LOOKING BACK in the Early Files

By Lora Stull

One Hundred Years Ago

(From the Mount Ayr Record-News,Thursday, December 3, 1925.)

To the courage and presence of mind of D.V. Ferris, cashier of the First National Bank of Diagonal, is given credit for the thwarting of an attempt to rob that institution just before noon yesterday. Mr. Ferris was getting ready to leave the bank when two bandits entered the front door and at the point of revolvers demanded that he open the safe, threatening to kill him if he did not obey orders. Mr. Ferris calmly refused, turned his back on the weapons and stepped into the rear room, closing the door, whereupon the bandits rushed to an automobile, which stood in waiting with a third member of the gang at the wheel.

The alarm was given and members of the vigilance committee and the sheriffs of Ringgold and Union Counties were soon in pursuit. The Bandit car, a large Marmon, left Diagonal on the Creston road and the car, together with the khaki suits worn by the bandits, had been abandoned in the road about 5 miles from Creston, and it was thought the bandits were hiding in a nearby corn field. At the hour of going to press no further word has been received.

By a little more that one hundred votes the proposition of issuing bond in the sum of $150,000 for the purpose of building and equipping a court house for Ringgold County was defeated at the special election held yesterday.

Marrige: November 25, Vanita Fullerton and Leland Saville..November 28, Verna Funkhouser and B.A. Greenrod..November 24, Orville Lindquist and Wilma Rice.

Births: November 25, a daughter, Ellacteen, to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Laird.. November 25, a daughter, Evelynn, to Mr. and Mrs. George Higday.

Obituary in this edition was, Rebecca Osborn Elliott.

Seventy-Five Years Ago

(From the Mount Ayr Record-News,Thursday, December 7, 1950.)

The Willim S. Breckenridge store and the Nyal Drug store owned by Dick Farrell in Tingley were burglarized Sunday night.

Entrance into the Breckenridge store was gained by breaking the glass in the front door, according to Sheriff H.P. Todd. Twenty dollars and change and two boxes of cigars were taken. Entrance to the drug store was gained through a back door. No money or merchandise was taken.

A capacity crowd braved the cold and snow to witness the Diagonal Maroons avenge last season's losses to Mount Ayr-by turning the tide with a decisive 48-32 victory in their first clash of the season.

The Maroon scoring punch was engineered by Ricker and Hollinger with seventeen points each. Reynolds led the Mount Ayr scorers with seventeen.

William Collins, superintendent of the Redding schools, passed away Saturday evening at the Decatur County Hospital in Leon at the age of 49 years. He had been in declining health for several months.

Marriage: Thanksgiving day, Mildred Putney and William Rees..November 25, Pauline Toland and Robert Richardson.. November 24, Iola Liles and LeRoy Wernli.

Birth: December 1, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Beamer.

Obituaries in this edition were: Amelia Gladys McGraw Grogan, Clyde Adelbert Rupert, Eliza Jane Brown Lane, Albert Smith, Zenas Ira Grout, Nellie Kimball Woollums and Gertrude Marie Kinder Fish.

Fifty Years Ago

(From the Mount Ayr Record-News,Thursday, December 4, 1975.)

For the 2nd time in two years death has caused a vacancy on the Ringgold County Board of Supervisors. Howard Pine, chairman of the board of supervisors, died unexpecdtedly at his home in Diagonal Saturday morning. Mr. Pine had served on the board of supervisors since October of 1973 when he was appointed to fill out a portion of the term to which his brother Eugene, was elected in 1972. Eugene died October 6, 1972.

There has been a lot of interest this year in Mount Ayr Cub Scouts and there are several new leaders. Francis Willis will serve as Cub Master, Jack Yearous as Webelo leader and Mrs. Tom Ford, Mrs. Gene Klommhaus, Mrs. Don Solliday, Mrs. Charles Fletchall and Mrs. Ron Richie as den mothers.

Mount Ayr wrestlers, Curt Braby placed second and Ralph Grout placed fifth in the Oklahoma high school open wrestling tournament held at Norman, OK, on November 28 and 29th.

Births: December 1, a son, Michael, to Mr. and Mrs. Mick Still..November 28, a daughter Franchesca to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Johnson.

Obituary in this edition wsas: Beth Maxine Stephens

Twenty-Five Years Ago

(From the Mount Ayr Record-News,Thursday, December 7, 2000.)

A Mount Ayr resident's body was discovered in the bottom of a well on an abandoned farm near Eagleville, MO, this week.

The body of Larry White, 39, who was last seen alive in Mount Ayr in early November, was recovered from the well by authorities in Harrison Co., MO. An autopsy showed that White died of a gunshot wound to the chest.

Charged in the killing of her former husband is Pamela S. (White) Foley, forty, of Ridgeway, MO, who is being held in Ray Co., Missouri detention facility on a cash bond of $500,000 according to the Harrison Co. sheriff's office.

The tank of an air compressor exploded in a machine shed at the home of Gary and Darla Sobotka of rural Mount Ayr Sunday morning doing a good deal of damage but not injuring anyone.

Randall Lynch came Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday hunted deer with Rick Stull and sons, Steven and BayLee, and Dr. Dan Weddle. Everyone got a deer by Sunday afternoon.

Births: November 29, a daughter, Jentry, to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ruby..December 1, a daughter, Abbigail, to Rob and Jodi Haley.

Continued on page 15

Snapshots of History

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Presercation Partnership booth at 108 S. Taylor Street. *Photo by Mike Avitt*

This week's photo was taken in the late 1980s in the building that used to house C. R. Anthony's Clothing Store. This building, at 108 S. Taylor, was turned into a makeshift museum during Ayr Days and the Preservation Partnership took this opportunity to gather and preserve local history. Shirley Hickman used this museum to solicit photos for her "Ayr Views" articles.

I was recently asked for a photo of Anthony's clothing store. I was unable to find an adequate photograph. When my photo collection numbered around 100, I was fairly well organized. That is not the case today.

Lee Timby, William Timby's youngest son, sold the building at 108 S. Taylor to John Freeland in the year 1944. Lee's father had the building erected in 1897. John took four years to renovate the building and move Freeland's Department Store to this location in 1948. Freeland's started in 1891 as a dry goods (mostly clothing) store. By 1948, the store also sold appliances and household items. John and his mother Marge had grown Montgomery Edward Freeland's business into a highly respected and modern enterprise. And, yet, the end was near.

The June 23rd, 1949 edition of the Record-News announces the sale of Freeland's Department store to W. A. Cash of the W. G. Woodward Company of St. Louis, Missouri. The Woodward Company had a chain of about forty clothing stores in the upper midwest and northwest. John Freeland retained ownership of the building and Art Schmidt was hired as the new manager. Woodward's opened in July 1949.

Art Schmidt was still the manager in January 1956 when Woodward & Co. sold a controlling interest in their business to C. R. Anthony Company. C. R. Anthony was headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK and was operating in 19 states. The name Woodward's would continue to be used at the present. The name was changed to Anthony's on July 12, 1957.

On August 1, 1963, Fred Roberts succeeded Art Schmidt as manager of Woodward's. Mr. Roberts had previously managed a store in Columbia, Missouri. Fred and his family took up residence on the newly established Sunset Lane.

The next manager was Jim Olsen, a native of Elk Horn, Iowa. Mr. Olsen arrived in December 1964. He departed in May 1967. That's when James Clary, a native of Bethany, Mo., became manager. I remember Mr. Clary because he would come to the pool hall on his lunch break and play snooker with Arlen Hughes. Mr. Clary was transferred to Louisana in February 1976. I didn't find who replaced him.

On June 6, 1977, the east side fire took out Gambles Store, Anthony's neighbor on the north. Anthony's building survived the fire but some smoke seeped in. On June 10, four days after the fire, Anthony's had a fire sale on smoke-damaged clothing. Four days! My brain is struggling with insurance adjusters, paper work, and corporate clearance. Doesn't the four day closure seem unbelievably brief?

Anyway, the fire sale continued into August. Anthony's closed for good in early August of 1980 with very little advance notice. Tom Morris was the manager at the time. There were three full-time employees when the store closed: Pat White, Nola Swietlik, and Lorene Combs. And that was the end of Anthony's in Mount Ayr. The next occupant of the building was Plaza Furniture.

Talking newspapers

"Newspapers are the Bibles of worldlings.

How diligently they read them!

Here they find their law and profits,

their judges and chronicles,

their epistles and revelations."

— *Charles Spurgeon*

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Toys For Tots Drive
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New or gently used toys preferably for ages 8 thru 12 years old can be dropped off now thru Thursday, Dec 18, 2025

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CITY OF KELLERTON – REQUEST FOR ELECTRICAL BIDS

The City of Kellerton is seeking bids from qualified electricians for several maintenance and repair projects. Work to be completed includes:

- Repair of shop lights
- Inspection of a fuse box and outlets
- Reconnecting the City's old fire siren for use

Bids must be submitted to City Hall in person or by mail to:

City of Kellerton
P.O. Box 40
Kellerton, IA 50133

Deadline for submission: December 5th

Because City Hall is not staffed full-time, bidders must schedule an appointment to inspect the work before submitting a bid. Please contact City Hall to arrange a time:

641-783-2321 or 641-464-5664

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