

A compilation of Ozark County  
heritage and history

# Times Past

MAGAZINE

2023 edition

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Published by the Ozark County Times • Gainesville, MO





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# TIMES PAST

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An annual publication of the *Ozark County Times*  
PO Box 188; 504 Third Street, Gainesville, MO 65655  
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**Gainesville square** - This photo of the west side of the Gainesville square is from the collection of Linda Gardner White of Nottinghill and shows a busy but unknown event. Noting the absence of any automobiles, Ozarks historian Ken Brown estimates the picture was taken prior to 1915. He remarked on the Springfield wagon in the bottom right corner.





***The Kyle Store at Thornfield*** - James J. Kyle and his wife, Ida, owned the Thornfield store shown in this photo from the Ozark County Historium's photo archives. The picture is from a collection donated by Springfield resident Ken Brown. James Kyle was born in Tennessee in 1867 and came with his parents to Missouri about 1890. In addition to being a merchant, he was a teacher and Ozark County's representative in the Missouri legislature. Both James and Ida Kyle held college degrees. She was born in Tennessee in 1866 and served as Thornfield postmaster from 1914 to 1927.



# A LOVE FOR OUR HISTORY

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

Previously compiled for several years by Mary Ruth Luna Sparks – and now by

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

Thanks to all who contribute photo-

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

## On this year's cover

This photo of the Gainesville School girls basketball team, pictured with their coach, was taken 108 years ago in 1915. Girls' basketball uniforms have changed a bit since then. The names of the coach and the two girls beside him are unknown. Notes on the back of the photo seem to identify the



girls on the porch sitting above them as, from left, Doris Conkin (partially in view), Helen White and Amy Small. The photo was shared by the late John and Susan Amyx Ault, who were given the photo by Judy Amyx Ray, granddaughter of Dewey and Doris Conkin Amyx.

*What's inside - Ozark County historical news clippings, interspersed between these photos and articles:*

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Times Past magazine is published by:

## THE OZARK COUNTY Times

504 Third Street; PO Box 188; Gainesville, MO 65655  
 Phone: 417-679-4641; www.ozarkcountytimes.com

Norene Prososki.....owner  
 Jenny Yarger.....publisher/ad manager  
 Jessi Dreckman.....editor  
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# OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

## Ozark County News

April 12, 1883

Our county clerk is doing a "land office business" without joking. A large number of homestead applications were made the past week, and land is being taken up more rapidly now than ever before in Ozark.

*Ad* - The finest cigars and liquors (beer included) kept at the White Saloon. J. M. Bunn smiles from behind the bar and will treat you politely.

April 12, 1883

The proceedings of the Board of Equalization, which is to be published in next week's paper, has so occupied our time this week that we have not been able to pay due attention to this issue. It has also been necessary to print on back issues, as our paper has not been sent through in time. We hope to be all right next week.

July 5, 1883

The new mail service commenced last Monday. It was not a new service but a continuation of the old after a "vacation" of a few days. J. L. Ficklin, the old contractor, has undertaken to run the Marshfield and Mountain Home route for thirty days, and probably longer. Consequently, we will have no improved mail facilities, as they will not run a hack.

Jan. 13, 1889

The Board of Pension Examining Surgeons at Gainesville has recently reorganized with Dr. Small as President and Dr. Ebrite as secretary. First meeting of the board for examining claimants was held yesterday.

Jan. 17, 1889

Since our last report the Recorder has licensed the following to marry: Issac H. Workman and Miss Sarah J.

Ballenger; H. H. Howard and Miss Martha J. Luna; Jess R. Luna and Miss Martha J. Howard - all of Richland township; Thomas Gardner and Miss Hannah James of Jackson township; A. C. Derryberry and Mrs. R. E. Ledbetter of Jasper Township.

Jan. 20, 1898

On Tuesday night Wm. Hanes of Richland Township got into a difficulty with a young man whose name was Birdsong. Birdsong drew a knife and cut Hanes in a number of places about the hands and body. . . . Sheriff Luna arrested Birdsong yesterday and brought him to town. He found him in a large cave in the vicinity of where the trouble occurred. Dr. J. T. Arnold of this place dressed Hanes' wounds. . . . Both parties were at a dance.

Several of the boys are taking a tobacco cure which, if it proves satisfactory, will injure the tobacco trade to quite an extent here.

July 10, 1890

Mrs. Jacob Suter of Big North Fork died June 30 with consumption. She leaves a husband and several children together with many friends to mourn her loss. We beg to tender them our heartfelt sympathy.

The candidates can now be seen on every corner with a smile for all who pass 'em by.

March 10, 1892

*Dora items* - On Friday night, a hack load of our young people went to Siloam Springs to attend a party given by Mr. And Mrs. James Duffey in their new house. Dancing was in order under the management of William Duffey.

June 6, 1895

Decoration of the soldiers'



**Cousins with handguns** - Cousins Landon (left) and Albert Gauding of Nottinghill are shown with their handguns in this photo from the collection of Ken W. Brown of Springfield.

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

Jan. 17, 1901


Married, on Sunday, Jan. 6, 1901, at the home of the bride's parents, 8 miles east. Mr. Willard Boone and Miss Alta Luna. Mr. Boone is one of the leading teachers of the county. Mr. Boone is also a popular

young attorney, being admitted to the bar last August. . . . B. W. Hogard, J.P., was called to solemnize the ceremony.

Oct. 24, 1901

Our County Clerk, John C. Harlin, has purchased the newspaper outfit formerly owned by W. W. Harrison at Cabool and has moved it into the old bank building and will establish a new paper here which will bear the name of the "Ozark County Times." Mr. Harlin has secured the services of his brothers-in-law, Moss and Hugh Layton, to manage and to the mechanical work of the paper.





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# OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

**Ozark County News  
Feb. 6, 1902**

*Noble* – Uncle Jim Gaston returned from Springfield Thursday. He reports bad traveling. One of his mules fell on the ice causing his wagon to turn topside down into a ditch. Uncle Jim was uninjured.

**Ozark County Times  
Feb. 14, 1902**

John C. Harlin, County Clerk, has just finished his aggregate abstract of the Assessor's books of Ozark county, and the valuation is \$194,000 less this year than it was last. We are in hopes there will be a good corn crop this year.

Jacob Suter, one of Ozark County's best citizens, died very suddenly at his home on North Fork about 12 miles east of this place. The remains were laid to rest in the

Mitchell cemetery, the Masonic Lodge of Bakersfield conducting the funeral ceremony.

**Bakersfield Boomerang  
July 5, 1902**

Lots of illegitimate whiskey was circulated on the Fourth at Bakersfield, but only served to make the crowd good humored.

The "Glorious Fourth" has come and gone. Two thousand people thoroughly enjoyed themselves at Bakersfield, the day being an ideal one. As usual, the Program was a failure, there being no speaking, singing or recitations.

**The Democrat  
June 7, 1905**

Gainesville has a brass band now, and the boys will soon be in shape to furnish band music for any occasion.



**Birdtown** - This 1910 photo from the collection of April Arington Legler shows the general merchandise store that operated in the Ozark County community of Birdtown, also known as Toccoa. West Plains resident Jim Decker provided this information about those in the photo when the *Times* first published it in 2015: Seated, from left: Pat Briscoe (a local blacksmith), Dr. Gordon (a local doctor), Tim Gordon (Dr. Gordon's son), John Decker (Jonathon's son), Marty Moody, Arthur Gordon, Sam Thompson, Walter Tabor, Homer Decker (father of Jim Decker), Mont Tetrick and Bill Moody (and his dog, Molly Cottontail). Standing: John Gordon, Jonathon Decker (who built this store building in 1905), Charles Decker (son of Jonathon), Eddie Lewis, Claude Moody and Eldon Decker (the two boys in front of window).



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This was the scene on the southwest corner of the Gainesville square 111 years ago. For a time on the night of April 4, 1912, it seemed certain that all the businesses on Gainesville's square would be destroyed by the fire that broke out about 11 p.m. But, according to the April 12, 1912, issue of the *Ozark County Times*, "the bucket brigade, by keeping the roof of the Harden building well soaked with water until the roofs of the Luna and Red Store buildings had fallen, succeeded in stopping the advance of the flames in that direction." This photo, originally a postcard, was donated to the Ozark County Historium by Mary Head Green.



This is one of 10 postcards that depict five young men acting out a pretend crime resulting in this fake hanging. The cards are from the collection of Judy Ford Lyons and originally belonged to her grandmother, Ara Luna Gilliland. Mack Harrison and his brother Averill Harrison are believed to be two of the young men in the pictures.



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The date of this photo, from the collection of the late Susan Amyx Ault, is unknown, but it's believed to show the Model T Fords offered for sale by Susan's grandfather, the late Sid Amyx, shortly after he founded Amyx Auto on the Gainesville square in 1916. Amyx offered free driving lessons to anyone who bought a car, a growing trend credited for the "slow demise of the Missouri mule and wagon as the farmer's number one means of transportation," according to an article accompanying the photo in the December 2012 issue of the *Old Mill Run*, the quarterly publication of the Ozark County Genealogical and Historical Society.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

### *The Republican* May 24, 1906

There will be a box supper and literary entertainment at the Pine View Church house the 1st Saturday night in June. The proceeds of the box supper are to be used to help finish the building. Everybody is invited.

*Lawndale items* – Mrs. Melda Tillman is running a "hencubator" this spring.

W. F. Tilman came from West Plains Saturday, where he had been trading with the merchants. He had bought \$50 worth of goods, and his wagon broke down on the Guthrie hill.

### *Ozark County Times* Jan. 11, 1907

A step in the right direction has been taken. The County Court appointed Geo. W. Boone, W. T. Harlin and Marion

Haskins as committee to select a sight and erect a good substantial stone jail for Ozark County.

The committee was authorized to sell the current jail and lot and use the proceeds to buy a suitably located lot. They have traded this lot for a lot on High street which is one of the most healthy locations in the town. Our old log jail is immediately below a livery stable, and the drainage from the stable makes the jail a very unsanitary place.

### Jan. 7, 1910

Asa Scott has been appointed marshal for the city of Gainesville.

J. N. Ford has purchased the Marshall and Carter stock of merchandise at West Plains and will move it here.

The German dirigible air squadron has been executing maneuvers, and another war scare is due.

### Feb. 23, 1912

The heaviest snowstorm for many years visited this region Tuesday and Tuesday night. Much thunder and lightning accompanied the storm. On Wednesday morning, twelve inches of snow covered the ground. No mail reached this place Wednesday. The west mail went out only a few miles and had to return; the east mail got as far as Tecumseh. The snow in the roads was badly drifted, making it almost impossible for a team to get through.

*Souder items* – Stanley Harwood came very near losing a toe Wednesday. Alfred Byerly was cutting wood while Stanley

was playing near, and thinking it would be fun to kick the stick out of the way, he raised his foot just in time for the ax to strike it. While it is very painful, it is not seriously cut and will be all right in a few days.

Word was received over the phone this morning that Jim Ramsey had the misfortune to lose his house by fire last Wednesday.

### Aug. 23, 1912

Sidney Amyx of Caney moved to the west part of town the first of the week in order to see after his West Plains mail contract.

J. A. Champioux, our new blacksmith, is kept very busy. He does good work and is rapidly building up his business.



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**First WWI draftees from Ozark County** - This photo, reprinted from the Ozark County Historium's book *Called to the Colors*, is believed to show 25 of the first 31 Ozark County men who were drafted after the U.S. declared war on Germany in April 1917. In mid-August of that year, the men posed in front of the new Gainesville school building that had been completed a short time earlier. Later that day, the men would leave for West Plains, where they would board a train on their way to Camp Funston at Fort Riley, Kansas. Only two men in the photo have been identified: George A. Rose of Gainesville stands, fifth from right wearing a bowtie, and Leonidas Smith of Rockbridge is to his left. Others in the group included William A. Mahan of Toledo; Lester Hambelton and Harold E. Smith of Gainesville; Henry Mullins, Samuel V. E. Wiles and Edward J. M. Reynolds of Bakersfield; Luther C. Mayfield, Joseph A. Faulkner and Landy Hightower of Dora; Oliver D. Barner and Bennie A. Welch of Hammond; Paul Anderson of Howards Ridge; John W. Dougherty of Tecumseh; William E. Freeman of Zanoni, Austin Isom and Ed Halford of Udall; James L. Loftis of Willhoit, Melvis Sievert and Elmer Beasley of Grabeel; Raymond D. Ball of Nottinghill; Benjamin H. Moffis of Trail; William B. McSwain and Smith Lawson of Thornfield.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

*Ozark County Times*  
Feb. 12, 1917

*Washington* - Woodrow Wilson was officially pronounced re-elected. He won by a majority of 23 votes in the Electoral college. The official vote was Wilson 277, Hughes 254.

**March 9, 1917**

Samual Stith, of Pontiac, and son Loyd, were callers at this office Friday. Loyd is here from Des Moines, Iowa, on a week's visit with his parents. This is his first visit home since he left his father's team standing in the field and left for parts

unknown some seven years ago.

**June 1, 1917**

Dr. L. M. Harrison made an auto trip to Bakersfield Sunday.

Walter Blount of west of town is the latest purchaser of a Ford car. Dewey Amyx brought it down from Ava Tuesday.

P. E. Bushong and wife of Nottinghill were in town Monday. Mr. Bushong and family have been in St. Louis the past number of months where Mr. Bushong is attending medical college; they arrived home a few weeks ago. Mr. Bushong will return to St. Louis

in a week or ten days and continue his studies.

**Jan. 25, 1918**

The Henry Wood moving picture show building, or "hell hole," as Uncle Henry called it, collapsed under the weight of snow on the roof Tuesday night. Uncle Henry was conducting a second-hand clothing store in the building. Fortunately no one happened to be in the structure when it fell.

**Nov. 15, 1918**

J. D. Baxter, Bonnie Kirkland, Marion Kirkland each took a load of hogs to

West plains last week.

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

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

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

Lewis Welker has the influenza.

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



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- 9/2/23: Pontiac Fireworks - Pontiac Cove
- 9/21-23/2023: Hootin an Hollarin - Gainesville Square
- 10/31/2023: Trunk or Treat - Gainesville square
- December 2023 (TBA): Wonders of Christmas  
- Gainesville square

- 02/24/24: Taste of New Orleans  
- Lake Bums Brew Co., Pontiac
- June 2024: Theodosia Area Chamber  
of Commerce Poker Chip Run
- 6/29/24: 4th of July fireworks  
- Theodosia Marina Resort

Check websites for updated event information.

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# OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

**Ozark County Times**  
**Dec. 8, 1918**

The large mercantile establishment of Gaston & Gaston at Noble was destroyed by fire last Saturday night. The fire was discovered between 9 and 10 o'clock. . . . Only a few hundred pounds of flour and a barrel of coal oil were saved. No insurance was carried on the goods nor the building.

The belief is that the store was first robbed and then set fire.

The Gastons have been in business at Noble for many years.

**Dec. 20, 1918**

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

**Sept. 24, 1920**

A number of cattle buyers from Sedalia are here this week trying to buy some nine hundred pounds and up cattle.

Otis Gilliland family and Mrs. Lee Wood were at Dora Monday. Mr. Gilliland is making arrangements to move to Dora, and his business there on Monday was to rent a house.

The Wade and Brown steam thresher was in this vicinity threshing this past week. Much of the wheat was damaged in the stack by the recent heavy rains.

**Jan. 21, 1921**

On Monday Ray Amyx happened to a painful accident at the Amyx Co. Garage. In lifting an engine from a car, it dropped on his foot, breaking the bones in the big toe and badly bruising his foot.

By Gilliland in the employ of the Frisco railroad and located at Fort Scott, Kansas, arrived here on Thursday to see his father, R. Q. Gilliland, who is seriously ill.

**Jan. 21, 1922**

*Rockbridge items* – Pat Brown has bought D. P. Wade's interest in the threshing machine and saw mill which they together have owned and operated for the last three years.

*Ocie items* – W. H. Hampton has bought Jesse Tannehill's farm and by so doing becomes the owner of the place the second time.

*Pontiac items* – Little Tan Sanders fell from the woodpile while at school last week and broke his arm.

M. H. Mahan has been deeding some of his land to his children.

Quite a few hands have been working the road this week.

**Dec. 21, 1923**

*New Harmony* – Sorry to hear of the death of Ed Mahan. The bereaved ones have our heartfelt sympathy.

Several from here attended the dance at Frank Duncan's Saturday night and report a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Huston Richison are the proud parents of a son born Dec. 11th. Mr. Richison is now wearing a broad smile.

**May 9, 1924**

Mr. A. C. Upton allowed his truck to run off the bank at the bridge near town Sunday doing considerable damage to the cab and body. He was alone at the time and escaped injury.

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According to legend, toward the end of the Civil War, supposed horse thief John Dabner was killed and buried near this cave on the east side of the North Fork of the White River close to what is now the Ridge Runner Trail in Mark Twain National Forest. The entrance of the cave known as “Dabner Bluff Cave” or “Horse Thief Cave” opens into a large cavern. These photos were shared by an area resident who asked not to be identified.

## AN OZARK JOURNEY by Wayne Sayles, wgs@wgs.cc

# How one horse thief earned a place in history

*Editor’s note: This is an abbreviated version of the Ozark Journey column that was published in the Sept. 29, 2021, edition of the Times.*

One of the side effects of the Civil War in the southern border counties of Missouri was a breakdown of local government – and that breakdown included the process of law and order.

Courts and record-keeping were virtually nonexistent. Ozark County suffered from this condition as much or more than the adjoining counties because it was virtually depopulated by marauders as well as by Confederate and Union Army incursions and independent paramilitary groups. As a result, those still living here were often left to their own devices to protect life and property. Home Guard militias and ad-hoc posse groups often took matters into their own hands, ignoring justice and creating a vigilantism that is still the subject of research and debate more than 150 years later.

A short article written by J. Carl Ferguson for the *Howell County Review* in September 1969 shed some light on one case close to home. In “Dabner, the Horse Thief,” Ferguson revives a local legend passed down by Willow Springs native Jim Harris, who ran a country store with a post office in Willow Springs and boarded the occasional passerby.

The legend began near the end of the war, in 1864 and 1865, when local government record-keeping failed and West Plains was a ghost town. Without repeating Ferguson’s tale verbatim, it’s enough to say that a lone traveler leading a string of horses showed up at the Harris home and store in Willow Springs. The unknown man said his name was John Dabner and that he was delivering the horses to someone in Arkansas. He spent the night and left the next morning without incident or any particular suspicion.

But later in the day, Harris was visited by a “deputy sheriff” and posse from a county north of Howell County who said they were looking for stolen horses. Harris mentioned Dabner’s stay and joined the group in their pursuit.

They followed his trail into Ozark County, headed west toward the North Fork of the White River. The next day, they found a group of horses tied up on a bluff overlooking the river. After confirming that these were the stolen horses, so the story goes, they tracked down Dabner on foot and ordered his surrender.

Knowing full well that his capture would lead to hanging from the nearest tree, Dabner started firing at the posse. They returned fire, and Dabner was killed in the exchange. He was buried at that spot with a crude stone marker. From that time on, this place on the east

side of the river has been called “Dabner Ridge,” and a nearby cave is known as “Dabner Bluff Cave” – or, as some residents call it, “Horse Thief Cave.”

Today, few people know the story of that historical spot or the reason for its name.

The cave, also sometimes called Bat Spring Cave, is often confused with Bat Cave to the northeast or to Nature Trail Cave to the south near Blue Spring. Being on land within Mark Twain National Forest, there is, or once was, a U.S. Forest Service marker pointing to this spot on the famous Ridge Runner Trail. . . .

The Ridge Runner Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Missouri has taken small groups of riders to the cave on several occasions. One of the purposes of this nonprofit group is to assist federal, state and county agencies with maintenance and management of land resources for equestrian uses. For more information about the group, visit [bchmo.org/ridge-runner](http://bchmo.org/ridge-runner).

That might be the end of this story, except for the fact that nobody seems to know who John Dabner was, or if there even was a “John Dabner” to trace.

In Ferguson’s article, he suggests that the horse thief likely did not use his own name. A comprehensive online search for any John Dabner who died at about the time of this event was unsuccessful.



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**Tecumseh bridge, circa 1924** - This undated photo was taken by M. C. Stephens looking west at the "steel bridge" that was completed over the North Fork of the White River (now Lake Norfork) in Tecumseh in 1924 at a cost of \$50,063, according to "A History of Ozark County 1841-1991." The people in the photo are unknown, but they had apparently gathered to be photographed at the newly completed bridge that was considered a modern marvel at the time. The bridge, 18 feet wide, continued in service until it was replaced in 1988 by the current 38-foot-wide bridge, which was built at a cost of \$2.1 million (including removal of the old bridge). This photo is one of many historical images shared on the Dora School Library's Facebook page. See additional photo of Steel Bridge in later years, page 42.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

### *Ozark County Times*

**May 9, 1924**

*Lutie* - A large crowd attended the funeral of Mrs. Clayton. She was buried in the Hicks cemetery.

Hobart Ledbetter is sick.

Some went to Fred Hampton's Thursday night to listen to the radio.

**Feb. 24, 1925**

*Romance* - Fire got out from Roy Pare's clearing Friday and burned up some fence for Logie Naugle and Jim Brown. It burned almost all of Roy's fence around his farm.

Eggs 25 cents here.

Farmers are not getting to plow because of so much rain.

**Jan. 22, 1926**

Mancy Bros. & Co. and Campbell Bros. are now working more than 150 men on their road project between here and Romance. The larger number of them are Ozark County citizens. A very nice pay roll while it lasts for this vicinity.

**May 20, 1927**

The Senior class of the Bakersfield High School presented their play "Aaron Boggs, Freshman," at Gainesville Saturday night.

Among the Bakersfield folks accompanying the class were Supt. and Mrs. Claude Cropper, Frank Swain and family, Albert Thompson and family and James F. Johnson. The play was exceptionally good and well rendered.

A pie supper was given at the Amyx hall Thursday night of last week for the benefit of the Gainesville baseball team. The proceeds of the supper amounted to about \$22. The cake for the prettiest girl was awarded to Miss Thelma Luna, following a hot contest with Miss Mary Gault. The jar of pickles, offered for the most love-sick couple, was

captured by Mr. Clyde Rogers and Miss Thelma Luna.

Pat Sanders, son of J. C. Sanders of this city, while swinging on a wild grape vine on the hillside in the northwest part of town Wednesday afternoon of last week, fell when the vine broke and broke his right leg below the knee. He was immediately taken to the hospital at West Plains where the injured was attended to. Drs. J. T. White and H. E. Pace, and the father accompanied the boy. Reports from the hospital are that he is getting along nicely.



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# The building of Highway 14 and Twin Bridges

By Edwin Cash

*Editor's note: This by the late Edwin Cash was included the history of Dora that was compiled by the late Bessie Cropper in 1980.*

The section of Highway 14 between the Dora junction and Twin Bridges was the last loop to be built. In 1929 the land was cleared for the roadway by a big machine called a shovel dipper owned by Martin Wonderlick from Minneapolis, Minnesota. This was the first engine-powered machine seen around this area as all previous road building had been done by horse power.

The road was built and crowned with the big shovel dipper and completed in late 1930. It was graveled by late 1931, and the people were fortunate to have to contend with the dust, mud and post-holes of a dirt road for only a short time. The gravel was hauled from the Ed Loring farm down the road.

The highway department employed local workers to keep the road in a good state of repair. Johnny Clifton was employed as the first road grader, and his only job was to maintain the roadway. He spent just about every day riding the road grader. Henry Collins, Ervin Cudworth and Lester Lovins were several of the road grader men who worked until the highway was paved after 1947.

The two bridges on Highway 14 over the North Fork River and Spring Creek are referred to as Twin Bridges since they are less than an eighth of a mile apart and are of the same design, age and materials.

Construction on both bridges was started late in 1928. The bridges and the last strip of Highway 14 were dedicated in later summer, 1931. Many will remember that day as being terribly hot and dusty. There were the most people there that I had ever seen gathered in the place. The Governor of Missouri, Henry Caulfield, and the officials from the Highway Dept. at Willow Springs and Jefferson City were present for the occasion.

The completion of the roadwork and the two bridges made transportation to Ava and West Plains much more bearable.



These two photos, from the collection of the late Leeton Luna, show the "Twin Bridges" that still stand over Spring Creek (above) and the North Fork of the White River (below) on Highway 14/181 just north of the Ozark County line in Douglas County. Notes on the back of the photos indicate that they were taken as construction of the bridges was being completed. In the late Bessie Cropper's compilation of the history of Dora, the late Edwin Cash wrote that Missouri Gov. Henry Caulfield was among those who attended the bridges' dedication in "later summer, 1931."





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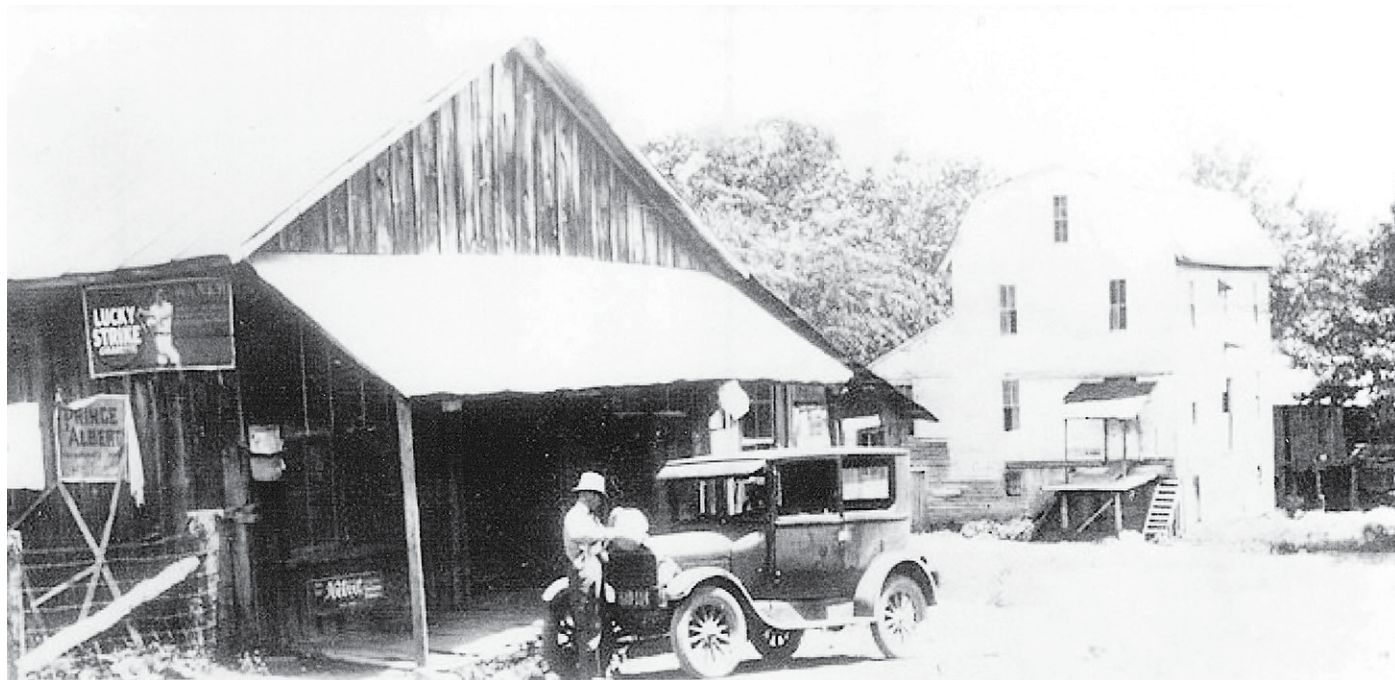
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**Theodosia General Store, late 1920s** - The late Pete Ford adds water to a customer's car at the Theodosia general store probably sometime in the late 1920s while the store was owned by brothers Tom and Newt Martin. The building in the background is the old Theodosia mill. The structures stood north of the present-day Theodosia bridge on land now covered by Bull Shoals Lake. The source of the photo is unknown.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

**Ozark County Times**  
**Feb. 1, 1929**

**Gainesville High School Notes** - Arles Huffman is back in school after an absence of two weeks. He had pneumonia.

School was dismissed Monday afternoon for the funeral of Mrs. R. Q. Gilliland.

**Dec. 13, 1929**

Miss Lenore Sanders, 25 years old, daughter of E. K. Sanders of this city, will be sworn in as probate judge of Ozark County as soon as she receives her commission from the office of Gov. Henry S. Caulfield. Miss Sanders will succeed J. R. Willhoit, who resigned from the office following his sentence to 18 months in the federal prison at Leavenworth . . . on a liquor charge. She will be the first woman probate judge in Missouri. . . . She has served as clerk under Willhoit for the

past four years.

**Feb. 21, 1930**

**Brixey items** - Some from here attended the Agricultural meeting at Gainesville Tuesday. Mr. H. P. Bushong, included in the number, called to see Mrs. Leonard Ebrite's and Mrs. Ed Clark's new boys while there. Folks are surely getting ready for war as all the newcomers are boys.

**Feb. 8, 1934**

From the vote in the county on the courthouse election, the voters evidently believe the county don't need a new courthouse. The old cow-barn we have is costing us near \$1,000 per year for rent and repairs, besides the danger to which all our important county records are exposed.

**May 2, 1935**

The bank building at Hammond is getting a new

coat of paint.

**June 6, 1935**

**Romance** - Archie Thomas was home from the CCC camp over the weekend.

The decoration at Franklin Grove cemetery was rained out.

**Jan. 14, 1937**

**New Hope** - Walter Mahan has opened his service station at the state line. A man from West Plains is operating it for him.

**Ocie** - About 40 men of the vicinity are working on the new highway at a living wage which keeps the wolf from the door in several homes.

**Jan. 14, 1937**

A fine 10-pound boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh T. Harlin Friday evening. Mother and babe are getting along fine. Hugh is having several kinds of fits, but his physician

says they are a harmless kind and will wear off in a week or two.

**April 6, 1938**

S.P. Hart was over from Ocie Friday with a number of fine hams for Gainesville folks. He has our hearty thanks for a big mess of ribs and liver.

Mrs. Capt. Tiller will show at the Masonic Hall the nights of April 11, 12, 13 and 15. Her husband is known to everybody in this vicinity as a good showman. He died a few months ago.

**Sept. 21, 1939**

L. F. Stevens and wife, A. D. McDonald and wife and a prisoner, whom the sheriff made the trip to bring back, returned from their California trip Wednesday evening.



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# OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

*Ozark County Times*  
**Jan. 25, 1940**

We have been told that Dr. M. J. Hoerman of Kansas will locate in Gainesville to practice medicine.

He has rented an office over the Amyx Garage and wants to rent a small residence. He is a young man, married and has no children.

**Dec. 19, 1940**

We invite you to the big free Xmas program in Gainesville Friday, Dec. 20, from noon to 1 p.m. at the courthouse square. See Santa Claus and his troupe of Wonder Dogs. Santa will have free candy for the kiddies. Music by the Gainesville school band.

*Dora* – They have the old school house nearly torn down and are building a new grade school in order to have a separate place from the high school

for the grade scholars.

The stork visited the Bert Thornton home last Friday night and left them a fine baby girl.

Jim Ingram has bought Mrs. Hunt's property in Dora and have moved.

Mrs. Nancy Mayfield was buried at the Trail cemetery last Sunday. The bereaved have our sympathy.

*Howards Ridge* – William Howard and Bruer Kirkland who are attending school at Bakersfield were at Cotter the weekend with the basketball team from the school.

**Feb. 12, 1942**

*Longrun* – Mrs. Will Rambo and Mrs. J. Z. Hobbs helped Bernie Sallee quilt Friday Evening.

J. Z. Hobbs, Newt Welch and Richard Sallee are all having lumber sawed to build new barns.

Ed Adams will soon have his barn completed.

**April 16, 1942**

Thirty-five draftees left here this week for training at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. Twenty left on Wednesday, and fifteen on Thursday morning.

Frank (Skeeter) Stevens arrived here from Texas Saturday evening to spend a short visit with relatives. We understand he goes to the army soon.

*Pontiac items* – Mrs. Ikie Robbins of Mammoth has our school for the next term. Better get you a supply of good black hickories, Ikie. They'll help a lot.

Misses Pollie and Madge Shaw left here [Pontiac] Thursday morning for Kansas City to make their home with their brother, Bob. Jesse Shaw now lives on his

father's place.

**Feb. 17, 1944**

*New Harmony items* – Well, don't say the Ozarks can't have snow, although we don't have any use for it.

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

**Jan. 11, 1945**

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Enloe of Almartha received word from the Navy a few days ago that their son Eldred is missing in action somewhere in the Pacific.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Ern Wolfe of Protem is reported killed in action.

Ray Cutbirth of Ocie and Renzo Jones of Lutie are reported wounded in action.

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**Former store and home at Hodgson Mill** - This undated photo of the former store and home at Hodgson Mill is from the collection of Rick Teeter, grandson of Alice Hodgson; Teeter shared the photo with the Ozark County Historium. It's not known when the gas pump was removed from the mill site or when the cabins, advertised on the sign at left, were closed.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

*Ozark County Times*  
**Jan. 11, 1945**

Mrs. Muriel Baxter says that her husband, Bonnie Baxter, who was wounded in France Nov. 20th, is now back in the States in a hospital in El Paso. He expects to visit home folks before too long.

Mr. Baxter suffered a fractured left shoulder and is still wearing a cast.

**Feb. 22, 1945**

*Dawt* - The families of the two young people who burned in the barn fire at Dora have our sympathy.

Byron Morrison has been

sent to an Army camp.

Elmer Hamilton has been out in the cold weather fixing fences.

Been hearing some exciting stories about some of the white bass being caught. Most of the large catches have been caught by the Arkansas line.

Pvt. Lavern Sanders, 20, of Sycamore, is regaining his physical fitness in the rehabitee center of the U. S. Army hospital in England. He has been awarded the Purple Heart.

**May 10, 1945**

Representative Leonard F.

Ebrite was here from Jefferson City over the weekend.

Guy T. Wood and Orr Reed were among those who celebrated V-E day by spending the day at the river.

**Aug. 23, 1945**

Joe Luna, who has been ailing for some time, left Sunday for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for examination. He was accompanied by his sister, Mary Luna, and Velta Hill, who is here from Oklahoma spending the summer with relatives.

There be a regular community singing convention at

Wasola, the first Sunday in September, beginning at 10:30 in the morning.

Chairman of the Ozark County War Chest Drive this fall will be Mearle Luna.

Mr. Luna will select a committee to help carry on the campaign throughout the county.

**Jan. 3, 1946**

*Ad: For Sale.* New all cast iron cook stove, white enamel, no reservoir. Never used. Joe Luna, Gainesville.





This postcard photo of Gainesville, from the collection of Mary Ann Boone Heard, was taken sometime after 1912.



This photo, taken July 21, 1927, shows a big crowd, estimated at about 2,000 by the *Ozark County Times*, which gathered on the square to hear the Boy Scout Band that had come from Springfield to perform. It must have been a hot day, judging by how the crowd is gathered into the shady areas of the square. This photo was reprinted in the August 2012 issue of the *Old Mill Run*, the quarterly publication of the Ozark County Genealogical and Historical Society.

# OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

**Ozark County Times  
March 28, 1946**

Chunk Wood, head of the Athletic Department at our school, had the misfortune of breaking his leg one day last week. He accidentally stepped off a high step onto the concrete walk.

Announcements were received here of the birth of a fine son to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wallace of San Diego, on

March 18. His name is Ronald Stephen. His mother was Vera Jones of Lutie before her marriage.

**Rockbridge** – Mr. and Mrs. Reed Landers of Gainesville and Mr. and Mrs. Horace Gaulding and daughter, Nancy Lou, of Nottinghill were Sunday dinner guests in the Ernest Landers home.

Mrs. Don Smith closed an eight-months term of school at

Lower Brixey Friday.

**Oct. 13, 1949**

A number of close relatives gathered at the home of Mrs. Wm. Mahan Sunday afternoon to help her celebrate her 91st birthday.

**Feb. 21, 1952**

Reigning Royalty at Gainesville School Homecoming: Drucilla Taylor, homecoming queen; Deloris Looney and Mary Ruth Walrath, senior attendants; Sue Gray, junior attendant; Peggy Heriford, sophomore attendant; Patty Hobbs, freshman attendant.

Thirty-six Ozark County farm people attended a trappers meeting in the courtroom in Gainesville to discuss livestock losses from predatory

animals.

SSgt. James R. Davidson, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Davidson of Bakersfield, left February 7th on his way to Korea. . . . This will be his second time to serve in the Korean war.

**Sept. 24, 1953**

Workers of the Beasley Construction Company of Muskogee, Oklahoma, completed the antenna of the television station in Springfield this week. Programs will begin Oct. 1. Some of the programs that will be presented will include Milton Berle, Daisy Thomas' new show, "Make Room for Daddy," Dennis Day and Groucho Marks, a couple of characters who need no introduction.

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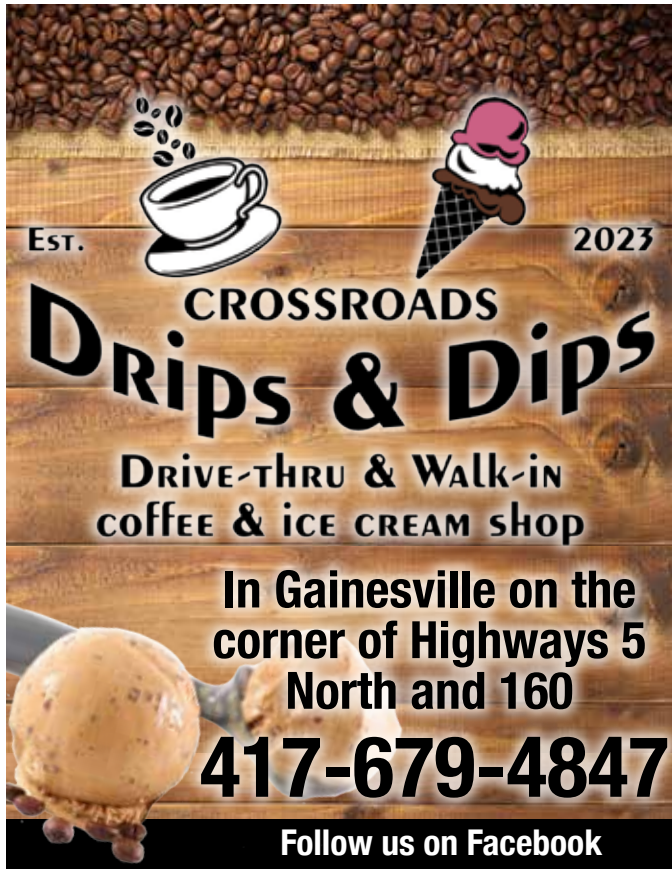






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In 1940, the Clinkingbeard Family opened a funeral home in Gainesville, MO. In 1950, Clarence, along with his son, Lyle, built a new facility in Gainesville where it remains today. It was also in the 50's that Bob Usery, Licensed Embalmer and Funeral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

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

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## Remembering *'Uncle Johnny'*

These photos were taken in July 1954, as Bank of Gainesville president Johnny Harlin welcomed area residents to celebrate the bank's 60th anniversary, both inside the bank and in a program on the courthouse lawn. **Photo at left:** Those who gathered inside the bank, which then operated in its building on the west side of the square, are, from left: Mitch Baxter, Huston Richison, (unknown woman), Doris Hayes (with purse under her arm), Clara Penrod, Jerry Nance, Audie Ingram, Lon Mahan, Johnny Harlin (front), Alta Mahan (with fan), Joe Lynn Ebrite, Sharon Rose (Sathre), Doyle Kelley and Alva Hambelton. Johnny's great-grandson, Chris Harlin, is now president and CEO of the bank.



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# OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

**Ozark County Times  
June 9, 1955**

The descendants of Uncle Bill Luna held their annual reunion on the picnic grounds at Tecumseh last Sunday. Out-of-town guests included A.M. Luna and family from Piedmont, Mo.; Everett Luna and son Rudolph from West Plains; Arthur Luna and wife Grace of Springfield; Dr. Geo. B. Luna and wife and sons from Springfield; Mrs. Anna Luna from West Plains; Fed and Genelle Williams from Springfield, Elmer and Hazel Blair from Springfield; Bill Lightner and daughter from Springfield.

**Dec. 15, 1955**

Mrs. Larry Amyx was notified last week that her husband, Sergeant Larry E. Amyx, had been selected as the outstanding Marine for the

month of November for his unit.

Sgt. Amyx, who is the son of Mrs. Linnie Amyx, has been serving overseas since Jan. 23 and is at present serving in Japan with a helicopter transport squadron of the First Marine Aircraft Wing,

John C. "Uncle Johnny" Harlin, 80, Ozark County's most prominent citizen, passed away at his home here Sunday at 7:05 a.m. . . .

Death came to Uncle Johnny at his home less than a block from where he was born on Jan. 29, 1875, the son of John W. and Mary Harlin. Yet he was not a stay-at-home for he was always going or just getting back from some civic or business trip or helping a friend. . . .

He was serving as state representative from Ozark County at the time of his

death. He was state senator from 1930 - 34 and was instrumental in establishing the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He was co-author in 1931 of the Missouri school bus law and as representative in the spring of this year, he fought for and helped pass the first major school legislation since he co-authored the school bus law as state senator in 1931. . . .

Burial was in the Gainesville cemetery.

**Aug. 20, 1959**

The Gainesville Clinic completed its first year of service here at the close of July.

Gainesville will have its first circus in a number of years here September 16 when Carson and Barnes shows set up under the sponsorship of the Gainesville Saddle Club.

**Oct. 22, 1959**

Those who gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pitchford last Thursday to help Mr. Pitchford celebrate his 69th birthday were Mr. and Mrs. John Dodson and son Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Will Pitchford, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kirkpatrick, Minnie Garfit, Ollie Miller, Della Cockrun and Mrs. Bonnie Ebrite and children.

Mrs. Ebrite furnished the birthday cake and with the help of his great-grandchildren, Janet, Greg and Kimmie Ebrite, the 69 candles were blown out.

Sharon Kay Rose was hostess at a pizza pie supper at her grandmother's home last week. Guests were Judy Farless, Judy Russel, Ann Holleran, Judy Shanks, Carol Exline, Sue Cooper, Mary Wolfe and Mary Ruth Luna.

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The late Virginia Mahan Walker is pictured in this photo taken sometime around 1950 on the old bridge at Theodosia. In the background is the Little North Fork of the White River flowing over the Theodosia Mill dam. Virginia, dressed in the saddle shoes, rolled-up blue jeans and big plaid shirt preferred by teenage girls in the '50s, told the *Times* when she shared the photo that she and her mother, the late Thana Mahan, were "out riding around" and stopped to see the river, which was high due to recent rains. The current Theodosia bridge on Highway 160, which replaced this one, was dedicated in October 1953.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

### *Ozark County Times*

**Oct. 22, 1959**

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Goodwyn of Columbia over the weekend were Mrs. A. D. McDonald, Mrs. Hayden Carter and Pamela Jo, Mr. and Mr. John Ault of Ozark and Louie Joe Scott and Jerry Elmore, students at Missouri University.

**Feb. 22, 1962**

Ten contractors submitted bids ranging from a high of \$427,542 to a low of \$353,207 for the construction of the new high school building for the R-5 district in Gainesville when the bids were opened by the board Thursday night.

The board remained in session until 2 a.m. Friday considering the bids. As yet

no contract has been awarded.

**June 6, 1962**

The Springfield Court of Appeals has ruled that the Gainesville Ball Club, Inc. did not have the right to intervene in the condemnation suit in the Ozark County circuit court when the Gainesville R-5 school district received approval to condemn the Gainesville ball park for a part of the site for the new high school building. . . . Over the years the land had been in the hands of the Gainesville Ball Club and administered by three trustees. The two surviving trustees are O. S. McClendon and O. V. Robbins.

**Oct. 17, 1963**

The Ozark County Arts and Crafts will

hold an all-day working here to mend books for the library next Wednesday.

Miss Judy Roberts of Ponderfork has been appointed by the Ozark County Health Center board of trustees to fill the position of clerk typist at the office in Gainesville.

**Feb. 25, 1965**

The boat house and dock owned by Vest Bushong at Pontiac was broken into and a large amount of fishing gear was stolen last week.

Among the items taken were a new trolling motor, about five reels, four rods, seven life belts, a set of red and white checked banana skis, gasoline lantern, tackle box and about 250 artificial baits.





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These postcards feature the Standard station and Garden Rest cabins that operated at what is now Highways 160 and 5 north in Gainesville. The station was built in 1936 and the cabins were added sometime later, likely in the early 1950s.





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John Lillyquist of Tecumseh shared with the Ozark County Historium this postcard of the former bridge over Lake Norfolk at Tecumseh. Known simply as the "Steel Bridge," the structure carried traffic over what was then Highway 80 and is now Highway 160. See additional photo of Steel Bridge shortly after it was built, page 22.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

*Ozark County Times*  
April 13, 1967

James A. Johnson has named his newly completed shopping center at Isabella, Lake Hills. The Lake Hills center includes a beauty shop, self-service laundry, barber shop and restaurant and is located across from Kyle's store and post office.

The program for the Gainesville Parent Teachers Association next Monday night will feature the FFA winners who took two firsts at the district contests in Springfield.

Danny Wade will give his talk on "The Challenge to American Agriculture," which won one of the firsts, and the parliamentary procedure team

composed of J. W. Cowart, David Stevens, Byron Morrison, Jerry Fry, Danny Wade and Joe Coble will appear.

**May 18, 1967**

William Ray Deupree, 86, a merchant at Dora for over 50 years who, with his father, donated the land for the Dora High School, died at his home there Saturday. . . . He moved to Dora in 1913 and went into business with his father and maintained the business until his death. . . . He assisted his father in the post office for 26 years and they were instrumental in establishing the first rural route in Ozark county. With the late John Cropper, he was responsible for opening

the first Job school at Dora and also was credited with forming the first special road district in the county.

**Jan. 2, 1969**

Cpt. Jarrett Robertson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Robertson, recently was awarded the Silver Star. . . . He was commanding officer of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry during a combat mission in the Republic of Vietnam.

**May 22, 1969**

Thirty-eight Gainesville High School graduates will leave Sunday for the annual senior trip which will last through May 31 and take the group through the east visiting

Washington, D. C., Smokey Mountain National Park and other points of interest.

**Sept. 24, 1970**

Brad Guffey Chevrolet Company will hold a showing of the new cars and trucks for 1971 on Tuesday Sept. 29. There will be a sample of cars in each line put out by Chevrolet.

The Thornfield Elementary school is publishing a school newspaper this year for first time in the history of the school. The name of the paper is the *Thornfield Gazette*. It is sponsored by elementary teacher Lafe Plumb.



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Hundreds of area residents turned out for the dedication of Bull Shoals Dam on July 2, 1952. The late J. W. Daniel, former *Ozark County Times* owner and editor, took this photo of the crowd that day, perhaps recording Ozark County residents who attended. Ozark County native Steve Morrison told Ozark County Historium that he and his brothers, as well as his mother, Earlene Morrison, and grandmother, Nellie Patterson, were in the audience that day. The photo is one of several donated to the Historium by Daniel's daughter, Sheila Daniel.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

### *Ozark County Times* August 27, 1970

The Theodosia bridge paint job began last January 1 and was completed Friday.

The Missouri Highway Department used approximately 600 gallons of paint on the bridge's ten 180-foot steel trusses with 100 gallons being a red lead primer coat and the rest aluminum.

The paint was put on by both brush and spray by a five-man crew.

Longrun - Mr. and Mrs. George A. Rose and Mr. and Mrs. Ocie Cole visited Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Wallace. They all attended the Thornfield school reunion. There were 15 of 19 that graduated that year.

### March 29, 1973

John Harlin, vice chairman

of the Gainesville Park Board, was the speaker at the annual Gainesville Chamber of Commerce meeting held Thursday night.

In telling of the plans, Harlin said that the park board has proposed locating the park on nine acres of land behind the Gainesville High School, providing land can be acquired. The city would be responsible for all construction and upkeep of the area, presently expected to be \$30,000 or more, expected for the park from donations by Dr. Hoerman and friends, by Dr. Hoerman's estate.

Matching funds will also be available for land value and for donated services such as the map drawn by Jack Hold of Land Planning consults of Theodosia and donated to the

park board.

### Nov. 14, 1974

For several months the Gainesville Water Department has been waiting for delivery of a fire hydrant to replace the one that has been spouting water in front of Walker Lumber Company all summer.

Monday it arrived, the wrong size, and delivery of the right one was made Tuesday by Harry Cooper Supply Co. of Springfield.

The original hydrant cost \$75. New ones installed on the extended water lines this summer cost \$145, and the one now being installed cost \$311.

### Jan. 18, 1979

Bull Shoals Tugger, one of the family of Labrador retrievers at Theodosia Marina, used

his skill to retrieve a sled and bring it back up the hill to the resort complex for another trip down toward the marina by sleigh riders Friday.

B.S. Tugger, as L. B. Cook calls the nine-month old, 80-pound pup, also helps in the downward slides, pushing riders off to set the sleigh careening toward the lake.

### Oct. 25, 1979

Travelers spent \$6,970,000 in Ozark County in 1977 a study by the U. S. Travel Data Center shows.

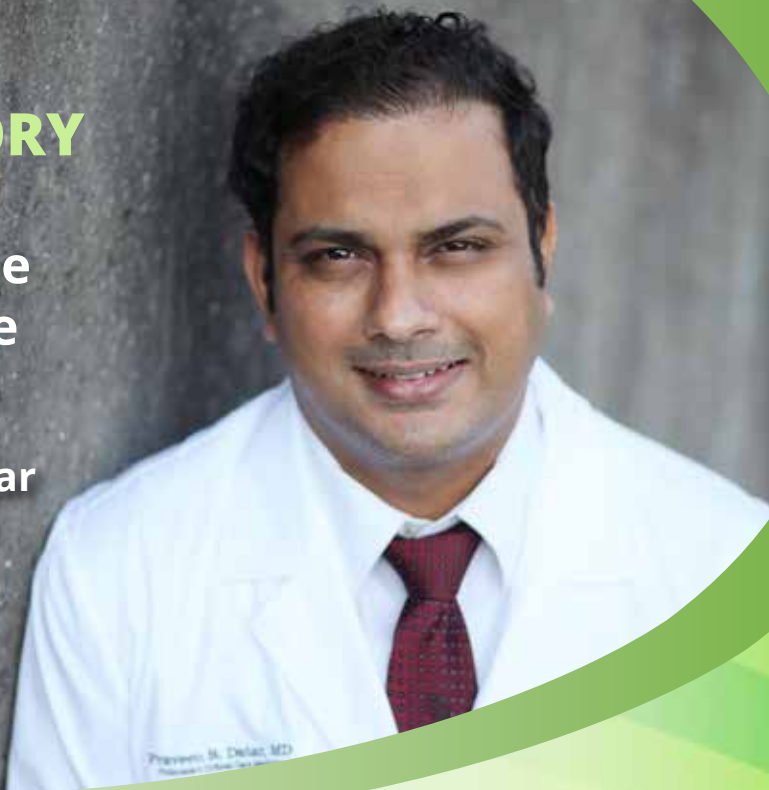
This placed Ozark County second in 1977 in travel generated income among the seven counties in the South Central Ozark Regional Planning Commission.



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In 1953, Don and Dorcas Rackley and Anna Mae and Jolly Pace opened the Dairy Princess, a casual restaurant serving hot dogs, coney dogs and soft-serve ice cream in this structure built by the late Buck Morrison. The building was located on what is now Highways MM and 160 behind the Dollar General store in Gainesville. In the 1950s, students of all ages in the then-nearby Gainesville School often walked to the Dairy Princess for lunch, crossing the busy highway to buy 25-cent footlongs and 10-cent root beers served from the “barrel” visible in the left-side window. The photo is from the Ozark County Historium collection.

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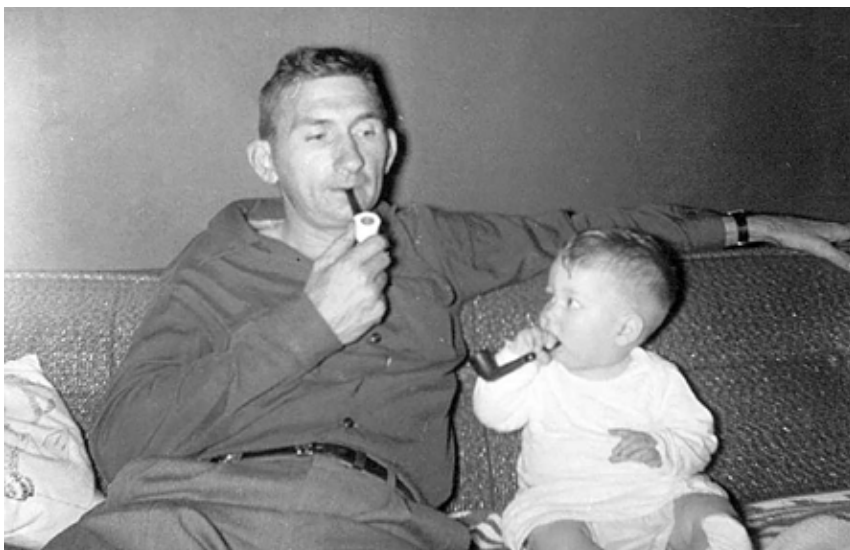
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The late Herman Pierce served several terms as Ozark County sheriff. This undated photo, from the collection of his son Sid Pierce, was probably taken during the years when the sheriff and his family lived in a duplex on Harlin Drive between Third and Fourth streets. Pierce parked his patrol car across the street beside the old city jail, where this photo was taken. During most of his years as sheriff, Pierce bought and outfitted his own cars and “went through tires like most people change their oil,” Sid said.



Herman Pierce with son Sid



This photo of Herman Pierce was taken in 1943. He served in World War II.





Photo courtesy Martha Owen Martin, Dora

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The Ozark County Historium is a friendly, old-timey place where Ozark County history is preserved, its people are cherished and hill-country traditions are carried on. We welcome you to join us for scheduled events, regular quilting and craft sessions or to peruse your family's history in our genealogy library. Follow us in the Ozark County Times or on the Ozark County Historium Facebook page. Visit our website to order historical books or to peruse our collection of wonderful old photographs. Whether you're an Ozark Countian by birth or adoption, or if you have a long-distance affection for the Real Ozarks, we look forward to seeing you!

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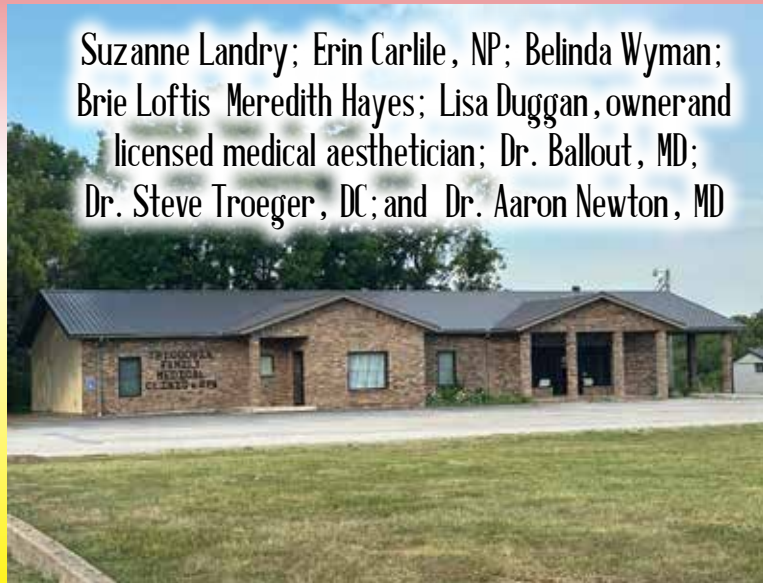
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Times Past photos are usually limited to Ozark County scenes, but we thought readers would also find these photos interesting. The photo above shows the Kansas City, Ozark and Southern Train at the Ava train depot sometime around 1910, according to Ken Brown of Springfield, who shared the photo from his collection. The photo at the bottom of the page shows the bus that, until the mid-1970s, operated daily between Springfield and Mountain Home, Ark., including a stop in Gainesville.



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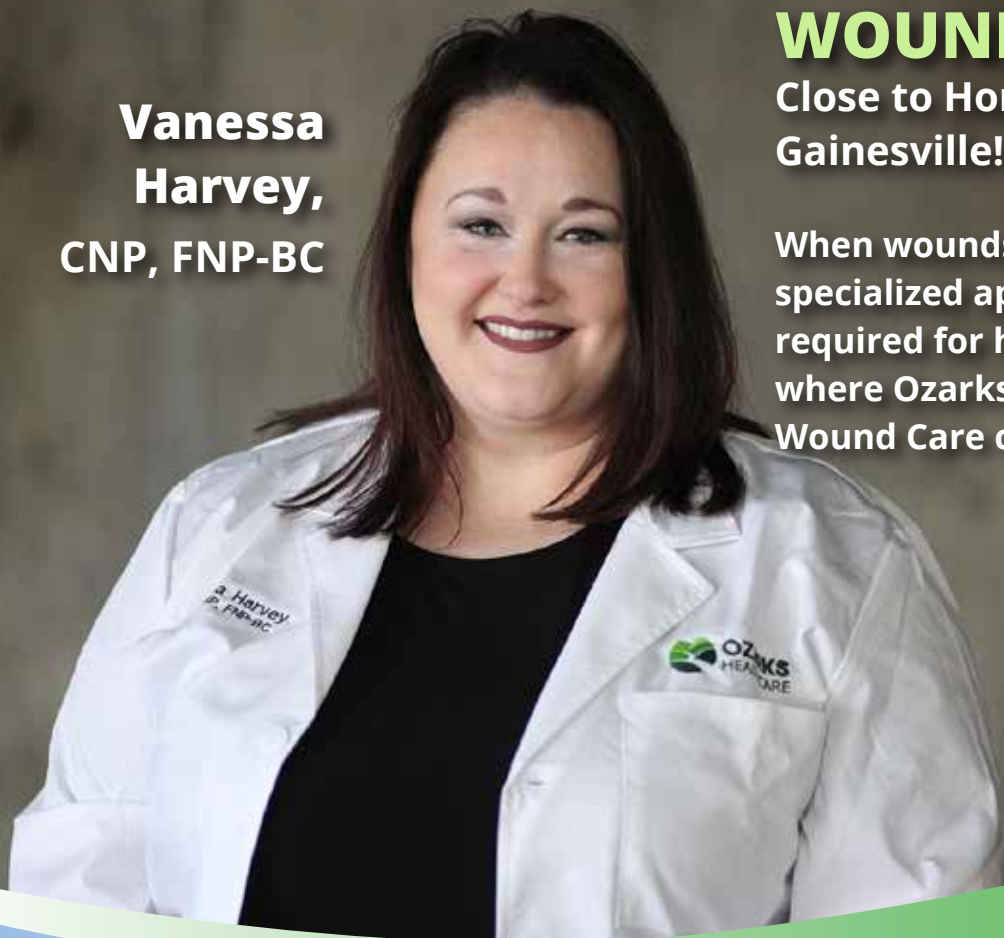
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The 1986 Dora Falcons varsity basketball team is pictured here. From left: Scott Dennis, Kevin Osborn, Wes Roberts, Lance Watkins, Rick Crites, Mark Warren, Billy Buckwalter, Scott Kelley, Danny Thompson, Steve Kellett and Coach Steve Kirkwood.

## OZARK COUNTY NEWS FROM TIMES PAST

### *Ozark County Times* May 20, 1992

Joe Bill Bales asked Ozark County Commissioners and the sheriff's department to consider placing a deputy at Bakersfield, at least on a part-time basis, in order to put a stop to drag racing and vandalism which is plaguing residents of that community. Bales said older people are actually afraid in the community. . . "They tore down 47 mailboxes in one night," Bales said. He added that vandals also tore the pump from the well that sets in the middle of the town.

### May 10, 1995

*Howards Ridge* - Emmett Lewis observed his 65th birthday May 2. He had dinner at his son, Rex's and watched the girls play softball.

Kenton Webb of Gainesville ate supper with Aunt Loma Foster Saturday night.

The 1995 spring firearms

turkey season, which ended last Sunday, was not as productive as the 1994 season.

Derck Farwell, local MDC agent, said Ozark County's total of 258 this year is down nine from 1994's total of 267.

Statewide, the totals pretty much reflect the same pattern as Ozark County. Farwell said there were 37, 472 turkeys killed this year down 446 from last year's total.

Texas County was the top turkey producer this year with 912 killed.

### Jan. 3, 1996

Cuma Robbins enjoyed two dinners during Christmas time with her daughters, Jackie Hoff and family and at Joline Taylors'.

Faye Williams had a good visit with her daughters and their families including the Earl Linings in Ft. Smith, and her great-grandchildren in Tulsa.

### May 7, 1996

Theater goes in Ozark County can enjoy an evening of humor and suspense May 16 when the Gainesville school drama class presents a collection of short plays.

Curtain time is 7 in the high school library. The dramas will be performed in the round.

Air Evac's flying emergency ambulance sat down on the square Thursday to carry Hank Adams to Cox Hospital South.

Adams was badly gored by a bull at his ranch on T Highway. Dr. Ed Henegar was summoned. He called the Air-Evac helicopter.

At press time Adams remains in intensive care.

Bakersfield High School's class of 1961 will have a reunion May 24 at 11 a.m. at the school.

### Jan. 24, 1996

Progress is being made again on the new Ozark

County Jail. After two postponements, the six modular jail cells finally arrived at the new jail by trucks from Minden, La., on Thursday. The new cells made of precast concrete and steel, weighed 46,000 pounds each and had to be lifted from the trucks by a 100-ton crane from Springfield.

Oscar Durham has decided it's time to step down as Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department fire chief effective Feb. 7.

Durham says he would be proud to help someone learn how to operate the fire truck and equipment. He wants to invite anyone interested to come forward. He said he would like to see more people get involved in the fire department.

Durham has been fire chief for about 15 years. He said he will also be celebrating his 62nd birthday. He cited poor health as his reason for resigning.



This photo, which was published in the 1983 *Bulldogger* year-book, shows Gainesville High School National Honor Society members, from left, Tena Walrath, Shelly Hillhouse, Beth Finley and Caron Daughtery during an informal meeting of the club.



The Ozark County Senior Citizens Center in Gainesville held a "mortgage burning fest" in March 1994 and burned the mortgage on their building located off Third Street. Pictured from left are Winston Bledsoe, executive director, Southwest Missouri Office on Aging. Sandy Martin, fundraiser chairperson, Mary Lester, council president for the center, and Irene Trent, center director, as they watch the mortgage go up in flames. The Senior Center transitioned to a new space and new name several years ago. It is now located on County Road 800 off Highway 5 and is called The Center.



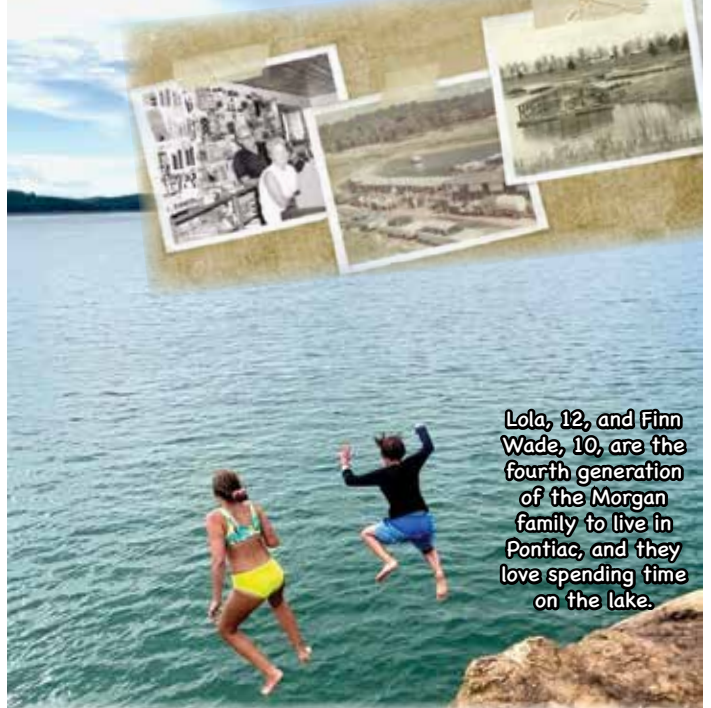
James Dancy of Squires examines the name of his brother, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Robert N. Ireland, recently added to the Veterans' Memorial on the Ozark County Courthouse lawn. Ireland, who grew up in Theodosia, was shot down in 1970 over Laos. Memorial services were finally held in Arinton in 1995.

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Pontiac Cove Marina has been in the Morgan family for nearly 60 years. It began when Joe and Alice Morgan purchased the dock in 1964. Now the third and fourth generations are a part of this growing business.



Lola, 12, and Finn Wade, 10, are the fourth generation of the Morgan family to live in Pontiac, and they love spending time on the lake.

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



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