

August 24

DIXON DOINGS - The Yeomen are planning for a two day picnic here on the 21st and 22nd of September. They have contracted for a balloonist to make an ascension and parachute leap and have many other interesting attractions that no one who can attend should miss.

September 7

DIXON DOINGS - The Yeoman picnic was a grand success and the balloon ascension was fine. Over \$600 was taken in on the grounds. [This sum equals \$14,000 of purchasing power in 2009 dollars.]

September 14

DIXON DOINGS - The City Council at their last regular meeting, ordered several new sidewalks and the property owners where the walks were ordered are getting busy.

DIXON DOINGS - The old G.A. Schneider blacksmith shop, which since the death of Mr. Schneider has been operated by his two sons, Frank and Ed, closed its doors to the public last week. This is one of the oldest business establishments in Dixon, having been in continuous operation since about 1870.

November 2

DIXON DOINGS - Joe Stricklan is taking a lay off from his duties as stage driver on the Vienna-Dixon line this week and collecting poll taxes for the city. Judge G.H. Mosby is acting as deputy carrier for Mr. Stricklan.

November 16

DIXON DOINGS - The builders of the Riddle Ford Bridge have commenced work on the structure and soon the Gasconade will be spanned by another iron bridge. County Surveyor A. G. Williams came over Friday to supervise the work and Alex McKinnon is hauling the material from Dixon to the river.

November 23

DIXON DOINGS - There is strong talk of Dixon having electric lights. Hope it will result in something more than talk. Floyd Spalding is the promoter.

Excerpts

Beginning - Dixon is the second town in the county within easy reach to the Matthews' Prairie settlement. It was "boomed" by the location of the railway division end for some time, but has since settled into solid growth. In 1869 it was laid out on both sides of the railway.

1902 - On Dec. 13 over in Dixon. Lathe Anderson won a cow raffled off by George Hutsel. His winning number was lucky thirteen!

The Frisco team that had spent much of the summer and fall surveying the county for a route-shortening cutoff reached Lebanon Nov. 15. Their progress through the area was closely followed by many. While Dixon interests were delighted by the prospect that their community might become a division point, Hancock, Crocker, Swedeborg and Richland residents were dismayed that their town might no longer be on the main line. Some thought that even Dixon would be bypassed as well.

1902 - Dixon Echo

Reprinted from KJPW Old Settlers Gazette 2002
By Gary Knehans

Pulaski County residents were still living in the shadow of a deadly smallpox epidemic when the calendar turned to 1902. While incidents of the dreaded disease were declining in Dixon

and in some other parts of the county, the county seat itself was under full siege from the smallpox scourge. And, over in Richland, the residents were struggling to cope with their maladies without the wise and caring services of Dr. James Titterington, who had died Christmas morning at the venerable age of seventy-six.

In its Jan. 11 edition, the Dixon Echo's Waynesville correspondent reported that residents in the county seat were "slowly recovering from the smallpox scare," but admitted there had been four new cases reported the past week, identifying the latest sufferers as B. F. Scott, wife and child, and A. Logan. The epidemic apparently had eased enough to allow the public school in Waynesville to reopen Jan. 6 after a vacation of three weeks.

Two prominent residents of Waynesville traveled to Dixon on business Jan. 11 and surprisingly found that they were not wholeheartedly welcome there.

"Judge Vaught and J.L. Johnson...reported that the people in Dixon were actually afraid of them for fear of catching the smallpox," reported the Dixon Echo. "For the benefit of these gentlemen, (I) wish to say that they have been well for over a month, and I think if you will come over and look at B.F. Scott, you would never be afraid of Vaught or Johnson."

Smallpox or not, the political operatives of the county would not be deterred from their duties in an election year. The editor of the Pulaski County Democrat fired the first local salvo against Republican Teddy Roosevelt.

Heavy snowfall was reported all throughout the county. One of the communities hardest hit was Dixon with 12 inches of fresh snow. The storm came in the wake of a house fire that broke out in that community on Feb. 10.

"Monday morning about 9 o'clock, an alarm of fire was sounded when the house owned by Horace Brittain of South Dixon and occupied by Prof. Cole, was found to be on fire," reported the Dixon Echo. "The citizens quickly responded and the blaze was put out. It caught in the roof over the kitchen. The only damage was the taking off of part of the roof and the water running through on some household goods."

Former Dixon and Hayden mail carrier Joseph Copeland succumbed to pneumonia and smallpox Mar. 19 at his home near Hayden.

The Frisco "sickle of death" claimed another victim that same day when the fast mail train, "The World's Fair Special," wrecked on a sharp curve just west of Dixon. Killed instantly was Roadmaster Parsons of Newburg, a rider in the cab of the engine. Engineer Robert Lyons and Fireman Charles Wagner, both of Springfield, were badly scalded about their faces and hands. None of the passengers was seriously hurt. Local physicians, Drs. Harrison and Von Grempe rushed to the scene and worked to relieve the suffering of Lyons and Wagner.

"The train was behind time and at the time of the disaster, it was running at a rate of 45 miles an hour," reported the Dixon Echo. "The engine turned on its side and was buried in the mud. The baggage car mounted the tender of the engine. The second car was thrown "into the ditch" and was left standing on one end. The next car was turned straight across the track

See Page 22 >