



Hometown Pharmacy Celebrates

by Susan E. Hohman

Decisions we make today often change the course of our lives, so it is important to make the right choice when we have the opportunity. Skye Powers, the pharmacist at Hometown Pharmacy in Dixon chose to branch out and start her own independently-owned pharmacy 25 years ago on July 1, 1993. Twenty-five years later, Ms. Powers has no regrets about that decision and is gearing up to celebrate this milestone next week.

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018, Hometown Pharmacy will include their customers and the community in the celebration. Plans are to serve hot dogs and hamburgers between 11 am and 2 pm at or near their location at 206 West 2nd Street in Dixon. Commemorative cups have also been ordered for distribution to those who come to help the business celebrate.

H o m e t o w n appreciates their loyal customers and wants them to join with them on the occasion.

A lot has changed in the pharmaceutical industry over the past quarter-century. "It is a changing world," Skye said. She pointed out the challenges that pharmacists face as a result of the availability of mail-order prescriptions, as well as the variety of insurance stipulations and restrictions for patients. However, the reason she decided to go independent in 1993 is the same one that keeps her in business: the people. "I like being able to spend time with the patients and to talk to them. I like being independent." She wryly added, "I also like to be able to be nice to my employees!"

The five employees at Hometown are Skye, as pharmacist, Elwyn Wax, who comes in a couple days a week as relief pharmacist, and technicians Alyssa Hogshooter, Missy Kelley, and Lexi Yoakum. Hometown does not offer a lot of the "extras" that some pharmacies do. Instead, the practice sticks to what it knows: prescription medication. Customers can pick up their medicines from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at the pharmacy located next door to Dixon Family Practice—in the same building that has housed Hometown since it opened 25 years ago.



HOMETOWN PHARMACY



Lexi Yoakum, Missy Kelley, Skye Powers, R.Ph., and Alyssa Hogshooter,

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DIXON SESQUICENTENNIAL

1869 - 2019

by Susan E. Hohman

"To the occupants of this scenic region, both those who have inherited it by birth and those who have claimed it for their own through adoption, may none forsake the God-given duty and privilege of protecting its heritage and beauty."
Ethel M. Plunkett (from Dixon, Missouri 1869-1969, published by the Dixon Advancement Association)



As Dixon approaches its 150th year in existence as a city, a nostalgic look at bygone years and the history of the town is vital to a healthy appreciation for this small town in the Ozarks. Dixon came into being in 1869 at the top of the hill that bears its name. At least three different stories live on as to its naming, but it is agreed that Dixon, Missouri was first of all a railroad town.

In 1868, the Frisco Railroad Company was organized and instructed to complete the railroad line from Rolla to Springfield, MO. The first large settlement near the town itself was a camp consisting of about 100 railroad workers. The camp was reportedly located on what – in 1969 – was known as the Bennett Jones property, west of Dixon. The town of Dixon was surveyed and laid out on both sides of the tracks, and had an area of one-half square mile. The village became a fourth-class city in 1906.

The earliest records indicate the original citizens were concerned for "law and order, for health and sanitation, for free use of streets and alleys without obstruction from 'ox, ass, mule, horse, or cow'." (from Dixon, Missouri 1869-1969, p. 4) Springs abound in the Ozarks, and Dixon depended largely on cisterns and deep wells. Eventually, in 1938, a bond issue for a Dixon water and sewerage system was carried, and public water was turned on in 1939, with the sewer system ready in 1942.

After the railroad honeymoon faded, Dixon settled into steady growth in business. People brought produce and stock, trading for staples from folks like William H. Heller, Jr., who opened his store in 1880. He was also the first man to pay cash for produce. Peddlers went from house to house in the early days, but when Dixon merchants began to offer dry goods, women could shop locally for their needed merchandise.

The first physician in Dixon was Dr. A.L. McGregor. The first newspaper, The Dixon Headlight, was run by J.S. Speer. A total of five newspapers ran for brief periods until the establishment of The Dixon Pilot on February 25, 1911 by Arendall Goforth. The Post Office department of Dixon was started around 1905 or 1906, and ran the first rural route in Pulaski County. Electric lights were first turned on in Dixon homes and on the streets for a few hours each evening in 1914. Alex McKinnon, owner of the first horse-drawn hearse, later sold it to Fred H. Gilbert, who became

the town's first undertaker. Cultural advantages such as town bands, quartets, and church choirs displayed part of the town's interest in music. Many performances took place in the pagoda, located in the town's square. Other early amusements were "circuses, 'medicine shows,' pie and box suppers, private picnics, basket dinners, sack races, public Fourth of July picnics, carnivals, and private parties." (from Dixon, Missouri 1869-1969, p. 7)

Dixon proved progressive in some areas, and had both boys' and girls' high school basketball teams in 1923. The first town festival was held on September 5, 1929, and was known then (and continues today) as Dixon Cow Days. The Great Depression of the 1930s affected rural America, and Dixon was no exception. Many young men served in the armed services in World War I and World War II, as well as succeeding conflicts. With the construction of Fort Leonard Wood in 1941, hundreds of construction workers sought lodging and food in surrounding towns, including Dixon. The town rose to the occasion, much as it had for the original railroad workers some seven decades earlier, and new housing was built, schools were enlarged to accommodate more students, and businesses grew.

For the past fifty years, Dixon has changed a lot from the look back in 1969. There are still businesses where commerce is transacted: Country Mart grocery store, Dollar General Store, Tri-County Hardware, and Ace Hardware, to name a few. Insurance companies, banks, hair salons, antique stores, car repair shops, gas stations, re-sale shops, a variety of churches, and some local eateries still grace the city landscape. Instead of Fred Gilbert's one funeral home of 1924, Dixon now has two: Long-Kloepfel Funeral Home and Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home.

No longer is there a town square, and yet the citizens of this small Ozark community still meet and greet one another as neighbors and friends who have shared both good times and bad, joy and sorrow with one another. They know they must be resilient enough to continue to change to meet the demands of the global community they now find themselves a part of. It is hoped, as they step into the sesquicentennial celebration of their town that—as Ethel Plunkett wrote in 1969—they do not "forsake the God-given duty and privilege of protecting this heritage and beauty."