



Villa Grove News

Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!



Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events



VGSB @ Salt Fork 3/13 at 4:30 pm

VG Schools Early Dismissal 3/13 @ 1:30 pm Data Day

3/15 Junior High Dance 7pm-9pm

Sunday 3/17 St. Patrick's Day

3/18 School Board Meeting 6pm

3/18 Camargo Township District Library Board Meeting 6:30pm

3/22 PTO Family Fun Night

First United Pentecostal Church of VG Pancake Breakfast 3/30 from 7am-10am @Fellowship Hall behind Dollar General-VG

Election April 2

VG Lions Club Pork Chop Dinner and Cash Giveaway 4/6 from 5-7 @ School Cafeteria Contact Lions Club Member for Info or Tickets

4/13 Camargo Township District Library Annual Dinner & Mystery Play @ Villa Grove School 6pm

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Sidetracks, email us at vgnews@mchsi.com or call us at 832-4201



The Original Formation of Villa Grove State Bank

In celebration of the Villa Grove State bank's centennial, we are publishing a series of articles by Kent Elam celebrating the history of banks in Illinois. This week, we look at the original formation of the State Bank, including some background information on the people who came together to build them.

By Kent Elam

Villa Grove News, July 31, 1919 "A NEW ORGANIZATION - After several unsuccessful attempts to organize the second bank in Villa Grove in the past several years, one has been put through and it is now an assured fact that a new state bank will be open to the public in a short time. For several weeks, J.D. Wyman, who came to this city from Springfield for that purpose has been pushing the matter and finally interested a number of our citizens in the venture and after securing the necessary charter* from the state, it didn't take long to dispose of the stock, in fact, twice as many shares could have been disposed of.

The new banking house will occupy the building in which the Morrison shoe store is now located, the directors having purchased it last week and as soon as possession can be obtained, new fixtures will be placed therein and an ideal banking house will be the result. The new concern will open with bright prospects and it is believed by all associated in the organization that a most successful bank will be the result as many of our prominent businessmen and farmers are stockholders. At a recent meeting of the members of the new bank, the following officers were elected and will take charge of the affairs as soon as the business is open to the public. (They are): Dr.



Philip Herrin, President; John B. Barrick, Vice President; J.D. Wyman, Cashier. The directors are: Dr. Philip Herrin, Dr. George L. Kennedy, J.D. Wyman, Henry Sturm, Frank England, Charles Davis and John Barrick."

* The charter was secured on May 5, 1919. The men who made the application were: John B. Barrick, James B. Johnson, Albert W. Creek, Evan T. Howell and Henry S. Sturm.

Villa Grove News, October 23, 1919 "NEW STATE BANK - Preparations are fast going on for the opening of the Villa Grove State Bank and it is hoped by the officials that everything will be ready for business in a few weeks. Workmen have been busy the past two weeks or more installing the fixtures and when same is completed, the bank will have a fine home. The work has been retarded some by the breakage of the marble slabs and plate glass in shipping, but these will all be replaced by others in a short time. A more extended account of what the bank fixtures are will be given later."

Villa Grove News, November 6, 1919 "OPEN FOR BUSINESS - The new Villa Grove State Bank opened for business last Saturday afternoon and during the opening hours quite a good deal of business was transacted. The bank remained open until about 9 o'clock in the evening

and we believe it would be a good policy if the evening opening was continued each Saturday evening as it gives many farmers and workmen a chance to cash their checks and thereby be an accommodation to them as well as to the businessmen who run short of change on account of cashing checks.

The new bank starts out with promising prospects and has as stockholders some of the most wealthy and responsible citizens. At present, the capital stock is \$25,000 but it is hoped by those interested to increase this to at least \$50,000 within a few months. The officers, headed by Dr. Philip Herrin as president, J.B. Barrick as vice-president, J.D. Wyman as cashier and Lon Luna as assistant cashier, have the full confidence of the people and if this means anything to the business, it will be a big success. Mr. Wyman, the cashier, has had a number of years' experience in the banking business and knows it from every point of view. With such a man at the helm, there seems to be no reason for anyone to hesitate in placing confidence in the State Bank.

As a banking house, they have one of the best locations in the city and the interior has been fitted up in a way that speaks well for the ones having the business in charge. The fixtures are of the best and up to the

minute in style having one of the best counters now used in the banking business. At this time, considerable of the decorations are not in place but this work will be pushed along and it is hoped to have everything completed within a short time. A large vault has been built in the rear of the building and a large number of safety deposit boxes will be used for the accommodation of the public. One of the latest strong boxes or safes that could be secured has also been added and it is said that it would be almost impossible for anyone to open it without the combination. The News wishes the new bank a successful career."

The original directors and officers of the new State Bank were men of standing within the Villa Grove community.

John B. Barrack was one of the oldest pioneer settlers in this area. He was born in a log cabin one mile north of Villa Grove in 1855. His parents were one of the first families to settle here. He lived on the homestead until 1908 when he moved into his new home on Vine Street. He was a charter member of the Villa Grove Masonic Lodge. He attended the Methodist Church. He and his wife Catherine had 5 children. He died July 6, 1937.

Albert W. Creek was born July 12, 1873 in Goodland, Indiana. He was originally a school teacher but later went to work for the C&E

Railroad. Creek was a devout family man and a poet. He was a charter member of the Villa Grove Masonic Lodge, member of the Knights Templar, served as an officer in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was a member of the city council and served on the Board of Education. He played golf and was president of the Villa Grove Golf Club. He attended the Methodist Church. He and his wife Margaret had 2 children. He died January 19, 1938.

Frank J. England was born May 21, 1877 near Newman, Illinois. After his marriage, he and his wife lived in Missouri for 3 years. They returned to the Newman farm until moving to Villa Grove in 1910. England was a republican who served as the Camargo Supervisor for 22 years, many of which he served as chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He later served as a Township Committeeman until his death. He was a member of the Villa Grove Masonic Lodge and a member of the Methodist Church. He and his wife Bernetta had 2 children. He was killed when his automobile struck a train on November 15, 1945.

Dr. Philip Herrin was born on November 3, 1877 in Tamaroa, Illinois, his family later moving to Mount Vernon. He attended Barnes Medical School in St. Louis, graduating in 1903. He moved to Villa Grove in July, 1904, establishing his practice. Prior to this, he had served in the in a medical unit in Cuba during the Spanish American War. He later served as a captain in the Medical Corps during WWI. When Villa Grove transitioned from a village to a city, he was the first mayor. He also served on the school board. He was a member of the Villa Grove Masonic Lodge and the Cont. pg. 3

Board of Education Holds a Community Forum Outlining Facilities Improvement Plans

By Bill Price Staff Writer

Superintendent Norm Tracy opened the Forum welcoming the community guests to the meeting along with the CTS Group, JHPA, and Stifel all of who are a part of the team creating the 5 year plan that will be considered to meet the goals of CUSD 302. These goals are:

- Educational
 - Athletics
 - Internal Building Upgrades
 - External Upgrades
 - Parking
 - Energy
- The Internal Building Up-

grades have already seen the following.

- SRO has been hired
- New Surveillance Cameras
- Exterior Lighting on North Lot is underway
- Lockers installed

Moving forward plans are underway to

- Secure the Main Entrance while assuring visitor needs are met
 - Improve Traffic Flow & Parking with a primary focus on safety
 - The addition of a new Gymnasium and Classrooms
- Certainly safety was a theme addressed by those

attending tonight's forum. In addition suggestions were made to be mindful of future growth to minimize cost when having to make additions to existing and new

structures. President Clark in a Q and A portion stressed the importance of cost and realizing the budget constraints when undertaking a project of this

size. The District is looking at different ways of funding. President Clark thanked all those present for their suggestions.



Vision of proposed classroom and gymnasium addition at the Villa Grove School.

Scott's Law: "Move Over" Slow Down

According to The Illinois State Police Facebook page they will be heavily enforcing Scott's Law by conducting Move Over Details.

"What does that detail mean? You may see the one squad car behind the vehicle on a traffic stop, but what you won't see is the second squad car hiding in front of the truck. That second squad car will be waiting and watching for vehicles that violate Scott's Law (the Move Over Law) and will take enforcement action."

"We also work these details with a second squad car sitting directly behind the first squad car. As you approach or drive by you may think we are the "back up car" but we are merely there to watch the Trooper's back by waiting for the next Scott's law violation"

Scott's Law was created after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department was struck and killed by an

intoxicated driver while at the scene of an accident. According to Illinois State Police 11 State squad cars have been hit since January 1st 2019: including Trooper Lambert whom was killed January 12, 2019, on I-294 near Northbrook.

The "Move Over" Law -- Scott's law mandates that when approaching any police or other emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway, you must:

- proceed with due caution
- change lanes if possible
- reduce your speed

An authorized emergency vehicle under Scott's Law, includes ANY vehicle authorized by law to be equipped with oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights under Section 12-215 of this Code, while the owner or operator of the vehicle is engaged in his or her official duties.

Scott's Law was named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department

who was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway.

Scott's Law Chapter 625 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 5/11-907(c), mandates that upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle, when the authorized emergency vehicle is giving a signal by displaying alternately flashing red and blue lights or amber or yellow warning lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle:

- proceed with due caution, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle, if possible with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, if on a highway having at least 4 lanes with not less than 2 lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approach vehicle.
- proceed with due caution,

reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintain a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe.

Violation of Scott's Law A person in violation of Scott's Law commits a business offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000. Scott's Law also provides that it is a factor in aggravation if the person committed the offense while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or intoxicating compounds.

If this is the case, a person's driving privileges shall be:

- Suspended for 90 days to one year if the violation results in damage to the property of another person
- 180 days to 2 years if the violation results in injury to another person;
- 2 years if the violation results in the death of another person.

