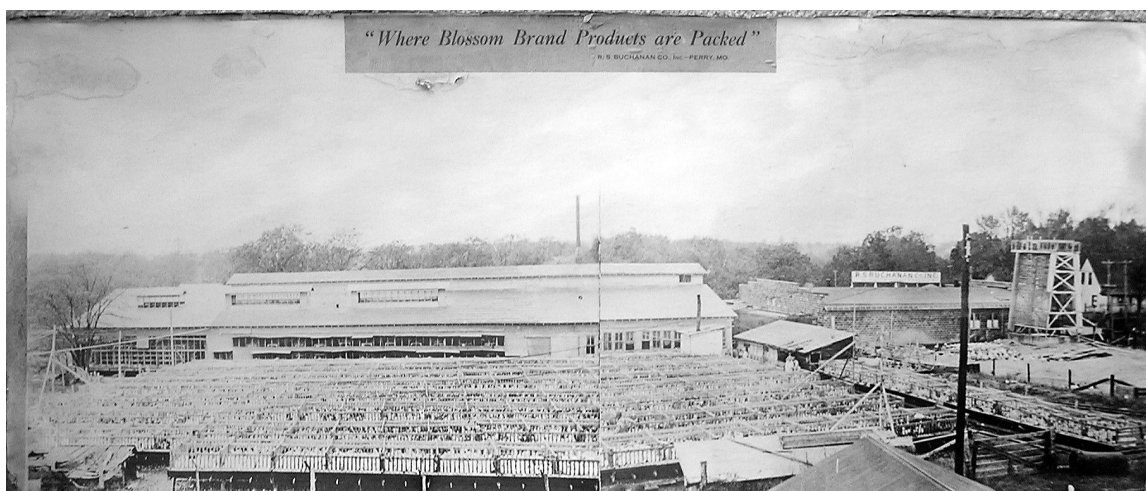
Another building will be constructed during the summer and early fall to house picking equipment. The complete design and arrangement of this building has not been made.

At the present time Mr. Buchanan intends to use the turkey buildings for production of chicken broilers as soon as the turkeys are ready for the range. Geese will also be fed and picked as in the past.

At the present time the building under construction has been framed and men are now installing wire petitions between pens. It is located where the old feeder building was and the sun porches extend along the west side. The outside walls of the building consist entirely of doors which may be opened up to provide an abundance of light and ventilation.

Pens have already been installed in the remodeled mill building and the ceiling has been lowered to facilitate easier heating and the sun porches are now being constructed. Seven large brooder stoves have been purchased from Erdel & Nagel for use in the buildings. Approximately 20 car loads of feed will be required for the turkeys alone.

The people of this community are very much interested in this new project and it will give employment to a large number of people when operation reaches its peak.





R. S. Buchanan Plant Perry Missouri

Past — Future



We are happy to have the opportunity of communicating with our many patrons and friends through the HISTORY OF RALLS COUNTY.

As most of you know, RALLS COUNTY is the home of BLOSSOM BRAND PRODUCTS, and we owe much to the people of RALLS COUNTY for our growth. We hope our products and manner of serving you have been worthy of your loyal support.

While this interesting little booklet brings us visions of RALLS COUNTY'S past history, and our past activities make up only a small part of it, let us, and all of us, hope our foundations are so well established as to make RALLS COUNTY'S future history one our future generations will look upon with pride.

To help you build for the future let us remind you to use—

BLOSSOM EGG MASH—

For More and Better Eggs.

BLOSSOM CHICK MASH—

For Better Chicks.

BLOSSOM GROWING MASH—

For Better Developed Chicks.

BLOSSOM DAIRY RATION—

For Better Milk Production

BLOSSOM FLOUR—For Better Baking

R. S. Buchanan Co. Inc.

PHONE 21

PERRY, MO

ANNOUNCEMENT!

WE wish to take this opportunity to thank the many friends and supporters of the movement which made it possible for our company to locate in the city of Perry and it is with the deepest feeling of gratitude that we accept the many hand shakes of loyalty and words of praise and encouragement, and we wish you to know that our entire institution is at your service—our doors are always open to visitors and you may feel perfectly welcome to inspect the plant from basement to sky light at any time.

We wish also to announce that your interests are our interest and we are here for the purpose to help and advise to the extent of our knowledge in working out some of the problems that frequently occur in the handling of flocks and the care of cream. Infact our plant is built for a home institution, to serve you and to help you in any way in the line of our work.

Our Route System

For several days we have had some men over the territory gathering information for the purpose of Starting Routes. The first question you will ask possibly is why do we run Routes—we will try to answer that for you as we want you to become thoroughly familiar with the inner systems and ideas of our plant.

The first reason is Sweet Cream. We want Sweet Cream and the only way to get it is to go to your door and get it. It pays you more for the little extra attention—so why not?

The second reason is Fresh Eggs in Hot Weather—and the only way we can get really Fresh Sweet Bodied Eggs in hot weather is to go to your door every day. As a rule in hot weather is when you are the busiest and you can not afford to leave your work to bring in a few eggs. Route Eggs are put up under our Top Brand and we are able to get a premium for them, that is why we can pay our door price on our routes for your eggs.

We are endeavoring to Route our trucks so that everyone will get this service and if you have any suggestions to offer concerning the routing of our trucks we would be glad to hear them as no doubt they would be of help to us. After these Routes are established we expect them to run as near on schedule as possible each day and you can help us in this matter by always having your stuff ready for the driver.

System of Paying

We have one price only to our customers, you get the same on the routes as you do at our door. A ledger account is kept of each customer's produce and at your option we will phone your produce to your favorite trading place and you can get the money on it there on the trade price just as you like or you may come into our office any time you are in town and get your money. Always tell the Route driver how you wish it handled or phone the office. ALWAYS GET A BILL from the driver and SEE THAT IT IS CORRECT.

Tell Us

We expect the drivers of these routes to be courteous, obliging, accurate and honest and we will deem it a favor if you will tell us anything that happens otherwise.

Our plant is now open for business with the exception of the Ice Department and we expect to have that operating in two or three weeks.

Sweet Cream is a Large Factor in Our Industry

We are glad that we are so situated and have the connections that enable us to buy Sweet Cream as it is an extra profit for you and we hope that our daily truck service will induce you to do more milking. Sweet Cream is something that pays an income three hundred and sixty-five days in the year and with the proper herds and attention will show a big profit twelve months in the year. If any of you are interested in starting into the dairy business or increasing your herds, we would be glad to talk the matter over with you and may possibly be of some help. Remember this—that one common cow or "boarder" eats up the profits of two good and paying cows.

Ice on The Routes

Ice on the cream routes is an exceptional service. From what we can learn Ralls County is the only County in the State that will have this service. Our Route drivers will deliver you ice on order at 75c per hundred and this charge will be deducted from your produce or otherwise settled for at your pleasure.

Cream Buckets

In picking up cream it is necessary that you have containers that will not turn over and spill. We mention this for the simple reason that syrup buckets, jars and other such containers are totally unfit for route purposes as Sweet Cream is precious and should be cared for. We propose to furnish cans to our customers only. Extra heavy 2 and 3 gallon regular jug mouth Buckets with inner fitting chain tops at cost which will be about \$1.90 for the 2-gallon size and \$2.15 each for the 3-gallon size. Ask the Route Man to see them.

Tribute to the Hen and Cow

In some sections and at some homes the man is always too busy yes, too busy, or tired or perhaps disinterested to help the Lady of the House in some of her work in caring for the chickens or cream or separator or what not. But did you ever stop to think who pays the doctor, the grocery bill, the tobacco bill, the show tickets, the clothing for Lady and youngsters and possibly Dad, and who buys Santa at Christmas and who oils and greases Lizzie and pays her repairs. Do you think we are far wrong when we say that about ninety per cent of this is supplied by our faithful feathered friends and old Boss who work seven days each week and never tire.

R. S. Buchanan Co., Inc.

PERRY, MISSOURI

The Perry Enterprise
PERRY, RALLS COUNTY, MISSOURI, _____????

T O T H E P U B L I C

As stated in last week's issue of The Enterprise we will begin Dec. 1st to buy Eggs on a graded basis. We believe this is the only fair way as those who produce good quality eggs are entitled to a premium over and above those who produce common quality and dirty eggs. Be sure and call us for prices, and you will realize it will pay you to take care of your eggs and sell them on a grade.

CREAM . . CREAM

We will be equipped to handle your Cream in a few days and we believe it will pay you to bring it to us.

O U R M I L L

Will be in position to sell you Poultry Mash, Feed, Flour, Oyster Shell, Salt and in fact most everything in this line at very attractive prices. You must visit us to be assured of this.

**Our Phone Numbers are [OFFICE 101
[MILL 102**

**R. S. Buchanan Co. Inc.
PERRY, MISSOURI**

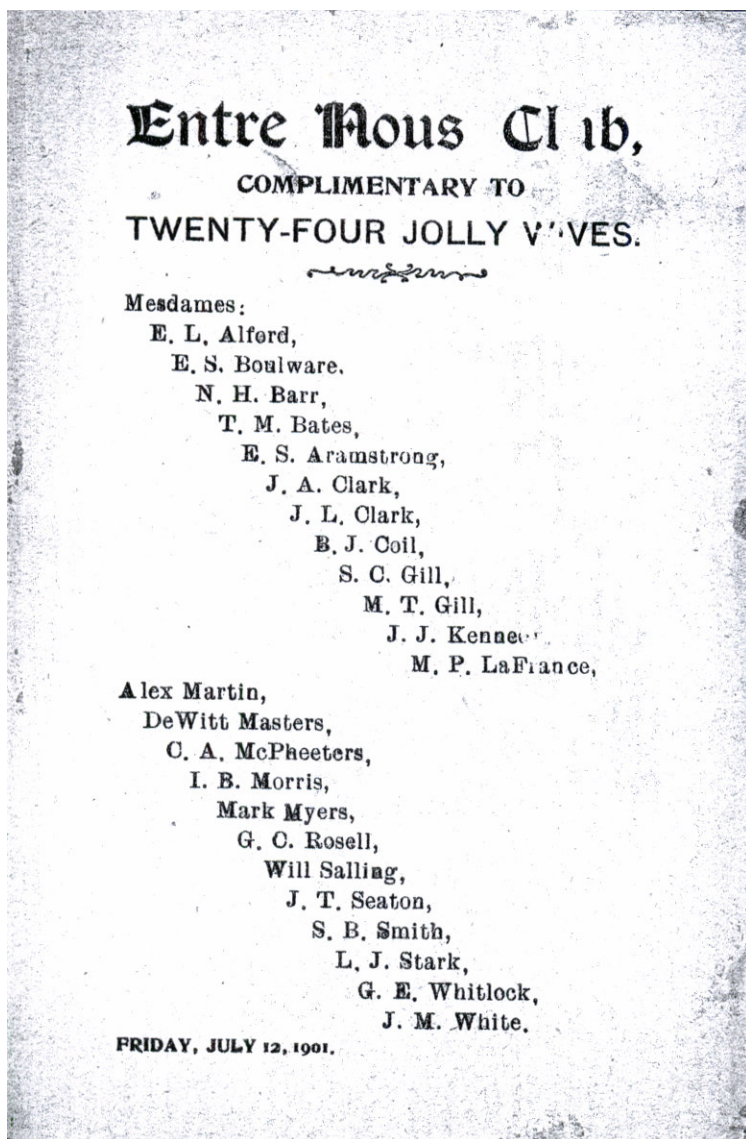
History Of The Entre Nous Club;

(Written by Mrs. Nell Bledsoe, and read at the Club, September 24, 1965)

The Entre Nous club was organized in the home of Mrs. Lou Smith (Where Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Greening live now.), on January 20, 1900. Mrs. Smith was the first president with G. W. Whitlock as the first secretary. The committee to write the constitution and by-laws was Alice Armstrong, Mrs. Sallie Clark and Mrs. Ollie Bates. The object of the club was for the advancement of knowledge in literature and the promotion of sociability among the members. Meeting time was to be the first and third Friday of each month, hostesses to serve in alphabetical order. A maximum membership of twenty-four married ladies was maintained. Each year the programs are printing in year books in the club colors of old gold and black. The club flower was the chrysanthemum and the club song was "The Old Gold and the Black". The motto was "We'll shine in more substantial honors. And to be noble, we'll be good.

Charter members were: Mrs. E. L. Alford, Mrs. E. S. Armstrong, Mrs. N. H. Barr, Mrs. T. M. Bates, Mrs. John Bledsoe, Mrs. Stark Boulware, Mrs. J. L. Clark, Mrs. B. J. Coil, Mrs. S. C. Gill, Mrs. J.J. Kennedy, Mrs. M.P. LaFrance, Mrs. A. H. Martin, Mrs. DeWitt Masters, Mrs. C. A. McPheeter, Mrs. I. B. Morris, Mrs. M. P. Myers, Mrs. W. R. Netherland, Mrs. Will Salling, Mrs. J. T. Seaton, Mrs. S. B. Smith, Mrs. L.J. Stark, Mrs. G. C. Roselle, Mrs. Gene Tomlinson and Mrs. G. W. Whitlock

On February 6, 1920, the club met with Mrs. B. J. Coil to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Mrs. Coil had prepared reminiscence of the past twenty years which was very interesting, pathetic also laughable. Many coincidences were brought out. The favorite style of dress was the Mother Hubbard. The young members enjoyed hearing of old times.



1901 Entre Nous Club card



1908 Perry MO Corn Carnival



Perry MO Entre Nous Club date unknown



Perry MO Entre Nous Club circa 1930; Back row left to right; Mrs. D. T. Tice, Mrs. Dewitt Masters, Mrs. Charles Woods, Mrs. J. C. Roselle Mrs. J. R. Jones, Mrs. (Ivy) Waterston, Mrs. Nellie Bledsoe, Unknown, Mrs. C. S. Jackson, Mrs. Lamar Utterback, Mrs. Lloyd Amy English, Mrs. R. P. Poage, Mrs. Margaret Painter, Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. J. F. (Ruth) Crockett Front Row left to right; Mrs. M. V. Davis, Mrs. M. P. Myers, Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. B. J Coil.



Perry MO Entre Nous Club 50th Anniversary February 20, 1950 at Mrs. Masters

BACK ROW: Left to right; Ivy Waterston, Lida Alford, Edith Ely, Kitty Allen, Mrs. Earl Smith and Mrs. Paisley. MIDDLE ROW: Left to right; Ruth Crockett, Nellie Bledsoe, Abbie Osgood, Alma Masters, Margaret Cope Judy, Lula Martin and Nora Gill. FRONT ROW: left to right; Laura Jones, Amy English, Lena McElroy, Alice Gill, Berta Myers and Grace Woods.

Threshing in Ralls County



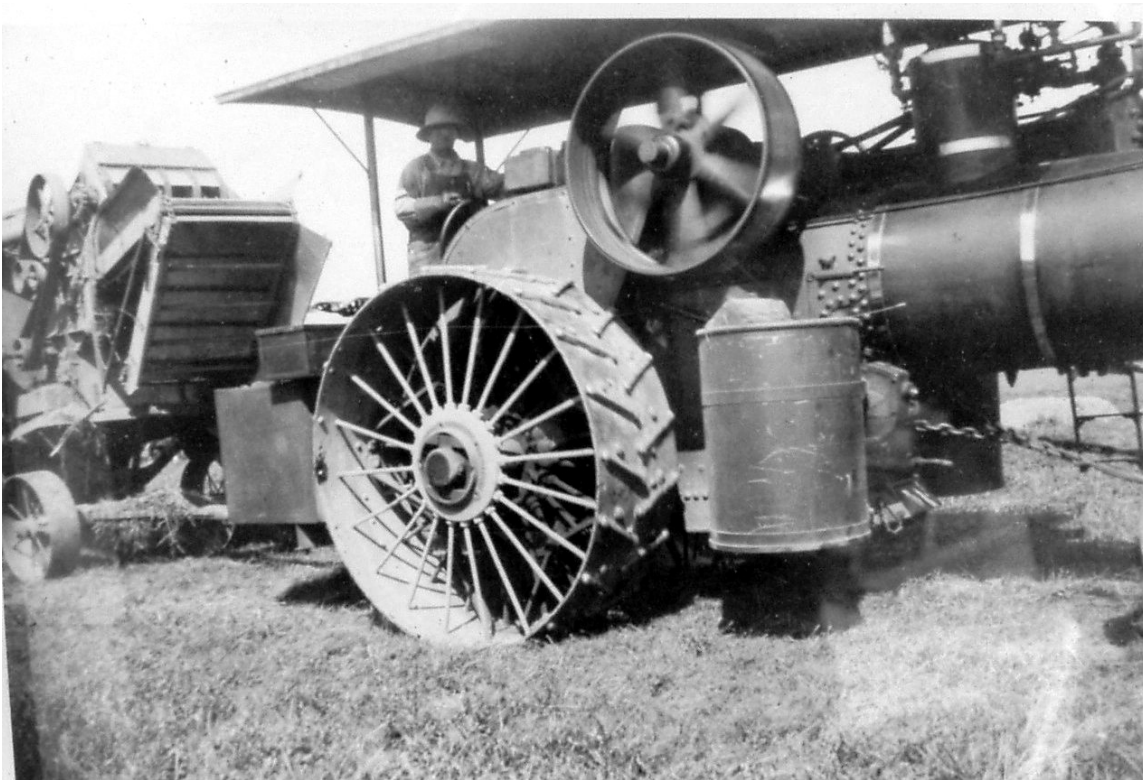
Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #1)



Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #2)



Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #3)



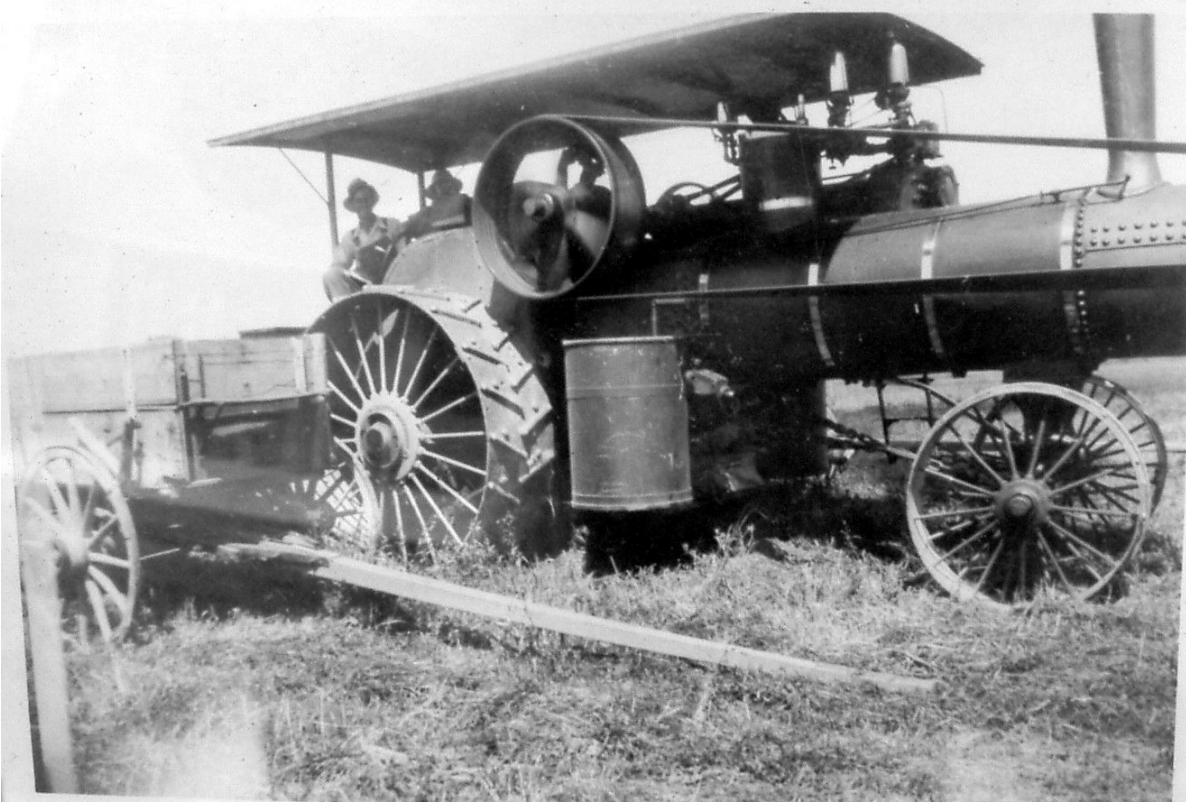
Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #4)



Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #5)



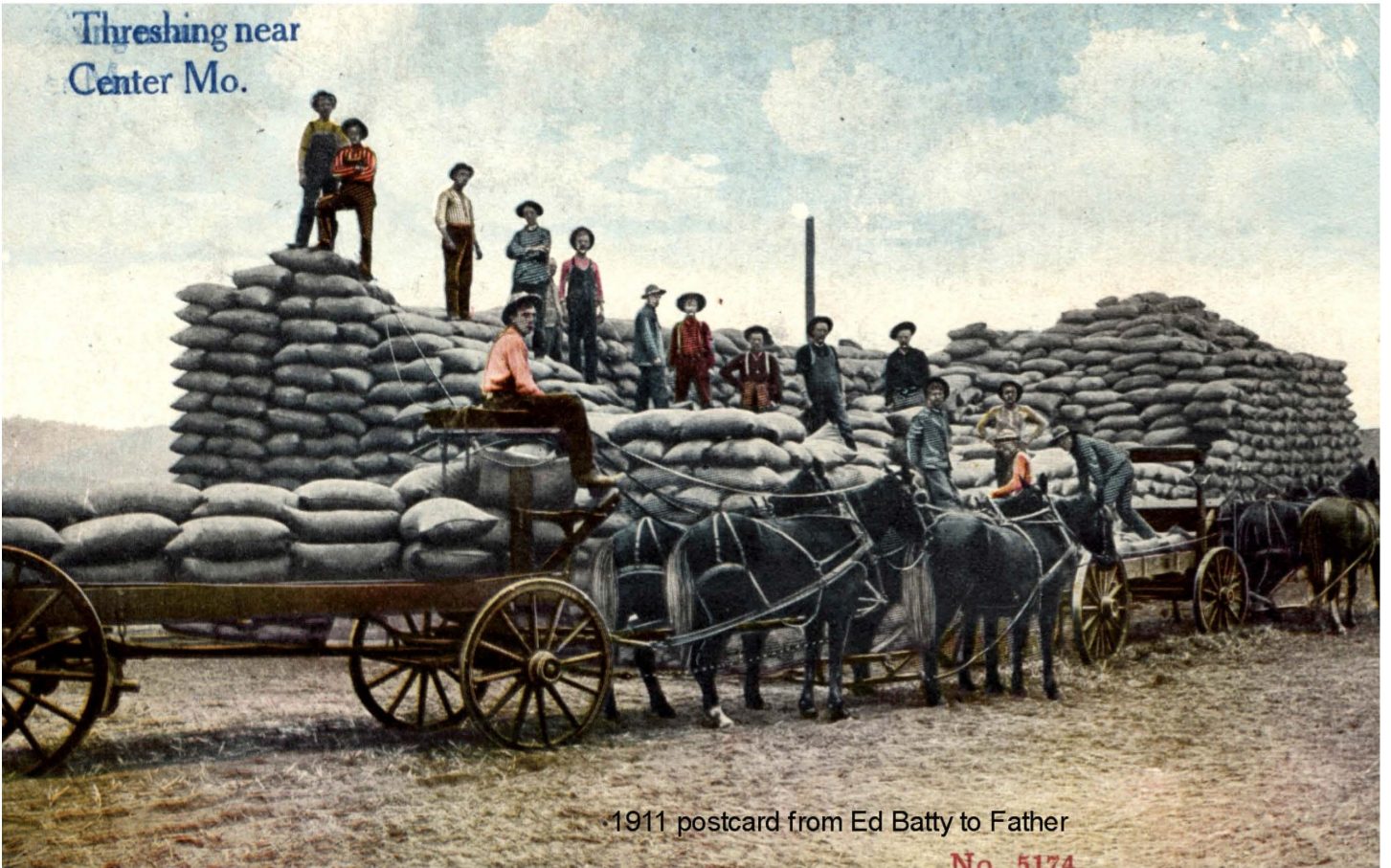
Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #6)



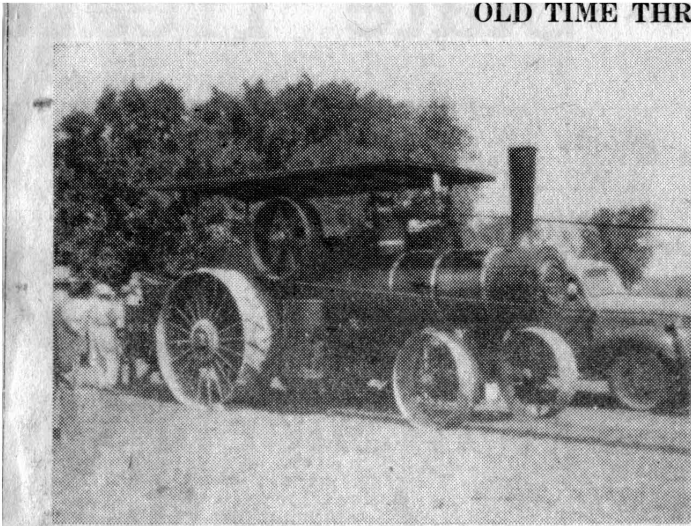
Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulsephoto #7)



Shulse brothers, Pete and Dee threshing on the Omer Norton Farm in 1936 (Davis Shulse photo #8)



OLD TIME THRESHING SCENES



The above pictures were taken at steam engine at the Henry Shulse farm north of Center. H. D. Shulse, Henry Shulse and son, Bill, were the operators of the threshing machine and separator and they were assisted by many old timers.

—B. E. Shepard Photos

Old Threshers Day

July 1983

By Leta Justus

Early in the day the separator was maneuvered into the proper position, the engine puffed, the whistle blew and the Old Fashion Threshing Day was underway Saturday at the farm home of Bill and Virginia Shulse of rural Center.

It was over 100 years, in 1870 that an engine and separator were first purchased at the Shulse farm by the late Henry Shulse where his granddaughter and great grandson now reside. That first engine was horse powered but the fourth engine and fifth separator were in use Saturday. With the coming of the new combines more than 30 years ago the engine was put to rest in 1952 with the final threshing season. Pete, Henry and H.D. Shulse were the last to operate the route.

Crews in those days were made up of the engine operator, the pitchers, bundle wagon men, the water wagon, the straw-stacker, the grain wagons and the water boy to keep things running smoothly. The water boy usually had two brown jugs wrapped in burlap and kept wet to keep the water cool as he rode his horse to the men in the fields.

While the men stood about Saturday remembering the



THE SMALL BARN THRESHER has been restored by Ralph Levings of Madison which he will give to the museum at Mt. Pleasant, Ia. next month. It was once operated by horse power walking a treadmill. (Photo-Leta Justus)

good old days and the hard work, the women were doing a bit of reminiscing on their own. They worked equally hard keeping the crews fed.

Christine Strode said, "Sometimes there were those who seemed to fall in with the crew at dinner time and found their way to the dinner table

though they didn't actually belong and you weren't ever sure how many there would be to feed." Hettie Yager spoke up and said, "Something is missing, where are the flies? Remember how we would break limbs from the trees to shoo the flies?" Mary Milam chimed in, "And the

pies, remember how we always baked 12 to 15 pies each day?" She continued, "It was beef, country ham and sometimes chicken and dumplings on the menu." Mrs. Strode remembered that on an especially hot day, the beef would be cooked in a black iron kettle outside to keep

down the heat indoors.

Something else had changed Saturday. The crews were always fed at the dining table, sometimes taking several seatings before all were fed and then the women ate. The food last week was served from three long tables on the lawn but the usual good pies, cakes, ham, fried fish and other such hearty dishes were there.

Someone remembered the story of the young lady who was waiting on the table one day and after passing the beef started the gravy around to be served on the mounds of mashed potatoes on each plate only it turned out to be freshly made applesauce and they chuckled, "There were some surprised looks but nobody said a word, they just ate the potatoes with the applesauce for gravy."

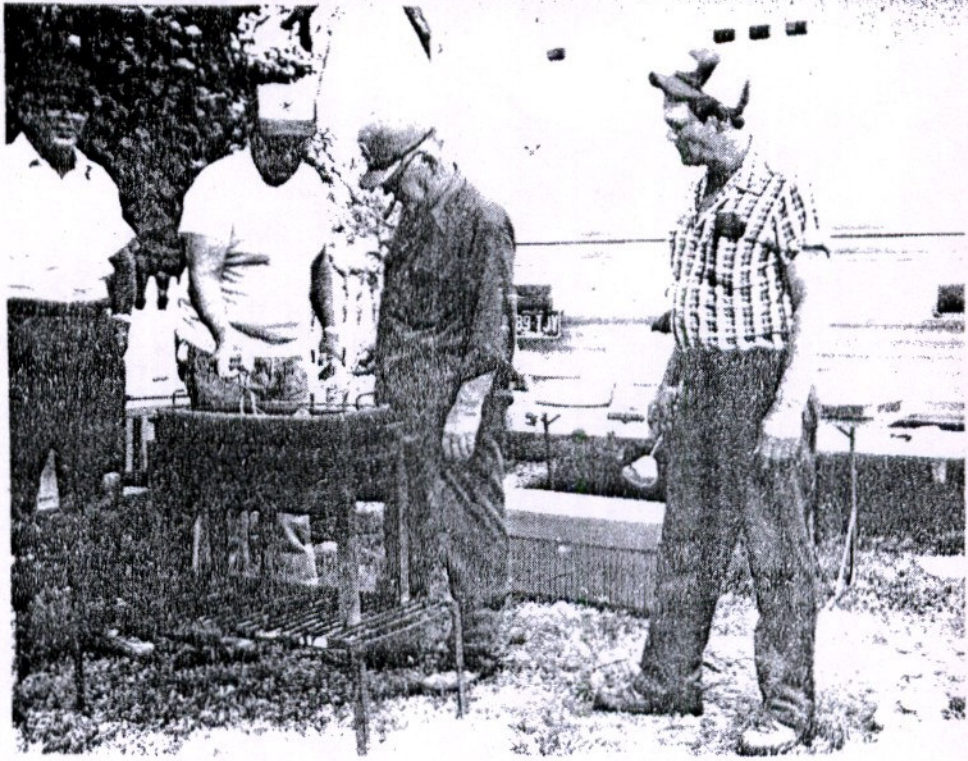
By then it was dinner time and Virginia Shulse stepped to the dinner bell in the yard and the peal rang out signaling the men in the field that dinner was ready.

Just as in the old days the wash tub filled with water was at the end of the bench which held the soap and wash pans with the towels hanging on the fence for the crew to wash up before they ate.

Mrs. Milam had said earlier, "Every cook tried to outdo the other cook each day and we always had too much to eat." Apparently the same was true for the feast Saturday with the fried fish and every good thing to go with it. Something else had changed and women's lib had entered the picture. The men fried the fish with Clark Keithly, George Ely Lane, Marvin Hodges and Brooks Paris proving their skills as cooks.

Gallons of iced tea went along with the meal which was partially carried in by those attending.

There were several standing rules in those days and each farm host was expected to abide by them. The engine operators stayed overnight, were given breakfast by 4 a.m. and the men went out to get ready for the day. Each host was expected to serve



WOMEN'S LIB TAKES OVER when Clark Keithly, Brooks Paris, Marvin Hodges and George Ely Lane fry the fish at the threshing day dinner. (Photo-Leta Justus)

More Photos on Page 2

food that was suitable for the hot weather since there was little, if any, refrigeration and if they finished threshing on a job by 11 a.m. one was still expected to feed the crews. One day a host farmer offered 18 pounds of lunch meat but many were reluctant to eat it for fear of spoilage.

When the noon meal was over Saturday everyone went to the field where the threshing began in earnest just like in the old days. Mrs. Christine Strode said, "There was always at least one run-a-way team every year. They would become frightened by the whistle or the belt running and sometimes a team had to be led into place after the belt was stopped."

If a farmer planned to store his grain at home he carefully looked over his bins and if necessary nailed up any holes to keep rodents out. If he chose to ship the grain then he took it to Owensdale, a little

place located half way between Center and Perry on the Shortline railroad. Extra grain cars were added on the train each year to load the grain.

In the field Saturday was a barn thresher which was restored this past winter by Ralph Levings of Madison. Mr. Levings said, "We found this in an old barn near Mt. Pleasant, Ia. last fall when we were there to attend the Old Threshers meet. I brought it home to work it over and will take it back next month when we again attend the meet and will leave it at the museum there." He continued, "I understand the thresher was put in the loff and was run by two horses walking a treadmill on

the ground below. The belt was run from the treadmill through the loft floor and the thresher to keep it operating."

Also in the field was a small engine and separator owned by Herb Kuntmeyer of Palmyra. Dean Shellhouse of Fairfield, Ia. ran the Shulse engine while Bill Shulse and Mr. Levings kept the whole operation running smoothly.

A large crowd attended from over the area and nearby states. Perhaps Damon Shulse traveled the farthest to attend, coming from LaMesa, Calif. He was among the many Shulse decendants who enjoyed the day visiting with neighbors and friends.



THRASHING PROGRESSES AS THE bundle wagon moves into place and the pitchers toss the bundles into the separator. (Photo-Leta Justus)



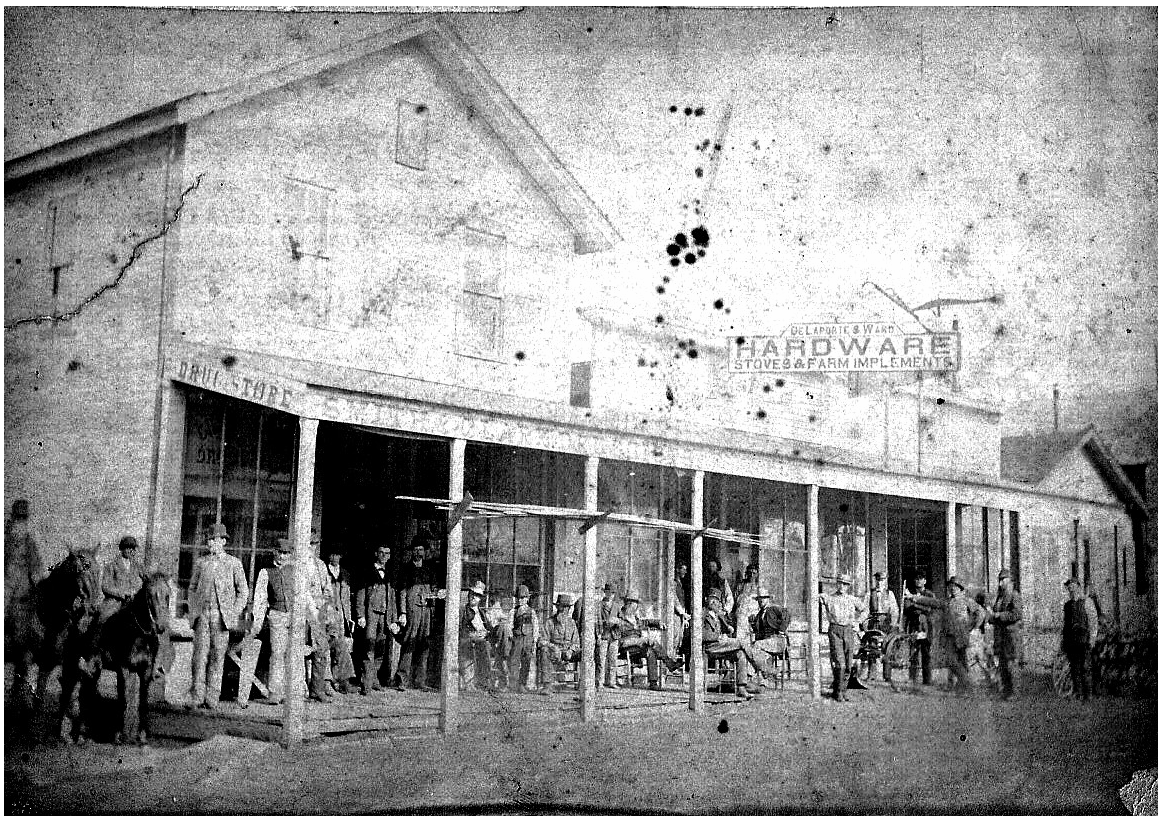
RALPH LEVINGS OF MADISON and Bill Shulse wash up for dinner watched closely by one of the Shulse mules. (Photo-Leta Justus)

History Perry MO Telephone service

In the early eighteen eighties a hardware store operated on Palmyra Street about where the Arlington House Antiques now stands. It went by several names, (other names Ward, Barr and Hickman) but John C. DeLaporte was connected with the store it seems the person who is credited with the first phone service in Perry.

Perry Mo Enterprise

The Chicago & Alton railroad came through this section and a branch of the Perry store was started at Laddonia. Mr. DeLaporte moved to Laddonia in the early 80's to take charge of the store there. After a few years he became sole owner of both stores. He was one of the pioneers in the telephone business. First there was a **vibrating phone** connecting the store and the homes of the owners. In **1883**, finding a need for better communication a **magneto telephone** line was built connecting the store at Perry and the branch at Laddonia. This was the **first line to be built in this part of the state** and was in operation for many years as a toll line. It was used in the business of the firm and was also used by **hundreds of salesmen**, who found the trip from Laddonia to Perry a hard and trying one in bad weather. The **first switchboard to be built in Laddonia** and the first rural telephone lines out of that city were built by Mr. DeLaporte.



Circa 1892 photo of the Smith & Clark Drugstore and De Laporte & Ward Hardware on the northwest corner of Palmyra and Main Streets Perry Missouri. In 1893 a fire destroyed these buildings. In 2008 Ralph Williams barber shop and Arlington Antiques stands at this location

Businesses listed in "Sixth Annual Catalogue of the Perry Institute and Business College, Perry, Ralls Co. Missouri 1890-91

DeLaporte Hardware Co., dealers in Hardware, Stove, Tin ware, Farm Machinery, Furniture, Coffins, Etc.,
 Proprietors Laddonia and Perry Telephone
 J. C. De Laporte, T. B Barr, W. H. Hickman

Later **both Peoples Bank and Perry Bank each had rural lines running to their customers.** This line which was maintained by **Martin Stehle**

Perry MO Enterprise Feb. 9, 1899.

A new telephone line was being built from Florida to Santa Fe and would have seven telephone boxes. Also a line was being built from Green Lawn to Joanna with four boxes. Perry had a line connected up with those towns.

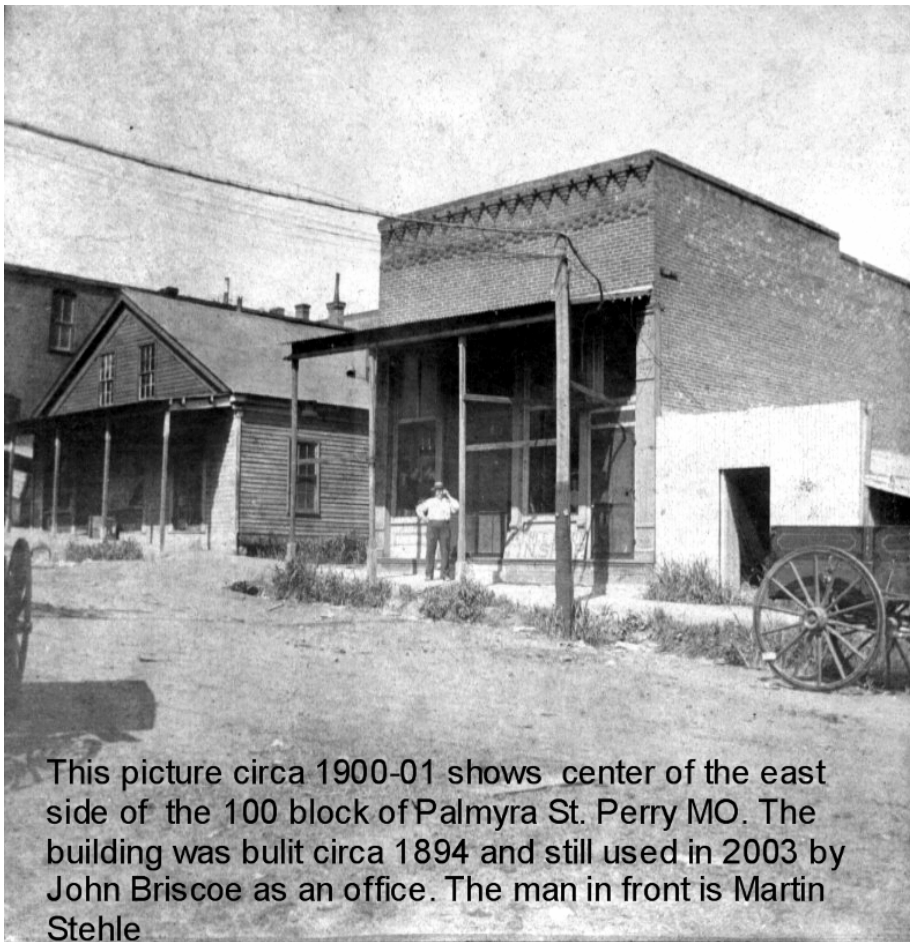
“The Perry Enterprise”, Feb. 23, 1899.

Wm. R. Netherland had put the finishing touches on connecting up a telephone line between Perry and Joanna

1901; William N. Stehle made and installed a telephone switchboard in Perry **that combined the two phone lines in 1901.** These lines were incorporated in the original **15 drop switchboard. The Perry Bank’s number was 1, the Peoples Bank’s was No. 5.** When the two banks were merged over a quarter of a century later the new banking house, the Perry State Bank, retained the No. 1 number. At the time of their courtship, Mr. Stehle was owner and operator of the Perry telephone exchange his future wife was an operator at the Hutchison rural switchboard seven and one-half miles south of Perry. They first conversed over telephone lines as he installed them, and later met.

Perry Missouri, “Enterprise” February 23 1905

M. Stehle & son Telephone Company have bought a new **200 drop telephone switch board** from the Fisk Newhall Telephone Company of Chicago and expect to have it installed near the first of the month. The switch board is the latest improved method of giving connections, simplifies and enables quicker connection and better service



This picture circa 1900-01 shows center of the east side of the 100 block of Palmyra St. Perry MO. The building was built circa 1894 and still used in 2003 by John Briscoe as an office. The man in front is Martin Stehle

The Perry Enterprise" May 1915
M. STEHLE SOLD OUT

Fourteen years ago they installed a telephone exchange on a small scale, which business has gained from year to year, and today it is one of the largest telephone systems in this section of the State. There is 35 lines running into the system, including the Bell Telephone line and 207 telephone boxes over town. The business has been conducted under the name of **Stehle & Son Stove Co.**, the members of the firm being M. Stehle and Wm. N. Stehle. M. Stehle has sold his **half interest** in the telephone business to Wm. N. Stehle, and the tin shop, which is the best-equipped tin shop in any of the smaller towns, to his son-in-law L. N. Dunfee.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

I have bought the half interest of my partner, M. Stehle in the Perry Telephone Exchange owned and operated by myself and father, the firm name being Stehle & Son Stove Co., and the contemplated sale has been submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval and this information is given to the public as a notice that I am to become solo owner of the business, buying the telephone business, buying the telephone system, which includes rights, permits, business, good will, physical plant, including poles, lines, central office, equipment, subscriber's station, equipment and all apparatus belonging to and being part of the telephone system of Perry Telephone Exchange owned and operated by the Stehle & Sons Stove Co. at Perry, Ralls Co. Missouri,
 WM. N. STEHLE



CALL WAITING: Telephone service came to Perry around 1901. This turn-of-the-century photo shows the Perry switchboard and the people who operated it. The young man in the middle was Nelson Stehle, who had a part in the Perry exchange until 1928. At the time this photo was taken, the switchboard was operated from Stehle's home.

This picture had to be taken later than the early part of the century, Nelson was born in 1907

1925 There is 35 lines running into the system, including the Bell Telephone line and 207 telephones boxes over town.

1928; Mr. Nelson Stehle sold the telephone exchange to Public Service Company

1935; James Carter bought the company

1948; Jack White

1952; Ray Carr (Home Telephone Company)

???? Gem Telephone, Scott Gault. He converted it to the dial system

Missouri State Telephone Company and other names, owned my **Continental Telephone CenturyTel**

Banks of Perry Missouri

This is an on going research of the history of the banks of Perry MO. It will be updated as information and time allows. The last update was 9/27/2008. The date below is not an update date, but the date the work was last opened.

Ron Leake

Perry Banks

Because the Perry Bank was the first of the two banks founded in Perry in 1885 it would seem that the building moved from the old Judge May Gill to the Perry City Park was the home the Perry Bank. The article reads "The first bank building in Perry is now standing on the Judge M. T. Gill property at the edge of town". Two former owners the Biggers and Birchs had been told that the building had housed the first bank in Perry. Ben Akers the present owner of the Lick Creek Antiques Store said that there had been a sign on his building with to words "Perry Bank Building" and could be seen in a photo taken at the opening in 1888. I have found this photo and the can be seen with the photos at the end of this work. It is likely that the small building only housed the bank from the founding in 1885 to opening of the larger building in 1888. The bank only used a third of the building on the west side and the rest of the building was used for mercantile sales. The Richards family in some form or the other operated a store at this location into the 1950s or later. Most of the older people of Perry still call the building Richards. In 1912 the building was remodeled and used till 1928 when the Perry Bank and People's Bank combined moved into building housing the People's bank. This building was on the northeast corner of Palmyra and Main Streets on the east side of the present Perry State Bank in 2002.

People's Bank

In an article on 1899 locations of businesses in Perry the People's Bank was at the present location "Hootenanny Restaurant" (2007). I have also a photo of the 1908 Corn Carnival in Perry showing the People's bank at that location, photo at the end of the work. This sign was visible when building was remodeled in the past few years.

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" September 8, 1932

Mr. and Mrs., Jackson Celebrate 55th Wedding Anniversary

Both Born In Bath County Kentucky; Came To Missouri In 1881; Lived At Present Home 42 Years.

Mr. and Mrs. Walls Jackson pioneer residents of this community quietly celebrated the 55th anniversary of their marriage at their home Sunday. They do not have a family gathering on this day because earlier in the summer about July 4th all of their children come home and they have a big fish fry. This event was celebrated ad usual this year. Fifty-five is a long time for a couple to live together and during this time Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have seen wars and rumors of wars prosperity on every hand, panics and depressions, all the inventions of the modern age come into being and have seen Perry grow from a hamlet into a thriving little city.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were married in Bath County, Kentucky at Owensville, September 4, 1877. Mr. Jackson was born, July 4th, 1854, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson and Mrs. Jackson was born march 6, 1861, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hart. Both were born in Bath County, went to school together and grew up in the same community. Mr. Jackson as young man was bound out, as was the custom in those days, until he was 17 years of age. He went to Indiana after serving his apprenticeship and remained until he was 23. He then came back to Kentucky and was married. On September 13th, 1881 they came into Missouri by railroad and first stopped at Versailles in Morgan County. At that time the James boys were terrorizing the people of the state and one incident Mr. Jackson remembers about the trip form St. Louis to Versailles concerns them. Conductor came rushing through the train and told the passengers to hide valuables as the engineer had seen some lights up the track and was sure the James Boys were going to hold up the train. The report was however without foundation and they arrived at their destination without any trouble.

After arriving at Versailles they went to Old Linn Creek, where they remained from Wednesday until Monday morning. They then came to Perry, intending to make a short visit but upon their arrival were

persuaded by a number of influential men to establish their permanent home here. This they did and in all the years have never lived farther than 3 miles from Perry. In 1890 they bought their home south of Perry and have since lived there.

Our town presents quite a different sight today from its appearance in 1881. the house were widely scattered corn grew right up close to the few business houses and all the bricks in the town were in the flues, nothing but frame buildings in the entire town. The first bank building in Perry is now standing on the Judge M. T. Gill property at the edge of town. (Note: This was the building that was moved to the Perry City Park and is believed to be building used by the Perry Bank from 1885 till 1888 when the Perry Bank building was built, which is the Lick Creek Antique store in 2002. It was also known as the Richard's store too. See photo. R. Leake) when the Looking up and down the streets of Perry Saturday afternoon, Mr. Jackson said he was able to find very few people who were residents of Perry when he came here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have never accepted some of the things that make up our modern civilization. They have never owned an automobile, preferring to take their chances of arriving at their destination with their house and buggy. Another remarkable thing about this couple is their unusually good health. They are both strong and do all their own work. During their married life \$100 would easily cover their doctor bills, neither one of them having had any serious sickness.

They have reared four children, all of whom are living. Mr. Bertha (Funs) Wolfenbarger, Perry; Mrs. Nora (W. A.) Raun (Rauh?), Perry; Mrs. Beulah (Herbert) Waterston, Hannibal; and Mrs. Katie (William) Dye, St. Louis. They have six grandchildren, Mrs. John Cleaver, Mrs. Thomas McClintic, Perry; and Mrs. Charles Milliron, Quincy IL; Miss Edna Rauh of Perry; William Waterston, of Hannibal; and Jackie Dye, of St. Louis. Two grandchildren Carl Rauh and Wallace Wolfenbarger, having passed away. There are four great grandchildren, Margaret Jo, Bobbie Dalton, John, Jr., and Mary Wallace, the children of Mr. and Mrs. John Cleave

Perry Missouri Enterprise, February 7, 1924

A BIT OF PERRY ENTERPRISE HISTORY

The first column of the article, as it appeared in the "Enterprise" was not paragraphed and with very little punctuation, as the article progressed, paragraphs and punctuation improved.

An account written by Dewitt Masters, Editor and Owner of Perry, "Enterprise"

On January 26, 1899 the present owner of the "Enterprise" took charge and issued a paper the following week under the date of February 2nd, 25 years ago. We shall attempt to enter into details giving our experience, however, just a few lines of introduction and initiation into newspaper work in Perry. We bid a mother good-by, also kissed a sweetheart good-by, and departed from Bowling Green. Had nine years of mechanic experience in the art of printing, practically no experience in editing a paper, no capital, an indebtedness of \$1,500 for the plant, a stranger in town in town, save two people Prof. J. C. Briggs and wife who had charge of the Arlington Hotel. What do you think of a boy going into business under those conditions especially in newspaper work? The first week we had a rough experience. The rubber rollers on the newspaper press were worn out, the iron cores of the rollers were sent to St. Louis to be refilled and instructed to return by publication day, which was on Wednesday. To our sorrow the company in St. Louis sent our rollers to Perry, Illinois and sent us some rollers intended for the Perry Illinois man which were too short for the "Enterprise" press. Imagine our predicament. Well, not to be outdone the heavy type forms were taken to New London and through the kindness of Eugene Mayhall and Gilford Harris, the "Enterprise" was printed on the "Times" press. It was awful cold. Being several degrees below zero and type forms are very heavy, and it required many hard lifts in the course of the day in carrying them down and up stairs, on the dray and train. It was night when we returned to Perry. The papers had to be folded by hand, addressed and mailed out. The editor was more dead than alive when the task was finished away long in the night. The "Enterprise" had changed hands a number of times in a few months: Jas. Herbig, who had charge of the paper a little over a year left between suns. J. A. McClintic hauled him and his belongings to Stoutsville one night. Volney Burnett ran the paper for six weeks and returned to his home in

New London. Eugene Mayhall, of New London, came out to Perry and issued the paper one week. The next issue was by Robert Robinson, at one time of Elsberry, and then the present editor went on the job. Managing the thousands of items handled and the various changes in twenty-five years. According to my memory we will try to give the names of the firms we when took charge of the paper:

John A. McClintic had bought the livery business of Judge M. T. Gill in April of 1898, and still in business at the same stand. However he had a dray and taxi business. The building now occupied by the post office by (W. F. Norris, postmaster) Mrs. A. Y. Stark grocery; Toney Utterback, restaurant; E. E. Utterback, meat market; R. S. Cole and "Buddy" White, barber shop; LaFrance and Chapman, drugstore; E. T. Westfall Toggery were not erected until in 1905. Where R. S. Coil's barber shop and Westfall Toggery rooms stand were two small rooms, which were torn down by S. C. Gill, One of the smaller rooms was occupied by Frank Miller's shop and the other one by a millinery store of Mrs. Albert W. Bittick and Miss Bess Yancey, now Mrs. Fred King, Macon. Next was the hardware store of Coil and Fairbairn (B. J. Coil and J. E. Fairbairn) now the hardware store of Coil, Gill & Co., (H. S. Coil, Malone Gill and G. J. Coil); on down the line came the Richards Bros, general merchandise store, (Marion and Ab A. Richards) now Richards & Co., composed of Gill and Floyd Richards, Ernest Rogers and Ned Griffith; Perry Bank with the following officers; J. S. Cleaver, President; John Bledsoe, Vice president; J. A. Clark, cashier; S. C. Gill, assistant cashier. Directors; J. Cleaver, J. B. Briscoe, J. R. Welty, John Bledsoe, C. W. Tanner, and S. C. Gill.

Over the Richards Bros. Store was the Perry Opera House and over the Perry Bank were the office rooms of Atty. E. L. Alford, Mrs. Armstrong, Ab Richard's room and two rooms of Dr. R. E. Suter. Mr. Alford now has two rooms and Dr. R. E. Suter has two rooms. C. C. Fray, drugstore, now the drugstore of A. B. Young.

People Bank, with the "Enterprise" office up-stairs. (Note: This is now the "Hootenanny Restaurant".) The Peoples Bank officers: J. W. Neville, President; T. B. Powers, Vice President; W. R. Netherland, Cashier; B. T. White, Assistant Cashier. Directors: Ben Tom White, Marcus P. LaFrance, S. B. Smith, J. M. White, J. W. Neville, J. D. Meyers, Theron B. Powers, and William M. Ely. This room is now occupied by Gill Richards and E. P. Hanna real estate and insurance business. Williams, Hanna and Co. grocery and general merchandise, composed of J. A. William, E. P. Hanna and J. W. Neville, now occupied by Aaron Ward Williams grocery store and Miss Bettie Armstrong, dry goods, ladies and gents clothing store. On down the street was a frame building owned by Marcus P. LaFrance, which we believe was unoccupied.

Stehle and Son Stove Co., consisting of Martin and Wm., Nelson Stehle, now occupied by the Perry Telephone Exchange and owned by Wm., N. Stehle. In the rear of the building at this time was thru poultry business of Wm. A. Martin and Ed. McCune.

James Nenefee,¹ hotel, now occupied by R. I. Booth and wife who have a hotel business. Across the street was a story frame building, occupied by D. A. Wilson, meat market and the upper part of photograph gallery by Mars. Hedgepath.

Next was a blacksmith shop. Later occupied by T. W. Crump, blacksmith. A harness shop by S. P. and Wm. Bybee. These buildings were all frame and were destroyed by fire about 23 years ago. The building now occupied by Roselle and Fry furniture and undertakes and the main room by Frank Quinn, a line of furniture. Some upstairs were occupied by the Ralls County Coal Co.

Next was some vacant ground. Later two rooms were erected by J. F. Fry. These rooms are now owned by J. F. Lake, one of the rooms occupied by the Perry Bakery, Arthur Irick, proprietor.

Jack Yancey's grocery. Mr. Yancey was very sick and died on February 10. This room is now occupied by L. M. Dunfee's tin shop and hardware. Sterrett and Moore hardware store. James E. Sterrett and Ed. H. Moore. Room now occupied by Henry Yancey feed store.

Salling and Fry, Wm. Salling and H. G. Fry, general merchandise, Room now occupied by Goss Bros., Harry and Elliot Goss, general merchandise. The Masonic Hall over their store. Second door at the rear of this building was Dr. J. J. Kennedy's dentist office and next the Palace Hotel, owned by Bettie Nenefee. Arlington Hotel Building: Prof. and Mrs. J. C. Briggs ran the hotel; Capt. Whitlock's drugstore and George C. Roselle's furniture and undertaking store. One of the rooms is now occupied by the pool business and the other by E. E. Webb and Co., auto tire vulcanizing and auto accessories. The hotel office and dining room now occupied by Fanning and Newton Grocery. Mrs. Mary Scobee occupies the upstairs rooms as a rooming house. The ground where the garage of Hart and Osburn and the blacksmith shop of Ernest Smiley was the vacant.

Aaron Fagan had a livery business in the barn now owned by J. B. Jackson. There were two free bus lines in Perry. One operated by A. F. Ward and the other by J. A. McClintic in connection with their livery business.

Where the building now occupied by R. V. Rogers poultry business and icehouse of Sindy² Beam, a flourmill stood which was owned by the Engle Mill of Hannibal. Afterward bought by Thomas Bates and the mill operated by him. Charles H. Menke occupied part of the mill building, selling Eagle Mill flour. He afterwards moved the Planeing mill building, where the Menke residence stands. Barr Bros., William and Howard, had a blacksmith and wood shop. The building now occupied by Arthur Robinson's feed store. Charles W. Holton had a saloon in a frame building where the Scobee large garage building stands.

There was a long string of frame buildings. The post office was on the corner where the Peoples Bank Building now stands. **(Note: This would be the open area just west of the present Bank, R. Leake)** Allie McCune was postmaster, and G. B. Fagan occupied part of the post office room with a variety stock of goods.

The Clark Coal Co. had an office in part of the building. James T. Bittick, barbershop with the room above used as a courtroom and city office. Next was Judge Edwin Hubbard's large frame house, garden and orchard.

Beginning with the Peoples bank, with offices of Dr. Brown, Dr. Caldwell, Dr. Hensley with Boudinier and James Coal office upstairs; Seldon Johnson variety store with I. O. O.F. Hall above; J. W. Dye Music House; Enterprise office; Tom Alexander barber shop; Strand Theater. Three vacant lots to Lawrence Burdett's marble works and the Ford Garage building of M. V. Davis occupied by Thos. Weeks and garage of Cord Powell. Also the office building of Dr. W. E. Martin next to J. A. McClintic's and the poultry business of J. B. Jackson and electric business of Bert Shepard. J. D. Meyers had a store in the room now occupied by J. B. Jackson.

If we remember correctly the elevator building now occupied by J. L. Clark was not a use. The frame buildings, spoken of above, were destroyed by fire. Where they stood is now the blacksmith shop of W. Landis, feed storage of Henry Yancey, plumping and windmill business of Veal Bros., Donald and Grundy, and a storage room of Barr and McElroy.

Miss Ann Menefee had a millinery store over the room now occupied by Ward William's store.

¹ Likely Menefee

² Sidney?

Joe F. Wells had a lumberyard in the north part of town. Where the Robey-Robinson Lumber Co. now stands was garden patch.

Ralph P. Saunders was station agent. The train left Perry in the morning at 8 o'clock and returned at 5:30 in the evening. L. J. Stark was conductor on the train and Mert Tierney was engineer.

Jeff T. Seaton had a corn mill on the lots now owned by George C. Roselle. There was a daily hack and mail route between Laddonia and Perry. It left Laddonia at 7 a.m. and departed from Perry at 2:30. C. A. Smith was proprietor.

R. T. Dye was an auctioneer. Pastors of the churches; Rev. J. B. Corwine, Christian; Rev. C. A. McPheeters, Presbyterian; we think Rev. W. B. Craig, Baptist; There was no Catholic church. Doctors: Dr. Walter, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. C. D. Menefee, W. O. Ricks had a bakery shop near the depot.

Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1881-82

PERRY. Is situated in Salt Lick twp., Ralls CO. 20 miles s. w. of New L London (c h), 16 n. w. of Vandalia on the C & A R.R., 25 miles n. e. of Mexico and 30 miles n. w. of Hannibal, the two latter being the preferable shipping points. It contains a Christian Church, a public school and a newspaper the "Perry Weekly Gazette". Land worth \$100 to \$25 per acre; and anthracite coal of good quality is here in abundance, but is not mined, pop. 320. nearest bank at New London. Stages to Mexico, tri-weekly, fare \$1.

Businesses listed in "Sixth Annual Catalogue of the Perry Institute and Business College, Perry. Ralls Co. Missouri 1890-91

Peoples' Bank of Perry, Missouri, capital \$10,000, surplus and Profits \$10,000

J. W. Neville, President

T. B. Powers, Vice President

M. P. La France, Cashier

Joshua A. Ward, Asst. Casher

Perry Bank, Perry, Ralls county Missouri, Cash Capital \$16,000, Surplus \$30,000, Do a General Banking Business. Special Attention Given to Collections. Officers and Directors. Thos F. Gill, President; John S. Cleaver, Vice President; J. A. Clark, Cashier; S. C. Gill, assistant Cashier; J. R. Smiley, Sec'y; John B. Briscoe, Wm., L. Shoults

Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1893-94

PERRY. A prosperous town at the terminus of the Perry branch of St. L. & H. Ry and on Lick Creek, in Ralls County, 20 miles from New London the county seat, 16 north of Laddonia and 132 northwest of St. Louis. It contains 4 churches, a public school, 2 banks and a live weekly newspaper, The "Enterprise". It has a flouring mill, a planing mill, a grain elevator, 3 lumber yards, electric lights est. Population 900. Stages with mail to Laddonia, daily; fare \$1. Telephone connections. Mrs. M. Pettitt, postmaster.

Clark, James A. cash, Perry Bank

LaFrance M. P., cash Peoples Bank of Perry.

People's Bank of Perry (capital \$40,000), J. W. Neville, pres., M. P. LaFrance, cash.

Perry Bank, (capital \$30,000) Thomas F. Gill, pres. James A. Clark, cash

Notes from 1896 "Perry Enterprise" owned by the late Millard Johnson

PEOPLES BANK; Capital Stock and Surplus of \$43,000

PRESIDENT: J. W. Neville; CASHIER: W. R. Netherland; DIRECTORS: M. P. LaFrance, C. W. Cole, W. M. Ely, S.H Scobee, others

PERRY BANK; Capital and Surplus of \$45,500

OFFICERS: J. S. Clever, William Wood, J. A. Clark, S. C. Gill

Ad in “The Catholic Home Guide” 1903. This was a Pamphlet with information on the Catholic Churches in Ralls County

PEOPLES BANK; M. P. LaFrance, President; T. B. Powers, Vice-President; B. T. White, Cashier
No PERRY BANK ad in pamphlet

Ad in “Catalog of the Perry Pubic Schools, Perry Missouri, 1907-1908

PERRY BANK; Capital and Surplus \$40,000

PEOPLES BANK; Capital Stock \$20,000, Surplus and Profits \$8,600. M. P. LaFrance, President; T. B. Powers, Vice-President; B. T. White, Cashier;

Ad in Ralls County Corn Carnival and Fair Association 1909 booklet

PERRY BANK; Capital Stock and Surplus of \$45,000

OFFICERS: J. R. Smiley, President; M. T. Gill, Vice President; J. A. Clark, Vice President; S. C. Gill, Cashier; D. E. Waterston, Asst. Cashier;

PEOPLES BANK OF PERRY; Capital Stock and Surplus \$32, 500

M. P. LaFrance, President; W. P. Netherland, cashier

1915 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLES BANK; The resources \$225,000; 3% paid on saving account. W. R. Netherland, President; A. G. Elam, Cashier; C. O. Power, Asst. Cashier; O. R. Jackson, bookkeeper.

PERRY BANK; Ad, but no information.

1916 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLES BANK; Capital & Surplus \$70,000; Resources \$240,000, OFFICERS: W. R. Netherland, President; E. W. Foree, Vice President; C. S. Jackson, Vice President; A. G. Elam, cashier; C. O. Power, Asst, Cashier; DIRECTORS: DeWitt Masters, E. W. Foree; W. R. Netherland, H. D. Hoar, W. H. Roby, C. O. Power, C. S. Jackson.

PERRY BANK; Capital \$50,000, Surplus \$21,350; J. R. Smiley, President, J. A. Clark, Vice President; M. T. Gill, Cashier; D. E. Waterston, Asst. Cashier; L. M. Gill, Asst. Cashier. DIRECTORS: J. R. Smiley, S. C. Gill, D. E. Waterston, J. A. Clark, M. T. Gill, John Bledsoe, Gill Richards,

1917 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLES BANK; Capital & Surplus \$75,000; Resources \$275,000, OFFICERS: W. R. Netherland, President; E. W. Foree, Vice President; C. S. Jackson, Vice President; A. G. Elam, cashier; C. O. Power, Asst, Cashier; O. R. Jackson, Bookkeeper. DIRECTORS: DeWitt Masters, E. W. Foree; W. R. Netherland, H. D. Hoar, W. H. Roby, C. O. Power, C. S. Jackson.

PERRY BANK; Capital \$50,000, Surplus \$21,350; J. R. Smiley, President, J. A. Clark, Vice President; M. T. Gill, Cashier; D. E. Waterston, Asst. Cashier; L. M. Gill, Asst. Cashier. DIRECTORS: J. R. Smiley, S. C. Gill, D. E. Waterston, J. A. Clark, M. T. Gill, John Bledsoe, Gill Richards

1918 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLES BANK; Capital & Surplus \$75,000; Resources \$375,000, OFFICERS: W. R. Netherland, President; E. W. Foree, Vice President; C. S. Jackson, Vice President; A. G. Elam, cashier; C. O. Power, Asst, Cashier; DIRECTORS: DeWitt Masters, E. W. Foree; W. R. Netherland, H. D. Hoar, W. H. Roby, C. O. Power, C. S. Jackson.

PERRY BANK; Capital \$50,000, Surplus \$23,500; J. R. Smiley, President; S. C. Gill, Active Vice President; M. T. Gill, Vice President; D. E. Waterston, Cashier; Thomas Gill, Bookkeeper; DIRECTORS: J. R. Smiley, Gill Richards, J. A. Clark, J. T. Scobee, M. T. Gill, S. C. Gill, D. E. Waterston

1921 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLES BANK; Capital & Surplus \$85,000; W. R. Netherland, President; E. W. Foree, Vice President; C. S. Jackson, Vice President; A. G. Elam, Cashier; Sara Smith, Bookkeeper;
PERRY BANK; Capital & Surplus \$80,000, no personal information

1922 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLE BANK; ad, but no information
PERRY BANK; D. E. Waterston, President; M. T. Gill, Vice President; Thomas Gill, Cashier; S. G. Rouse, Cashier; Only information

1926 “The Perryodical” Perry High Yearbook

PEOPLE BANK; W. R. Netherland, President; E. W. Foree, Vice President; C. S. Jackson, Vice President; Sara Smith, Bookkeeper; Katherine Rauh, Bookkeeper; only information
PERRY BANK; Ad, but no information

“The Perry Enterprise”, September, 1910 A Veterinary Hospital at Perry

A new enterprise has been established at Perry in th [sic] way of a veterinary hospital. Dr. W.E. Martin has been comtemplating [sic] for sevreal [sic] years establishing a veterinary hospital at Perry, and has carried out his plans and desire. J.A. McClintic erected a building in connection with his livery barn, expressly for the hospital. The building is 20x46 feet, with a nice office room 14x20 in the front part, next to which is installed a Kyle Bros., Veterinary operating table of the latest model, and the best and most convenient on the market. In the rear of the building is [sic] four nice box stalls for invalid horses. Also numerous other appliances in addition to the operating table are being added. The doctor is going to have the best equipped hospital in this part of the state. It is quite an interesting sight to watch a horse being made ready to be operated on. The table is raised upright, and the horse is led up beside it, straps buckle around its legs, neck and head. The table is gradually laid over in position by means of a chain on a pulley. The animal is so securely strapped down that it cannot flounder around when being operated on. **Dr. Martin occupied the rear room in the second story of the Perry Bank building for sixteen years and it was with some regret he moved to his new headquarters on the first of the month.** The Enterprise is glad to see such worthy enterprises as the above established as it is a drawing card to our growing little city.

The Perry Missouri, Enterprise” January 11, 1912 (both articles on the front page)

THE HOME OF THE PERRY BANK

It is with pride that we announce to the Enterprise readers that the Perry Bank’s new home is about complete. While they have the same location, the room and general appearance is so decidedly changed that they have a new home. The entire interior has undergone a change. The main object of the change was to modernize, beautify, secure better light, increase the room and put in an improved heating plant. The public will agree with us in the statement that on each point the architect, contractor, and building committee were successful. For beauty, attractiveness and convenience the bank is without a peer in the state, at least in a little city. Those who have not witnessed the undergoing of the improvements step by step will be surprised and awe

stuck when they visit the bank. If you want to “Boost” Perry when you have visitors take them to this bank and “show ‘em”

This bank was organized in 1885 by Thomas Gill, who did so much toward building up Perry. It has at all times enjoyed a health business. The Enterprise editor is not an architect but will endeavor to give a detail description of the elegant improvements.

In the first place the banking room is 80 feet long, 20 feet wide and 14 foot ceiling; the stair way was cut down two feet in order to gain that much in width; the old front was torn out, and replaced with an up to date modern front, with prism transom glass, affording ample light for the interior, metal ceiling with a flat tone (white) finish; side walls canvassed with prepared muslin cream color, finished with flat stifled paint, stenciled with a pretty design, increased vault room, three times as large as the old vault divided into two sections, one department for bank use, in which is a large Mosler Manganese safe of the latest style and the other department for customers, with safety deposit boxes, of the latest design; the fixtures are genuine mahogany throughout; fixtures 7 feet, 2 inches high, dealing plates black Belgian Marble, grille work, oxidized copper inch imported white English vein marble, with Italian verdeantique base, white marble is used around the wainscot of the lobby, the lobby floor is tile, design, Mosaic, one inch hexagon; two mahogany check wall desks in lobby; a nice room in front 7X14 feet is furnished for the ladies, it has a mahogany desk, chair and settee; working room for the officials 14X20 feet which affords ample room; business office 12X13 feet, furnished with a desk and several mahogany chairs; directors room in the rear 12X25 feet, with a glass partition to the ceiling; basement 22X30 feet in which is installed one of the latest steam heating plants, nine radiators distributed over building, which keeps the heat the same, almost like good old summer time; at the front entrance, the door sets back two feet, the floor is laid with tile, inlaid in the tile, Perry Bank 1885, on one side white marble five feet high and the remainder of the space to the ceiling is white glazed brick. We picture to you a bird’s eye view and if you ever have the good fortune to visit the bank draw a picture in your mind and we are sure you will agree with us you will behold a pretty picture.

Officers of the institution: J. R. Smiley, President, Judge M. T. Gill, Vice President, J. A. Clark, Vice President, S. C. Coil cashier, D. E. Waterston, Assistant Cashier who are directors. Also Judge J. S. Cleaver is a director, Leighton Gill bookkeeper.

NEW BANK BUILDING OF THE PEOPLES BANK

The handsome new building of the Peoples Bank is complete; expect a few minor things. The books, papers and safe were moved to the new building last week. This building is the result of several months planning and hard labor. The old post office corner lot in front of the Arlington Hotel and adjoining the Holton Opera House was purchased, and the bank erected a two-story building. Wallace bond was the contractor. The object of the building by the officials of the bank was to get more room, more light and an up-to-date home for the bank. Those who have inspected the building we feel sure will join us in saying that success was attained on all these points. We will enter on the duty in our feeble way to portray the exterior and interior of the building. It is two-story, 34X80 feet; on the southwest corner of the street; constructed of steel gray pressed brick; has a corner entrance, as well as a south and west entrance; five large arch windows, on the side (west), one front (south), both the south and corner doors are double, which lights up the banking room with an abundance of light, even on cloudy days; on the south end a large six foot stair leads to the office rooms above, also is used by the opera house; each room above has a large window; go with us in your mind to the large spacious banking room of magnificence and beauty. You will find a room furnished with fixtures of genuine mahogany; main lobby 25X28 feet with a 12X32 lobby back to fixture partition; lobby floors tile, Mosaic one inch hexagon design; twelve inch imported black and gold marble base around the entire lobby; upper wall, flat tone color, buff stone, stenciled 18 inch border, design acorn leaves and acorns of natural color, about every ten feet in the border is interwoven the words, Peoples Bank; lower walls, flat tone, olive green; flat tone cream ceiling 15 feet high, four 18 inch square mahogany beams dividing up the ceiling into four panels beams resting on 18 inch pilaster, embellished Corinthian caps; in the center of each of the panels of the ceiling, are two twelve-inch ground glass globes attached to a large brush bras fixture, in each large globe are two 40 watts electric light globes; there are 12 of these globes on the ceiling; working room for the officials 20 feet square; latest style

mahogany fixtures 7 feet high, grill work, brush brass on brass; around the fixtures are imported skyro, white and gold vein marble, extending above the counter line to brass grille work' 4 dealing windows, deal plates black and gold marble; large Mosler Manganese safe of the latest pattern, set out in the lobby in front of the fixtures, with brush brass railing around same with swinging gate; back of fixtures a door leads into a vault 10X11 feet, 14 feet high, which is divided up into two departments, one for the bank and the other for customers, the latter has a line of safety deposit boxes, out of this department is a door to which the customers have access to a private room of 8X12 feet; the west entrance door opens up into the back lobby; from this lobby you go into the lounging room 12X14 feet, next lavatory, and then the directors room 12X14 feet; next to the safe is a little space cut off for the cashier, furnished with a mahogany desk and chair; 2 mahogany and leather settees in lobby, wall check desk, with plate glass top; the basement is 20X30 feet on which is installed a large modern steam heating plant; 4 radiators in the lobby; 1 working room, 1 in each of the other rooms, water works above and below; the upper part of the building is petitioned off into 9 elegant office rooms and 3 halls, with steam heat; 3 rooms occupied by Drs. Brown and Caldwell; side walks and other work will be finished in the spring. Now you have read this little contribution, don't you think from our description that this building in a general way eclipses many of the little city banks? In fact many of the city banks are not its equal. This bank was established in 1887, being organized by M. P. LaFrance as cashier, who has been a benefactor to the growth of Perry.

We are sure that our people feel proud of the building and will take pride in showing the same to a visitor.

Officers: M. P. LaFrance, President; T. B. Powers, Vice President; W. R. Netherland, Cashier; J. M. LaFrance, Assistant Cashier; C. O. Powers, Book keeper; Miss Monsolette Quinn, Stenographer.

Directors: E. W. Foree, C. S. Jackson, T. B. Power M. N. Cole, H. D. Netherland, M. P. LaFrance, W. H. Roby, DeWitt Masters.

Otto Crohn and Walter Bailey had the contracts on the painting and decoration of both banks and did excellent work.

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" February 27, 1913

New Store At Perry

I have sold my interest in the Goss & company store to my brother. H. H. Goss and I opening up an up-to-date new stock of Gent's Furnishing and Notions in the room formally occupied by the Peoples Bank. I earnestly so licit a share of your patronage and beg to assure you that at all times I will sell you good goods at a small profit. Also promise fair, honest and courteous treatment. My stock will be complete in a week or two. Elliott Goss

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" May 3, 1917

Richards Store

In 1873 or 44 years ago Marion Richards with E. H. Ralls as his partner started a general store in Perry on the corner now occupied by the Peoples Bank. In 1876 Mr. Ralls sold out to S. C. Gill. After a few years J. F. Fry and A. A. Richards bought one-third interest in the store.

Later Mr. Fry sold his interest to the Richards Bros... In 1900 M. Richards sold out to A. A. Richards and traded for a stock of goods in Bowling Green. After a few months in business there the stock was brought to Perry and consolidated with the original stock – Gill Richards taking one-third in the stock. The business continued as Richards & Co., until 1907 when M. Richards sold out to Gill Richards, his son, who styled the firm as Richards Cash Store. In 1911 Floyd Richards bought one-third interest but the name of the firm remained the same and has up to the present time.

This week bring about another change in the firm, but the business will go on just the same – under the well-known and established name – Richards Cash Store. We hope the next half-century this same name will carry the good reputation that it has during the past half century.

Mr. A. Nagel and O. Smith have bought interest in the stock. The firm will become incorporated, run on modern lines. Mr. Nagel, acting as manager, Mr. Smith will have charge of the poultry and cream department. They expect to have a modern building put up for the business, which Perry is badly in need of, and without a doubt is the best drawing card for the town.

These gentlemen have had years of experience, and connecting themselves with the Richards boys who have been raised in the business certainly will make a strong firm.

Mr. Smith has rented the Judge North property and will move in this week.

Mr. Nagel will move his family as soon as he is able to get a suitable home. We welcome these substantial and up-to-date business men to our thriving little city and hope they and their families will be pleased with our people and town. Also hope the new firm will prosper and be a great benefactor to the town and surrounding country.

Perry "Enterprise" March 2, 1922

Peoples Bank At Perry Robbed Safe or Vault Not Disturbed

A. G. Elam, Cashier of the Peoples Bank appeared for duty last Thursday morning shortly after 7 o'clock and noticed considerable mud on the floor inside of the railing, several drawers open in the desk of W. R. Netherland and drawers open around the counter and it dawned on him that something had happened. He investigated the large safe and vault door, and found them intact and not disturbed. He phoned for Mr. Netherland, President of the bank and further investigation was made. It was found that a window screen on the North side of the building had been pried open with an iron bar, the window raised up and entrance gained into the directors' room. A rain had fallen the evening before and made it quite muddy, and the party or parties were not particular about cleaning their feet and mud was tracked over the floor. It was revealed that the drawers of Mr. Netherland's desk were opened several dollars of notary money in one drawer and a 38 Smith & Wesson, self-acting revolver of Mr. Netherland's on the desk was taken. The revolver had been nickel plated, but the nickel was considerably worn off. It is not definitely known, but it is estimated \$20 in cash, including 500 pennies, \$3 in postage stamps and \$5 in revenue stamps were taken from drawers along the counter. Also two pieces of French money and one piece of English money, (all paper money) collected by O. R. Jackson, assistant cashier, while overseas, were taken from a drawer. A couple of hundred dollars in war saving stamps on Mr. Netherland's desk was not bothered, although some sale money was in some of the drawers. The desk was locked. The officers decided best, as a protection to the business firms of the town to make some effort to catch the robber or robbers. A phone to Moberly for bloodhounds, information was gained that the hounds were at Louisiana on a case of burning a house. In this case the hounds were unable to pick up a trail to or from the house. G. D. Burgess, assisted by S. H. Sims, of Moberly, brought the dogs, Genevieve and Woodrow, to Laddonia Thursday night. They were met by L. M. Dunfee in a car and arrived here between one and two o'clock. A large crowd was assembled to see the chase, but the man thought better work could be done in day time, and that the chase would be pulled off at 6 o'clock. Still the crowd held on. The dogs were held in the basement of the bank, and took a scent from the drawers of Mr. Netherland's desk, and at the window where entrance was gained. The chase began, and was as follows, as near as we were able to gain information: The dogs followed the trail to the alley back of the bank and on the East to back of the Strand Theatre building in Southerly direction to the marble yard of L. Burdette, back West on the walk to the bank to the window. The trail was again taken up, which led to the country, North to the corner of the Salling place on East to the gate into Gill Richard's farm through three gates to the Yancey addition, East and South through the Wm. Lake addition to across the street at A. B. Young's house, on West and through the Catholic and Baptist church yards on South to the corner at L. H. Newton's home and West to the depot ground, North, back to the bank. Another drive was taken. This one led East to the Presbyterian Church, and on South to the Martin addition. The dogs hesitated at the edge of the porch at Jesse Jones. Mrs. Jones said no one had been at their home that they knew of. The scent was picked up and traced on South to the corner of Rufus Well's home and West to Henry Lowery's yard. Mrs. Lowery stated that she knew of no one at their home except two or three parties after washing. The scent was picked up and back east for a couple of blocks. The scent seemed to be cold, and it was though best to wait until the sun warmed up the ground. Another drive took place after dinner, but the trail

seemed to be cold. The dogs went over part of the same trail of the morning, to the South part of town. When they set to Well's corner the dogs went on East to the house where Clel and Bert Hollibaugh live. The dogs wandered around in front of the house. The men I charge of he hounds knocked on the front door of the house, finding both of the Hollibaughs' sick. They enquired what was wanted, and were informed the dogs had trailed to their home. They said nobody had been at their home, except a couple of men to see about getting them to work, however if anybody wanted to come in, it was all right with them, also gave consent to a search of the house, and offered no resistance. The dogs were taken into the house, but failed to find a scent. Furthermore, no evidence of any kind was found. The dogs paid no attention to either of the Hollibaughs', or anything in the house. Just a few words: There has been considerable comment on the dogs' trail, and we have used some individuals' names in telling the route the dogs took with no attempt to cast a reflection on anybody. The trail had grown old, from sometime after midnight Wednesday and to Friday, and it was hard to get a trail. Because the dogs stopped at someone's home or went through their field or yard is absolutely no evidence of guilt. In the afternoon another drive was made North and East of town with no result, and the men and dogs gave up the chase and went back to Moberly.

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" May 24, 1928 **It Is Now Perry State Bank At Perry**

For two years or more officials of the Perry Bank and Peoples Bank at Perry have had under consideration merging, consolidating or origination of a new bank. Much thought and time has been consumed on the project, and after due consideration of a multitude of business matters surrounding each institution and consideration of the public in general, the officials of each institution arrived at a plan to whereby they feel sure it will be for the best interest of all concerned. A committee conferred with the State Bank Commissioner at Jefferson City last week who rendered valuable assistance in the way of suggestions, and after weighing all propositions, both inside and out, a new bank is being organized, and well be chartered as Perry Sate Bank. The State Bank Commissioners complimented the banks at Perry very highly on the strength, evidenced by the large capital, surplus and undivided profits of each bank.

Many sentiments are being laid aside in connection with these financial institutions in the interest of Perry and surrounding country. This is an age of consolidation of business interests, thereby building up stronger financial institutions.

The State Bank Commissioner is recommending the consolidation of the banks over the state. Thirty-six banks have gone together over the state since January 1st. Business men and farmers know that the overhead expenses are great; the banks of Perry can save a large amount of money by uniting, making a stronger institution, paying a bigger dividend and giving more working capital for the people. Perry has built on a strong foundation. Take for instance the large school building and campus, the large and beautiful churches. Many modern business houses and homes. We must not forget the large poultry plant, representing in building, machinery and capital \$100,000 or more. All of these have sprung up in the last few years.

The Perry Bank was organized in 1885 and the Peoples Bank in 1887. The sentiment and business interest have centered around these strong institutions and the public is going to center around another institution, for this is the habit and custom of Perry. Men of wealth, schooled in all lines of business, representing different families and business interests of Perry and surrounding country are backing up the new bank. The Enterprise has the first case to see wherein the people of the community have laid down on propositions that build up the country, and there is no question but what a large bank is the best thing for the community

Perry Missouri "Enterprise" November 28, 1929 **Old City Well Uncovered**

Saturday morning workmen operating the big steam shovel in lower the grade of the street in the square at the corner of the Perry State Bank uncovered the old city well, which was covered over with a big three corner rock and a couple of feet of dirt and gravel. The well is said to be twenty-five deep and was dug something like 60 years ago by an old pioneer citizen by the name of James Bowman. A hole was drilled in the rock and a pump placed in the well. For years the business portion of town and a number of dwellings were

supplied by water from the well. Troughs from the frame business houses supplied the well with water. When the well was unearthed it was full up to the top with water. A concrete post served as a street light post and traffic post was on top of the well and was dumped into it along with a concrete crossing and gravel to fill it up. The water overflowed and ran off down into Lick Creek. The use of the well was discontinued around 35 years ago. It is said in the early times there was a rail fence around the well and some troughs were used in quenching the thirst of horses. Also a citizen acquainted with the early history of Perry, related that a man near town one day took on too much corn juice while the well was being dug, and was lowed into it by means of a ladder, the ladder was taken out of the well and he had to remain for a while, until he sobered up and was not so boisterous. A number of the younger generation that were on lookers did not know about the well and the older fellows commented on the years gone by.

Perry Missouri “Perry Enterprise” August 26, 1937 Business Building Change Owners

Gill Richards purchased last week from the Perry State Bank the building now occupied by Richards & Company and the old Perry Bank building adjoining. The consideration was built in 1888 and the part occupied by Richards & Company has been occupied by them since its erection, a period of 40 year. This old firm was started in 1873 by Gill and Floyd’s father, Marion Richards and Thomas Gill father of Judge M. T. and S. C. Gill. Later S. C. Gill followed his father in the business. The firm at that time was located in a frame building where the Perry State Bank is located. Marion Richards and his brother, Ab Richards were the proprietors of the firm when it moved into the new building.

After the above deal was completed J. M. Greening brought the building now occupied by the Perry Light Department from Gill Richards the consideration being \$2,400. Mr. Greening recently bought the building adjacent which is occupied by Heilberger’s and he now owns the whole building which, according to our information, was erected years ago by Mrs. Greening’s father, Sam Smith

“Date Unknown” (approximately 1953)

When the late William N. Stehle built the first telephone switchboard in Perry in 1901 he incorporated two private telephone lines at the Perry Bank and Peoples Bank used for country calls near Perry. The Perry Bank’s number was 1, the Peoples Bank’s was No. 5. When the two banks were merged over a quarter of a century later the new banking house, the Perry State Bank, retained the No. 1 number. Before the first telephone company was organized DeLaporte and Barr hardware company here also had a private line to the DeLaporte firm in Laddonia. F.M. Richards tells us that his father the late Marion Richards, also used the DeLaporte line to call his farm near Perry. Telephones in that day were a luxury in rural communities, now they are a necessity. We have never ceased to be thankful to Alexander Graham Bell for his invention which enables us to use the telephone for both business and pleasure. Nothing is so heartening as to hear the voice of a loved one half way across the continent. Nothing gives us such a sense of security as to know that the telephone will serve us in a grave emergency. Sometimes city friends have chided us because our telephone operator takes a personal interest in locating people we call in Perry. It is just that intimate touch that makes small town living worth while.

Perry Missouri, “Perry Enterprise” January 1942 The Life Of Thomas F. Gill as I Remember It. Sketch Of The Ancestors Of The Gill Family

In the year 1718 a baby boy wrapped in swaddling clothes with the gill of a fish in his mouth on the shores of Ireland was picked up by some kindly peasants and taken to their home knowing nothing of his origin. They named him gill from the incident of the fish gill. These peasants were weavers by trade. In the fourteenth year young Gill decided to come to America. He came as a stowaway in one of the vessels bound for the new world. He landed somewhere in New Jersey. He settled in one of the colonies and in the year of 1748 was married to a Scotch lady named Duncan, to this union were born six children. The only one we have a record of was Thomas. He entered the Revolutionary War and was soon ranked as Captain. After the war he married Hanna Chriswell. They settled in South Carolina. Later they moved to Montgomery County Kentucky. To this

union were born thirteen children, the oldest being named Samuel Chriswell. He married to Sarah Malone, September 25, 1807. They settled on Licking River, in Bath county Kentucky. They bought a dam and started a gristmill. Later they added a sawmill. They ground feed and sawed lumber for the pioneers; this was a very profitable business at that time. He settled and bought a large quantity of land, both in Indiana and Kentucky and became a very wealthy man. He was the father of Thomas F. Gill, who emigrated to Perry Missouri.

Thomas F. Gill was born November 15, 1831, near Owensville Kentucky. His parents were Samuel Chriswell and Sarah Malone Gill, he was married to Sarah A. Moore, November 18, 1852. She was a sister to David John Calvin Moore, who lived and reared families in this community. Mr. Gill lived and married in Kentucky, emigrated to Missouri in a covered wagon, crossing the river at Hannibal on a ferry. With his little belongings and a few dollars in money he took up land five miles south of Perry. It is now known as the Goodwin farm. At the beginning of the Civil War Mr. Gill enrolled in service as a member of the militia of Missouri. During his absence his wife bravely carried on as headman of the farm and kept things together as many other wives had to do at that time. Making the acquaintance of some large stockmen in the free state of Illinois and arranging with them to take such stockers and feeders as he could pick up in Missouri. Mr. Gill found this to be his first opening for money making. This proved to be profitable and at the end of the war he had made quite a bit of money. Being a progressive man he then branched out to other industries. He bought forty acres of land owned by James Fagan who sold to Jeff Ellis, then to Mr. Gill. This was then a cornfield. He built on one corner a general store room. This store was located where the Williams & Hanna store was and is now owned by the Greening brothers. In this store he carried everything, dry goods, groceries, hardware, harness and hard liquor. He built a coal shed back of the store and bought coal, produce and everything the farmers had to sell. He run a wagon from Perry to Hannibal, hauling coal produce, etc., bring back such things as were needed in his store. This was quite a help to the community. In 1866 he bought a lot and built a three-room house, just north of R. V. Rogers' poultry market and moved to Perry. This land was supposed to be bought from Longly Richards. He sold this property to Buck Yancey, built a house where the electric light office is now, later where Will Boyd now lives. The first clerks in this store were Mark LaFrance and James Fagan junior, later Samuel Smith, James M. Fagan, son of James Fagan, later a successful merchant, first in Hannibal then Texas. Mark LaFrance soon became partners. Then later buying Gill out and the store was then called the LaFrance Store. Then came Samuel Smith, who later made one of Perry's most substantial businessmen. When Mr. Gill's country friends came in to trade he would invite them to his home to dinner. Aunt Sallie would meet them with a smile and always seemed to have plenty. Seeing the need of a restaurant, he built a one-room house now part of the Booth Hotel. He sold this to Elge Hopkins, who built the rest of the present building. Mrs. Bettie Menefee ran the business. She was the mother of Dr. Charles Dick Menefee. Mr. Gill, seeing the need of a livery barn, erected a building where the Gill-Clark building now stands, used by Hugh Powell for a show room. This barn was run by Alva Clark and Rube Wolfbarger. They employed John McClintic and later Frank Littlepage. Mr. McClintic soon started a barn of his own where he now runs a filling station. Frank Littlepage bought a share in this barn. He and Frank Westfall owned it when it burned. Mr. Gill started a hardware store. This building was where E. E. Webb now keeps a tire shop. He employed John Delaporte. Delaporte soon bought in as partner. Mr. Gill sold to A. F. Ward. This hardware was known as Delaporte and Ward. They started a hardware store in Laddonia and ran the first telephone line from the store here to the store in Laddonia. A number of Perry citizens took boxes, Mr. Gill erected a building on the corner where the Arlington Hotel now stands and started a drug store. This was run by Sam Smith and Alva Clark. He erected a building on the corner where R. V. Rogers now keeps a feed store and started a mill. The mill was run by Ed Ralls and son, Tom. Later these buildings were all burned. James Crosthwaite ran a general store on the corner where Goss brothers now keep a store. This was the first store in Perry. He also kept the post office. G. B. Fagan started the first variety store on the corner where the bank now stands. He also had the post office. Ed Ralls was partner in this and Myra McClintic was clerk. I think the Bittick brothers started the first barbershop south of this building. These buildings were all burned. Mr. Gill seeing the need of more substantial buildings erected the Richards Store building. Not forgetting the social side of our life he made a play room upstairs, having theaters, church dinners and dances for amusement of the town and was always there himself to help entertain. When they began to build the railroad Mr. Gill seeing the need for a boarding house employed Mr. James Menefee at once and erected a building south of the Booth hotel. Aunt Lizzie Menefee was proprietress

of this hotel. She was the mother of John and Frank Ellis and Lucy Berrey, this house was sold to Mark LaFrance and has been the residence of the LaFrance family since. It is now owned by William LaFrance. Perry then began to improve rapidly. A number of substantial men such as Judge Hubbard, Josh Ward, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Bledsoe, John Moss, Jeff Seaton, Charles Menke, Marion Richards, the Barrs and many I can not mention. Those from the country were William Ely, Tom Pettitt, James Crockett, John Cleaver, James Gill, Stark Boulware, the Moores, Whites, Quinns and others. They organized a company and began to build substantial buildings. They built the row of buildings now in Main Street. Then saw the necessity of a bank. They started a bank know as the Perry Bank. Tom Gill was president, Mark LaFrance cashier. They also started a paper. I can't remember who started this paper or who owned it on down, but it is the Perry "Enterprise" now owned and run by Burney Fishback and the Masters family. They are much respected and liked by the Perry people. They built the high school and it was then called Strother Institute. Mr. Strother, wife and daughter were the principal teachers. This school has added to the advancement of education in Perry. I cannot al the industries that started in Perry, but in all of them Mr. Gill was always in the lead, both financially and socially. He was owner of a number of buildings and several farms and I think I could safely say he did more for the advancement of Perry than any other one man. He then decided to seek larger fields. He went to Biloxi Mississippi and in his progressiveness started building again. He was not there long until he took yellow fever and died as many others did in that locality. He was buried in Biloxi. Mr. Gill was the father of eight children; only four lived to manhood and womanhood. Belle, his oldest daughter, married Ed Ralls. They run a mill, farmed, run a store, hotel and wee useful citizens both financially and socially. They accompanied their father to Biloxi and Belle died there and was buried by her father. Georgia married Alva Clark, he ran a livery barn, drug store and was cashier of the bank. He was a useful citizen. Georgia now makes her home in Pasadena California. Samuel Gill married Miss Alice Leighton of Kentucky. He was a prominent citizen. He clerked in a store, was cashier of the bank, farmed and is now running a coalmine on his farm. He makes his home in Long Beach California, but is in Perry most of the time. May T. Gill the youngest son married Miss Lena Moss. He erected a beautiful residence on his land in the suburbs of Perry, buying other adjoining farms. He has been an extensive stockman and farmer. His residence and his farm have been an honor to the community in which he lives.

Written from memory by Alice Fagan Crockett.

HISTORY OF NORTHEAST MISSOURI

Pages 1815-1816-1817-1818

THOMAS FRANKLIN GILL. Much interest attaches to the family history of Thomas Franklin Gill, whose first American born ancestor was Capt. Thomas Gill, born in about 1849. Since that time the states of Kentucky, South Carolinas and Missouri have been chiefly the home of the various branches of the family, and men of the name have taken worthy places in the industrial and social activities of their communities. As one who has long been a leader in his immediate locality, it is peculiarly fitting that specific mention be made of the life of Mr. Gill, and that adequate detail be set forth concerning those of the name who have preceded him in the activities of life on these shores.

Since the spring of 1853 Ralls County, Missouri, has been familiar with this branch of the Gill family, for it was that year that Thomas Franklin Gill came into this rural community from Bath County Kentucky. He was born near Owensville, that county, on November 15, 1831, and his father was Samuel Chriswell Gill, a successful financier, farmer and miller of that section, who located there soon after his marriage. South Carolina was the birth state of Samuel C. Gill and the date of his nativity was November 22, 1783. His early life was one of labor in clearing off the canebrake with the big "nigger" hoe of that period, grubbing and cleaning and gradually bring the forest of his native locality into subjection and eventual cultivation. Of the many thing he knew, few were learning as a student, even in the pioneer cabin school of his time and place. He possessed the inquiring mind of a student, however, and he educated himself as the emergency seemed to require it after he reached manhood. His body was strong and vigorous. Like his mine, and his prowess with the reaphook in the harvest field was known far and wide.

On September 25, 1807, Samuel Chriswell Gill married Sarah Malone, a daughter of Jonathan and Mary Malone, who migrated from Tennessee into Montgomery County, Kentucky. A pony, a feather bed and eleven

dollars in money constituted the worldly wealth of Samuel C. and Mary Gill when they set out on their journey toward the mountains of Kentucky, and they settled on Licking River in Bath County. There Mr. Gill discovered an opening for a grist mill and he purchase an old dam on the river, rebuilt it, and the voluntary aid of his neighbors soon had a pair of burr stones running and making meal. A saw was later added to the plant and he worked the fine timber of that locality into lumber and sold it to the new settlers who poured into that section of the country as pioneers. Out of this little mill he laid the foundation for a fortune, and he became the foremost man in his community.

When the public lands of Indiana were thrown open to entry Samuel Gill located large quantities of the best land in Putnam, Hendrick, Boone and Montgomery counties, and subsequently selected land in Douglas County, Illinois, which lands he entered. He owned a body of five hundred acres adjacent to the mill, besides other lands in Kentucky, which contributed to his great wealth in later years. He was a man who possessed the confidence of his fellows and they made him their justice of the peace or member of the county court, as they happened to require such servants, while he was the last sheriff of Bath County under the law making the senior justice a dual office holder as county sheriff. In 1849 he crossed the river and became a resident of Fleming County, and his son, Harrison Gill, became.

Samuel C. Gill's citizenship was ever of the first order. He was a man who made it a part of his business to help those weaker than himself, and he led an upright and wholesome life, despising hypocrisy as only a strong man will. He made no profession of Christianity, but he passed his days with a noble wife of the Primitive Baptist faith, whose life and character were long an inspiration to him. Mrs. Gill died December 22, 1847, and on November 1, 1849, he married Elizabeth Reed, who bore him no children. In the later years of his life Mr. Gill disposed of his mill by sale, when he stipulated expressly in the deed that it should be forever known as Gill's Mill, but a recent owner, with little regard for the sacred deeds or names of the pioneers, proposed the name of "Cogswell" to the government as being suited for the name of the post office than "Gill's Mill," and thus the anchor of this historic spot was loosened and a once noted place in the frontier days of Kentucky was lost to view.

Mr. Gill was the son of Capt. Thomas Gill, born about 1749, and a grandson of John Gill and his wife, who was a Miss Duncan in her maiden days. John Gill came to the American colonies as an Irish boy, without name or ancestral record of his own. He was picked up as an infant on the ocean shores of Ireland wrapped in swaddling clothes, and with the gill of a fish in his mouth. Knowing nothing of his origin, the kindly peasant people who found him took him to their homes, brought him up in their families and named him "Gill," because of the incident of the fish gill connected with the finding of the babe. This incident is believed to have taken place about the year 1718, and some fourteen years later the boy, who it seems was living with an Irish weaver, had a difference of opinion with the elder person which resulted in his leaving Erin's shore and coming as a stowaway to the New World. About 1848 (1748 more likely), he married his Scotch wife and they settled in the colony of New Jersey.

Among the children of John Gill and his wife were Thomas, James, George, Robert, John, and William, but there seems to be no record of his descendants other than through his son Thomas. The latter entered the patriot army at the beginning of the Revolutionary War and soon won the rank of captain. After the war he married Hanna Chriswell, settling in South Carolina and subsequently moved to Montgomery County, Kentucky. Their children, Samuel Chriswell, John, Robert and Rebecca, were born in South Carolina, while Sallie, Betsey, Polly, James, Josiah, Nancy, William and Thomas were born in Kentucky.

The family of Samuel C. Gill and his wife numbered thirteen children and as they married and established separate homes he gave them farms of the lands he had entered in Indiana and Illinois, and all were provided for in this way save the youngest child. They settled upon the lands at once, with few exceptions, and their descendent occupy much of those various tracts today.

Thomas F. Gill, their youngest son, was an unschooled, but by no means an uneducated man, for few men knew intuitively and personal experience the great fundamental principles of life as e did. His career began with a deputyship under his brother, Harrison, who was sheriff of Bath County, and following this he sold goods in Fleming County. He brought a few hundred dollars with him to Missouri and invested in wild land, built him a cabin, during the ten years he occupied that land he lived through many trying experiences which others of his family in his generation were spared through the generous provision made by their parent. Making

the acquaintance of some large cattle men in Illinois and arranging with them to take such "stockers and feeders" as he could pick up in Missouri, Mr. Gill found his first opening for money making. Thus entering the stock business in a small way. He continued it with much profit and became one of the big feeders and dealers of Ralls County. He kept a freight wagon plying between Hannibal and Perry in early days and his operation gradually took on an extent all out of proportion to his primitive beginning.

During the Civil war Mr. Gill was a member of the enrolled militia of Missouri and while he was absent on a war call his wife bravely kept up the isolated home, filled her husband's place as head man about the farm, and kept things together generally until his return. Before the close of the war he purchased the crossroad store of Mr. Ellis and in a short time became a prosperous merchant. A few years later the town of Perry was patted and he paid \$200 for a corner lot in the cornfield, and built a storeroom on the site of the William-Hanna store of today. Seeing the future of the new town, he bought its lot indiscriminately and soon became the leading property owner of the place. With his power over commerce and trade established, the confidence of the community was his everything seemed to conspire in his favor. To a man of his ability, money making was as easy as catching fish with a seine, and his progress toward financial independence was assured, and measured itself by leaps and bounds. He originated most of the mercantile enterprise of Perry, sold them out when established and thereby gave Perry, a prominence and permanence it might not otherwise have gained, and by helping others into paying business ventures, kept his mind and his capital busy at the same time.

Among the enterprises with which Mr. Gill has variously associated are hotels, dry goods establishments, grocery and drug stores; he has sold hardware, furniture and lumber, ran mills livery stables, wagon and blacksmith shops and opera houses. He established in 1885 the Perry Bank and became chief stockholder and President of it. During the time that these various enterprises were under his supervision he was running a number of farms and trade extensively in stock. It is estimated that he built and owned at one time half the residence and business properties in Perry. Life was so wrapped up in the growth and up building of Perry that he may be said to have been the father of the town, and it should by all rights bear his name today. He was a man ever ready to lend a hand where a fellow being appeared to be trying to help himself, and hospitality, charity and liberally of himself and his wife of the which characterized old times in Kentucky. He smiled at all criticisms inspired by jealousy and seemed able to coin into gold the baseless attacks and ingratitude of others. Intemperance, Idleness and gambling were abhorrent to him, and he trained his children in habits of industry, the spirit of progress and the love of humanity. His fondness for fishing took him out on a jaunt of that sort for a time each year, and he never missed a good performance at the local opera house, where he might always be seen in the company of his wife.

Thomas Franklin Gill was married November 18, 1852, to Sarah A. Moor (Moore), daughter of William Moor (Moore), of Bath county Kentucky. Mr. Gill died a Biloxi, Mississippi, on September 28, 1897, and Mrs. Gill passed away in Perry, Missouri, in March 1909. Mr. Gill was a many sided man, possessing a strong physical and mental vigor that made him fit to dominate in every field of activity with which he permitted himself to become identified. He had a pleasing manner and was an entertaining and brilliant conversationalist. He was a Democrat, but he held himself aloof from politics, and in his last years he drifted away from the church with which he and his wife united when in their younger days. Five years previous to his death he removed to

Mississippi, and died of Yellow Fever at Biloxi in that state, just before he would have reached the three score and ten-year mark.

The issue of Thomas F. Gill and Sallie A. Gill were Sarah Dorothea, born May 17, 1854, and died July 24, 1860; John Henry Clay, born October 10, 1855, and died September 22, 1864; Mary Bell, born December 5, 1856, married E. H. Ralls and died of Yellow Fever at Biloxi, Mississippi, October 28, 1897; Georgia Cassandra, born February 5, 1858, is the wife of J. A. Clark, of whom mention is found on other pages of this work, and is a resident of Perry, Missouri; Samuel Chriswell, of whom a complete sketch appears elsewhere in the work; Billy Moor (Moore), born November 1, 1863, died 17, 1868; May Tompkins, born 20, 1865, concerning whom mention will be found on other pages of this biographical history; and Emma Young, born September 13, 1867, and died 1878.

SAMUEL CHRISWELL GILL; To enter into an extended account of the ancestry of Samuel Chriswell Gill is not required in this particular sketch, for the parentage, ancestry and life careers of at least three generations is given in another sketch appearing on other pages of this work, in the life of Thomas Franklin Gill, the honored father of the subject. Economy of space and brevity is therefore secured in this sketch by eliminating more than the most cursory mention of the parentage of Mr. Gill, and the read is referred to the life record of Thomas Franklin Gill, now deceased, for a concise and comprehensive sketch of that worthy gentleman, with a number of details concerning the early history of this well established family.

Samuel Chriswell Gill is the cashier of the Perry Bank, the pioneer bank of this city and an institution founded by his father. The bank is one of the solid and substantial institutions of the district, and its record has been one that has shed a reflected honor upon the memory of its founder. Born on a farm near to the city of Perry, Missouri, on March 23, 1860, Mr. Gill's life, though devoted to various phases of business has followed somewhat closely the path defined by his distinguished father, and the spirit of the noted founder of the family in Missouri goes marching on in the life of his son. It may be stated briefly that Mr. Gill is the son of Thomas Franklin Gill and his wife Sarah A. Moor (Moore); both of whom are now deceased, their deaths having occurred in Biloxi, Mississippi and in Perry, Missouri, respectively, and that he is one of their eight children, all of whom are now departed from this life with the exception of the subject and one sister and one brother.

Samuel Chriswell Gill, who was named for his paternal grandfather, passed his youth and childhood on the farm and the country schools of his locality gave him such elementary education as he receive. His father discovered in him the element for a business life, rather than for the making of a successful farmer, and he was encouraged to enter a store in Perry, where he spent about six years. After six years behind the counter, he was made assistant cashier of the Perry Bank, the institution launched by his father in 1885. Since that time he has been actively identified with the bank, and in 1908 succeeded J. A. Clark as cashier of that institution. Mr. Gill has always maintained certain farming interests, however, and owns a splendid farm of almost a section adjacent to the city of Perry, upon which he has demonstrated his ability as a feeder and grower of stock, thus proving himself the true son of his paternal ancestors, who ever showed themselves capable of making a success of more than one venture at a time.

On January 22, 1885, Mr. Gill was married to Miss Alice Leighton, a daughter of Mrs. Mary Shrou, of Bath County, Kentucky. Mrs., Gill was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1863, and is the mother of Madge, the wife of Howard E. Wilkinson, of Lexington, Kentucky; Leighton M., who is with the Perry bank, and is married to Rhue Ruckle and Thomas F., a pupil in the grade schools of Perry.

Mr. Gill's inclination toward fraternity work has carried him into the blue lodge of the Masons, of which he is past master. The family are members of the Christian church.

Page 1713-1714

HON. MAY TOMPKINS GILL; Bring to his office a ripe and unerring judgment gained through a long experience with men and affairs, Judge May Tompkins Gill, of Perry, has become one of the eminent members of the Ralls county bench, his fitness to serve on which has been demonstrated by a distinguished service. It often occurs that the training received in a life devoted to large commercial transactions peculiarly prepares a citizen for service in position relating to matters of jurisdiction, and Judge Gill's case there has been no exception to this rule. He was born on Lick Creek, five miles south of Perry, June 20, 1865, and is a son of Hon. Thomas F. Gill, whose life work is recorded in another part of this volume.

In Judge Gill's infancy, his father moved the family to the crossroads place known as Perry, and there the future county judge was reared, educated and received his business training. The wonderful adaptability of his father for any line of commercial activity led him to found many of the business enterprises of the new town, and his son May was installed in several of these, by times, and in this way he became an able business competitor himself before his majority was attained. The mill, the livery and lumberyard serve to indicate the variety and the versatility of the senior man's mental operations and in these enterprises, and others, May gained a good commercial education. He subsequently settled down to trade and deal in stock and then located himself upon the farm. He acquired by purchase the interests of the Gill heirs in a section of land lying against the town site on the west and her his efforts as a feeder, grower and stock dealer have been carried on. He is

widely known among the extensive stockmen and the mule buyers have learned to depend upon his ranch for valuable animals by the carload.

In 1908 Judge Gill entered the race for county judge, as the successor of Judge J. North. He won the nomination and was elected and has contributed much to strength of the personal of the county bench. His colleagues are Judge Priest and Gore, and their administration has been marked with the improvements to the highways, the v building of bridges and other noteworthy accomplishments. His selection for a dual part in the handling of the public funds has shown wisdom among the constituents of his district.

On September 14, 1892, Judge Gill was married to Miss Lena Moss, daughter of John C. and Sarah (Richards) Moss, and sister of Mrs. J. E. Bowler of Perry, and George A. Moss. Judge and Mrs. Gill have two children: Moss and Longly Malone. The gill residence is among the elaborate country homes of Ralls County. It was erected in 1889, commands a view of the big farm-ranch, and reflects the substantial character of its owner. Its wooded front echoes the noise of the little commercial center just beyond Lick Creek and its annual output adds materially to the clearings credited to Perry as a business point, Judge Gill is one of the vice presidents of the Perry Bank. He is a member of Lick Creek blue Lodge of the Missouri fraternity, and is a member of the Christian

“The Center Intelligencer” Special Candidate Edition April 11, 1902

Wm. R. NETHERLAND

Born to Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Netherland in Monroe County, MO., September 23, 1863, a son who was christened William R. and is in 1902 servicing Ralls County as Collector of Revenge. Billie received his education in the common schools, early in life showed a tendency to shift for himself, and a tact for business. He was long in applying

Himself, and while yet a boy he started his business career as a clerk in LaFrance & Richards’ dry goods store at Perry, having moved to Ralls county in 1874. He resigned his position with this firm after two years and “played the devil” on the old “Gazette” the first paper started in Perry. He hustled for the Gazette two years, clerked in his stepfather’s S. B. Smith, store three years, and ventured into business for himself with the firm styled William’s Netherlander & Co. In 1890 he sold his interest and accepted a position in the People’s Bank as Assistant to Cashier M. P. LaFrance, and two years later was promoted to Cashier. In 1900 he was nominated for Collector, having for his opponents J. W. Caldwell, Dick Jones, and G. W. Briggs. In all of his changes in business Mr. Netherland has stepped out in the forenoon and has taken charge in the afternoon, hence during the last 20 years he has not been from business one day. He married in 1886 to Miss Emma LaFrance of Perry; two children Robert and Woods have been born, Ralls County has had but few as good Collectors as Wm. R. Netherland, and will be re-nominated this spring with opposition

PERRY BANK PHOTOS



Photo 1; The sign on the top of the above building reads “Perry Bank Building”. The Bank is on the right side, this was likely the second location of the “Perry Bank”



1912 photo of the Perry Bank interior decorated for the Corn Carnival. Sam Gill is in the middle and man on right is believed to be Ed Waterston. The man on the left is unknown



1912 photo of the Perry Bank exterior decorated for the Corn Carnival. A note with the picture names left to right J. Stark, Ed Waterston and Sam Gill. I can no connect J. Stark and the bank



Another 1912 photo of the Perry Bank exterior decorated for the Corn Carnival. The I'm sure of is Sam Gill holding the hat in front of him on the right side

☆————— OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS. —————☆

THOS. F. GILL, PRES.	J. A. CLARK, CASHIER.	JOHN B. BRISCOE.
JOHN S. CLEAVER, VICE PRES.	S. C. GILL, ASS'T CASHIER.	WM. L. SHOULTS.
		MAY T. GILL, Sec'y.

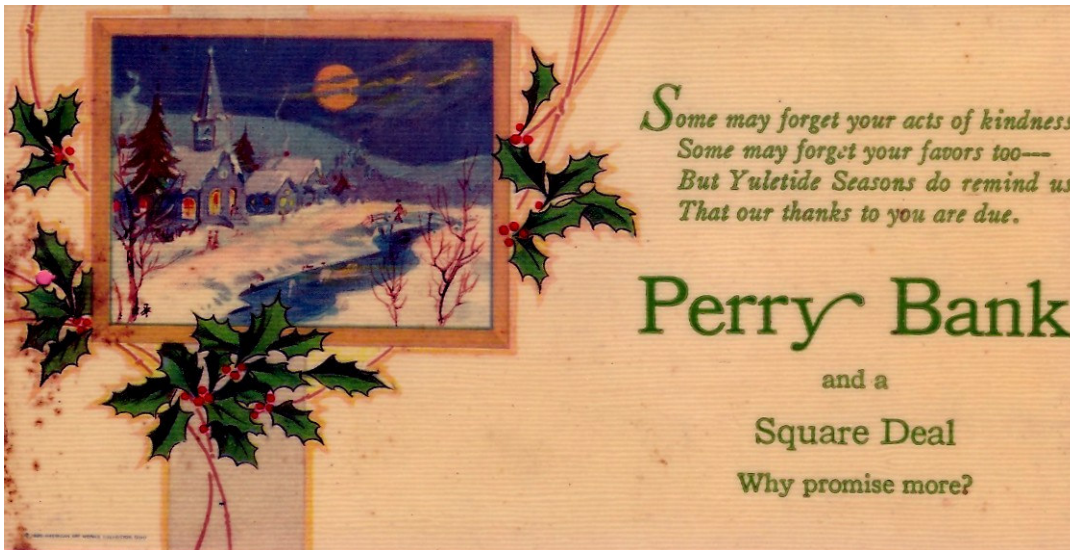
PERRY BANK,

PERRY, RALLS COUNTY, MO.

☆—————
 CASH CAPITAL, \$16,000.00.
 ☆—————

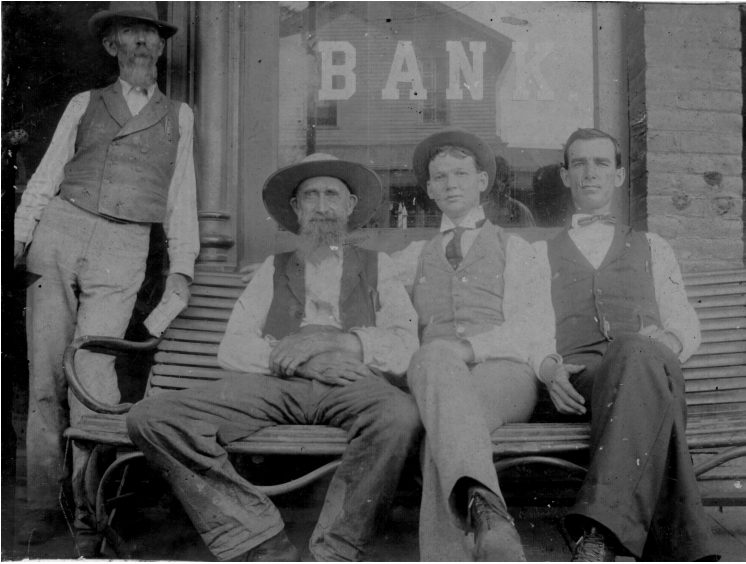
<p>DO A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS.</p>	<p>SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO COLLECTIONS.</p>
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Perry Bank ink pad. Likely before 1900, note the cash capital



*Some may forget your acts of kindness
 Some may forget your favors too—
 But Yuletide Seasons do remind us
 That our thanks to you are due.*

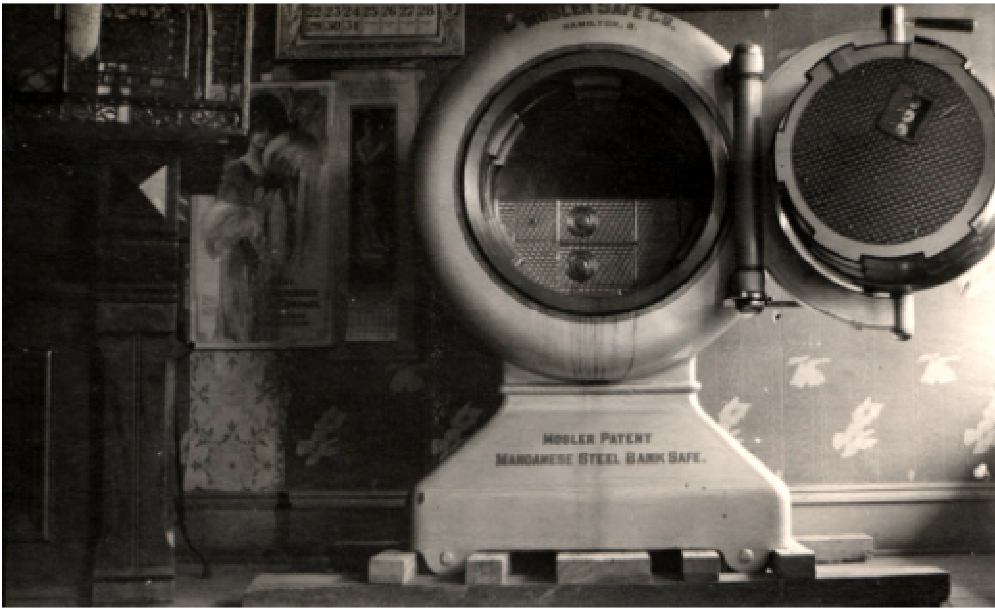
Perry Bank
 and a
Square Deal
 Why promise more?

PEOPLES BANK PHOTOS

Exterior of Peoples Bank taken circa 1900 or before, because what is believed to be the Hibbard house is seen in the reflection of the window which was torn down around 1900 or before?



Interior of Peoples Bank before 1912



A Mosler Manganese safe like the one pictured above was use in both the Perry Bank and Peoples Bank when they both opened in 1912. Because the wallpaper matches above this was probably at the Peoples bank because it is on a pallet and was likely just received and going into the new bank in 1912.



In the upper middle of this picture can be seen a sign with People's in clear when enlarged, see below



You can clearly see the word People's on widow in the middle of this enlargement.



Northeast corner of Main and Palmyra streets cleared for construction of new Peoples Bank circa 1911



Northeast corner of Main and Palmyra streets under construction for the new Peoples bank