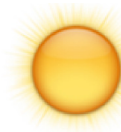




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CHRONICLE TIMES



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Times Gone By

Friday, July 8, 2011

Compiled by Mike Leckband from the Cherokee Archives



Our grand old opera - The Cherokee Opera House was located at 200 South Second St. Pictured above is Company M standing at attention during the Fourth of July parade in 1897. A fire in 1938 destroyed the interior of the Opera House, but the walls remained and were later reinforced and remolded to become the Arrow Theater, which was later razed and the Steele State Bank was built in its place. Currently, Valley Bank is located on the spot that housed the Opera House, but part of the building still survives today. Above the doorway there was a bust of William Shakespeare, and that bust is currently displayed outside to the Cherokee Community Center.

100 years ago

Chas. Barnard, son of L. H. Barnard, living four and one-half miles northwest of Cherokee, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a 32-calibre revolver. He lived about an hour after shooting himself but was unconscious.

The bullet entered his head at the right temple and came out on the left side. He had gone to Meriden in the morning and from there came to Cherokee. He returned home about noon and put up his horse before going to the house. He spoke to his mother and then went to the barn.

A minute later the report of a revolver was heard but no attention was paid to it by the other members of the family, they thinking it was a firecracker as he had been shooting them in the morning.

When his brother Louis went to the barn he found the body lying on the floor of the barn near the door. He was lying on his back and the revolver close to him. Louis called his father and they carried him to the house and called Drs. Quinn and P.B. Cleavers but they could do nothing for him.

The coroner was called and a jury enpannelled consisting of Fred Melter, John Underhill and J. V. Bird. They viewed the remains and continued the hearing until 9 o'clock Wednesday morning when the hearing was resumed.

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As far as the evidence showed he seemed to be in his normal condition when he left home in the morning and when he returned at noon. He had purchased the revolver in Meriden on the Fourth saying that his old gun was worn out and he wanted a new one to replace it. None of the other members of the family ever knew of his having a gun until after the shooting. His sister testified that he had said several times during the last two years that he was discouraged and wished he was dead.

The young man was overcome with the heat about three years ago but was apparently in good physical condition. The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above acts. The heat of the last few days had probably affected his mind and caused him to commit the rash deed.

75 years ago

William Long, 53, Sioux City, sought in connection with a series of chicken thefts in southwestern Cherokee county, was arrested by Sheriff A. N. Tilton Tuesday and returned to the county jail here. Woodbury county officers held Long, one of the two men sought on charges of larceny of poultry over a period of several months.

Long's last alleged offense in Cherokee county was June 2 when he reportedly stole 13 chicken from the farm of Mrs. Henry Dierking, one and one-half miles south of Fielding. He is an old offender, according to crime records, and has served terms in Fort Madison penitentiary and Woodbury county jail on similar offenses.

Long was to be arraigned some time Wednesday morning or afternoon.

Various Types Projects Suitable for Sponsorship Discussed at Regular Meeting Tuesday

Six committee chairmen, to carry out the program of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, were selected at the organization's regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday night at Hotel Lewis. Other committee heads will be announced later. Regular meetings of the newly organized Cherokee unit will be held the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Chairmen named by President Don Hankens are: Sam Hyde, sports; George Rapson, entertainment; Roger Goeb, civic; Tom Warrender, dance; Otto Davidshofer, reception and W. Max Gordon, publicity.

Projects Discussed

Sponsorship of various types of programs and projects was discussed but no definite action was taken. Five Sioux City Junior Chamber officers attended and explained various phases of the work to the 30 young business men present.

Thad Churchill, president of the Sioux City division and vice president of the Iowa organization; Chris Larson, Ross Burman and Jack Sinclair and Wendell Nordstrom, the former a past national director, were the visitors to give talks.

Junior Chamber of Commerce movement, according to Sinclair, began soon after the World war with the first convention held in St. Louis in 1921. Only seven units in St. Louis and other parts of Missouri were then organized. Sioux City and Des Moines were the first Iowa cities to organize the movement with the former about 48 hours ahead of the capital city. The first state convention was held in Sioux City in 1928 with six organizations represented.

Two years later the national convention was held in Des Moines with 200 delegates attending, more than half from Iowa. Six hundred affiliated chambers attended this year's convention at Memphis with 1,500 delegates from elites outside of Memphis taking part.

50 years ago

Announcement was made today regarding the donation to Sanford Museum of several pieces of furniture and other household items by the Dr. Lewis S. Brewer family, Quimby, Iowa.

The pieces include an ornate walnut pump organ in use about 1900 and a music rack used with it. In addition, a black iron, chrome-trimmed cook stove and an ice box of that period were given to the museum. Other items include a baby carriage, horse tricycle, and plush-covered picture album, all from about the 1900 to 1910 period.





Fourth of July parade - The Fourth of July has always brought out a feeling of pride in the residents of Cherokee. This is a photograph of the community coming to a gathering in 1906. Note the early vehicles parked on the south side of the street.

In announcing the gift W. D. Frankforter, Museum Director, stated that such items, although not considered antiques, will be useful in portraying different periods of local history. Although, some of these objects may not be used for several decades, he said the museum was interested in obtaining them while they were still in good condition.

Many young people today have never seen such things as cook stoves and ice boxes and they will continue to become greater curiosities as time goes by. Therefore, museums have the responsibility of preserving this aspect of our past.

Future plans call for remodeling of the "Period Alcove." Exhibits which show furniture and clothing from the past hundred years and several of the Brewer objects will be used in them. Other persons are urged to think of the museum when disposing of items, documents, or photographs having local or regional historic significance.

Dr. and Mrs. Brewer came to Quimby toward the end of the last century. They were married on December 16, 1896 and built a home in 1900. Dr. Brewer died some years ago but Mrs. Brewer continued to maintain Quimby as her residence until her death, although in the past few years she spent only a few months each year there.

The items given to the museum were donated by the Brewer children, Dr. C. R. Brewer, Early, Ia., Mrs. Walter W. Trumpp, Iowa City, Mrs. Robert Leamer and Mr. A. D. Brewer of Denver, Colo.

The 12th annual Firemen's picnic will be held at Meriden July 11-12 during the evening.

Many concessions and rides will be available for kids and grown-ups alike. The picnic is well known throughout the area.

One of the highlights of the affair will be the drawing for \$140 in cash prizes.

Officials reported that the ice cream social is also a favorite of many with homemade cakes and pies for added pleasure.

Officials reminded that the picnic is the only way the fire department raises funds to operate.

According to reports nearly 3,000 attended the two-day affair last year. This year's picnic is also expected to be very large at many people come from surrounding areas to visit with friends from near and far.

25 years ago

Tom Dorr of Marcus said farmers and agribusinessmen could face a binfull of problems this fall because of a shortage of grain storage capacity. Monday Gov. Terry Branstad named Dorr and four other Iowans to a panel to study the problem.

The other members of the panel are Varel Bailey of Anita, head of the National Corn Growers Association; Indianola elevator operator Charles Laverty; Marlyn Jorgenson of Garrison, a member of the American Soybean Association; and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service official Fred Reed of Fruro.

Dorr, a Marcus area farmer and an active member of the Iowa Corn Growers' Association, said storage is going to be a major thorn in the side of agriculture this fall and there isn't much time to act.

"We need to proceed rather aggressively," he said. "There's only about 90 days to harvest. It's going to be a real critical issue."

And unless something changes in those three months Iowa farmers may be stuck with about 300 million bushels of corn and no place to put it.

"We want to avoid a major storage crisis in the fall harvest," Branstad said Monday. "We have two basic choices. We can find better ways to store the grain we produce or we can find better ways to market it."

Branstad said the storage problem can be traced in part to federal grain marketing programs.

"It shows that we have a major problem with the fact that our federal marketing problems have not worked as well as we'd liked," Branstad said.

Dorr agrees with the governor's assessment, saying low commodity prices and government programs have left grain storage facilities across the state full of last year's harvest.

The panel will probably look both at ways to get through the 1986 harvest and ways of avoiding a repeat in 1987, Dorr added.

Some of those answers might include getting government approval of more temporary grain storage units or getting the United States Department of Agriculture to change some of the time frames for grain stored through government programs.

One possible government change would be to expand the rollover rotation period for grain. Farmers presently have 30 days to replace any grain they have stored under government programs. That means if they want to sell last year's corn that is covered by the government program with this year's corn they only have 30 days to make the change. That could mean no large movement of grain until a few weeks before the harvest. A 90-day rollover period would push more grain onto the market sooner, Dorr said.

Other possibilities include getting the government to accept forfeited grain before the deadline, he said. Because of low commodity prices many farmers will simply forfeit grain to the federal government at the USDA price rather than sell it at a lower market price. If the dates for that forfeit were moved up more grain could be shipped out of the state sooner.

Both of these moves would require federal rule changes and would probably lower market prices now, Dorr said, but they would open up storage space in Iowa and other Midwestern states.

None of those suggestions will mean much unless the state or federal governments act on them, Dorr said.

"We're no fair-haired golden boys," he said. "But I honestly think some things can be done. Commodity Credit and the USDA have been malleable in the past on some temporary answers."

And, barring a late-summer drought, answers will be needed soon.

"There's going to have to be a lot of work on a very short basis," he said.

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