

THROUGH THE YEARS

~ BARRY COUNTY 1945-2005 ~

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DEMOCRAT



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Volume Seventy-Five

Cassville, Barry County, Missouri,

Thursday, May 10, 1945

Number 24

NAZIS CRUMBLE

It was joyous news Tuesday morning when President Harry S. Truman officially announced the unconditional surrender of Germany and the Nazi hordes after their land had been reduced to rubble to end a war of five years, eight months and six days in an aggression for worldwide control. In his report to the nation he asked that Sunday, May 13, be set aside as a day of prayer. Official announcement was also made in London by Prime Minister Churchill. Premier Joseph Stalin withheld his announcement awaiting the formal surrender of Berlin.

The war officially ended, according to the unconditional surrender terms at 5:01 Tuesday evening, Cassville time. With the destruction of the powermad Nazis and Fascists the task that now lies ahead is like treatment for the Japanese

and the irony of this struggle is war equipment of the Germans will be used against their former ally for their defeat. Included in this will be 200 submarines.

Cassville and Barry County received the news quietly but with lighter hearts for the happiness of all but with deep thought of the task which lies ahead before and after the day of final Victory comes. It will then be a day for celebration but to some the war will never end, for many are sleeping in graves on foreign soil while others are sightless, legless, armless and otherwise wholly incapacitated for the work of life.

Business houses in Cassville closed at 1:30 Tuesday afternoon and those who were able to do so remained so for the afternoon.

Evening services were held at churches with a prayer service to invoke the Divine blessing for victory in the Pacific and God's guidance for protection of those engaged in the battle for the safety of humanity from the ravages of the barbarous enemies of mankind.

The determined faces were such as to convince all the determination for final and complete victory, the making of an organization of nations to prevent future dictators from a thought of aggression or world domination. All realize the future 26 years ago when a few acted to cause this great destruction of humanity.

All churches in the county will observe the day of prayer asked by President Truman along with an observance of Mother's Day, a day most fitting for the occasion next Sunday.

NEW EQUIPMENT IS ADDED TO OZARK THEATER HERE

Manager Hall Anxious to Give Patrons Best Service Along With the Latest Pictures Obtainable.

The latest RCA Sound Equipment obtainable, new projection machine, new doublers, and switches have been added to the equipment of the Ozark Theater by Manager Glen Hall, in order that patrons of this popular movie house can have the best.

The show was closed Wednesday and Thursday to permit installation of the equipment and it is all in fine working order now.

Manager Hall says he is pleased to have been able to secure the equipment because it enables him to give the patrons of his show the best of service. "I want to do everything possible to show my appreciation for the patronage extended," said Mr. Hall, "and when it is possible to improve the Community Building for housing my show I will be able to give still better entertainment. I know we shall all be delighted with the day when war ends and there will be a plentiful supply of materials and equipment of all kinds for civilian use."

Manager Hall has made many friends since engaging in the picture business in Cassville and numbers his friends in the county by those who know him because of his always courteous

Chas. Mahurin Dies From Crushed Chest

His chest crushed, Charles Mahurin, 15 years old, of near Butterfield, died late Wednesday afternoon after a heavy pole with which he was trying to dislodge a truck wheel from the mud in which it was mired snapped against his body. Witnesses said that he died within a few minutes without regaining consciousness.

The lumber truck was at a small sawmill near Butterfield where Charles and his cousin, Keith Mitchell, had been working. Mitchell was in the driver's seat when the accident occurred. He took the boy to the Barry county clinic at Cassville, where he was pronounced dead by a physician.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Mary Mahurin, survives.

... And Ye Clothed Me"

COUNTY'S GIFT TO TO LIBERATED IS WEARING APPAREL

Shipments to Liberated Peoples of War Torn Lands is 14,000 Pounds; Rowland Thanks for Help.

Citizens of South Barry county collected a total of 6,200 lbs. of good used clothing for overseas war relief during the month of April. The collection depot located at the Community Building in Cassville, and used by permission of Glen Hall,

HUGH BRIXEY DEAD AFTER MONTHS OF PATIENT SICKNESS

Former Sheriff and State Park Superintendent Has Been Given Most Tender Attention by Family.

The passing of Hugh S. Brixey, former sheriff and superintendent of Boaring River State

park, was announced Tuesday morning by his family.

He was born July 7, 1880, at Gravel Street, Cassville.

He was a member of the Methodist church and was a member of the Cassville Grange.

He was a successful farmer and was engaged in farming.

He was a member of the Cassville Grange and was a member of the Cassville Grange.

He was a member of the Cassville Grange and was a member of the Cassville Grange.

He was a member of the Cassville Grange and was a member of the Cassville Grange.

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Frozen Locker is Assured Here Now, Floyd Barber Says

A frozen locker system with more than 300 lockers is assured of Cassville and vicinity, Floyd Barber of the Sanitary Market, announces.

The demand for this service is greater than had been expected, Mr. Barber says.

Application for approval of purchasing the equipment has

been filed with the State Board of Health.

The new venture will indeed be a success.

It is expected that the drive will be a success.

It is expected that the drive will be a success.

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ORGANIZATION IS SET FOR SEVENTH WAR LOAN DRIVE

Township Chairmen and Quotas Are Announced For Drive Starting on Monday, May 14.

Organization plans for the Seventh War Loan in Barry County has been completed and

the drive is set for a successful conclusion as quickly as possible after May 14. The drive will be in charge of Chairman W. Vance Davis of Monett, and

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THROUGH THE YEARS

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THROUGH THE YEARS

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A note from Verlee in year three

YEAR THREE!

I can't believe how happy I am to see this magazine come to life. I also can't believe how hard it is to get it all together. I take back ever complaining about hard deadlines when I wrote for *Connection Magazine*. Thankfully, I have a wonderful team who loves the project as much as I do.

I enjoy looking back through the years for the newspaper each week. That is how this magazine was inspired, and in 2027, I will be able to use my 100-year-old bound *Cassville Democrat* issues to glean articles to share with all of you.

This year, I wanted to use my column to share some sound advice that I have had the pleasure of receiving from a local woman with a huge heart.

One of our most vocal supporters, Mrs. Verlee Roark, is our favorite Octogenarian, which is a term she started using when she turned 80 years old. Kyle, our girls and I wrote her a birthday card this year. She likes to send notes and letters to us, even gifting the girls their very own \$2 bills.

She is very active on Facebook and is always ready to share a nice word. In fact, one of the few saved voicemails I have on the office phone is from Verlee. In an industry where we don't always get the nicest of calls, when we first took over, she left a nice long message about how proud she is of us and how much she loves our paper.

There are many things I have learned from her, and I think it is important to spread a couple of those with all of you. Verlee was a teacher for 42 years. And I can't say that I am not jealous of the students lucky enough to be in her classes. As a mother, she makes sure to tell me one specific thing each time we speak so that I remember how precious children are.

"The secret to children is you have to present and encourage them," Verlee says. "The kids do the hard work."

"Every child is gifted, talented and creative. I know to not take credit, but to give the glory to God."

My hope is that parents, teachers, and even perfect strangers will see that in children. That love and encouragement is what a legacy is about. It is certainly something I think about regularly as a mom. I hope that I always remember to present and encourage, and let my girls know how proud I am of all their hard work.

I would like to thank my husband and co-owner of the *Cassville Democrat*, Kyle, for always supporting me, especially on this project; Sheila Harris, who contributes her stories and sells ads for us; and Heidi Lowe, who designs these magazines for us, and who is always patient with me when I run way behind schedule.

Finally, thank you to our readers and advertisers. None of this would be possible without you. I hope you find adventure and a walk-through history in these pages.

This year, *Through the Years Magazine* has content from 1945, 1965, 1985, and 2005.

Jordan Troutman is the Co-Owner and General Manager of the *Cassville Democrat*, former president of the Ozark Press Association, a wife, a mother of two daughters and a graduate of Capella University with a Bachelor's in General Psychology. She is pursuing a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. She may be reached at jtroutman@cassville-democrat.com.

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Harry S. Truman	For Senator in Congress Missouri
Lawrence McDaniel	For Governor
Frank G. Harris	For Lieutenant-Governor
Wright H. Brown	For Secretary of State



ELECTION

History

County clerk
wears many
hats, running
elections chief
among them

Inset: Rex Stumpff, of Cassville, who
passed away in October 2020, served
as Barry County clerk for 12 years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRY COUNTY
MUSEUM

“THE BARRY COUNTY CLERK’S office wears a lot more hats than any office in the county, more than most people realize,” said former clerk, Gary Youngblood, in a recent interview.

“They’re in charge of the county payroll, so they’re basically the Human Resources office for the county,” Youngblood said. “They’re also responsible for paying the county’s bills.”

In the olden days, according to J.D. Fletcher, Barry County resident, the clerk’s office also paid out \$5 for each pair of coyote ears brought into the office, perhaps the origin of the word “earmark.”

“There were lots of coyotes back in those days; I remember my dad goin’ out and just huntin’ for coyotes,” Fletcher said, during an interview for the *Lifetimes of Memories* series of books written by the staff of the Barry County Museum.

Wily critters aside, the county clerk’s office is perhaps best known for running county elections.

Barry County’s first clerk John M. Williams – some accounts say James M. – was appointed when the county was first formed in 1835, and encompassed the current counties of Barry, Newton, Lawrence, Jasper, McDonald, Barton, Dade and part of Cedar County. The territory was later subdivided at various intervals, and the county seat was shifted around accordingly, ending at its present location in Cassville.



Current Barry County clerk, Joyce Ennis, displays examples of voter ballot cards and tally sheets used through 1992, and a vintage ballot box used in past elections. Tally sheets from the November 1936 presidential election on previous page show that Barry County voters favored Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie, over Democratic candidate, Franklin D. Roosevelt. SHEILA HARRIS/SHEILAHARRISADS@GMAIL.COM

One of the first county elections was held in 1836, when early Cassville resident, Littleberry Mason, was elected as the county's first representative. Based on old Cassville plat maps – after the town was platted in 1845 - Mason owned the property alongside Flat Creek now occupied by Regal Beloit.

Joyce Ennis, current county clerk, said the election process has evolved over time.

"Voters used to have cards that they brought in with them, and the back of the cards were filled out by the clerk's office with the dates that they voted," Ennis said. "The office kept a book with a roster of the names of every registered vote, in every precinct."

Ennis said the cards were used long before her time in the clerk's office. Barry County now uses Unisyn voting equipment, although Ennis said she'll be looking at options for upgrading that equipment before the next election.

Youngblood was elected to the clerk's office in 1992: the last year hand-counted

ballots were used in Barry County.

Although Youngblood didn't step into the clerk's role until January 1993, he remembers the November 1992 presidential election between the Democratic candidate, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, and the Republican candidate, incumbent President George H.W. Bush, as being a doozy for the clerk's office.

"There was a record voter turnout," Youngblood said, "And, several precincts [including Purdy and Wheaton] were still hand-counting ballots into the wee hours of the morning."

A photo in the Cassville Democrat shows voters crowding the courthouse halls and lining up outside the doors; a newspaper article called it "a nightmare for election workers." Rex Stumpff, who was county clerk at the time, had to call in reinforcements to help with the counting in various precincts, above the 200 election workers who had been put in place before the election in expectation of a large voter turnout.

Unofficial election results weren't called until 8 a.m. the following morning.

Clinton was elected to the presidency over Bush. However, in Barry County, Clinton lost. According to an article in the Cassville Democrat, Clinton might have come out on top in Barry County, if not for third-party candidate Ross Perot appearing on the ballot. Clinton was out-pollled in the county in his bid against Bush by only 774 votes. Ross Perot received 2,381 votes.

Although people often have fond memories of processes long past, Youngblood said there was lots of room for error when election ballots were hand-counted.

"You had one person reading the name of a candidate voted for, and another person making a tally-mark on a separate paper," he said. "You can see how mistakes could be made."

Youngblood's most memorable moment in office revolved around the 2000 national presidential election, when Republican candidate George W. Bush's numbers exceeded Democratic candidate Al Gore's

by only 1,784 votes.

Because the margin was so narrow, the Gore campaign successfully advocated for a recount of certain ballots.

According to Wikipedia, the Miami-Dade County Democratic Party chairman suspected that thousands of ballots in his county might have been affected by a voting machine glitch called “hanging chads,” or imperfectly perforated holes in punch cards. Miami-Dade County became the focus of the recount, where over 10,000 ballots had been cast.

In what has been called “The Brooks Brothers Riot,” hundreds of Republican staffers who objected to the recount traveled to Florida to protest.

Youngblood was selected by then-U.S. Representative Roy Blunt to be one of seven county clerks from southwest Missouri to travel to Florida to observe the recount of the election. Youngblood said he suspects he was chosen to go to Florida because he was already familiar with the punch card voting system.

“I went to Florida, but by the time we were ready to observe, the election had already been called in favor of Bush,” Youngblood said.

Barry County voters have historically voted in favor of Republican candidates, although their choices have not always come out on top.

In 1960, in what was called the “closest presidential race in 72 years,” by the Cassville Democrat, Senator John F. Kennedy won the presidency in what was called a “photo finish.” Well over 60 million voters cast their ballots. According to the Cassville Democrat, Kennedy’s win represented a projected 50.41 percent of the popular vote, to 49.59 percent of Republican candidate Senator Richard Nixon’s. In Barry County, however, only 3,666 voters cast ballots for Kennedy, compared to 6,193 for Nixon.

Controversy, it appears, has always dogged election campaigns. In 1960, Republican candidate for Judge of the

Western District on the County Court, E.E. Smith, drew the ire of the Cassville Democrat, when he apparently used quotes from the newspaper in ad materials for his campaign, without the newspaper’s permission. Smith’s alleged tactics resulted in the Democrat’s public endorsement of his opponent.

Absentee-voting, too, it seems has been the subject of questionable tactics in the past. Prior to the November 1992 presidential election, Stumpff received complaints that envelopes mailed to people who wanted to cast absentee ballots had been stuffed with Republican campaign advertisements. Nobody ‘fessed up to the misdeed, although an elected Republican official was questioned, since some of the ballots had been mailed from their home.

“If electioneering was going on through absentee ballot application, it should cease,” stated then-Secretary of State, Steve Byers.

In the same election, there was also a concern that absentee ballots were not being counted. An investigation revealed that several uncounted ballots did not meet voting criteria, while ballots mailed within the state of Missouri were not received until after the election. The latter resulted in a complaint against the US Postal Service.


While county campaigns may appear grueling for today’s candidates, they’re perhaps a far cry from the schedule old-timers were expected to keep.

In decades past, if they were to be elected, candidates needed to put in public appearances at “speaking” in multiple (if not all) townships in the county, prior to elections. According to an article in the Cassville Democrat, Democratic candidates were scheduled to appear at speaking in schools in Corsicana, Pleasant Ridge, Cato, Viola, Shell Knob and Jen-




Former Barry County clerk, Gary Youngblood (left), poses with Eddie Davison, during Davison’s filing for candidacy. Youngblood held the clerk’s position for 24 years.

CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT PHOTO/PROVIDED COURTESY OF BARRY COUNTY MUSEUM




CASSVILLE

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DEMOCRAT

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BUY WAR BONDS

Volume Seventy-Four
Cassville, Barry County, Missouri, Thursday, November 9, 1944
Number 50

ROOSEVELT - TRUMAN IN LANDSLIDE

OP SWEEPS COUNTY PLATTER-DEMOS. WIN STATE

Shore Leads County Ticket But Trails George Roden By a Thousand-Harrison City Heads Republicans With Lead of 1,800-Complete Unofficial Returns Are All In - Count Absentees Ballots On Friday.


Barry County Republicans swept the year clean by the election of every candidate on the county ticket by substantial margins which were less than two years ago about the same as in the campaign of 1940.

The day passed quietly and without the least trace of trouble but with much action on the part of the friends of all candidates. The rain in the forenoon and overcast in the afternoon did not keep many away from the polls.


H. J. Doty proved speed king of the race in the county ticket with a plurality of 1,800. A. Shore led the ticket but was defeated. George Roden for the 10th, complete and official be cast up Friday 304 absentee and not

Lt. Paul Hibbard Killed in Europe

Lt. Paul R. Hibbard, 23, pilot on a bomber and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hibbard, formerly of Jenkins but now of Seattle, Wash., was killed on September 27, on his 27th birthday.



HARRY S. TRUMAN



President Roosevelt

Governors Dewey and Bricker Admit Defeat in Congratulatory Telegrams to Winners-President Receives Reports During Night at Hyde Park Home-Truman in Kansas City-Democrats Win New Places.

The Democratic ticket headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt with Senator Harry S. Truman as his running mate have been elected by a majority reaching landslide proportions by leading in 36 states over 12 for Governor Thomas E. Dewey and Governor John W. Bricker. The popular vote of Roosevelt, 17,400,000; Dewey, 16,082,000.

The Democrats have won additional seats in both the Senate and the House. Outstanding defeats have been Representative Hamilton Fish of New York and Senator Gerald W. Nye of North Dakota.

The voting trend to President Roosevelt grew as the returns came in during the late night and early Wednesday morning. At 2:15 Wednesday morning Governor Dewey conceded the election of President Roosevelt. In his statement Dewey expressed the wish "that this term will lead to peace and domestic tranquility."

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Congressman An

Roaring River Has One of Best Years

Trout Fishing at Famous Resort Came to End on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

DONNELLY LEADS BRADSHAW; VOTE MAY GET LARGER

Governor Donnelly Trails Me

Theodore Rount is Held For Stealing

Theodore Rount, 18, a resident of Purdy and formerly of Springfield, is in the county jail on a charge of the theft of a billfold from the washroom at the Frisco roundhouse. It contained some money, a diamond

Headlines from the November 9, 1944 Cassville Democrat report President Franklin D. Roosevelt's election to a third term in office.

CASSVILLE DEMOCRAT ARCHIVES

kings the first week in October. The following week, Union Valley, Carney, Butterfield, McDowell and Eagle Rock were in the line-up, with additional townships to follow. Rural schools (perhaps all 110 or so, of them) were used as polling places for elections. The campaign speakings began at 8 p.m., and plenty of entertainment at each location, or township, was promised.

As is the case today, issues relevant to residents were used as campaign platforms. In 1944, a pitch to obtain county road-grading equipment was paramount. Former milk-truck driver and candidate Ralph Loftin promised to conduct county affairs in such a way that the equipment could be purchased. Barry County, it seems, was the only county in the section without said

equipment. The goal was to make Barry County's "most valuable production," milk, more accessible to Highway 37.

Loftin's opponent, James Wooten, also campaigned on a promise of obtaining grading equipment.

"If state aid can be given to care for patients in state institutions, surely enough money could be found for road graders," Wooten said.

In past issues of the Cassville Democrat, unlike today, national news was often front and center. The fall of Nazi Germany and the end of World War II made front-page headlines.

In 1944, while the US was embroiled in World War II, incumbent Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt was re-elected by a landslide across the nation. In Barry County, however, Roosevelt lost to Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey, 3,764 to 5,537.

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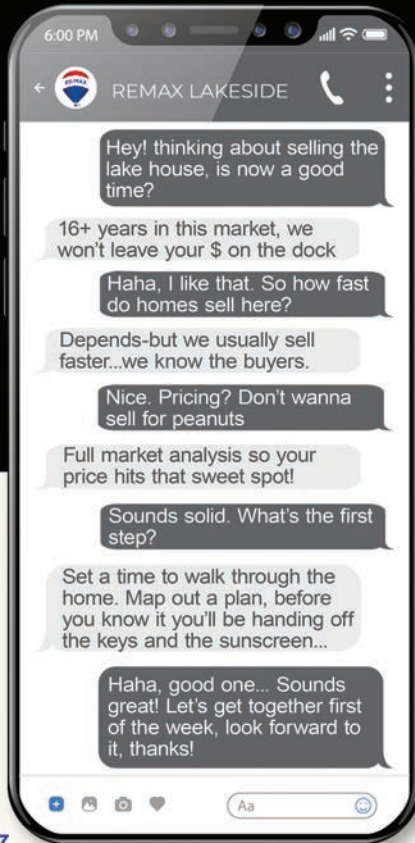
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Five months later, in April 1945, Roosevelt died in office from an apparent brain hemorrhage, and was succeeded by his Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In a first in many years, in 1980, Barry County residents chose the winning presidential candidate, with the election of Republican candidate Ronald Reagan, who triumphed over Democratic incumbent President Jimmy Carter.

Ennis seems to have inherited her interest in running elections from her mother and grandmother before her, both of whom were election judges: her mother, Marcelle Craig, at Victory Church, during the 1980s and 1990s; and her grandmother, Edith Craig, at Twin Valley Church, near Lohmar Tower. Both locations are no longer in use.

In what is perhaps a nod to sentiment, Ennis said she and her family have since purchased the old Victory Church building.

"Every polling place had its own election judges, both Democrat and Republican, who were selected by the county clerk. My grandma told me that being an election worker was the easiest \$40 she ever made," Ennis said, laughing.

According to Ennis, election work presented an opportunity for women to socialize.

"They took their crocheting and their books, and even traded recipes," she said.

Youngblood, who held the county clerk's position for over 20 years, said he misses the camaraderie involved with running elections.

Sharon Henderson, a long-time election worker for Purdy who is retiring this year, said she enjoyed working at the polls, because she got to visit with a lot of people who she might not have otherwise seen.

Votes are now cast in Barry County at 16 polling places, which include voters from 22 precincts, Ennis said.

By: Sheila Harris



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The Ozarks Pie Project Diary

BY KAITLYN McCONNELL

What's in a Pie?

WHAT'S IN A PIE?

Money, for one thing, and lots of it, if the Nov. 22 Barry County Bake Off & Desert Benefit Auction was any indication. Hosted by the Troutman Foundation, a non-profit arm of Troutman Media LLC and the Cassville Democrat aimed at supporting local non-profit organizations, the well-attended community event brought in about \$3,000 to benefit food pantries in Cassville. Many of the pies and cakes that were donated for auctioning brought in over \$100 each.

Ozarks Alive Publisher Kaitlyn McConnell ignited this old-fashioned fundraising fire with the publication of her new book, "The Ozarks Pie Project Diary." Throughout the book's 101 pages, the Ozarks native details her trial-and-error pie-making journey through over 150 recipes contained in vintage cookbooks she's collected from various locations in the Ozarks during past years.

Forty-eight of those recipes are included in her book. Also included are McConnell's interviewed stories with Ozarks old-timers who related personal memories of the fundraising pie suppers they had attended.

In the rural Ozarks, pie suppers were once a common way to raise funds for various causes, from helping families in need, to raising money for schoolhouse repairs.

"Pie supper Wednesday night was well attended," noted the Cassville Republican in November 1897, as quoted by McConnell in her book.

Proceeds from that pie supper were designated for securing lights for the schoolhouse, the article reported.

In Barry County, before school consolidation began in the 1950s, there were over 110 one-room schoolhouses, each located in rural areas. They were the hubs of the communities that surrounded them.

While fundraising was the premise for many a pie supper, they were a welcomed "excuse to gather and build community," McConnell said.

Because women in a community were responsible for making the pies that were auctioned, it was natural to compare notes about their recipes.

"We had good recipes, or we thought we did," said long-time Purdy area resident, Nettie Pozniak Feeney*, who was born in 1907.

"It was a pinch of this and a pinch of that, and a

Pictured at left: Kaitlyn McConnell, Springfield resident and Ozarks Alive digital magazine publisher, recently published "The Ozarks Pie Project Diary." She was a featured guest speaker at the inaugural Barry County Bake Off and Desert Benefit Auction, hosted by The Troutman Foundation, on Nov. 22. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kaitlyn McConnell, Springfield resident and Ozarks Alive digital magazine publisher, is pictured holding a cherry pie she made. McConnell was a featured guest speaker at the inaugural Barry County Bake Off and Dessert Benefit Auction, hosted by The Troutman Foundation, on Nov. 22. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

handful of this – big handful, small handful,” she said, during a recorded interview with Barry County Museum personnel in 2007.

Nobody really used written recipes until she got older, Feeney said.

Feeney said everyone cooked with what they had on hand, so what they cooked varied from one family to another.

Pies were no exception.

When fruits were in season, they were used in pies, and they were canned and dried for use during off-season months.

“You had a board table, and you’d use wire screen to lay the peaches [or apples] on, and cover them up with a cloth so the flies couldn’t get to them, and then every day you’d turn them until they dried,” said Purdy area resident Beulah Potter Morlan*, who was born in 1923.

“When the peaches got good and dry, you’d put them in a pillow case or a flour sack and hang them up for the winter. That way the air could kind of blow through them,” Morlan said, during interviews with museum personnel during the winter of

2007-2008.

Early Barry County resident Lola Smith Isley* grew up in a rural area northwest of Shell Knob, near Lohmer Tower. Her father raised tomatoes and strawberries as cash crops — as did many Ozarks settlers — and tended a peach orchard for his large family’s use.

“When Dad first took our strawberries to town [to sell], we got enough money to buy about one hundred pounds of sugar. [Dad] brought that sugar back home for Mom to can her strawberries and peaches,” Isley said, during a 2007 interview with Barry County Museum personnel.

Isley, who was born in 1917, said her mother canned 50 gallons of the fruit every year, enough to open a jar for nearly every meal during winter months.

Some of that fruit may have been used for pies.

According to McConnell, in seasons of scarcity, when no fresh fruit was available and a sweet-tooth raged, early rural residents became creative with their pie-making. A genre of recipes that McConnell labels as “Desperation Pies” was born, and includes novelties such as Vinegar Pie and Pinto Bean Pie. McConnell says she has tried them both, although she didn’t include the recipes in her new book.

“I probably wouldn’t make them again,” she said.

McConnell did, however, include a recipe for Green Tomato Pie in “The Ozarks Pie Project Diary.”

Making pies out of green tomatoes was a practical way to prevent them from going to waste at the end of the season, McConnell said.

“[Green Tomato Pie] actually tastes similar to apple [pie],” McConnell said.

Plus, she said, the pie got great reviews from those who sampled it.

Some old-fashioned recipes such as Buttermilk Pie and Chess Pie are so delicious that they don’t speak of desperation. However, they’re fruitless, and do call for simple staple ingredients most early settlers had on

hand.

When in season, any Ozarks fruit could be considered fair game for pie-making — including persimmons, based on the number of Persimmon Pie recipes that can be found online.

Gooseberries, if a person can lay their hands on them, are still in high demand with pie-makers. Typically found in the wild in the Ozarks, gooseberries are a mouth-puckering novelty when eaten raw, but, when baked into a pie with plenty of added sugar, they are transformed into a delicacy.

Growing gooseberries (and currants) was once illegal under federal law, because the berries can be a host for White Pine Blister Rust (WPBR), a type of fungus that can decimate the lumber industry. However, the ban couldn't be proven by native Ozarkers, who braved fierce thorns to harvest the gems in the wild. The federal ban was lifted in 1966, when it was left up to individual states to regulate gooseberries if they chose to. While the statute was lifted altogether in Missouri, the ban remains in place in some northern states.

According to McConnell, after the consolidation of public schools in the Ozarks, the tradition of hosting pie suppers as fundraisers began to wane, or evolve, as events like chili suppers and other types of auctions took their place.

"Some places in the Ozarks still host pie suppers, though," McConnell said.

The Troutman Foundation and Cassville Democrat took a step toward bringing dessert (pie and cake) benefit fundraisers back to Barry County on Nov. 22, with the inaugural Barry County Bake Off & Dessert Benefit Auction. The fun community event challenged the creativity of area bakers and spotlighted local talent — perhaps, most of all, the talent of Cassville auctioneer Donnie Stumpff, who brought out the value in cakes and pies, while providing an evening of entertainment for those in attendance.

The event proved that today, as in the

past, dessert auctions are an excellent way of fulfilling needs in the Ozarks.

**The 2007 recorded interview with Nettie Pozniak Feeney is transcribed in Volume 8 of The Barry County Museum's Lifetimes of Memories series. Ms. Feeney died in 2009, at age 102.*

**The 2007 interview with Lola Smith Isley is transcribed in Volume 8 of the Barry County Museum's Lifetimes of Memories*

series. Ms. Isley died in 2011, at age 93.

**The 2007 interview with Beulah Potter Morlan is transcribed in Volume 16 of the Barry County Museum's Lifetimes of Memories series. Mrs. Morlan died in 2024, at age 101.*

**Ozarks Alive publisher Kaitlyn McConnell's book, The Ozarks Pie Project Diary, is available for purchase at <https://www.ozarksalive.com/store/p/the-ozarks-pie-project-diary>.*



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THROUGH THE YEARS

~ BARRY COUNTY 1945-2005 ~

1945 80 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 15, 1945

MRS. WHEAT SEES SON WITH FORCES SERVING IN CHINA

Well Known Aurora Young Man Was Helping Evacuate Air Field When Pictured In News Reel.

When Mrs. C. V. Wheat went to the Ozark Theatre Sunday afternoon it was for the purpose of spending an afternoon of enjoyable entertainment by a musical show; but when the news reel came on it was another matter.

Right there on the screen as plain as day she saw her son, C. V. Wheat, Jr., with other members of the 14th Army Air Forces evacuating the air field thirty minutes before the Japanese arrived.

"It made me weep with joy and sorrow," said Mrs. Wheat, "I was glad to see my son active but was sorry the United States troops were evacuating their field because of the on rush of the Japanese."

Manager Hal, learning of Mrs. Wheat's son being in the picture, invited the good woman and mother to come back for the

show as his guest to again see her son. Mrs. Wheat notified her son's wife in Tulsa of seeing him in the picture and was given the number of the film by Mr. Hall in order to locate it when it is shown in Tulsa.

Mrs. Wheat's home is in Aurora but she is here taking care of Mrs. Dora Talbert who is sick.

A Barry Countian pictured with the group was Lt. Col. Austin J. Russell of Monett commander of the "Combay" medium bombardment group. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1940. He has been in China since May, 1944.

FEBRUARY 22, 1945

FIVE BREAK JAIL IN VAIN EFFORT FOR FREEDOM SUNDAY *Smallest of Group Lathered With Body Soap and Gets Through Bars to Steal Keys in Office*

Six juvenile prisoners in the county jail made their escape Sunday morning about 1 o'clock by forcing one of the number through the bars after soaping the body of Harold Roney, a sailor, absent without leave, and charged with stealing the milk-

ing machine of Hugh Montgomery of near Washburn.

After making a spectacular effort to make the escape good by stealing the two cars, all were captured. They are: J. D. Scroggins, 15, of Cassville, held on a charge of violating parole for entering the Cassville School. He was apprehended near Verona.

Byron Hammers and Melvin Waltrip, of Monett, and Enid Stubblefield, of Aurora, were captured in a straw stack at the home of George Shadd a mile northwest of Purdy. Mr. Schadd suspected the youths were in the straw stack when he heard his dogs barking and notified the officers.

George Roden drew his revolver and commanded the prisoners to come out with their hands up. The request was met instantly. Hammers and Waltrip were held on charges of robbing a store. Stubblefield was charged with attempted robbery with firearms.

Roney was found hiding in a rose bush at the home of his parents at Washburn. He had a .22 caliber rifle taken from the jail. The capture was made by Prosecutor Emory Medlin, Trooper Moore and former Sheriff Jack Gibbons.

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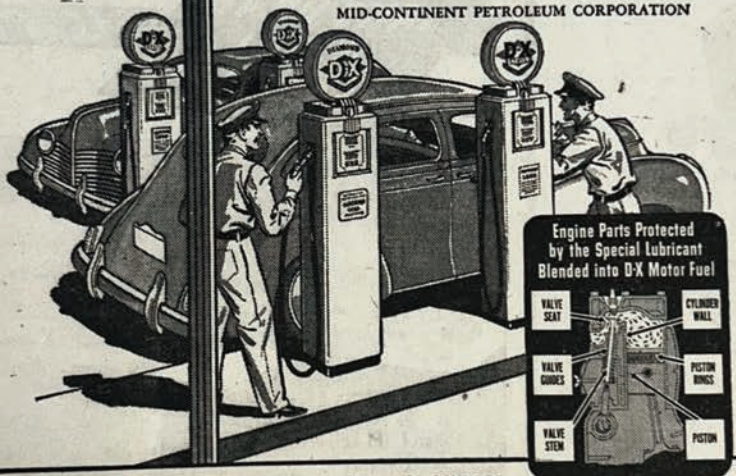


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When Roney was forced through the bars he went into the office of Sheriff Roden, secured the keys and released the prisoners. Three inmates of the jail refused to make the break for liberty. They are: Henry Wilson, and Carrie Morgan, serving six months and a year for adultery charges and an insane girl from Monett.

On leaving the jail the prisoners made for Exeter where Glen Cole's car was stolen and driven to near Purdy and abandoned because of being pressed by officers.

In the chase, the car of Trooper Moore was turned over and badly damaged resulting in Deputy Sheriff Del Medlin sustaining a head injury. Other troopers were Louis Feco, Sgt. Walter Grammer and Boyd Robertson of Carthage.

The officers are to be congratulated on making the speedy captures.

JUNE 7, 1945

BARCO COMPANY OPENS ELECTRIC BUSINESS HERE

*William Furner, Son-in-law of Dr.
 George W. Newman, Will Be in Charge;
 Mat Sims Is Salesmanager.*

The Barco Electric Company has received much electrical farm equipment and is stocking wire for general electrical wiring and will be open soon for full operation although equipment is limited to some essential items.

The company will be under the management of William Furner, son-in-law of Dr. George W. Newman, when he recovers sufficiently from injuries recently sustained in a plane accident.

The company has already received well pumps and tanks for both deep and shallow wells, milking machines and milk coolers. Some other electrical appliances are also in stock. Electrical equipment will be made or recommended by the Westinghouse Company.

Mat Sims, well known near Cassville resident and farmer, will be in charge of the sales of equipment and appliances.

The service department will be under the direction of Rufus Miller and Thomas Tucker, who will secure their equipment and have a shop room there to carry on the business of general electric work. Both are well known in the county as residents of near Butterfield and Exeter.

Mr. Sims says all equipment will be sold for the ceiling prices fixed by the OPA. The pumps are of the well known Fairbanks-Morse make.

The business is located in the John Ray building on North Main Street formerly occupied by the Western Auto Store.

JULY 26, 1945

POTATO AND TOMATO GROW ON SAME VINE

Lee Holman, well known Mano farmer, brought a large potato vine to the Democrat office Thursday with potatoes and tomatoes growing on the same vine.

It was quite interesting to see potatoes growing in the usual way, on the root of the vine with tomatoes on top of the vine. Some who saw the vine expressed much surprise. The potatoes were small and the tomatoes were about the size of a quarter.

AUGUST 16, 1945

COUNTY JOINS IN NATION'S JOY TO OBSERVE PEACE

Prayers and Tears of Joy Greet News of Japan's Unconditional Surrender Under Demands of Potsdam Ultimatum

The most terrible war the world ever knew ended at 7 o'clock Tuesday evening when President Harry S. Truman announced Japan's acceptance of terms of the United Nations Ultimatum issued at Potsdam.

This war cost the United States the lives of 251,717 of its bloom of citizenship with more than a million injured.

With the announcement came tears of joy, Blowing of whistles, blasting of horns and parading automobiles here.

The activity was led by a truck in rode and was pulling an air compressor which had been equipped with a siren manned by Curtis Thomas. The noise making whistle was attached to an air compressor used at Everett Edie's rock quarry by Thomas, Edie and Jimmy Turner. The whistle was an old one discarded by the city.

The doors of all churches were thrown open for a thanks giving prayer for the end of the holocaust and hope for the return of

those in service as quickly as possible. The services were touching and many were the impressive prayers and talks. At the Methodist Church Dr. E. B. Baker, here for a quarterly conference, delivered a "Victory Day" message which was most impressive.

Hundreds gathered at the CHS Athletic Field but were driven away by the shower showing tears of joy from the heavens but the enthusiasm was not dampened by it.



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Monett streets were filled by an enthusiastic populace to take all parking places and most of the sidewalk room by residents of town and the surrounding country. Likewise Cassville places of business were closed for the occasion.

After the parade of motor cars ended here the celebration was continued by young boys and girls who followed a base drum leader through the streets with the occasional toot of a horn.

The celebration was slow to start in true Missouri fashion for not a sound was heard

until President Truman announced acceptance of the Japanese note of unconditional surrender.

At 9:30 a number of musicians formed a band under Moody Burton's leadership to give a concert to a joyous people, who were uttering grateful prayers for the end of bloodshed.

All, however, gave thoughtful prayer, for the dead on foreign soil, to a merciful God for power to prevent all future wars that they may not have died in vain, like those of World War 1 more than 25 years ago.

OCTOBER 11, 1945

SNAKE WITH LEGS PROVES TO BE MITH

The snake with two legs captured by Ol Tucker, living 4 miles east of Cassville, proved to be a myth. The reptile did have two legs but on a very close scrutiny it was found the legs were those of a frog. Old Mr. Snake was trying to swallow the frog and had the job done with the exception of the legs.

1965 *60 Years Ago*

JANUARY 20, 1965

MONEY FINDERS

Caption: This threesome found missing Seligman bank loot during a horseback ride in the hills today. From the left mounted

are Floyd Ash, Leon Edmondson and Cleo Edmondson. Standing on the ground is Sheriff Bill Hemphill. Hemphill said the money, \$1,500 in \$20 bills and \$500 in \$10 denominations, was found scattered in

an open part of the woods. Some bill corners had been chewed, apparently by animals. (Pictured below.)



MARCH 31, 1965

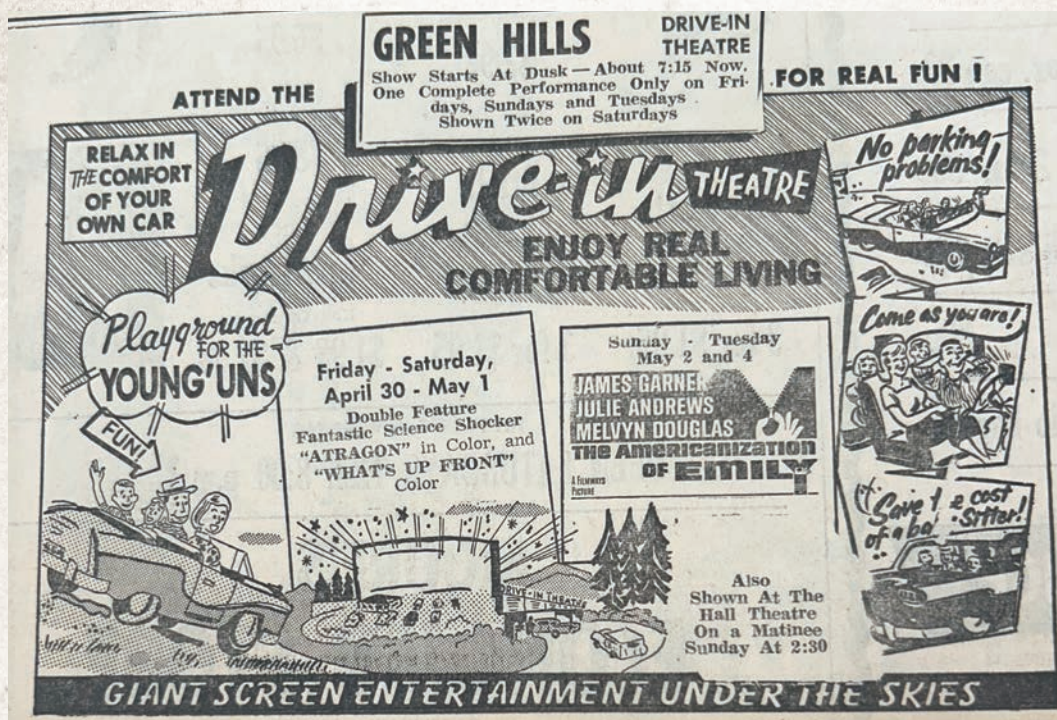
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT STARTS ON 11TH STREET

Flat Creek Special Road District And City Of Cassville Sharing Expense Of Cleaning Drainage Ditch From Townsend Street To Street Outlet.

A cooperative project between the City of Cassville and the Flat Creek Special Road district to relieve water drainage conditions on 11th Street here has started. Ray Correll, water superintendent, says the project started at Townsend Street and will proceed to Flat Creek.

Involved is deepening and cleaning the drainage ditch that parallels 11th Street on the south side.

For the road district part, equipment and manpower are being used. The council has employed Herman Hutchens, local contractor, on an hourly basis for the city's



contribution on the project. Correll said no cost estimates were filed for the work.

The ditch is being deepened by an average of two and one-half feet for the five or six block run to the creek.

Correll said the finished ditch would have a flat bottom, capable of carrying much more water. Average depth of the ditch at the completion of the project was estimated at six feet. Eleventh Street and the Hawk Branch ditch carry most flood waters through Cassville from the large run-off area west of town.

Improvements to the west of Townsend Street and, in the vicinity of the Vaisey Bristol Shoe Co. were completed last year.

The west of Townsend project cost some \$20,000 including the relocation of water and sewer lines, lowering the street, and some property purchase. Included in the project last year was work on County Farm Road to the west edge of the Vaisey Bristol property.

The 1964 flood control project was rushed to completion after flood waters for a time endangered the shoe plant and other a property in the immediate vicinity and areas in the east part of town. Residents of Fair Street have also made appear-

ances before the council requesting relief from which water conditions that hit their neighborhoods.

APRIL 28, 1965

NEW BUILDINGS AND PROGRESS THROUGHOUT AREA

James Auto Building New Machine Shop; W. C. Davidson Starts Coin Operated Car Wash; Other Building Projects Pushing For Completion

Two new business buildings are under construction in Cassville and other area projects reported this week they were pushing for completion soon.

Under construction at the present time is a new 23x33 foot concrete block building on South Main for James Auto Supply. John James reports the structure will be used for a machine shop operation. The new James building is located adjacent to property recently purchased at the corner of Third and Main.

W .C. Davidson announced this week the start of a new coin operated car wash next to his Town House motel here.

Davidson said the structure would be a two-bay type. The car wash is located on

property purchased sometime on from Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stubblefield. It will be directly across Highway 112 from Paul's Consumer Market.

Progress advanced this week on a new steel building, for Blalack Motors here. The 75x100 foot structure will house their body shop operation. Carter Koon says the completion date is tentatively set for May15.

Another steel building, for the Exeter Exchange is rapidly taking shape. Perry Hamnton, business manager, said this week workmen were starting installation of the building roof.

Steel for the roof was hoisted into place this week for Cassville's new Emmanuel Baptist Church on West First Street. Roof work for the new church was scheduled for completion this week.

With their new building at Washburn completed, installers for the Missouri State Telephone Co., began equipment installation at the exchange. Cut-over to the new service is scheduled for June 1, according to T. J. Smading, area supervisor for the company.

Grounds around the new installation at Washburn were being completed last week. Coby Frontier City, a new addition at Coby

Dude Ranch located west of Washburn, will open May 29, according to Mr. and Mrs. Andy Atanacio. The addition to the ranch includes buildings representing an old western town.

JUNE 2, 1965

AROUND BARRY COUNTY

General rains and favorable temperatures have helped all kinds of crops lately. Row crops, oats, gardens, fruit trees, pastures, and hay meadows are making good growth.

A herd winter's effects are still showing up, however. Fall sown grass, alfalfa, and small grains were not the only plants that suffered. Some of the peach trees in the Brice Cassity and Evan Star-key orchards show winter injury. Peach buds were thinned by low temperatures too. However, a thin "set" of peaches will probably mean large, attractive fruit.

DECEMBER 29, 1965

WASHBURN AND PURDY SEEKING SIGNALS AT RR

Mayor James Atkinson Of Washburn Has Frisco Railroad Assurance That Steps Are Being Taken; Purdy Group Seeks Hearing Before Missouri PSC.

Two Barry County towns are seeking signals at railroad crossings in their respective communities.

Washburn, site of a fatal train-car smash December 8, has received assurances that steps are being taken to provide a signal at the crossing on Highway 90 in Washburn.

Purdy, having tried other avenues has requested a hearing before the Missouri Public Service Commission for installation of signals on Route C crossing in Purdy.

Mayor James Atkinson Washburn said this week he had received assurance from the Frisco Railroad that "steps were being taken" to provide a signal at the crossing there.

Initial requests, backed up by petitions,

came from the board of aldermen in Washburn. Two children of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Dalton were killed December 8 in a car-train smash at the crossing. School officials backed up the Washburn request due to heavy traffic at the crossing by school busses. Other heavy traffic was cited in the request.

A desired crossing signal at Route C in Purdy has been presented to the Missouri Public Service Commission by a group of interested citizens there. Backing the Purdy request are school officials and the Lions Club.

A request for hearing was delivered to the PSC is Jefferson City by Norman Gibbons. Petitions from citizens also accompanied the Purdy requests. No date for the hearing has been set by the PSC. As in the case of Washburn, Purdy residents are concerned with school bus and other vehicular traffic using the crossing signal in their town. A bell is maintained at the Main Street crossing in Purdy.



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1985 40 Years Ago

JANUARY 23, 1985

FAST HILL, SLICK SNOW

Caption: An impassable Third Street hill in Cassville served as an ideal sledding area Monday for groups of youngsters out of school. The city of Cassville blocked the street for the youngster's enjoyment.

Snow was courtesy of a storm that blew through the area Saturday, dropping temperatures to -18 degrees Sunday morning and repeating to minus readings of four Monday. Three inches of snow were received in the predicted "flurries". All county schools took a holiday Monday due to slick and extreme cold conditions. (Pictured at right.)

FEBRUARY 20, 1985

WAL-MART TO BUILD STORE AT CASSVILLE

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. of Bentonville, Arkansas, announced this week that store number 83 in Missouri will be located in Cassville.

The firm said their newest store in the state, 43,926 square feet, will be located in the area of Highway 37 and Old Exeter Road at the west edge of Cassville. The site is at the late Ott Turner residence, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marlett Sanders of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Corporate headquarters of the 751-store chain in a 20-state area, said construction is expected to begin this summer with a projected opening in the spring of next year.

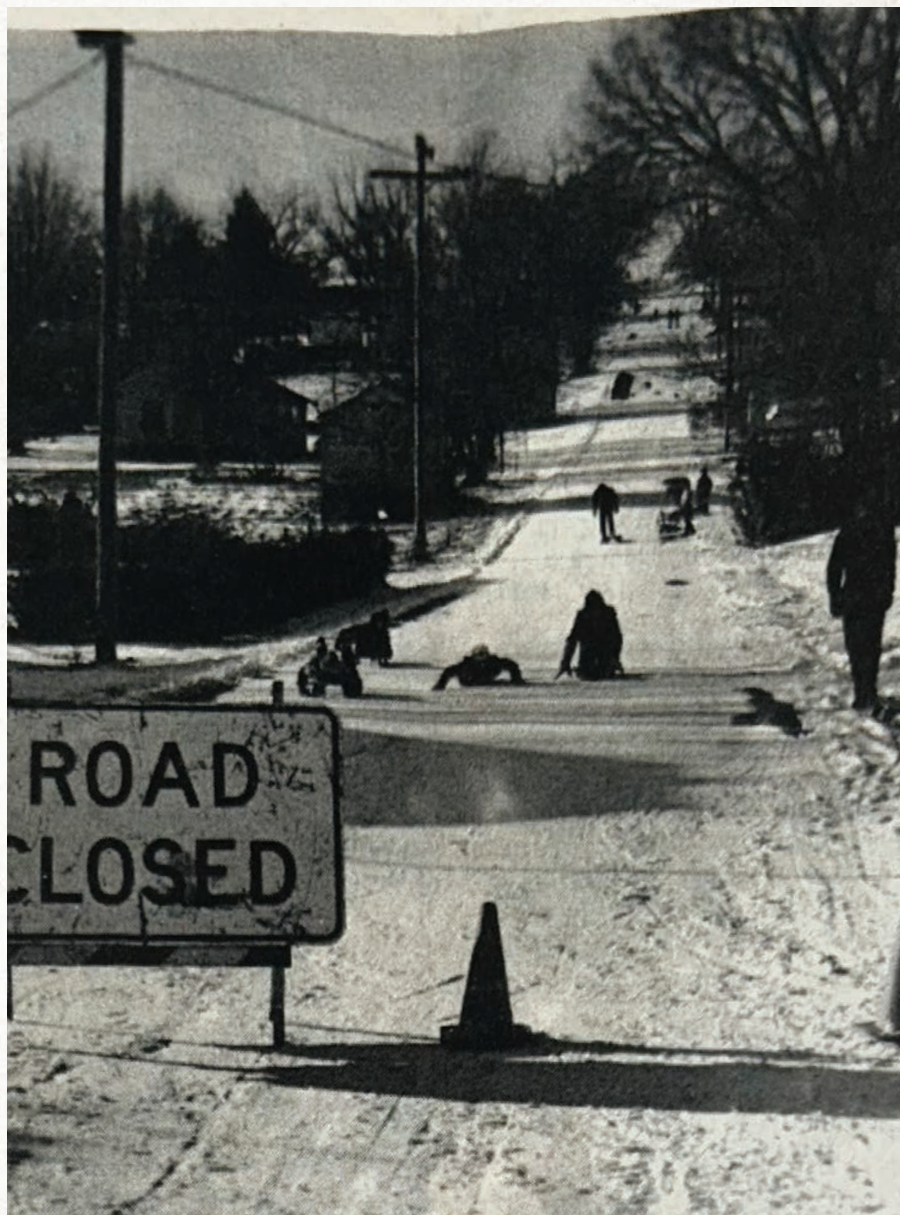
In addition to the 36 departments of the shopping center, the Cassville operation will have a garden center, pharmacy, tire, battery and automotive center.

Survey and core drilling at the site, just outside the city limits, had been in progress several days before the official announcements were received here Thursday. David D. Glass, president and chief operating officer, said the store here would employ about 100 persons.

APRIL 10, 1985

FOREST SERVICE IN TRADE FOR AREA LAND

The U.S. Forest Service has announced a proposed trade in two plots of land in the Cassville district of Mark Twain National Forest. The program is an ongoing one



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by the Service in exchanging lands under jurisdiction of the government for private holdings to better incorporate forest lands.

In one exchange, the Forest Service would receive 40 acres addition for 40 acres of private land in the Garner Hollow area north of Hailey. This exchange is proposed between Mr. and Mrs. Gail Purves of Tulsa, Oklahoma and the government agency.

Also proposed is the Forest Service receiving 80 acres addition for 23 acres of private land in the east fork area of Rock Creek. This exchange is proposed with Mr. and Mrs. J.T. McFarlin of Salina, Oklahoma.

Chuck Miner of the Cassville district, said the exchange policy was adopted several years ago by the Forest Service to better serve a forest area. Equal value is a criteria of the exchange program. Legal advertisements in this week's Democrat provide for valid objections in the exchange being made, within 15 days of May 1.

APRIL 17, 1985

SPILLED POTATO PEELS MADE ROUTE 37 SLICK

A quantity of spilled potato peelings made Highway 37 slick as ice in some spots last week. The spill, from a truck going from Arkansas to Missouri, dumped the peelings at several locations.

At one site in the Vanzandt community, an 18-wheeler overturned and blocked the road. A number of vehicles traveling in the area slid into the ditch when attempting to avoid the accident. Highway crews used gravel and chemicals to rid the area of the problem.

According to officials, a farmer intending to use the peels as feed was transporting them to a location near Mount Vernon when a hopper on the trailer opened and dropped the cargo along the route. There were no injuries involved in the incidents that resulted.



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JULY 10, 1985

FASCO OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

Caption: Ten years and 18,880,000 electric motors and blowers after the first shipment went out from FASCO Industries Cassville plant, this is the manufacturing, office and administrative staff of the community's largest employer.

Morris Castleberry, plant manager, said July 5 was the anniversary of the first shipment being made from the local plant. In this photo are 485 of the total 524 persons employed at the Cassville industry. Castleberry noted the plant had twice expanded during the 10 years of operation here. FASCO, which operates three other plants in Missouri, is a subsidiary of Hawker-Siddeley Co. of London, England. (Pictured above.)

OCTOBER 16 1985

ELEPHANT RIDE AT CIRCUS

Caption: Despite constant rain showers Sunday, Cassville Lions Club officials esti-

mated over 1,000 persons attended two performances of the Al Kelley Circus here.

Jack Chansley, president, and Phil Hutchens, secretary, said the club was even successful in parking cars on the American Legion Grounds in such a manner that none got stuck. In this post-circus photo, Zak and Blake Fields were a couple of fortunate youngsters who found a break in the weather and an opportunity to ride one of the circus elephants (Pictured next page.)

NOVEMBER 27, 1985

EAGLE ROCK AREA GOES AFTER EAGLE SYMBOL CAST IN 1890'S

As one of 53 cities in the United States with Eagle Associated with their name, Eagle Missouri is being considered to receive a large copper symbol that was hand hammered in the east in the late 1890's.

The possibility exists after the community was contacted by the Georgetown Hotel in Washington, D. C., which has a

pair of the seven-foot Eagles at the entrance. Officials of the hotel explained remodeling project was resulting in removal of the eagles, whose wingspan reaches six feet.

Receiving the information, the Eagle Rock Area Association has jumped upon the opportunity to gain the recognition and feature for their area of Table Rock Lake.

Roy Smith, president of the ERAA; Willis Curry, postmaster; and Haupt Edwards, resort owner, coordinated a response. Mrs. Edwards said a response to the Washington hotel general manager, Richard J. Cotter, had been forwarded Tuesday.

A decision on which of the 53 possible sites to be chosen will be made December 1. The copper sculptured eagle, covered with goldleaf are rated as priceless. Cotter's letter informed the Eagle Rock community the eagles "Originally hand hammered from copper in the late 1890's once perched atop a New Jersey opera house for



70 years before coming to Washington, D. C. We want one of these Eagles to enjoy another prominent location in the future, and have decided to give one to an American city or town which has "Eagle" as part

of its name. Among the 53 cities so named that we can find, yours is among them."

Information told the Eagle Rock folks the eagles went to the nation's capital in the 1960's, where they have remained atop

the porte cachere of the hotel for the past 25 years. Standing seven feet tall and a wingspan of six feet, the weight is approximately 85 pounds.

Eagle Rock told the hotel people of their location between Roaring River State Park and Table Rock Lake. Association activities are on Highway 86, in facilities just granted a long-term lease by the Cassville R-4 school district.

Mrs. Edwards said, "As a focal point of Table Rock Lake and this recreation area, we think Eagle Rock, Missouri would be an ideal location for one of these symbols.

Plans of the owner include review of submitted plans for the perpetual use by whatever number of the 53 locations contacted which might respond. They ask the winning location to have an installation completed by March 1.

Officials of the Barry County community's effort said their not being incorporated might cause them to not receive as much consideration as a larger area.

"But," Mrs. Edwards said, "We have an eagle acquisition fund set-up, we have the willingness to make the effort and we will put it where everyone coming to the western end of Table Rock can see the sculpture."



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JANUARY 12, 2005

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

Caption: Firefighters with the Cassville Fire Protection District responded to a car fire on Clover Street between Main Street and Sale Barn Road last Thursday. According to Fire Chief Millard Andrews, the driver of the car said the fire started under the dashboard.

Firefighters quickly had the blaze under control, although the large amount of smoke drew a crowd of onlookers. (Pictured at right.)



FEBRUARY 9, 2005

CITY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH WAL-MART

A developer's agreement between the City of Cassville and Wal-Mart was approved Thursday during special session of the Cassville City Council. The agreement details how infrastructure improvements to support net a new Wal-Mart Supercenter in Cassville will be financed. The document finalizes a plan that was negotiated at the Nov. 10, 2004, council meeting.

Under this sales tax incentive plan, Wal-Mart will be loaning the city money to make water system; road and traffic light improvements to serve the area west of the intersection of Old Exeter Road and Highway 37.

Wal-Mart has publicized its intention to build a new Supercenter store on property it has now purchased just west of the current Wal-Mart store. Engineers are estimating that improvements will cost approximately \$2.5 million to complete. Of that total, Wal-Mart has agreed to pay

\$660,000.

The agreement also stipulates that the city will repay Wal-Mart \$1.6 million over a seven-year period, representing the city's portion of the project cost.

The Barry County Commission has agreed to finance just over \$300,000 of the project and will be paying Wal-Mart back over four and a half years. The city plans to pay back Wal-Mart from half of the increased sales tax expected to be generated from a new Supercenter. This pay-back plan is also detailed in the agreement.

According to City Administrator Kati Rose, payment on the infrastructure improvements will cease when the total amount is repaid or the seven years is up, whichever comes first.

Based on an estimated increase in Wal-Mart sales of \$30,000,000, the city, which levies a half-cent sales tax for capital improvements and a one-cent sales tax for general revenue, would be paying Wal-Mart back \$225,000 a year for seven years. The county, which has a half-cent sales tax

for general revenue and a half-cent sales tax for roads and bridges, would be paying the company \$75,000 for four and a half years.

The project will include construction of a well, pump, water mains, well house, connectors and 500,000-gallon storage tank.

Road improvements will include: constructing free right turn lanes in all directions and dedicated eastbound and westbound left turn lanes and through lanes; and widening Old Exeter Road to three lanes west of Highway 37.

The project is being constructed to support future development in that area of the city, as well as Wal-Mart, Rose said.

Rose told the aldermen during their meeting on Monday night that work on the project could begin as soon as March 1.

Wal-Mart executives have indicated they would like to see the Supercenter open in March of 2006. Also on Monday, the council authorized Mayor Jim Craig to sign a petition requesting the voluntary annexation of Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), right-of-way.

The property in question is located on the southwest corner of the Highway 37 and Old Exeter Road intersection. The property owner did not want to be annexed into the city, but the city can annex the right-of-way, which belongs to MoDOT.

Rose said MoDOT requires that all four sides of the intersection be within the city in order for improvements to be made to the intersection. Improvements are planned to accommodate increased traffic flow from a new Wal-Mart® Supercenter to be built at that location. These improvements are part of the infrastructure improvement project.

FEBRUARY 23, 2005

INTEREST IN SINKHOLE CONTINUES TO RISE

*Developing natural phenomenon near
Wayne now threatens county road*

As sinkholes go, the one discovered in a pasture near Wayne is huge. The hole gets bigger daily and is attracting a steady

stream of curiosity-seekers who are making the trip down the rural dirt road to get their own look at the natural phenomenon.

In one week's time, the sinkhole had grown from a nine-foot depression on Feb. 12 to a large water-filled hole that measured approximately 60 feet wide and 200 feet long last Friday. The latest measurement taken on Tuesday estimates the sinkhole is now nearly 88 feet wide and 228 feet long.

The hole is now threatening to cross over a section of an unpaved county road to its north. Road district officials have already placed dirt barricades blocking off traffic from the section of road that is in jeopardy.

Due to public interest in the sinkhole, Barry County emergency management officials held a press conference at the site last Friday. Reporters from area newspapers as well as television stations in Joplin and Springfield attended the event, which was hosted by David Compton, director of the

Barry County Office of Emergency Management, and Barry County Sheriff Mick Epperly.

Also on hand at the press conference were property owners Bill and Barbara Berg, who have been closely monitoring the sinkhole that is quickly taking over more and more of their pasture land, and state geologist James Van Dike, who traveled from Jefferson City to investigate the sinkhole on behalf of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

As each official was introduced, their presentations were interrupted periodically by the sound of splashes, as chunks of dirt sloughed off into the water-filled hole that has begun to resemble a small lake.


The initial collapse of earth was discovered by the Bergs on Feb. 11 and reported to the Barry County Sheriff's Department on Feb. 12. Officials with the Barry County Office of Emergency Management arrived on the scene that day and documenting the began sinkhole through photos and measurements.

State officials traveled to the site on Feb. 17 to begin their study of the situation, which they intend to monitor over the next several weeks and months.

The road leading to the sinkhole has been closed to local traffic by authority of the Barry County Sheriff's Office. "This is a unique situation for us here in Barry County," Epperly said. "It's something we haven't seen before. Because we don't know how far the sinkhole is going to grow, I'm asking officers to patrol the area to keep the public out. This could be a safety hazard, and I want the public to stay back until it finishes developing."

The instability of the ground surrounding the sinkhole continues to concern emergency officials. "This situation is still developing and additional collapses are possible," said Compton. "The ground surrounding the collapse may not be safe and can collapse without notice."

During the night Thursday, on the hole radically changed shape with the sides



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Sink hole changes form daily: A large sink hole has appeared in the middle of a piece of pasture land near Wayne. The huge hole, which began as a nine-foot-wide depression, now covers an area that is approximately 228 feet long by 87 and a half feet wide. Sound measurements reveal the hole could be as deep as 150 feet. With the site changing daily as more and more earth collapses into the hole, Barry County emergency management officials are warning area citizens to stay away from the area.

deepening from one and a half feet to over four feet in spots, which Compton said would have stranded anyone inside the hole who might have been near it when it collapsed further. "There would have been no way they could have climbed out," Compton said. "People need to remember this is private property. We don't want anyone to get hurt."

Van Dike said he found the changing appearance of the sinkhole fascinating. "We're seeing geology happen as we stand here," Van Dike said. "It's amazing how much it's changed overnight. This is something we will watch over time and see how it develops. We'll let nature take its course." The geologist explained that sinkholes are not uncommon in areas of karst topography, but the size of the sinkhole in Barry County makes it unusual.

"As sinkholes go, this one is very impressive," Van Dike said. "It's a good-sized hole and the largest of several collapses we've had reported to us over the last two or three weeks."

According to information found on the DR web site, a sinkhole is simply an area where the roof of a cave has collapsed. Water moving in the cave carries away the fallen debris and the sink enlarges itself until it is stable, usually resulting in an inverted cone-shaped depression.

Sinkholes are also common where rock below the land surface is limestone or sandstone that can be naturally dissolved by circulating ground water. As the rock dissolves, spaces and caverns develop underground.

Sinkholes are often nature's way of providing surface drainage. In Missouri, the

typical depth of sinkholes is from 70 to 80 feet. The sinkhole discovered in Barry County is thought to be 150 feet deep at its greatest depth, Compton said.

Two volunteer members of the county's Citizens Corps, Charles Britton and Ken Helvey, have been at the sinkhole site daily and are actively monitoring the collapse. "This is pretty exciting, because we may never see another sinkhole as big as this one in our lifetime," Compton said. This excitement is drawing more and more people to the sinkhole site despite warnings to stay away. "We still have a huge problem with people driving out there," Compton said. "Only local traffic is allowed in the area. No one else should be out there."

Epperly said his deputies would continue patrolling the site, and the sheriff said he might have to close the road completely

once the sinkhole starts across the road.

JULY 6, 2005

TASK FORCE TO FOCUS ON TEEN'S UNSOLVED MURDER

Law enforcement officials don't like unsolved cases, especially those that involve the murder of a 14-year-old boy.

Justin Hocutt is a name that had not been in the news for almost five years until last week when Barry County Sheriff Mick Epperly made public the formation of a multi-jurisdictional task force to investigate the Oct. 2, 1999, murder of Hocutt.

The Seligman teenager's body was discovered on the railroad tracks near the home where he and his father, Timothy Hocutt, were living. The boy had been run over by a southbound train and his body laid on the tracks for close to 24 hours before it was discovered.

Initially, law enforcement authorities thought Hocutt's death was an accident,

a case of a teenager walking too close to the tracks at night, but when toxicology reports revealed that alcohol and drugs were not in Hocutt's system at the time of death, officers began the search for Hocutt's killer or killers.

The theory voiced by law enforcement officials in the days following the discovery of Hocutt's body was that the teenager had been beaten severely and then placed on the railroad tracks. No arrests were made in the case, and despite a \$20,000 reward offered for information at the anniversary of Hocutt's murder, the case went unsolved.

"New leads and new information have been uncovered," stated Epperly in a press release issued last Wednesday afternoon. "New witnesses have come forward and new forensic techniques are available now, which may contribute to the successful completion of this investigation."

The new leads surfaced after cold case detectives got their hands on Hocutt's file

and reviewed every piece of evidence gathered in connection with the teen's murder.

According to Ron Sparks, chief of police for the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad, the cold case detectives, who had over 75 years combined experience in homicide investigation, were brought in to look at the case through a grant from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This grant was obtained under the urging of Barry County Coroner Skip White, who is also a member of the county's Child Fatality Review Board.

"These detectives looked at every shred of evidence we had and uncovered some new information and evidence," Sparks said. "Things have changed," Sparks said. "People have moved out of the area and are more likely to talk because they are not as intimidated by the people we think were involved."

When talking about the case, Sparks talks about more than one suspect.

"We believe strongly that we know what happened and who was involved," Sparks said. "We have not found any evidence that reveals that it was anyone other than we originally suspected."

Based on information released by law enforcement officials in the weeks following Hocutt's murder, the teenager was last seen by his girlfriend and her family at approximately 5 a.m. on Oct. 8 when the girlfriend's father, Harold Johnson, told Hocutt to leave his house.

Hocutt's body was found at 4 a.m. on Oct. 9. The last time Hocutt's father saw him alive was 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 7. The boy was never reported missing.

Efforts to bring closure to the Hocutt murder case will involve the cooperation of several different agencies. Task force members include: the Barry County Sheriff's Department, the Barry County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control, the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Barry County Coroner's

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Office and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"This case has never been closed or put on a shelf," said Sparks. "We have followed up on every lead, every opportunity we've had since this happened."

To support the railroad commitment to solving the case company is offering \$25,000 reward to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Hocutt's death. "The president of railroad took this personally when someone committed crime and then placed a boy on our tracks," Sparks said. "He told me to do whatever takes to solve this case."

"I can't tell you how quickly the case will be solved, but I can promise you we will solve this case," Sparks said. "The people that are involved and those who did this, need to know they have our undivided attention."

AUGUST 17, 2005

EVERY LITTLE BIT OF RAIN HELPS

Caption: Scattered rainfall produced this rainbow early Monday evening. It was sighted from a house in rural Washburn. Chances for rain and thunderstorms will continue for the rest of the week. This is welcome news for farmers and ranchers, as the blistering August heat threatened water levels in several local farm ponds. Cattle population depend on these ponds for drinking and cooling. (Pictured above.)

OCTOBER 12, 2005

CAMP BARNABAS SEGMENT WILL AIR ON SUNDAY

The "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" episode videotaped at Camp Barnabas, a local non-profit, non-denominational Christian camp for disabled individuals, will air on Sunday, Oct. 16 on ABC. The camp, which is located between Purdy and Fairview, will be featured on a special two-



hour episode of Extreme Home Makeover.

"The producers said this is the best show they'd ever done," said Myra Miller, spokesperson for project builder PB2, during August construction. "This is unheard of to build a home and two additional buildings in just seven days."

Over a month ago, the Extreme Home Makeover design team, PB2 contractors and thousands of local volunteers joined together to build a new home, a state-of-the-art media center and a new counselor bunk house for camp founders Paul and Cyndy Teas.

Volunteers worked around the clock for seven days to complete all three projects only moments before the Teas family returned to camp after a much deserved vacation on Aug. 24.

The Teas were surprised to find a large two-story home, with a two-car garage, where their outdated A-frame-style house once stood. The new residential building will provide a more energy efficient home for the family, who has lived on site at Camp Barnabas for the last 10 years.

Camp Barnabas serves over 1,000 children with different types of disabilities each year. While at Camp Barnabas, the campers spend seven days enjoying outdoor activi-

ties like rock climbing, swimming, canoeing, hiking and horseback riding.

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" officials said the camp can expect over 200,000 inquiries after the episode airs.

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" is doing in one week what we were planning to do over a five-year period," said Dr. Terry Winkler, camp board president. "Accelerating that plan will give our campers an even greater experience, allowing them to realize their dreams that much sooner."

All resources, materials and labor used in the Extreme Home Makeover Camp Barnabas project were donated. "While searching for the labor and materials for the build, I found an unbelievable community spirit," said Steve Butcher, president of PB2 Companies. "Even in this hurry-up world of ours, hundreds of volunteers unselfishly stepped forward to help out and everyone excited and happy to participate. "Many people worked long hours and contributed vast resources without complaint to see that the project was perfect and complete," said Butcher.

The "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Camp Barnabas episode will air on ABC at 6 p.m. on Oct. 16.

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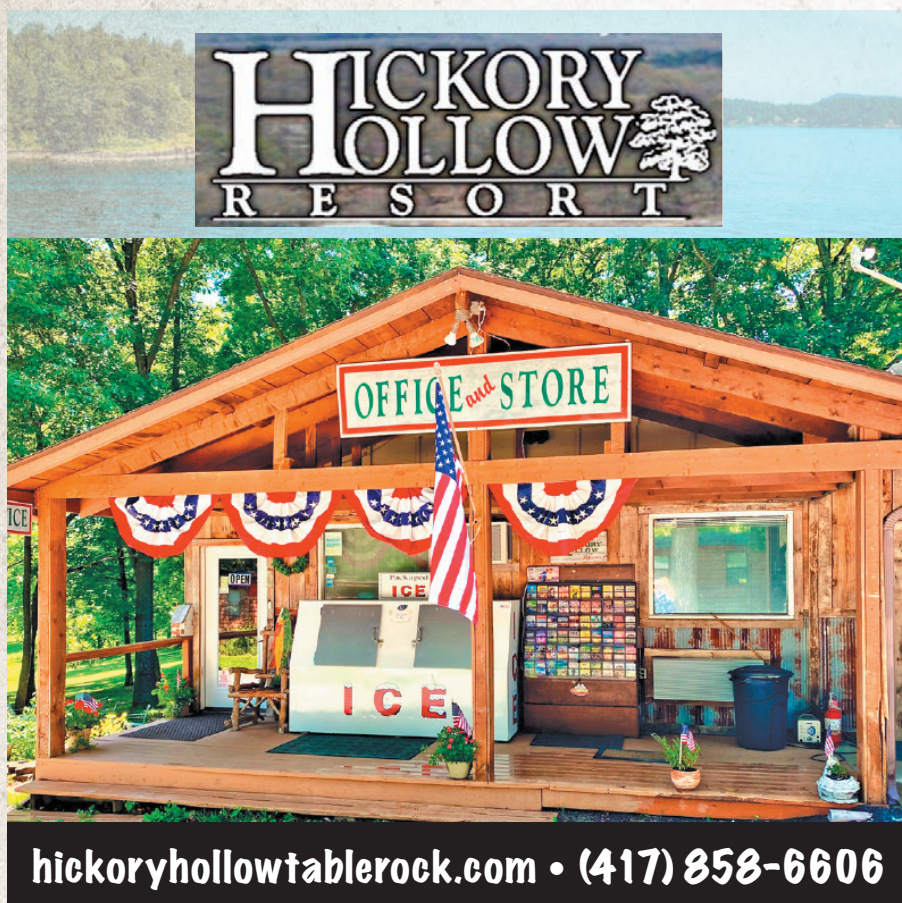
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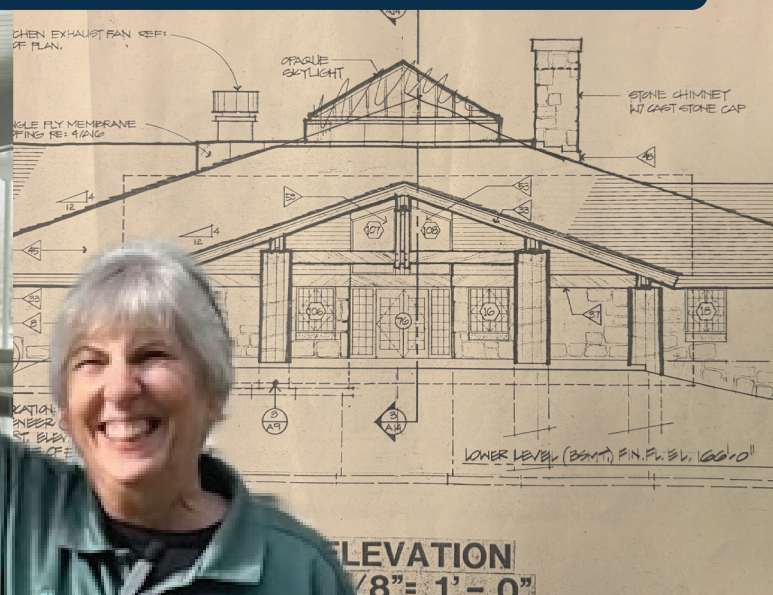
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