

JASPER COUNTY GLEANER

Volume 43 Issue 2 NOVEMBER 2020

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most Iowans will probably be glad to say “good riddance” to 2020, the year that disrupted, even devastated, our lives like no other in our lifetimes. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic city, county, and state buildings were locked down and “non-essential” businesses, as determined by the governor, were forced to close to the public for nearly three months between March and June. When they were allowed to reopen, most opened with some kind of restrictions on those entering the buildings. Now in late November, with cases in the state spiking in alarming numbers, many businesses are experiencing additional restrictions. Another complete shutdown like we saw in the spring, while not likely, is not totally out-of-the-question.

Our JCGS library was shut down during the spring lockdown, reopening in July. Though the county-owned building that houses our library remains open, for the health and safety of our librarians and patrons, JCGS has made the decision to suspend our regular library hours until at least January 1st. During this time we will consider opening for 1-2 persons at a time, **by appointment only**. To request an appointment, please contact us by email at jcgsgenealogy@gmail.com several days in advance of your anticipated visit. Updates on our closure or resumption of regular hours will be posted on our website at <http://iagenweb.org/jasper/jcgs/>.

Our public libraries and courthouse offices are currently under restrictions that affect our ability to fill certain types of research requests. However, we are still accepting requests and will do our best to access the requested information. See our website for procedures and fees for requesting research.

With limited access to research materials in 2020, only 1929-1934 newspapers from Colfax, Monroe and Newton were used in preparing the articles that appear in this *Gleaner*. For that reason most of the material in this issue deals with events that occurred in the central and southern parts of the county during the early 1930s.

2021 dues are now due. See the form on page 19 or download one from our website.

We have received no new information from the county supervisors about when or where our library will be moving. For now, our street and mailing address remains:
115 N. 2nd Ave. E. – Suite C, Newton, IA 50208.

Jasper County Political Races in 1932

Many parallels can be drawn between the 2020 federal elections and those of 1932. In both years, although with different causes, unemployment and a struggling economy were among the most critical election issues. Bankruptcy, foreclosures, and food insecurity plagued a number of the country's hardworking citizens. Throughout the country there was rampant criticism of the incumbent office holders, and in both the 1932 and 2020 elections the sitting Republican president was defeated in November.

Presidential responses to the election results differed greatly, however. In 1932, eight days after F.D.R.'s near-landslide victory in the Nov. 8th election, he and President Hoover had already arranged a face-to-face meeting at the White House to confer on the immediate problems facing the country. A United Press article on Nov. 17 reported that despite the two men's willingness to facilitate a smooth transition of power, there would be "no semblance of a coalition government" during the transition period leading to Roosevelt's March 4th inauguration, nor would there be more than one or two meetings between the two men. As this article is being written, on Nov. 22, 2020, the current president has yet to acknowledge defeat, despite overwhelming evidence of his opponent's insurmountable lead in both popular and electoral votes, and he refuses to allow any agency under his control to share information with the president-elect's team.

On a local level in 1932, **City Elections** were held in March. As you will see, there was no shortage of individuals in Jasper County who were willing to step up and lead their town during this difficult period in our history. Candidates' names are spelled here as they appeared in the newspaper. The winners' names in each race appear in **boldface**.

At **Prairie City**, there were three "tickets" on the ballot: "Citizens" (C), "Independent" (I), and "People's" (P).

Mayor: C. W. Krohn (I); M. L. Myers (C); A. A. Steenhoek (P).

Treasurer: John R. Buckley (I) ran unopposed.

Assessor: M. C. Cowman (I) ran unopposed.

City Council: Jay Prouty (C); John DeWitt (C); Murray Ten Hagen (I); A. J. Rovaart (C); Joe Pentico (C); Ben Van Zante (C); Earl N. Frank (I); Wm. Elrod (I); F. G. Booher (I); Lawrence Emerson (P); John Buitenwerf (P); Fred Warner (P); Wiley Roberts (P); C. DeBruyn (P).

Lynnville voters also chose from candidates on the "Citizens" (C), "Independent" (I), and "People's" (P) tickets. Only the winner of the Mayor's race was found.

Mayor: L. G. Perry (C); Roy Younkin (I); A. L. Renaud (P),

Treasurer: C. H. Potter (C).

Assessor: Owen Meredith (C); Ray Sparks (P).

City Council: O. A. Renaud (C); Vern Ratcliffe (C); Clyde Jones (C); M. P. Jay (C); Sam Beyer (C); Carl Jay (I); Alvin Brigs (I); John Lawrence (I); Charles Wagaman (I); Leo Davis (I); H. C. Cope (P); C. F. Renaud (P); Sam Beason (P); H. S. Shepherd; Roscoe Sparks (P).

Baxter voters chose from the "Citizens" (C) and People's (P) tickets. Results were found only for the mayor's race. On the ballot were:

Mayor: W. J. Troxel (C); Chas E. Davey (P).

Treasurer: Robert E. Geise (C); Emery Kine (P).

Assessor: E. J. Goodwin (C); C. J. Butler (C).

City Council: A. Jefferise [sic] (C); Calvin Noah (C); Oscar E. Cunningham (C); Herman Saak (C); Dr. James McKenzie (C); Adolph Kracht (P); Ude Bucklin (P); Donnel Deutch (P); Louis De Jong (P); Smith Seeley (P).

In **Kellogg**, the winners were: **M. J. Hurdle**, mayor; **R. O. Bailey**, treasurer; **Herman Laskewitz**, assessor; and **Henry Wulf, Clarence Richardson** and **J. C. Lemke** defeated Fritz Kliver, and J. W. Koppin, for terms on the City Council.

All candidates at **Sully** were running unopposed. They included: **Wm. Dieleman**, mayor; **Mable Dieleman**, treasurer; **C. O. Holdsworth**, assessor; **Harry De Jong, Oliver Wisgerhof, C. Vanness, P. C. Eldredge**, and **Albert Buitenwerf**, councilmen.

Likewise, in **Monroe**, there was only one ticket, with all members being elected. The candidates were: **Arthur Palmer**, mayor; **Wm. Livingston**, treasurer; **Chas. Hoagland**, assessor; **Ulrie Clevenger**, city clerk; **Laurel Buckley, Jerome Coakley, Wm. LeGrand, George Orcutt**, and **Harry Worth**, councilmen. With the exception of Coakley and Worth, all of the men were incumbents.

Newton's and **Colfax's** city elections took place in odd-numbered years. In 1931, **T. A. Pickens** (R) was re-elected as Newton mayor over R. W. Sayre, and **E. E. Irwin** was elected the mayor of Colfax, succeeding Edwin Petty.

Primaries for County/State offices were held June 6th, 1932. The results were published on June 9th; the winning primary candidates' names appear here in **bold print**. The names of the November general election winners appear in **bold italic print**. The candidates' political parties are designated **(D)** for Democrat, and **(R)** for Republican

County Sheriff: **Earl Shields (R)**, of Newton; James J. Engle (R), currently Newton coroner; Tom A. Pickens (R), currently mayor of Newton; E. J. Rhode (R), of Baxter; G. H. Bunker (R), of Newton; Cy Loupee (D) of Baxter; **James G. Vanderwaal (D)**, of Prairie City; L. W. France (D), of Newton.

County Coroner (both parties' races were uncontested): **L. W. Ingraham (R)**, of Newton; **Dr. E. A. McMurray (D)**, of Newton

County Auditor: James W. Davis (R) of Newton, the incumbent; Frank C. Turner (R), of Prairie City; Charles O. Edge (R) of Newton; H. W. Parish (R), of Killduff; Carroll L. Morrow (R), of Newton; F. M. Woodrow (R), of Newton; C. O. Parish (R), Killduff; **E. E. Efnor (D)**, of Newton, a former city assessor; Florence Sellman Haynes (D).

Primary Results: *Although F. M. Woodrow was the top Republican vote-getter, he was short of the votes needed to win the nomination outright. This contest was decided at the county convention on July 2, with Frank Turner being selected as the party's candidate. E. E. Efnor* defeated Turner in November.

County Recorder: Frances Davis Pearson (R), of Newton; **Irene Scofield (R)**, of Newton; Mrs. Gertrude Parsons Geise (R), of Newton; Mrs. Neva Porter, of Newton; Ernest White, of Colfax; Mrs. Virgil B. Hurst, of Newton; **Dorothy V. Deal (D)**, of Newton; Margerite Killduff Peters (D) of Newton; Edith M. Murphy (D), of Newton

County Treasurer: **Earnest L. Earley/Early (R)**, of Newton; Lilburn H. Macy (R), of Sully; H. Morrison (R), of Newton, the incumbent; **F. H. McCarl (D)**, of Newton

Clerk of District Court: **H. F. Cassidy (R)**, of Colfax, the incumbent; W. A. Williamson, of Newton; **L. S. Kennington (D)**, of Newton

County Attorney: A. M. Miller (R), of Newton; **Laurence L. Brierly (R)**, of Newton; **P. J. Siegers (D)**, of Newton

County Board of Supervisors, Term to begin Jan. 1, 1933: Frank Hill (R), of Newton; ***Louis Wintermeier (R)***, of Baxter; ***Wm. A. Carrier (D)***, of Newton; Henry Carstens (D), of Baxter; Wm. Morrison (D), of Collins; Herman Lanz (D), of Newton, J. W. Schnell (D)

County Board of Supervisors, Term to begin Jan. 1, 1934: ***Louis Kling (R)***, of Kellogg; W. E. Blackwood (R), of Newton; ***Hugo Reichelt (D)***, of Kellogg; Wm. B. Boat, of Newton

State Representative (no Democratic results were listed for the primary election):

W. B. Shaw (R), of Monroe; Charles Long (R), of Mingo

In November, Shaw was defeated by Ed C. Craven, of Kellogg, the incumbent.

Several county residents also ventured into the realm of state politics in the June primaries: Democrat Myron D. Tripp, a Newton attorney, lost his bid for ***Iowa Attorney General***. For ***Iowa State Auditor: W. M. Shaw (D)***, of Newton won the primary vote but his name was not listed on the Nov. ballot. Newton residents Guy M. Lambert (R), owner of Lambert Dairy and Ralph W. Smith (D) were both unsuccessful in their primary bids for ***Iowa Secretary of Agriculture***.

Township Offices

In the county's 19 townships, there were highly contested races. Iowa law mandated each party could nominate two candidates for justice of the peace, two for township constable, one township clerk, one assessor, one trustee for the term beginning January 1, 1933 and one for the term beginning January 1, 1934. Write-in votes were allowed. The winners of this election (names in **boldface**), would serve for two years:

Buena Vista Township: Justice: ***Mrs. R. C. Fleck***; Constable: ***C. E. DeMoss***; 1933 trustee: ***A. F. Turner (R)***; 1934 trustee: ***Fred Compton (R)***; N. W. Dow (D); Clerk: ***A. B. Berry (R)***; Mrs. Della Murphy (D); Assessor: ***Theodore Emmert (R)***; Fred Bishop (D)

Clear Creek Township: Justice: ***C. A. Maxwell*** (8 votes); 1933 trustee: J. F. Baldwin (R); ***Frank Jones (D)***; 1934 trustee: ***F. W. Tramel (R)***; H. J. Carver (D); Clerk: ***Roscoe Byal (R)***; Assessor: ***Leo Leonard (R)***; ***Floyd Atwood (D)***

Des Moines Township (all winners ran unopposed): Justice of the Peace: ***A. A. Steenhoek (R)***; Constable: ***J. A. Woddell/Waddell/Waddall (R)***; 1933 trustee: ***O. E. Johnston (R)***; 1934 trustee: ***U. G. (or U. A.) Jennings (R)***; Clerk: ***Albert McFadden (R)***; Assessor: ***Earl M. Brubaker (R)***

Elk Creek Township: Justice of the Peace: ***C. C. Peery (D)***; Constable: ***W. G. Kling***; 1933 trustee: ***B. R. Shutts (D)***; 1934 trustee: ***George A. Tool (D)***; M. S. Terpstra (R); Clerk: ***Harry O'Brien (D)***; Assessor: ***Charles E. Earp (R)***

Fairview Township: Justice of the Peace: ***Charles Hoagland (D)***; Lawrence Bruce (R); Martin O'Connor (D); Constable: ***George W. Birkenholz (D)***; H. W. Sheeler (R); V. R. Jarnagin (R); Jack Hoagland (1 vote); 1933 trustee: ***Frank Vaughan (R)***; 1934 trustee: ***Amor L. Woody (D)***; M. C. Cramer (R); Clerk: ***W. M. Livingston (D)***; Assessor: ***S. Boyd Worth (D)***; Ivan J. Buckley (R)

Hickory Grove Township: Justice of the Peace: ***W. A. Adams (R)***; T. W. Anderson (R); John Koger; Andrew McIlrath; Constable: ***Harold McCulloch (R)***; John Koger; Leonard McGinty; 1933 trustee: ***Chester A. Newcomer (R)***; E. L. Cox (D); 1934

trustee: **A. A. Palmer (R)**; Roy E. Walker (D); Clerk: **George W. Palmer (R)**; O. P. Walker (R); Leo Phillips (D); Assessor: **P. Y. Fuller (R)**; D. H. Craven (D)

Independence Township: Justice of the Peace: **C. S. Bishop (D?)**; H. H. Maggard (R); Donald Price (R); John Schroyer; Constable: **C. H. Prine (D)**; M. C. Schroyer (D); C. J. Butler (R); Claude A. Logsdon (R); 1933 trustee: **Joe Cross (D)**; Simon Stock (R); 1934 trustee: **Herman Saak (D)**; David B. Koeper (R); Clerk: **E. S. Schroyer (D)**; Wayne Butler (R); Assessor: **Joseph Y. Allen (D)**; H. H. Kruse (R); Bert Gibson (R)

Kellogg Township: Justice of the Peace: **J. C. Lemke (D)**; C. W. Reichelt (R); Constable: **Henry Wulf/Wolf (D)**; J. W. Koppin (D); Jay Loupee; Charles L. Doane (R); 1933 trustee: **M. J. Thorpe (R)**; James Young (D); 1934 trustee: **Simon Anderson (D)**; F. T. Hammer (R); Clerk: **T. L. Birchard (R)**; Democrat: Harris E. Boat/Boot (D); Assessor: **Charles A. Simpson (R)**; Charles M. Doane (D)

Lynn Grove Township: Justice of the Peace: **Louis G. Perry (D)**; Stanley Wood (R); Constable: **Jacob Mol (D)**; E. B. Renaud (R); Bert A. McBride (R); 1933 trustee: **C. J. Roten (R?)**; John Wisgerhof (D); 1934 trustee: **H. P. Jay (R)**; Clerk: **C. F. Briggs (R)**; Sam Beyer (D); Assessor: **A. F. Gertsma (R)**

Malaka Township (all candidates ran unopposed): 1933 trustee: **E. E. Hesson**; 1934 trustee: **W. O. Moore**; Clerk: **Harry Bergman (R)**; Assessor: **Lawrence Kreager (R)**

Mariposa Township: Justice of the Peace: **John Klein (R)**; Lloyd Klauenberg; Constable: Fred Forman & C. W. Benskin; 1933 trustee: **H. J. Morrison (D)**; Merle E. Paul (R); 1934 trustee: **George W. Albers (D)**; C. H. Korte (R); Clerk: **T. C. Sheek (D)**; Assessor: **A. F. Koppin (D)**; Joseph H. Johnson (R)

Mound Prairie Township (almost all candidates appear to be write-ins, receiving less than 5 votes each; party affiliations not noted in election results): Justice: C. W. Faidley and C. I. Miller; Constable: _____ Woods and _____ Roberts; 1933 trustee: **J. F. Clymer**; C. I. Miller; 1934 trustee: **C. I. Miller**; Homer Clements & George Roberts, Jr.; Clerk: **W. S. Westbrook**; B. Burns; Assessor: **V. Van Gilder**; Wilford Bond (R)

Newton Township: Justice of the Peace: **E. D. Finch (R)**; Maxon R. Stouder (D); F. E. Meredith (R); John L. Conn (D); Constable: **C. C. Carey (R)**; R. W. Dodds (R); Harold Goss (D?); Vernon Eaton (D); 1933 trustee: **F. L. Hummel (D)**; C. Everett Smith (R); 1934 trustee: **T. J. Buchanan (D)**; E. C. McElroy (R); Clerk: **J. P. Buchanan (D)**; Assessor: **Ross Mills (R)**

Palo Alto Township (no Democratic candidates): Justice of the Peace: **J. W. Tharp (R)**; Fred Haines & Frank Carrier; Constable: **C. M. Bisom (R)**; H. J. Spain; 1933 trustee: **Howard Peters (R)**; 1934 trustee: Vern French, J. L. Roberts, W. J. Talbot; Stewart Guthrie (1 vote each); Clerk: **H. C. Harlan (R)**; Assessor: **Karl Bond**

Poweshiek Township (no announced Democratic candidates): Justice of the Peace: **V. J. Pease (R)**; Claud Baker; Constable: **Earl Wheatcraft (R)**; Harry Baker; 1933 trustee: **David Donaldson (R)**; G. V. Akins; 1934 trustee: **James Leonard (R)**; Hugh Parker & Donnie Kelly; Clerk: **F. G. Pease (R)**; Dan Maher; Assessor: **D. H. Cross (R)**; Lynn Southern; Leo Kelly; Donald Duncan

Richland Township (all candidates ran unopposed): Justice of the Peace: **Henry VanderPol (R)**; Constable: **S. C. Fritz**; 1933 trustee: **Everett Willemsen**; 1934 trustee: **Carl Dunnick (R)**; Clerk: **V. B. Bailey**; Assessor: **Henry M. Ashby (R)**

Rock Creek Township: 1933 trustee: **Ernest Brooks (D)**; John Waldbusser & H. J. Holmes; 1934 trustee: **B. C. Buck (R)**; E. C. Turner & H. J. Adkins; Clerk: **Albert W. Brooks (D)**; Sam G. Birchard (R); Assessor: **Fred E. Paulson (D)**; H. B. Hanson (R)

Sherman Township: Justice: **P. R. Pink**; John Hitchler; F. A. Baker; Constable: Jack Danks; Glen Harris; Raymond Iske; 1933 trustee: **Harry Selbbers**; P. J. Hicks; 1934 trustee: **Bert Deutsch**; Charlie Mackerman; Clerk: **E. L. Pink**; Arthur Watt; Assessor: **John N. Deal (D)**; Willis Bedley

Washington Township: Justice of the Peace: **William H. Hagerdorn/Hogendorn (R)**; B. L. Logsdon (R); Constable: **James Hanawalt**; Harry Woods (R); Sam Pollard (D); James Hanna; 1933 trustee: **R. H. Griffiths (R)**; P. E. Sinnott; 1934 trustee: **David Dykstra (R)**; Clerk: **Arthur Brown (R)**; Asa Lee; Assessor: **Roger G./J. Mead (R)**

Jasper County Businesses in the Great Depression

The Depression was hard on businesses in Jasper County, as well as across the country. Some business owners found a buyer for their struggling enterprises, while others were forced to close outright, at great financial loss. And yet, new stores opened and some owners were even able to expand their business holdings. The following items appeared in the *Colfax Tribune (CT)*, *Jasper County Mirror (JCM)*, the *Monroe Mirror (MM)*, or the *Newton Daily News (NDN)* between January 1930 and November 1933.

Businesses closing

C. W. Bock, a fixture in the men's clothing business on the northwest corner of the Newton square since 1905, will close his store soon (*MM*, Feb 27, 1930). [NOTE: Mr. Bock was nearing 60 years of age at the time; economics may have played no part in his retirement].

Raize's Bargain Store in Newton declared bankruptcy and closed in the spring of 1932. [By 1933, the owner had reorganized and reopened as "Raize's Grocery & Dry Goods."]

Businesses known to be in receivership, trying to reorganize

Business at the Close-To-Nature Company at Colfax continued while the company was in receivership. Sales of one of the company's main products, "portable houses", dried up after the stock market crash. The factory was established in 1908 by W. H. Monroe and was moved to Colfax and incorporated in 1910. (*JCM*, Jan. 29, 1931)

Layoffs and Recalls

The Maytag Company, the county's largest manufacturer, repeatedly laid off, then recalled, employees as dictated by product inventory levels. Notable examples: 800 men went to work at the Maytag Co. in response to product orders from around the country (*JCM*, Jan. 22, 1931). After a shutdown of unknown duration in 1932 Maytag recalled its entire work force of 1,000 employees (*NDN*, June 3, & *JCM*, June 9, 1932). Other [unnamed] Newton factories were also said to be putting on additional men.

Although the financial crisis in the country had improved somewhat by November 1933, Maytag's fortunes continued to rise and fall. In the *Jasper County Mirror*, Nov. 9, 1933: "The management of the Maytag Washing Machine company, posted notices Tuesday evening, that the factory would be closed until further notice. No information has been given out by the management..., but it is understood [their] warehouses are filled with machines for which at present there is no demand. A few weeks ago the factory started up with a great demand for

machines from all parts of the country and several hundred employees were put back to work. Unless the factory reopens or new employees are given employment, the situation in Newton may become tense, it was stated last evening.”

Businesses Changing Ownership

The Fleming café [in Prairie City] was sold to a Mr. Slack of Sully. (*JCM*, Oct. 9, 1930)

The *Jasper County Mirror's* Lynnville column reported on Oct. 16, 1930, that “A. T. Gifford, local furniture dealer, purchased the O. T. Colman furniture store at Sully. He is assisted in the management of the store by Dale Wildman. Both families will continue to live in Lynnville.”

Bert and Hubert Jarnagin and Mr. Benton sold the White Way Garage in Monroe to Wm. J. Van Wely, who renamed it the Dixie Garage. The Jarnagins opened a Shell Station on Hwy. #63, with Hubert running it. Bert continued to operate his Chevrolet agency, located at the Dixie Garage. In addition to running the garage, Mr. Van Wely retained his interests in the Reasnor Rendering Works in Reasnor. (*JCM*, Dec. 11, 1930)

Clyde Foutch assumed R. P. Tool's insurance business (Monroe). (*JCM*, Dec. 11, 1930)

The Wolcott Meat Market in Monroe, operated by James Wolcott, was sold to Dick R. Sjaardema of Pella. (*JCM*, Thur. Feb. 19, 1931)

The Reasnor Rendering Works, operated for the past several years by Will Van Weley of Monroe was sold to Percival Rendering plant of Des Moines [Mr. Van Weley/Van Wely purchased a Monroe business in 1930. See above]. (*JCM*, Mar. 5, 1931)

“Fay Porter has taken over the Standard Oil Station in Monroe, which was operated by Wm. Marshall for the past several years. Edgar Thornton is in charge of the tank wagon. Mr. Marshall has no definite plans for the present.” (*JCM*, Mar. 5, 1931)

Roy Walker and son, Denver, purchased the Farmers Elevator Company at Newburg. The Walkers also continued to operate the grocery and meat produce business in Kellogg that they had owned for 8 years, (*JCM*, June 4, 1931)

E. E. Sanders of Iowa City purchased Boss Meat Market of Colfax from Mssrs. Holzappel and Kienle, who retained possession of their market in Baxter. (*CT*, Mar. 12, 1932)

The Mason Motor Company at Baxter was bought by Gordon Shockley and Perry Van Tuyl of Ira, who planned to use it as an auto repair business only. Mr. Shockley had worked at the Mason Motor Company the past four years. Mr. Van Tuyl, who owned a garage at Ira, had once worked for the Baxter dealership. (*JCM*, June 25, 1931)

New businesses

O. H. Carnahan of Newton, originally doing business in Clarinda as the Cypress Spring Mfg. Company, began manufacturing hog waterers at Reasnor. (*JCM*, Oct. 16, 1930)

Dr. E. E. Mossman and his wife moved from Ames to Monroe, where he opened his chiropractic office. (*JCM*, Mar. 15, 1931)

C.D. Bloom, owner of an ice cream plant in Dexter, announced plans to open a new bulk ice cream plant in Colfax, with the prospect of adding a factory in another year, if sales were sufficiently profitable. (*CT*, May 28, 1931)

New gas stations in Colfax: a Skelly Gas station on the corner of Hwy. 32 (now Hwy F-48) and Walnut St. on the south side of town (owner, H. A. Gunn); a Standard Oil station at the corner of Hwy. 32 and Locust Street (owner, Mr. Shipley); and Williams

Bros. & Main announced they were building a new gas/oil station on Hwy. 32 at the west corporate limits of Colfax. (*CT*, June 11 & 18, 1931)

New restaurants opening included: Fred Minen's restaurant in Reasnor (*JCM*, June 11, 1931); "Emil's Café", on Front Street in Colfax, owned by Emil Klondie (*CT*, Jan. 28, 1932)

Sites around Colfax were being considered to find a possible location for a new radio broadcasting station to be built by the Central Broadcasting Co. from the Davenport area. (*CT*, Feb. 4, 1932)

The Stinson Hatchery opened in downtown Colfax. The hatchery was under the management of Clyde Loupee of Newton. (*CT*, Feb. 24, 1932)

The Engineering Service Company in Newton was formed by M. S. Vincent, for the purpose of helping engineers develop their ideas, then matching them with companies who could put those ideas into production. (*NDN*, June 4, 1932)

F. F. Failor & Son opened a new flower shop in the Hotel Maytag. (*NDN*, Nov. 17, 1932)

Businesses Expanding or Upgrading

The Monroe Pharmacy installed in their soda fountain, "at a large expense", a Rochester root beer key which could draw a solid or creamy root beer in a simple operation. (*MM*, Feb. 27, 1930)

The [Raymond] Fleck Elevator Co. of Killduff moved into a new grain office, replacing the one that was destroyed by fire. Mr. Fleck also installed a 1000-lb. capacity mixer, which would allow the company to take raw ingredients available to farmers and mix them in combinations and proportions "that will surpass the quality of expensive commercial feeds that are purchased on the market." (*MM*, July 3, 1930)

"The Denniston and Partridge Co., at Reasnor, are building a new lumber yard. It will be fenced with the high fence and will be a modern and up to date lumber yard...after the new building is complete everything will be under one roof." (*MM*, Oct. 2, 1930)

The W. P. Barber Co. moved into its new lumber yard and office in Monroe. Mr. Barber also owned a lumber yard at Otley and one at Mingo. (*JCM*, Mar. 5, 1931)

Extensive remodeling of the H. Clark Sipe furniture store in Monroe created an area in the store where private funerals could be held. "Also a slumber room has been constructed making [a] resting place for our loved ones until time for the service." In addition, Sipe boasted of "a private car fitted with an ambulance cot for your convenience." (*JCM*, Mar. 19, 1931)

The Ball Health School at Colfax announced the upcoming opening of its new bath house. The bath house was described as a "complete new unit to the present institution, joining the main building on the south," giving more room for the mineral baths and treatments offered by the school. (*CT*, Apr. 16, 1931)

Ben Gehrman from Mingo, Ia., announced plans to open a new grocery store, The Farmers Exchange, in the vacant room next to McDaniel's garage at Reasnor. Mr. Gehrman was also operating stores at Mingo and Mitchellville. (*JCM*, June 11, 1931)

J. R. Marshall opened a new coal vein 3' 4" to 3' 6" on his farm, east of Monroe. Thirteen men were employed at this mine. Mr. Marshall's father, George, had been in the coal business in the nearby Draper area for a number of years. (*JCM*, June 25, 1931)

Unique Business Practices

To increase its circulation and save farmers some money, on April 2-3-4, 1931, the *Colfax Tribune* offered 25¢ per dozen eggs traded as payment for subscriptions. The going rate for eggs in grocery stores was 11¢ per dozen at that time.

Monroe businesses held several Community Trade Extension Sales (a.k.a. "scrip" auctions) in 1933. For each sale, the town's merchants contributed items to the auction. Buyers paid for purchases with auction scrip (50¢ coupons given out by merchants to customers for every 50¢ worth of merchandise purchased during the previous 6 weeks).

Inventions

Two Newton men were awarded patents in 1931. Fred L. Vernon was granted a patent on a blank for a cap, and George A. Vaughan on a convertible excavating attachment, his patent being assigned to the Parsons company, where he worked.

What Your Money Would Buy During the Depression

By 1930 product prices were had dropped to the lowest level since the deflation period of 1921. Economists across the country were predicting that prices would inevitably rise, but until that time there would be no general business recovery. Merchants wrestled with setting their prices high enough to stay in business but low enough that people could afford to buy their merchandise. Some prices in Jasper County:

1930

Fenner's New Store (Colfax) was selling 2 lb. of seedless raisins for 19¢; 10 lb. sugar, 57¢; Crepe Tissue toilet paper, 3 for 19¢; 1 lb. cream cheese, 29¢. (*CT*, Jan. 30, 1930)

Ford Motor Company announced new low prices: a Roadster was selling for \$435; a coupe for \$495; and a convertible cabriolet cost \$625 and a De Luxe sedan was \$640 (*MM* June 19, 1930). Jarnagin Chevy (in Monroe) advertised a standard coupe for \$535 and a sports coupe with rumble seat for \$575. A standard sedan was \$635, and a special sedan was \$650. (*JCM* Nov. 27, 1930)

1931

The Colfax Dairy was selling milk for 10¢ per quart, buttermilk for 20¢ per gallon, (coffee) cream for 20¢ a pint, and whipping cream for 40¢ per pint. (*CT*, Mar. 12, 1931)

Holzappel and Kienle's Boss Meat Market, with stores in Colfax and Baxter, was advertising 3 pounds of hamburger or sausage for 35¢, fresh pork roasts for 13½ cents a pound, and beef roasts for 16¢ a pound. (*CT*, Mar. 12, 1931)

In Colfax, at Fenner's grocery, #2 cans of green beans sold for 10¢, # 2½ cans of peaches were 2 for 39¢, and a 10 lb. bag of cane sugar would cost you 57¢. The Bollhoefer-Doyle Store was advertising boys' wool suits (with 2 pairs of pants) for \$8.50 (age 6-9), \$10.50 (age 10-14), and \$12.50 (age 15-18). (*CT*, Apr. 16, 1931)

Montgomery Ward (Newton) "Summer Sale" (*JCM*, May 21, 1931): Console style gas range \$37.95 (reg. \$50); Innerspring Mattress \$12.95; RCA Troubadour radio with 4 legs & built-in speaker; house paint \$1/gal.; men's cotton socks 9¢; women's pure silk hose 59¢; boys' coveralls 2/\$1; girls' dress 50¢; women's silk dress \$2.99.

Lauerman's department store (Newton): 3-piece bedroom suite (5-ply walnut bed, dresser & chest) for \$79.00; a 2-piece davenport suite upholstered in first grade Jacquard velour for \$47.50; and 14.95 would buy a 5-piece oak breakfast set, featuring a drop leaf table and four chairs. (*JCM*, Thur. June 11, 1931)

1932

Prices at Cochrane's (general) store in Monroe: Jello, 6½¢ per package; bread, 4¢ per loaf; Palmolive soap, 3 bars/19¢; #10 (gallon) can peaches, 43¢. (*JCM* Mar. 3, 1932)

J.C. Huigen's store (Monroe) was selling "Ladie's Dresses [sic]" for 98¢ [2 weeks later they were selling "house dresses" for 59¢, 79¢ and 98¢]; men's overalls for \$1.00 and a jacket to match for an additional \$1.00; ladies' silk hose for \$1.15 (regularly \$1.40); grapefruit 6/25¢; and a dozen oranges for 30¢. Meanwhile, E. A. Bump's IGA store in Monroe was selling "extra-large" oranges at 42¢ per dozen. (*JCM* Mar. 3, 1932)

Just in time for Easter, Bollhoefer-Doyle sold made-to-order all wool 2-piece suits or topcoats for \$17.50; women's silk dresses could be had for \$8.95. (*CT*, Mar. 17, 1932)

Monroe Meat Market (Dick Sjaardema, prop.): First grade hams for 18¢ per pound; picnic hams (for Easter) 13¢ per pound; 7 O'Clock coffee 19¢/lb. (*JCM* Mar. 24, 1932)

O. H. Fisher, Jasper County's Oldest Shoe Dealer, from 1899-1932, advertised men's Florsheim shoes for \$7.50. (*JCM* Mar. 17, 1932)

1933

Popular brands of cigarets [sic] have taken a drop to 10¢ per package in New York City. The drop in price, it is understood, will be universal within a few days. (*JCM* Mar. 9, 1933)

Postage for local mail rose to 2¢ on July 1, 1933. All letters going outside of the sender's local delivery area had to carry a 3¢ stamp. (*JCM*, June 29, 1933)

Salaries

Banks and manufacturing companies alleged that only by reductions in employee wages could the country's business and economic woes be reversed. Labor unions and many political leaders, worried that lower wages could impact their job security, argued that continuing the current wage levels would make it possible for those who were employed to purchase goods and services that, in turn, would improve the business climate. In Jasper County, home to a number of industries, the arguments for wage reduction appeared to prevail. Some examples:

- Miners and mine operators in the county agreed to a new 2-year contract, with no change in wages from the previous year. (*CT*, Apr. 16, 1931)
- Colfax city employees took a voluntary wage cut of 12-15%. (*CT*, Jan. 28, 1931)
- The board of supervisors approved salary reductions of \$42 to \$200 for the county's appointive officers and maintenance workers. (*CT*, Apr. 16, 1931). A week earlier the *Tribune* reported the county's elected officers refused to cut their own salaries.
- County schools cut teacher salaries every year, in order to balance their budgets.

Poverty, Crime and Other Misfortunes During the Depression

As jobs disappeared following the stock market crash and savings were wiped out by bank failures, many Jasper County residents who had previously lived comfortably suddenly found themselves living in poverty.

While newspapers identified few people who declared bankruptcy, the realities of financial problems were evident in the papers. February appeared to be the time when tenant farmers signed contracts for the coming year. Every March, Colfax and Monroe papers would carry long lists of families moving from one farm to another and those who were moving to town. Newton and Monroe papers regularly carried long lists of

properties that had been sold, as well as upcoming court cases in which mortgage lenders were suing those who defaulted on payments. Following those court cases, public notices of Sheriff's sales could routinely be found in papers throughout the county.

One of the casualties of a mortgage default was the home of Harry L. Ogg, former president of the Automatic Washing Machine Company in Newton. In January 1931 his \$100,000 mansion in the Newton suburb of Lambs Grove, which had been built approximately one year earlier, fell victim to foreclosure and sale.

In addition to housing lawbreakers, our became places of refuge for the homeless residents, and itinerants traveling across the county looking for work. The Colfax police chief's policy was to provide lodging for any man who came in requesting a bed for the night. As a result his jail routinely held from one to eighteen men each night; some were prisoners, most of the overnight guests were people who were just down on their luck.

Monroe's jail provided overnight accommodations for 230 itinerants between September 20, 1931 and April 4, 1932. The night jailer, a Mr. Barr, told the *Jasper County Mirror* the jail usually had only one or two guests, but as many as nine men had spent a night at the jail. The next morning the guests could go to the fire station, clean up, and cook themselves a free breakfast [choosing from foods provided by a community fund].

In the summer of 1933, a group of Newton canned more than 850 quarts of vegetables picked from the city's municipal gardens. The vegetables were stored, to be given to needy families during the winter.

Some Jasper County men found employment through the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) in 1933. A letter written by Nolan Bowie and published in the *Jasper County Mirror* July 27, 1933, gave names and assignments of the local boys who had recently reported for induction and training at Ft. Des Moines, then assignment at Keosauqua:

Sub-foreman of the second section: Jack Trotter, of Newton.

Second sub-foreman of the first section: W. A. Johnson, Newton.

Soil Erosion workers: Howard Simmerman, Leland Northcutt, and John DeGrado, from Newton; Nolan Bowie and Dale Noon, of Monroe; and Earl Loupee, of Baxter.

Camp Work: Clifford Decker, from Reasnor.

Cleaning the spring in the park: Floyd Owens, of Colfax.

Trimming Trees: Warren Currier, of Monroe.

Insect and Disease Control: Elmer Bunyard, from Colfax; James Minor of Newton.

Surveying: Richard Kearns, a Newton resident.

Crime and Punishment

Crime ran rampant as the country's economic situation became more desperate, and several local banks were targets. On Nov. 24, 1930, two young men from Galesburg, Illinois, robbed the Mingo Trust and Savings Bank of about \$1,000 in cash at gunpoint. Fortunately, neither the bank's assistant cashier, Lowell Hattery, nor the only customer, Miss Elna Walters, was injured in the robbery. Jasper Co. Deputy Harry Agnew and state agent Ray Scott tracked the men back to Illinois where they were arrested at 4:30 a.m. on December 3rd. By 2:30 p.m. that same day the two had been returned to Jasper County and brought before Judge Frank Bechly, where they pled guilty. Their sentence: life imprisonment at hard labor in the state penitentiary at Fort Madison.

The First National Bank of Prairie City was robbed of \$825 by an unmasked gunman on June 18, 1931. The bank's president, Barrett Moore, and assistant cashiers, LeRoy Schakel and Frank Turner, were taken into the vault and ordered to remain there until the bandit had made his getaway. Whether the culprit was ever caught is unknown.

Newton residents were dismayed to learn that Roger Roberts, a former assistant cashier at Newton's First National Bank had confessed to embezzling nearly \$2,000 from the bank and altering records to cover another \$2,000 in shortages. Roberts paid back the money and, at his sentencing hearing in court, presented a long list of applications for clemency. He was sentenced to serve four months in the Mahaska County jail at Oskaloosa. (*JCM*, Jan. 14, 1932)

Glen Wilson, 22, of Newton, and a man from Indiana were sentenced to 25 years in the Anamosa reformatory. The two robbed the Citizens State bank of Gilman, Marshall Co., Iowa, five miles north of the Jasper Co. town of Newburg. (*JCM*, Sept. 8, 1934)

One of the most nefarious gangs in the country was headed by John Dillinger. In 1934 agents raiding Dillinger's hideout in Minnesota found a hand-drawn map that led them to Jasper County. Our county sheriff, Earl Shields, realized the map was part of a plan to rob Newton's First National Bank. Local and federal agents determined the robbery would occur on April 4th, when the bank would have additional cash on hand to service a Maytag Company payday. The lawmen prepared their strategy for apprehending the gang when they came to the bank but, as it turned out, the gang never made it to Newton. A bullet wound in his leg, suffered during an earlier shootout, kept Dillinger in hiding in Minnesota. Four months later he was killed by the Justice Dept. (now FBI) in Chicago. (*occ.treas.gov*)

Local hold-up men were also active during the Depression. In January 1930, masked robbers entered the Harrop house at Colfax, taking \$1,000 from gamblers Will Darrock, Andy Gorman, George Hanna, Dick Willis and two other men. The thieves escaped in Willis's car, but two of them, James Jones and Raddy Orlich, were soon apprehended. A third robber was believed to be from Newton. (*CT*, Jan. 9, 1930).

No area of the county was immune from business break-ins, which were too numerous to allow for mention of all that occurred. The most common characteristic of the robberies was that they netted the perpetrators very little cash. Some of the more lucrative robberies:

- H. C. Cowman's store in Prairie City, which netted the thieves over \$70. (*MM*, Aug. 21, 1930)
- At Killduff, thieves stole shoes, clothing, candy, cigars, tobacco and razor blades from Charley Dick's store. The Compton oil station nearby lost 30 gallons of gasoline. (*JCM*, June 4, 1931)

A story that appeared in the *Jasper County Mirror* January 12, 1933, illustrated the desperation that drove otherwise good people to steal at this time in our history. Giles De Hammer, a 45-year-old immigrant, was sentenced to ten days in jail for stealing a sack of flour from a storeroom at the county welfare office. Despite having a factory job in Newton De Hammer, father of 9 children, still needed supplemental assistance to feed his family. He admitted to taking the flour in order to keep his family from starving.

Add alcohol...

. . . and the number of crimes in Jasper County increased significantly. This was the era of Prohibition (January 1920 – December 5, 1933), and bootleg liquor was a lucrative business. Police officers, sheriff's deputies, and the district court judges were kept busy dealing with alcohol-related offenses.

Among the county citizens arrested between January 1930 and April 1932 were:

- Roy Bowers, of Newton was charged with bootlegging

- Orville Guessford of Murphy, for violation of a liquor injunction, 2nd offense
- Earl Nelson, Carwen [Carmen?] Nelson, and S. L. Johnson were enjoined from transporting, selling, or handling intoxicating liquors.
- E. C. Johnson of Monroe was convicted of illegal transportation of liquor and sentenced to a \$300 fine and 30 days in jail (suspended)
- J. D. Kaiser was charged with transportation of 140 gallons of alcohol.
- Les Poulson of Vandalia received a \$300 fine and 3 months in jail (suspended) for operating a liquor nuisance
- Mrs. James Stewart and her brother, Clyde Phillips, were each fined \$300 and sentenced to three months behind bars: he in the county jail, she at the women's reformatory at Rockwell City, for maintaining a liquor nuisance
- Ivan "Whitey" Alloway and Dean Lutz, both of Monroe, and Al Campbell of Baxter were each given a \$300 fine and 3 months of hard labor in the county jail for selling liquor. Alloway, out of work for 3 months, said he was selling to support his wife and five children. Lutz admitted to selling liquor that he said he found on Hwy. 14. Campbell, 70, claimed he was "framed", and he was paroled.

Raids by local officers and/or state and federal agents netted the following:

- Three one-gallon cans of alcohol and a bottle of alcohol were taken from the house and coffee shop of Nick Hiviles in Newton.
- A 20-gallon still and 15 gallons of mash were seized at the Mariposa Township farm of Pete Howell.
- Eleven quarter-pints of alleged alcohol and 3 quarts of alleged home brew were found at the home of Carl Porter of Prairie City.
- 65 bottles of bay rum that were being made for drinking purposes were confiscated at the J. J. Newberry store in Newton. Police said that the store manager had been warned to cease and desist several times.
- 36 gallons of alleged alcohol (rum) were seized by state agents after a car chase which began at Davenport and ended near the Newton airport, when Mrs. Bertha Westercamp wrecked her car, injuring both herself and her husband Floyd.

Alcohol consumption was a problem for a number of our citizens. Charles Hesselschwerdt of Newton was taken to Mount Pleasant Feb. 18, 1932, for habitual inebriacy, following his arrest on a charge of intoxication. Hesselschwerdt, who had been brought before the county board of insanity, was out on parole to Chief of Police L. E. Simpson, having been sentenced to the state hospital by the board.

H. O. Brassfield, an itinerant painter from Newton, was jailed for intoxication in June 1930. Later that night he set fire to his mattress; another prisoner in the jail was nearly overcome by smoke from the fire.

And then there was the continuing saga of Frances ("Daft") Bergman of Newton, the son of the late Wm. Bergman, long-time president of the First National Bank. His story was told in the Monroe papers, rather than the *Newton Daily News*, perhaps because of his family connections (he was a nephew of our state senator and gubernatorial candidate, August Bergman, and also of Dena [Mrs. F. L.] Maytag). The *Mirror* referred to Frances as a "well-known Newton derelict", and in May 1929 reported that he was sentenced to one year plus one day in the Federal prison at Leavenworth, KS after his third arrest for bootlegging. Fifteen months later he was arrested for illegal possession & sale of liquor and DWI. Two months after that he was back in jail for violating a liquor injunction while he was in Kansas. By February 1931 the courts were disgusted with his behavior. With

three cases still pending against him, a judge gave Bergman a \$1,250 fine and ordered him to stay out of Iowa as long as Jasper County Attorney A. M. Miller was in office. One month later, Miller received reports that Bergman was in Des Moines, and he ordered Bergman's arrest. No report of his apprehension was found in any newspaper.

The consumption of liquor turned deadly when Joe Dolensek of Colfax died of alcohol poisoning following a drinking party at the home of Delbert Young in May 1930. He reportedly bragged to the other guests that he would show them how to drink, then guzzled a jar of hooch. His body was found the following morning.

Another sad statistic reported in the newspapers (particularly the *Jasper County Mirror*, which named names) was suicides. Between Jan. 1929 and April 1932 the names of twenty-two Jasper County suicides and three attempted suicides were reported. Financial problems, ill health, and depression were the main causes listed.

If It Weren't For Back Luck...

In addition to unemployment, economic worries, crime, and alcohol-related problems plaguing so many of our citizens, many people had to deal with problems that could best be described as "just plain bad luck."

On June 2nd, 1930, a small tornado touched down near Prairie City. A horse and cattle barn on the Marvin Voss farm southwest of the town was destroyed; nearby farms also suffered damage. Heavy rain and hail fell for 30 minutes at Monroe. The Herbert Johnsons reported there was still hail on their lawn, north of town, the next evening.

Livestock population in Iowa in 1931 increased 5.9% over the previous year's totals. However, the value per head of each class of livestock [horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, etc.] showed a drop of 37.5% in the total valuation of all livestock. (*CT*, Feb. 11, 1932) Across the country crop prices in 1931 were 36% lower than in 1930. Corn producing states, like Iowa, were especially hard hit. (*JCM*, Jan. 7, 1932)

Widespread drought across the country during the winter of 1931-32 was expected to seriously affect the production of some farm crops in the summer 1932. It was hoped that, if this happened, prices for the crops would increase.

Fires caused devastation across the county during the early 1930s:

- The Clyde Pherigo home in Newton was destroyed by a fire thought to have started from a heating stove. (*MM*, Jan 2, 1930)
- Fueled by high winds, the barn and other outbuildings on the Stacey Jordan farm, east of Kellogg, were destroyed by fire. Luckily, the Jordans' home did not burn. (*MM*, June 5, 1930)
- A house on the Cy Huffaker farm occupied by his son Millard Huffaker, about 6 miles northwest of Baxter, was completely destroyed by fire in August 1930 according to the *Baxter New Era*. The house was covered by insurance; the household goods were not insured.
- The large livestock barn on the Frank Andreas farm north of Sully was destroyed by fire, causing several thousands of dollars in damage. Neighbors responding to the call were able to keep the fire from spreading. (*JCM*, Oct. 16, 1930)
- The *Jasper County Mirror* reported the 14-room house on the Dick De Jong farm near Killduff was destroyed by fire on Oct. 23, 1930. The blaze was discovered

by neighbors who were able to extract a few personal effects and some furniture before the walls fell in. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

- George Ceasar, whose farm sat on the Jasper-Marshall Co. line, south of Laurel, lost 31 head of cattle, seven horses, several tons of hay, 300 bushels of oats, a pump house and a truck loaded with corn when his barn burned to the ground. Mr. Ceasar was badly burned on his feet and limbs while attempting to remove his livestock from the barn. Damages were estimated at \$12,500.
- Shortly after the Ceasar fire began, a barn fire was discovered on the Bert Benskin farm a quarter of a mile to the south. Strong winds may have carried embers from the Ceasar fire to the Benskin farm, igniting that barn. Several tons of hay and straw, several bushels of clover and timothy seed, and harness and farm machinery were destroyed, with damages estimated at \$2,500.. This was Benskin's second barn in 3 years to be destroyed by fire. (*JCM*, Mar. 26, 1931)
- The Lew Finch farm residence about one mile north of the Amboy Grange hall was destroyed by fire May 27. The loss is believed to have amounted to several thousands of dollars. (*JCM*, June 4, 1931)

The country had its problems with communicable diseases during the early years of the Depression. In Iowa, the number of diphtheria cases in Dec. 1929 was the lowest ever recorded for a December, while typhoid fever cases in Dec. were three times greater than in Dec. 1928. Smallpox cases in Iowa for 1929 were 11 short of the record high of 440 in 1927. The 683 cases of measles reported in Dec. 1929 was the largest number for a December in six years. (*MM*, Jan. 2, 1930).

Meanwhile, a sanitary engineer warned the Monroe City Council that the town was facing a typhoid epidemic because the city water supply was polluted. Monroe Mayor Palmer put out a warning to all citizens who used the city water supply to boil the water before drinking it. (*MM*, July 17, 1930). Thorough cleaning corrected the problem.

The *Jasper County Mirror* of Aug. 20, 1931, carried the following article:

"Prairie City, Ia. – Mystery still surrounds the explosion in the well In the city park at Prairie City, which occurred Saturday, in which Oscar Calvert, Prairie City miner, came near losing his life, and John French was burned.

"Complaint was made to the authorities that the water In the well was "tainted" and that some had become ill from drinking the water.

"Oscar Calvert was lowered into the well Saturday, with his miner's lamp on his cap lighted. Calvert had been lowered only a few feet when he commenced to struggle and was pulled to the surface in a dazed condition. Later it was found that Mr. Calvert had been overcome by gas fumes which were coming up from the well. After Mr. Calvert was taken from the well, a lighted miner's lamp was let down, which immediately caused an explosion, shooting flames high into-the air.

"John French, who was sitting on the well curb was bowled over by the explosion and the seat of his trousers were burned.

"It is the opinion of those who investigated the explosion that It was caused from gasoline fumes and that gasoline had been poured into the well or that gasoline had escaped from one of the gas tanks at a filling station located across the street, although the manager of the station states that his tanks are intact and that he has had no shortage."

The news wasn't all bad, however.

- The *Colfax Tribune* carried articles that illustrated the community's resilience. Early in 1931 the City scraped together enough money to buy a used fire truck,

- but it had no left-over funds for optional projects in town. So on April 16 the City asked its residents for help funding two projects in the City Park: raising the bandstand off the ground to prevent flooding and either raising the bandstand's roof, or installing a sound board to improve sound quality when the city band would play. One week later the paper reported the formation of a Colfax Garden Club to beautify the grounds of the houses, parkings, and vacant lots in Colfax. Representatives of the Colfax's Lions Club, Commercial Club, PTA and American Legion Auxiliary and the new Garden Club formed a committee to identify beautification projects in the city that could be undertaken by organizations or individuals working together. The City's Service Star Legion also donated \$16 to a fund for cleaning the public rest room in City Hall.
- Dr. D. W. Smouse, a former Monroe physician, gave the Des Moines school district **another donation of \$83,000**, which made possible the immediate erection of the David W. Smouse Opportunity school. This donation was in addition to \$250,000 he donated to the city some time ago, making **a total of \$333,000**. (*MM*, Mar. 13, 1930) [The Smouse school in Des Moines was a special education facility for students with significant mental disabilities. In 2018 it closed, merging its programs with those at the newer Ruby Van Meter school.]

Keeping Life Normal

Every week the newspaper "neighborhood" columns of each town were filled with the names of individuals or couples who spent evenings and weekends visiting having dinners with friends. Many travelled 10 to 20 miles round trip for these visits. Some peoples' names appeared repeatedly in these columns; others only occasionally. People liked to see their names in the paper, so even routine travel was reported in small-town papers. Still it seems that, despite the loss of funds, jobs, and even property that faced so many Jasper County citizens, they somehow managed to maintain or even increase the social activities they had enjoyed in better days. As we have seen during the COVID crisis this year, the size and focus of gatherings may have been curtailed, but the need to gather was important, and people found ways to socialize and to keep a sense of normality in their lives.

Card games were popular during the Depression. Rook was often enjoyed following dinner parties or other gatherings of family and friends. Bridge clubs met weekly or monthly. Hosts/hostess included: Miss Teresa Charles, Mr./Mrs. Paul Craven, Mrs. C. A. Long, Ruby Long, Mrs. John Murray, Mrs. Minnie Rutter, Mrs. H. M. Tharp, Mrs. O. M. Wilson, and Mrs. Harry Worth (Monroe); Dr./Mrs. Fred Carpenter and Mr./Mrs. Tom Roush (Newton); and Mr./Mrs. Dwight Hanel and Mr./Mrs. Chas. Rovaart, Mrs. Harold Jennings, Mrs. Keith Stevens and Mrs. Dick Zaayer, Jr. (Prairie City). Mrs. Ray Brodersen and Mrs. Andrew Fleming entertained their bridge club at Reasnor.

Other clubs and organizations that were active during the Depression included P.E.O. in Newton, Colfax, and Monroe; Masonic lodges in Newton and Monroe; I.O.O.F. and Knights of Pythias/Pythian Sisters, in Monroe; Kiwanis in Newton, Women's' Clubs in Newton, Monroe, and Kellogg; Boy Scouts in Newton, Monroe, Colfax, Killduff, Sully, Baxter and Kellogg; and 4-H clubs throughout the county. Church groups in each town provided fellowship and service opportunities, as well religious studies for their members. Active members of the W.C.T.U. in the Lynnville area in 1931 included: Mrs. Frank Coffey, Mrs. George Frease, Mrs. A. T. Gifford, Mrs. W. W. Lewis, Mrs. George McCoy, Mrs. Charles Newby, Mrs. Ed Renaud, Mrs. L. W. Reynolds, Mrs. Harry Savage, Mrs. Lewis Scull, Mrs. Hettie Stanely [sic], and Mrs. Chester Winters.

School activities throughout the county continued pretty much as usual throughout the Depression. High school music programs, class plays, speech and music contests, and debate activities continued to be held.

Sports

High school athletics continued as normal throughout the Depression. Student athletes routinely travelled to other towns, and athletic tournaments continued to be held.

“Kittenball” was a popular sport in southern Jasper and Marion Counties, with both male and female athletes. It appears that kittenball was what we now call “softball.” Many team members were primarily high school age or young adults.

The Reasnor Tennis Club was organized July 8, 1930 with Lawrence Blom, president; Opal Lust, V.P.; Bessie Gearhart, sec’y; and H. A. Linder, treasurer.

A golf tournament at Monroe Sept. 7, 1930 drew 55 golfers from Jasper, Marion and Warren counties. Golfing remained a popular activity throughout the county throughout the early 1930s, and it was not just a young man’s game. On Nov. 23, 1933, the *Jasper County Mirror* reported that 78-year-old C. B. Livingston had recently made a hole in one at the Monroe golf course.

Jasper County residents had an opportunity to see the Harlem Globetrotters play an exhibition basketball game at the Newton Y.M.C.A. gym on April 4, 1932. The ‘Trotters had previously played in Newton against a team of local athletes; this year, though, they brought a team of their regular opponents with them.

Free, or Low-Cost Entertainment

Summer band concerts in Monroe, Sully, and Prairie City drew large crowds. The Prairie City concerts drew people from as far away as Killduff, a distance of approximately 15 miles. In 1933, Prairie City band members included: Roy Winegar, Robert Butler, Kenneth Balmer, Harry Van Zee, Emerson Griffitts, Leo Phearman (cornets); Ed Ramsey, J. W. Erskine, Jr., Lee Pentico, Albert Do Wit, Francis Randall (clarinets); Will Winegar, Henry Kuyper, Winifred Martin, Will Van Zee (trombones); R. F. Randall, Chas. Winegar (baritones); W. C. Randall, Robert Griffitts, John Vandermast (basses); Venn Johnston (saxophone); Melvin Bowans, Joe McKlveen, Fred De Haan (altos); and Louis Vander Linden, R. M. Danley (drums).

Beginning in the summer of 1930 the businessmen of Monroe began sponsoring free motion pictures every Saturday night in the Monroe City Park. This popular entertainment drew a number of viewers from surrounding towns.

For those who had money to spend, Newton’s four movie theaters were open for part, or all, of the Depression. The Capitol Theater operated daily, most movies showing for two days each. Saturdays were “double feature” days, with two new movies being shown on that day only. Prices ranged from 10¢ to 25¢. The Cozy Theater, renamed the “Iowa Theater” in 1933 continued to operate throughout the Depression. The Strand showed its final movie in March 1931. Newton’s oldest theater, the Rialto, was closed to the public between 1927-33, with the exception of occasional special events (concerts, local-talent plays, traveling stock-company shows, boxing matches, etc.). After extensive remodeling, it reopened on a regular schedule in 1934, showing second-run motion pictures and cowboy movies four days per week.

Celebrations

Old Settlers picnics and reunions continued throughout the Depression in Monroe, Lynnvile and Prairie City. In 1933 the usual entertainments at Prairie City took place in the town's **new** band pavilion.

In the summer of 1933 the organizers of the yearly Jasper County Fair announced that, for the first time in its history, "in accord with conditions and the times" there would be no admission charge.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (just a few examples of "Iowa Nice")

In Nov. 1930, while the Joe Mullenberg family was quarantined with diphtheria, 44 of their neighbors and friends gathered and husked 700 bushels of corn for them. As soon as they could leave quarantine the Mullenbergs had to take their daughter to the Newton hospital for an operation. She was reportedly improving as well as could be expected.

Homestead Grange members and a few other neighborhoods gathered with their teams at the W. A. Butler home near Prairie City to assist in gathering his corn. Mr. Butler had been unable to work since an accident a few weeks earlier. Those who assisted were R. W. Croizer, C. A. Curry, Wm. Booth, John Jensma, E. L. Enyart, C. C. Kellogg, George Jarnagin, Clarence Booth, W. J. Telfer, A. R. Vroom, Earl Offill, Arthur Booth, Roy Vroom, and Raymond Kellogg. (this story and the next taken from *JCM* Nov. 6, 1930)

Members of Amboy Grange, Center Friends Church and others brought teams and wagons and husked 40 acres of corn for Henry Cushatt, a farmer of the Amboy neighborhood, northeast of Newton. Mr. Cushatt was unable to work much of the summer and fall because of rheumatism. Those who helped: Verne Miller, Ralph Moore, B. L. & F. L. Hummel, G. H. Brooks, L. W. Anderson, Ray Allen, Clifford Russell, C. A. & J. D. Baldwin, Sam Hackney, Glen Bunker, Art Bark, Will Drake, Frank Hill, Roy Hagedorn, Bill Kreager, Fred De Penning, George Earley, Gladstone Smith, R. C. Jacobs, J. DeGreef, Cliff Ratcliff, George Hans, Carl Hasselbrink, L. A. Tinnermeier, Jay Parsons, Earl Hephrey, Earl Trout, Bill O'Brien, Loren & Myron Murphy, Foster Reynolds, Evertt Lamphier, Edd Hammer, Bill Hunt, Wilbur & Frank Ogg, Frank Starrett, T. H. Mallicoat, Dr. F. A. Drown, Loren Altemeier, John & Tom Vinall, and R. A. Wilson. (*JCM* Nov. 6, 1930)

In 1930 friends and neighbors of Sam Nearmyer, who had been almost bedfast for four years, put in a hog tight fence for him, and made up a bunch of fence posts. Those who took part were Oakley Cowman, Paul Schakel, Chas. McDuff, Perry Brown, John Nearmyer and son Ray. Three years later Ray Munger, Oakley Cowman, Howard Heffelfinger, Tom Krueman, Bert Stoelstra, John Cline, John Honnold, Elmer Williams, Clarence Warren, Chas. McDuff, Perry Brown and Lloyd Zickle put a new fence around the Nearmyers' farm and cut down trees for use as stove wood (*JCM* Sep. 14, 1933).

While Todd Young, who farmed several miles southeast of Newton, was in the University hospital at Iowa City following an operation, neighboring farmers came to his farm and husked his corn. Their wives prepared lunch for the men. (*JCM*, Nov. 2, 1933)

Has anyone ever heard of a "butchering bee?" Three were held in the Reasnor/Monroe area in Feb. 1930: one at Leland Lust's with Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Lust of Reasnor, Mr. & Mrs. Vern Wheeler of Sunny Point, and Jesse Mullins assisting; another at W. E. McCuen's with Mr. & Mrs. Ed Lust, Mrs. Neil McKee, J. M. Woody and Amos Woody, and Mr. and Mrs. Abram Kool. A third event at Crate Marmon's [3 mi. NE of Monroe]

had Mr. and Mrs. Bert Vaughan, Frank Vaughan and Maxine, Mrs. Gail Visser, Dick Sheeler, and Austin Sheeler assisting.

Sharing the Love: Helping the Suffering Outside of Iowa

Although many Jasper County residents were suffering during the Depression, they still managed to find a little they could share with others who were hurting:

Jasper County apparently had a \$1,000 "quota" of money to be raised for the Red Cross relief fund in 1931. By Jan. 29th Lynnville, Kellogg and Newton had already raised more than their quota, at \$83, \$50, and \$500, respectively, while Monroe was lagging far behind its \$50 goal. Most contributions ranged from 50¢ to \$2.00.

In February 1931 residents in eastern Jasper county, including the communities of Kellogg, Reasnor and Galesburg responded to a Red Cross appeal for foodstuffs to be sent to drought sufferers in the southern part of the U. S. In addition to \$1200 in cash, a railroad car of potatoes, flour, eggs canned fruits and vegetables, cured meats and grains was donated to the relief of various kinds. The railroad shipped the car free of charge. J. R. Powers of the Kellogg Grange and L. T. Birchard were in charge of the shipping arrangements (*JCM* Jan. – Mar. 1931). Churches and farmers at Galesburg, Reasnor, Prairie City, Pella & Oskaloosa contributed food and provisions to needy people in South Dakota, and also paid the freight bill of \$2,400. (*JCM* Feb. 11, 1932)

Love in the Depression

Jasper Co. Clerk of District Court L. S. Kennington reported that in January and February 1933 the number of marriage licenses issued in Jasper County was triple that of the previous two months. The normal average in Jasper County is five or six licenses per month.

Membership Form for Calendar Year 2021

New membership Single membership \$15.00
 Membership renewal Family membership \$20.00

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ 9-digit Zip _____

I prefer to receive the Gleaner: _____ by mail _____ electronically

E-mail address _____

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

My gift is in Memory / Honor (circle one) of _____

My company has a matching gift program. Company name: _____

Please print or type carefully – we will use your name and (street or email) address from this form to prepare mailing address information for the Gleaner.

JASPER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
115 N. 2nd Ave. E. – Suite C
Newton, IA 50208-3241

Address Service Requested
Return Intact – Do Not Destroy

Map of Jasper County, Iowa

