

Mayor Patterson Tells What Business Management is Doing For the City's Light Plant

Some few people who have been inclined to criticize the city officials for buying nearly 50,000 worth of new equipment for the local light plant, in the face of a big offer for the plant made by the C. I. P. S. Co., will find the following article, prepared by Mayor Patterson, rather enlightening.

The Mayor shows how the city light plant has been made a very profitable industry for the city and how a large surplus has accumulated in the plant's treasury. He tells how an equitable system of rates and service was inaugurated and dead-heads and non-payers were eliminated.

He also gives a promise for reduced rates, despite the fact that the new machinery is to be paid entirely out of the savings effected in running the plant with the new equipment. Every citizen of Sullivan ought to read this article. It tells of things that concern the future welfare of himself and his city:

At the beginning of the municipal year, 1925, when the present administration took charge of affairs of the City, there was only \$1845.23 in the Electric Light Fund. There were outstanding some few bills which were unpaid at that time, but they were not of much consequence.

During the first year the present administration spent \$3386.60 in permanent equipment outside of the Light Plant proper. This expenditure was made for meters, a new truck, and the repair and extension of lines. On May 1st, 1926, at the end of the first year, there was a balance of \$6,538.70 in the Electric Light Fund, after all bills had been paid, including those for permanent equipment above mentioned as well as those which had been left over from the prior year. So far in the second year of the management of the present administration, there has been invested in permanent equipment \$3,386.11, and on February first 1927, after all bills were paid there was \$13,252.96 in the Electric Light Fund. It is estimated that after the payment of all expenses which will be incurred during the months of February, March and April, including the storage of an extra three hundred tons of coal, there will be a balance in the fund at the end of the municipal year of \$15,397.96. In other words, the inauguration of the policies of the present administration

in the management of the affairs of the Electric Light Plant will have brought about a net gain of \$13,552.73 in the two years in which that administration has had charge of the affairs of the city.

It perhaps will be of interest to know how that saving was brought about:

One of the first discoveries that was made by the present city officers when they took charge of the City's affairs was that there were a hundred and thirty or more customers of the Electric Light Plant of the City who were using both light and power at flat rates. No one had any idea how much light and power was being used by these particular customers. They were perfectly satisfied to pay this flat rate and apparently the City had been satisfied for them to do so. Meters were installed for these customers and now every user of electricity in the City of Sullivan is paying for exactly the amount of electricity that he uses.

In one case which came to the attention of the officers, the user had been paying an average flat rate of \$35.00 per month. When the meter was installed the average bill of this same customer was \$125.00 per month. Similar gains were made in revenues from other users who had heretofore paid only the flat rate, except of course that the gains were not as large in dollars and cents, but in proportion they were about the same.

The officers also found that in approximately twenty cases persons were using electricity whose names had never appeared on the books of the City, and who had been paying nothing whatever for their current, and several instances were found where a portion of the lights were taken ahead of the meters, so that the meters were not registering all of the electricity that was being used.

There were no rules with reference to the payment of bills, and the result was that many people were owing the City large sums of money and regardless of the fact that the bills were not paid, the City continued to furnish electricity and the user had no fear that failure to pay his light bill would mean discontinuance of his service. That situation has been remedied and now every user of electricity in the city knows that if his bill is not paid by the 20th of the month, that on the 21st his service will be discontinued, and that he must pay a deposit as well as his back bill, in order to obtain service again. It was not long after the inauguration

of this rule until the people became used to it, and now practically everyone agrees that it was for the best interest of everyone concerned that such a rule be established and lived up to.

In recent years no permanent improvements have been made in the plant itself. The engines and machinery which are in operation are the same ones which have been in the plant for a long time. At the time they were installed, no doubt they were of sufficient capacity to take care of the then demand of the plant. People are using much more electricity now than they formerly did, and it is found now that the plant is overloaded. The machinery which is in it is old, is inefficient and is expensive to operate. It is overloaded and in case of a breakdown which might occur at any time on account of the age of the machinery and equipment, the service rendered by the plant would be seriously interrupted and interfered with. One boiler in the plant is now beyond permanent repair and to install a new one would cost between six and eight thousand dollars. To put in a new boiler would not relieve the overloaded condition of the plant and so it became apparent to the officers of the City that some new equipment and machinery was going to have to be installed in the plant.

A check was made to determine how much fuel was used by the present steam equipment, and it was found that the average coal bill including freight and labor of unloading was \$1063.00 per month, or \$12,576.00 per year. The City's officers knew of other municipal light plants which were operating with Diesel Oil Engines and inquiry was made about the character of these engines and the cost of operating them and it was found that it was possible to increase the capacity of the plant both in size of engines and amount of electricity generated, and yet save a very substantial sum of money in fuel cost alone.

The City has recently made arrangements to purchase one 240 H. P. and one 180 H. P. Diesel Oil Engines direct connected to generators and exciters of suitable sizes and new electrical equipment throughout the plant, for a cost of \$46,999.60. Of the sum \$4942.00 is to be paid in cash out of the savings which have already been accomplished in the year and nine months that the plant has been under the control of the present administration, and the balance is to be paid in monthly installments of \$663.46. By the installment of this type of engine it was found that a fuel saving of approximately \$750.00 per month or \$9,000.00 per year could be made, and this saving in fuel alone is more than sufficient to meet the monthly payments as they fall due.

In fact, the company with which the contract is to be made expressly agrees that the monthly installments shall be paid solely and alone out of the savings in the cost of the operation of the plant. If the saving is not accomplished, then the company gets no money. The steam equipment

which the City has remains intact, and can be operated at any time. The purchase of the additional machinery and equipment will not be paid for in any other way than by the savings brought about in the operation of the plant. In other words, the credit of the City is not pledged for the payment of this additional equipment, and in no event will there be any taxes levied or assessed upon the property of the City to pay for the new equipment.

If the plant is operated correctly and business methods are applied to its management in the years to come, a sinking fund of over six hundred to eight hundred dollars per month can be created (after the new machinery above mentioned has been paid for) to be used in buying new machinery and equipment as the load increases and as the machinery wears out, and at the same time there can be a reduction in the rates to the consumers.

A careful check has been made of the present income of the plant and also the anticipated income, and the cost of operating the new machinery. The conclusion has been reached that a part of the saving that has been accomplished and brought about by the new system of management can be passed on to the customers of the plant. The light rates of this city now compare very favorably with those of other cities which are furnished electricity by municipal plants and by Public Service corporations. It is planned to make the rates still lower. The income must be sufficient to pay operating expenses, to pay the cost of new machinery which is about to be installed; and to create a sinking fund to be used to replace machinery and equipment as it wears out, from time to time in the future. The City's officers have carefully gone over the situation, and have concluded that all these things can be paid for at a reduced rate from the users of electricity. Just as soon as the new machinery is ready for operation the new rates will be put into effect and they will be substantially lower than those now in effect.

The poles, lines and all property outside of the plant are now in better condition than they have been for four years, and when the new machinery is put into the plant proper, the city will have a modern, up-to-date Electric Light System throughout. If it is given proper attention and proper business methods are followed in its management in the future, it will be entirely self supporting and there will be no need to go to the property owners for bond issues or taxes, as has sometimes been done in the past.

GAYS.

Miss Bertha Edson entertained the Camp Fire girls and their mothers at a three course luncheon Wednesday night.

Mrs. Robert Angel and two daughters of Iowa have been visiting her mother, Mrs. Mollie Drake.

George Miller and family are moving to the George Lemon property. Mrs. Lemons will make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Elmer Bence.

Mrs. Jennie Romack of Brocton transacted business here and visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wess Burkhead and family spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Catherine Huntington.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Winings and Horace Hopper employes of the Model bakery attended a supper there Saturday night.

Mrs. Ed Libotte, son Willie and daughter Elda visited Miss Olive Libotte, who is ill in the Decatur and Macon county hospital.

Oris Delong of Neoga visited his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cullen last week end.

Homer Estes of Chicago has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Lizzie Estes.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Alexander and son Harold and daughter Ruth and Zale Hopper attended a Rook party at the French Highland home Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lowe have moved to Decatur, Mr. Lowe having employment at Staley's.

Nelson Armantrout of Decatur visited Gays relatives and friends last week.

FOUND LONG-LOST PURSE NEAR LAKE CITY MONDAY

In June 1925 L. A. Crockett and his family were driving on the slab near Lake City. A heavy rain was falling and Al drove into the ditch and upset his car. In the car at the time besides members of the family was his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Blonson Crockett. When the car upset, in the excitement of the moment she lost her grip on a leather purse and it dropped into the water. A thorough search was made but no purse was found. It contained \$7.00 in paper money and 7 nickels. At various times after that Mr. Crickett made a search for the purse but without success.

Monday when passing the spot in company with Walt Birch, the desire to search some more struck Mr. Crockett. He stopped the car, despite indignant protests of his companion, who was in a hurry to go somewhere. And there on the yon-side of the ditch lay the leather purse. It was but little the worse for wear. The money was inside but it seemed damp so Mr. Crockett decided to thoroughly dry the purse before trying to extract the bills.

And here's where you see what patience will do. If at first you don't find what you're after, hunt, hunt again.

CONCRETE DRAIN TILE

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SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS

CARD OF THANKS

We thank all friends and neighbors for their kindness during the illness and death of our beloved wife and mother, Josephine E. Erwin. Especially do we thank for the floral tributes.

Respectfully,
J. M. Erwin and children.

Closing-Out Public Sale

I am not farming this year and will sell the following at Wood & Little Sale Barn in Sullivan, commencing at 11:00 a. m., on

Saturday, March 5, 1927

20 Head of Horses and Mules 20

One team of 3 and 4 year old mare mules, wt. 2650 lbs., perfectly broke to work and the best pair I ever owned; one team of 6 year old Jack mules, wt. 2300 lbs.; one team of 6 year old mare mules, wt. 2600 lbs.; one team of 4 and 5 year old mules wt. 2400 lbs.; two odd mules; one team of grey geldings 7 and 8 years old, wt. 3100 lbs., a real using team; one team of Blacks, mare and horse, 10 years old, wt. 2800, extra good users; one black mare 10 years old, wt. 1700 lbs.; one brown mare 11 years old, wt. 1600 lbs.; one black horse, 6 years old, wt. 1400 lbs; one bay saddle and general purpose horse, 6 years old, wt. 1150 lbs., a real horse.

10 Head of Cows and Heifers 20

One Registered Jersey Cow with Bull calf about 4 weeks old, a real cow; one Shorthorn cow with young calf, a heavy producer; one Jersey cow will be fresh in a few days; one part Holstein cow, been fresh about 6 weeks; 2 Shorthorn cows, that will calve this spring; one white face cow; 2 yearling Jersey heifers.

80 Head of Hogs 80

Consisting of 25 head of Brood Sows and Gilts; consisting of Poland Chinas, Durocs, Tamworths, Hampshires and Chester Whites; about 15 of these are tried sows and will pig early. The balance are large gilts that will pig early also; 55 head of pigs and feeding hogs from 50 to 150 lbs., in weight. Everything is double treated and an extra good bunch of hogs. Will sell 8 or 10 new hog houses also.

200 BALES TIMOTHY HAY, SOME CLOVER AND ALFALFA HAY.

FARMING EQUIPMENT—Two Peter Schuttler wagons, one wide tire, both good; one iron wheel wagon and rack; 2 gang plows, one is a P. & O. 12 inch like new; one sulky plow; 2 good harrows; 2 discs; one International corn planter, with bean attachment, a good planter; one Blue Star Corn Planter used on about 80 acres; one 2-row cultivator; one Tower cultivator; one Moline shovel cultivator; one Rotary hoe; one roller; one mower; one binder, hay rake, endgate oats seeder, 2 dozen chickens; 4 sets harness, collars and miscellaneous articles.

TERMS—3 or 6 months time on sums over \$10.00 with approved security, before property is removed, 2% Discount for cash. Under \$10.00 will be cash.

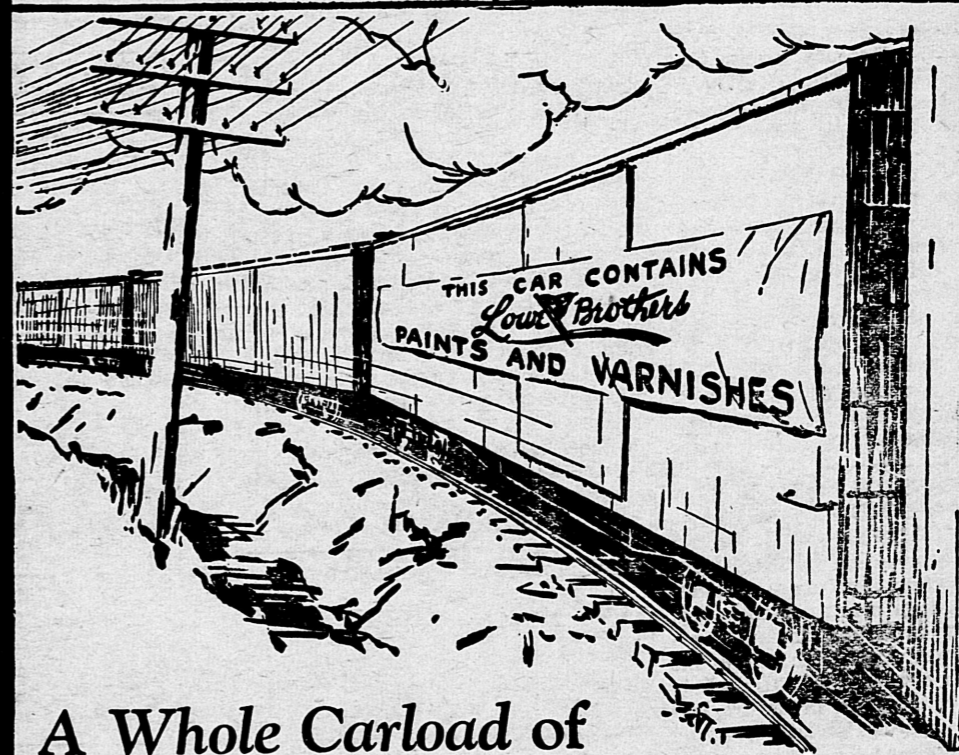
Guy S. Little, Owner

O. F. DONER, Auctioneer

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Clerk

Remember that this is no combination sale, and no outside stock will be sold. Sale will start promptly at 11:00 a. m.

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A Whole Carload of Lowe Brothers Paints and Varnishes

WE have just received a big shipment of Lowe Brothers Paints and Varnishes—a whole carload of these high grade products is now in our stock.

It makes no difference what you have to paint. This big new stock can supply your every need. We've got everything for you in the paint line from paint for your house, garage and barn to paints and varnishes for your walls, floors and furniture.

Lowe Brothers Paints and Varnishes are made to serve—not merely to sell.

Before you paint, see us!
HARRIS BROS.

SULLIVAN,

ILLINOIS

FULLER'S POINT.

Mrs. Sarah Phillips of Mattoon spent the week end with her son C. M. Phillips and family.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Martin and little son Eddie spent the week end with her father, J. H. Lawson and family.
 Alvin Butler of Mattoon called on Chester Carnine and family Sunday afternoon.
 Miss Ada Creath, a student of the U. of I. spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Creath.
 Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Phillips and daughter Helen and Mrs. Sarah Phillips of Mattoon were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Phillips.
 Mr. and Mrs. Roy Creath spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Jenkins.
 Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Tate and family and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Nash of Mattoon were visitors Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nash and family.
 Chester Carnine was a caller in Sullivan Tuesday.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Martin and family of Hindsboro were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gilmore and family, Sunday.
 M. O. Rominger was removed to his home Monday after a goitre operation at the Mattoon hospital. He is rapidly improving.

JONATHAN CREEK.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Oathouse moved on Monday from the Frank McDonald farm to the Kingrey farm.
 Mrs. Rosa Elzy and Mamie Bathe spent Thursday night with Mr. and Mrs. Hurl Elzy.
 Rev. and Mrs. Blackburn spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. James C. Lawson.
 Mr. and Mrs. Willie Elder spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crane.
 Mr. and Mrs. Orville Powell and daughter Frances Marion spent Sunday with Bob Pierce and family.

Miss Nettie Slover spent Sunday with Vera Wooley.
 Mrs. George Kercheville of near Windsor spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Ella Bolin.
 Leo Reeves moved Tuesday to the McLaughlin farm south of Sullivan.
 Mr. and Mrs. James Bracken and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Powell and daughter Grace spent Sunday with John Dolan and family.
 Miss Maude Johnson spent from Sunday until Thursday with Joe Hillinger and family near Mattoon.
 Albert Pierce returned home Sunday from the Mayo Brothers sanatorium at Rochester, Minn.
 James Bracken spent Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. John Dolan and family.
 Mr. and Mrs. Willie Bolin moved to Sullivan Thursday.
 Mrs. James Lawson spent Monday evening with Mrs. Nathan Powell.
 Mrs. Marie West spent Thursday at Mrs. Charles Ballinger's.
 Miss Nettie Slover who has been working over by Humbolt came home Friday for a few days visit with home folks.
 Mrs. Earl Clark of Bethany spent from Friday until Saturday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Bracken.
 Kenneth Elzy of Sullivan spent Saturday and Sunday with John and Bill Ballinger.
 Margaret and John Baker spent Saturday with their aunt, Mrs. Grace Purvis.
 Mr. and Mrs. James Lawson spent Thursday night and Friday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nichols.
 Russell and Nettie Slover called on Elsie Slover Friday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bracken in Cadwell.
 John Nichols was a caller in Arthur Monday.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Martin and little son Eddie spent Saturday night and Sunday with her father and brothers.
 Russell Slover went to Decatur

Monday for a few days.

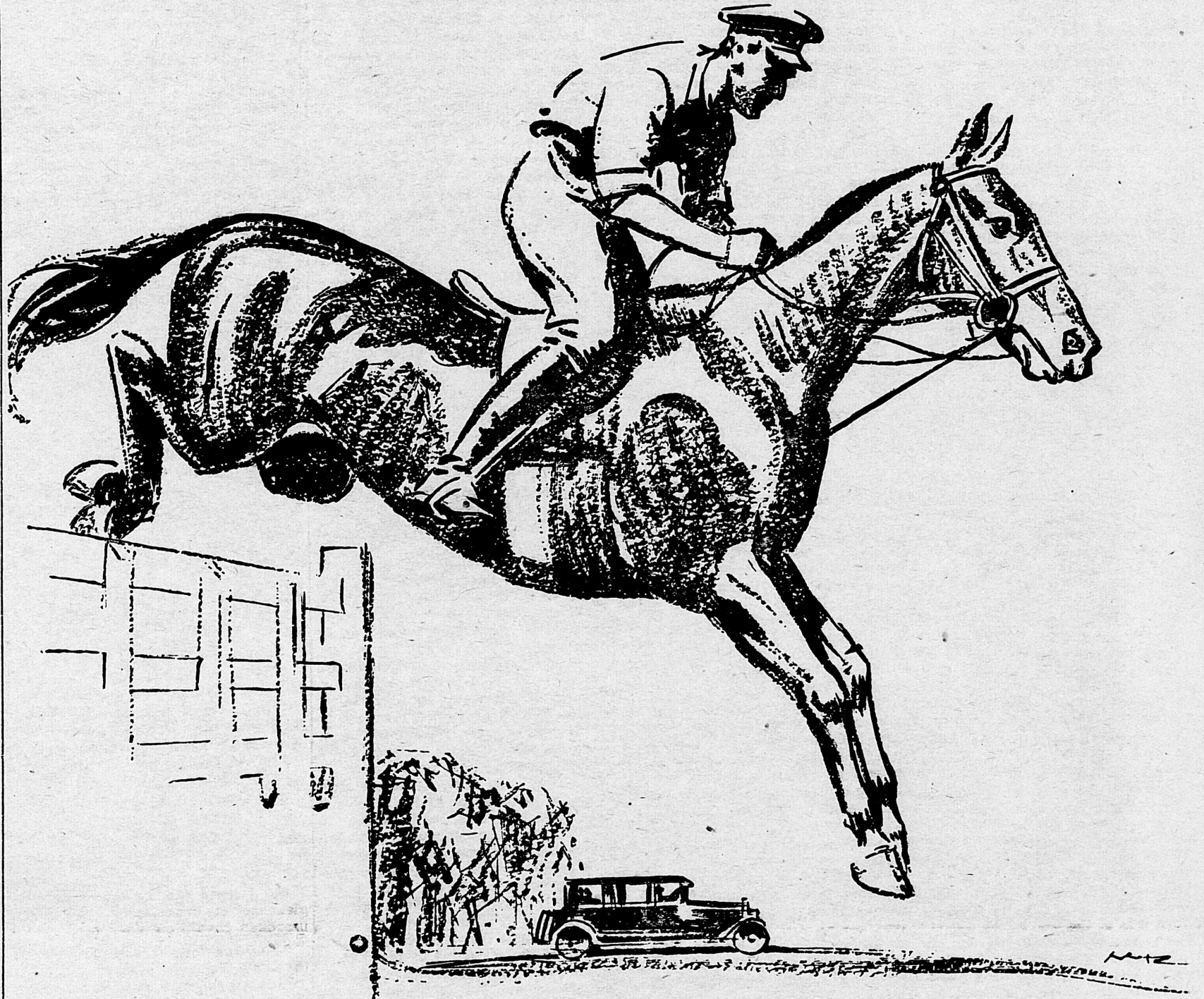
Miss Lola Slover was at home the week end.
 Jackie William Elzy, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Hurl Elzy passed away Monday morning at the home of her father's Charles Ballinger. The funeral was held at Jonathan Creek church Tuesday at 2:30. He had been suffering with the measles.
 Frank McDonald and Bill Sanders of Arthur took dinner with John Nichols Thursday.
 Miss Elsie Slover and Mrs. John Nichols called on Mrs. James Lawson Tuesday.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pifer of Decatur attended the funeral of her nephew, Jackie Elzy, Tuesday.
 —Mrs. A. C. Womack spent Monday in Decatur.

EAST HUDSON.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Mayberry and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Patterson.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Woodruff and daughter Loraine visited Mr. and Mrs. Earl Horn and family Thursday evening.
 Rev. and Mrs. Harry A. Cochran and family of Cisco spent Saturday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Mumma.
 Mrs. Ira Mayberry, Mrs. Elmer Burks, Mrs. S. E. Mumma and Mrs. Chris Monroe assisted Mrs. Hugh Franklin in cooking for corn shellers Thursday.
 Miss Alberta Harsh and Ruth Finley spent Saturday night and Sunday with Gertrude Monroe.
 Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Poland and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Burks and son

J. C. spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Poland.
 Mrs. Clayton Poland and Mrs. Elmer Burks visited Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Poland.
 Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Franklin moved on Wednesday to the Guy Little farm.
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Chaney and family of near Allenville moved to the Wright farm Wednesday.
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Herendeen and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swietzer.
 Mrs. Charles Switzer and family visited Monday near Kirksville with Mr. and Mrs. Bell.
 Mrs. Arthur Herendeen and family visited Monday near Kirksville with Mrs. Annie Jeffers.
 D. Gibson of Wingate, Ind., spent Friday and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Ira Mayberry.

PIANO TUNER IS NEW PROGRESS ADVERTISER
 Paul Wiseheart of Iola, Illinois has an adv. for piano tuning in this issue. He is a brother of Mrs. Joe Sabbin of this city. The many friends of Mr. Shoemaker of Charleston who for many years tuned pianos in this city will be sorry to learn that he has been incapacitated by a stroke of paralysis. Mr. Wiseheart is taking care of Mr. Shoemaker's customers.
ON FEDERAL JURY
 W. W. Graven has been notified of his selection to serve on the Federal Jury. He is to report at Danville on March 7th.
 —Miss Elsie Myers of Decatur visited at the home of Mrs. Raymond Shasteen, and other friends, Sunday.



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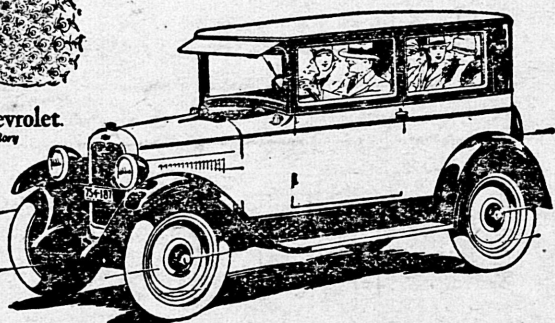
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| The Coupe | \$625 | The Landau | \$745 | 1/2-Ton Truck (Chassis only) | \$395 |
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