

**Harlan County Nebraska**  
**Generations by the Journal**

**February 1, 1901**

Archie McNeil has turned the Orleans courier over to O.R. Ross, who promises a paper as good as is consistent with the patronage received.

Erma Bentley, Lovie Graham, Josie Palmer, Gertrude Lafferty and Dorothea Kachelries departed for Franklin Academy Monday.

L. Olson's son of the Carter neighborhood was the first to register for crow bounty money in Harlan County, he having presented twelve heads to County Clerk Richmond, Friday of last week. The county recently adopted an order to pay 10 cents each for crows and 1 cent each for crow eggs during the year 1926.

**March 8, 1901**

Carl Smith, a Republican City boy, son of Cary Smith, departed for Omaha Monday evening where he will endeavor to enlist for service in the U.S. Army in the Philippines.

Orleans News – Last Sunday as Jim Dunlay was returning home from church he fell through the sidewalk south of Fennessy's and was rendered unconscious for a time. However he is alright at present as no bones were broken. This should be an object lesson to our city officers to see that the sidewalks are repaired where needed.

**March 29, 1901**

A pleasant wedding took place at the Alma M. E. parsonage on last Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. John W. Fuesner and Miss Mabel A. Curtis, among the very best young people of Huntley, were the high contracting parties and A. P. Beall, their pastor, the officiating clergyman.

Gomer Thomas is having a windmill erected on his residence property.

T.L. Porter, Geo. Miller, Steve Jenkins, C.M. Larson and Ras. Niel are camping on the river and shooting ducks. The camp is located on Mr. Porter's farm and he spends a part of his time to seeding alfalfa.

**May 3, 1901**

The 10<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Florence Hill was duly observed at the residence of Dr. Hill on Tuesday afternoon, from 4 to 7. Forty-one of the little lady's friends came laden with gifts and partook of the sumptuous repast prepared for the occasion. The dining room and table were in pink and white and Miss Florence was gowned in the same colors.

Alfalfa in the court house yard is twenty inches high.

A merry party of young people gathered at the opera house on Monday evening. The Alma orchestra discoursed sweet music for the occasion and dancing and cake-walking was indulged in.

**October 18, 1901**

Mayor Myers is feeling very jubilant over the fact that the City of Alma has got money enough on hand to pay every claim against it for the first time in twenty four years.

**October 25, 1901**

W.S. Osborn, specialist of biology for the department of agriculture at Washington, D.C. is here this week studying the habits and the best methods to exterminate prairie-dogs. He is digging along their holes; at this writing had followed one twelve feet with no end in view. His work is in the Myer's pasture west of town.

**November 1, 2001**

Thos. Neff had a gang of men at work Thursday laying a new crossing between Retzmans and the First national Bank building.

**December 20, 1901**

John, the Chinese washer man, closed up his shop in Alma on Tuesday and started for China. He lacked four months of being in Alma three years and said he cleared a thousand dollars.

We have experienced one of the coldest spells of weather ever known in December. Up to last Thursday night the weather has been warm and delightful. Friday and Saturday it was below zero all day, and on Monday we had the howling old northwest gale and dirt storm ever known.

School dismissed Monday and Wednesday afternoons on account of one of those terrific dust storms which often visit Nebraska. The severe wind Wednesday jarred the frame building so that the plastering fell off.

**May 2, 1902**

Fire broke out in the oil room in the rear of Underwood's general store at Republican on last Saturday night at 10:40. It destroyed five business buildings, all frame, including the Grove Millinery building, the Democrat office, Maley's general store and the Reiter meat market. The Democrat office was the most serious loss. The office contained files of the old Topic, Democrat and Independent for nearly twenty years back, containing a record of political conventions, elections and historical matter of much interest to the county.

**May 9, 1902**

The Harlan County Bank is having a screw door safe especially manufactured for them.

Up on the Rempke farm twelve miles northeast of Alma is a sand bed. In this sand a stone of whiteness was found and Go. Miller sent it to Denver and had it ground. Under the usual test, it developed into a two carat diamond valued at \$250. It shows all the

beautiful colors of a rainbow, and will cut glass. Another stone of the same kind was found in the bed of sand, but it was lost before getting to the polisher.

### **June 6, 1902**

W.J. McKenzie has rented the room recently vacated by Robison and has opened up his tailor shop therein.

Chil Avery captured three young wolves one day last week.

Franklin had a fire on Monday night in the business portion of the town, destroyed sixteen buildings; \$50,000 loss and small insurance.

### **June 27, 1902**

The depot hotel at Republican City burned to the ground Wednesday morning, at about 2 o'clock. The origin of the fire is a mystery, some insurance, few goods saved. The building was the property of D. J. Gruwell.

### **November 28, 1902**

Fred Keith is tearing down and moving out to his farm one of the old frame buildings on Main Street. It was the fourth building in what was known as the new town of Alma and was built in the spring on 1870 by John Baldwin, who conducted a store therein. Old timers like B.W. Simms, Ed Willits and Doc Campbell used the upper story for sleeping apartments.

Will Jennings, of Surprise, Nebr., who has for some time been engaged in shipping silica from the western part of the state, has transferred his base of operations to Orleans and last week shipped three cars of the best quality of that material out.

Walter Furse is home from Omaha. He has graduated from the school of pharmacy there and contemplates buying a drug stock and engaging in business again.

### **December 5, 1902**

Rock is being hauled from the Woodruff quarry with which to build new stone steps to the entrance of the courthouse to replace the old ones now there.

C.W. Metzger (Will) came home from the Philippines on Sunday last. He has been honorably discharged as a corporal. Will brought home many curios, among them the great big horns of a water buffalo which can be seen at the shop of Lutjeharms & Metzger.

### **December 26, 1902**

Ice harvest has been on this week in lively shape. Good, clear ice about eight inches thick is being cut from the Feese pond and stored in the Goetz Brewing Company's store house.

It has been horse shoeing time for a little over a week. Horses were born, raised and died in the country without ever having a shoe on their feet, but the melting snow of the past week has made the roads so ice that the barefoot horse could hardly stand up and the black smiths have been busy nailing on shoes in consequence.

### **January 2, 1903**

Mrs. J.S. Griffin has been producing some beautiful and novel things in pyrography, the new fad.

### **January 9, 1903**

D.A. McCulloch, the county supervisor from Alma Township, resigned his position on the board last Saturday in order to go to Lincoln and assume his duties as a member of the state legislature. His resignation was accepted and T.L. Porter was selected by the board to serve out the unexpired term.

Elmer Combs took up the duties of postmaster at Huntley January 1, 1903.

### **January 23, 1903**

Al Bovey has sold his harness stock and business building, tools not included, to C.P. Fletcher for \$1200. Mr. Fletcher will move his present stock and consolidate with the Bovey stock at the Bovey stand.

The examination of the marriage record for the year 1902 discloses the fact that there were sixty marriages in the county during the year 1902. Judge Miller performed twenty-five of them. James T. Duncan and Miss Laura Ryun were the first couple married in 1902, on the first day of the year, and Emmet Plum and Miss Mary E. Borum commenced the year 1903 by being married on the first day of the year.

### **February 6, 1903**

There is a regular old soldier's reunion at Theo Schrack's today. Cyrus Stoner and wife are here from Iowa and also Geo. W. Clapp and wife from Bloomington. The three men were messmates of Company B 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry. To hear them tell of their past experiences is better than a novel.

### **February 13, 1903**

Theo Schrack was at Franklin on Tuesday attending a reunion of four members of his Company B of the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry: Bob Spears of Franklin, Geo. W. Clapp of Bloomington, Cyrus Stoner of Jones County Iowa, Theo Schrack of Alma. Three of the comrades – Stoner, Schrack and Spears – had not met in 39 years. Three of them were prisoners in Andersonville together – Clapp, Spears and Schrack.

### **February 27, 1903**

The post office of Sappa, this county, of which W.A. Latta was postmaster has been discontinued. This is evidently done preparatory to the establishing of rural free delivery out of Orleans.

The section bosses on the B&M have orders to take on all the men they can use just as soon as the weather will permit work. The purpose of this is to get the ties laid and surface work all done early in the season so the men can go to work in the alfalfa and harvest fields when that work comes in. The price will be \$1.25 per day.

### **April 10, 1903**

J.E. Beechler has moved here from Kansas and has commenced the manufacture of brooms in the building recently vacated by the Fletcher harness shop.

Last Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1903 was the fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Yocum, also of the first marriage ceremony ever solemnized in Alma when thirty years ago that day Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Carr were united in marriage. About thirty five friends met at the Yocum's and celebrated the double anniversary.

### **May 29, 1903**

A.D. Hedden, the monument man, has just erected in the Alma cemetery over the grave of Thos. McCulloch, son of D.A. McCulloch, a tombstone which represents an old worm eaten stump with the bark peeling off and a dog lying at the base of the stump.

A Commercial Club was formed Monday evening and officers chosen as follow: A.C. Shallenberger, President; H.T. Moore, Secretary; A.A. Billings, W.H. Lewis and Dan Sullivan, committee to draft and present constitution and by laws.

### **June 5, 1903**

B.B. Simms has placed in his store a couple of neat tables with eight chairs to match. The patrons of this popular ice cream and soda water stand will appreciate this.

Republican City News: A new financial institution will be ready for business some time in July and will carry the name of Commercial State Bank of Republican City, capitalized at \$5000, and owned by J.E. McGrew of Bloomington.

### **June 19, 1903**

Last Tuesday was the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the marriage of J.C. Mitchell and Lizzie Schrack. Early in the morning a procession of carriages winded its way through town and south to the beautiful home of Postmaster Mitchell and wife. The unexpected guests were cordially welcomed and the house turned over to them. By noon an elegant banquet was spread and all enjoyed the feast.

### **June 26, 1903**

Jesse McKnight runs a free bus to all the trains for the patrons of the Burr Hotel. He will carry passengers to any part of the city. He will come to your house and get you in time to reach any train you wish. Charges only 25 cents.

Alma will not celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> this year, but owing to the fact that the 4<sup>th</sup> is Saturday the business men have agreed to keep open their places of business on that day for the farmers who come to town on Saturdays to do their trading.

### **July 3, 1903**

Monday, June 29, 1903 was Harry Mead's tenth birthday and forty-two of his young playmates gathered at this home to help him enjoy the anniversary.

### **September 11, 1903**

W.H. Bright of Woodruff, is opening a meat market on John street next to the Journal office. Miss Maud Lafferty departed Saturday for Denver where she accepts a position in the Denver schools as a teacher.

### **September 18, 1903**

Saturday last was an ideal day for threshing and as A.H. Gould was returning to town from his farm east of the city in the evening the counted the smoke from sixteen steam threshing outfits all running within ten miles of Alma.

That the Alma Street Fair proved an unbounded success is admitted by all the hosts of visitors who came to see the sights, to hear the music and to be entertained every moment of the item that they spent in our pleasant little city. The parade was led by the Queen of the Carnival, Miss Grace Shallenberger, robed as beautifully as any queen. She was attended by Misses Mary Daniels, Lovie Everson, Bertha Mills, Cecile Moore, Maggie Druliner, Ethel Thompson, Grace Roberts and Carrie Boehler. On floats premiums were awarded to the first place, Schrack & Tubbs who drove by with a gorge on which a fire burned and on an anvil they shaped the red hot iron, as perfectly as in their well appointed shope. Second place was awarded to Mead Brothers beautiful float of white with an artistic touch of blue. Within was a Yale coffee display with the little maids, Helen Mead and Flossie Bush, as waiters. Third place went to the Beatrice Creamery Co., who had a rack which enclosed a treadmill with a goat hard at work, a barrel church turned by Ruby Shipman and offered free buttermilk for anyone who wanted a drink.

### **November 6, 1903**

On Saturday, October 24, occurred the unveiling ceremonies for the Soldiers Monument recently erected in the Orleans Cemetery by the W.R.C. of Orleans, who had spent time and untiring efforts, for the past five years, for this purpose. The monument consists of a tall graceful shaft of clouded marble, resting on two bases. Inscribed on one side are the words "To our fallen heroes" erected by the W.R.C. 1903. On another side is cut the Grand Army badge and on three sides the letters G.A.R. for the Grand Army of the Republic.

### **November 20, 1903**

60 below zero was the mark reached by the government thermometer Tuesday morning. This is the lowest mark reached in this section for 38 years at this season.

Roy Stackhouse has commenced teaching school in district No. 61 at \$40 per month.

### **February 5, 1904**

The stock of lumber purchased of Dan Sullivan by the Byers Lumber Co., is being moved this week to the yard formerly occupied by the Chicago & Alma Lumber Co. on South John St.

Mrs. C.E. Byers arrived in Alma the latter part of last week and the family are now keeping house in the residence recently purchased by Mr. Byers just east of the lumber yard.

### **March 11, 1904**

Last Wednesday afternoon a fire mysteriously started on the farm owned by Geo. H. Cleaver about 15 miles northwest of this city. With the wind blowing a regular gale it was impossible to stop the fire until a scope of country about two miles wide and seven or eight miles long had been burned over, doing several thousand dollars damage to the farmers in that locality through loss of buildings, implements and crops. This is the most destructive fire Harlan County has experienced for years.

### **December 23, 1904**

Drs. Hill & Patton were called over beyond Long Island, Kansas, last week to make a Dental Appliance to hold the upper jaw in place, for a boy who was kicked by a horse and the bones broken in three parts. Alma not only has the best equipped Dental office in Nebraska, but has dentists equal to any emergency.

### **January 27, 1905**

In the A.O.U.W. Hall at Ragan at 8 o'clock p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, was the scene of a large gathering of friends and relatives from the town and vicinity, who came together to witness the scene of a double wedding. Rev. Carmen of McCook performed the ceremony and Miss Pearl Stevens of Alma presided at the organ. The parties united were Clarence Glandon and Mary E. Elliott and Harry Sechler and Blanche Potter. The hearty congratulations of their friends were manifested by a large number of presents, beautiful and costly. After the ceremony all partook of a bountiful supper which was prepared by the parents.

### **February 10, 1905**

Official Weather Report by W.A. Sharpnack – The temperature here did not get above zero from Tuesday night until 11 A.m. Saturday which is the longest continuous zero weather since the records have been kept 7 years. The lowest point reached was minus 24.

### **February 17, 1905**

Joe Alter returned home Monday and really thought he had landed in a summer resort. Joe says the thermometer registered 47 degrees below zero. Just 36 degrees below zero Monday morning, in Alma, was all.

Huntley News – H.L. Fox was driven to Alma Thursday on business and the livery man brought up the first mail we have had since last Thursday. During the time there has been

no mail brought in our mail carrier. Neal Combs, has been improving the time making a sleigh to carry the mail in.

No school at Woodruff the last two weeks on account of cold weather.

The Ragan Enterprise published by H. Hatfield, is a new exchange received this week. The first number is bright, clean and a credit to the town of Ragan.

### **November 18, 1924**

Tuesday evening a phone call to the Alma Hospital notified Dr. Kerr that a package would be deposited on their front porch that evening and for him to be on the look-out for it, as it would be of more than ordinary importance. Soon after dark members of the family heard a commotion at the front entrance and upon investigation found a baby boy weighing four pounds, and wrapped in a small blanket. Mrs. Kerr says the youngster, while underweight, is perfectly healthy and a very bright baby. It is for adoption and any person interested should apply to either Dr. or Mrs. Kerr.

### **March 29, 1926**

Marriage license: John Bear, Jr., to Anna Fecht, both of Alma, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. G.S. Skiles celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary march 23<sup>rd</sup> at the home in Huntley. Mr. and Mrs. Skiles came to Harlan County in the spring of 1877 in a covered wagon. They settled on a homestead 4 ½ miles northwest of Republican City, living there until 1912 when they moved to Huntley.

### **December 13, 1926**

County Clerk elect, Miss Etta shoemaker, has appointed Miss Lural Sample deputy for that office during her term. At present Miss Sample is assistant cashier of the Bank of Ragan.

B.B. Webber has sold his law office equipment to Barton and Lambe, and Mr. Webber will discontinue the practice of law and engage in farming on his 400 acre Prairie Dog farm three miles southwest of Woodruff, KS.

### **November 21, 1927**

The elevator at Carter, Nebraska was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday evening, together with a considerable amount of wheat and shelled corn.

The mump epidemic is staking heavy toll from the Huntley school.

### **December 26, 1927**

The following football boys received letters for playing eight quarters in football and maintaining credits in three subjects: Lester Glathar, Donald Wood, Roger Porter, Joe Alter, Roger Bryant, Purl Bryant, Glen Ekberg, Lester Ekberg, Martin Emborg, Clement Boehler, Dean Furse, LeRoy Ellis, Leland Newman, Ronald Harding and Fred Wiemers.

**June 13, 1927**

R.G. Dunlap installed a spray auto painting mechanical apparatus to his garage equipment the past week. Instead of putting the paint on with a brush, this apparatus applies it via the spray method.

A ten inch rain in the vicinity of Jennings, Kansas last Saturday caused the Prairie Dog to overflow its banks Saturday night and Sunday. Old timers say that the stream carried more water than at any previous time during their residence along its pathway.

**January 9, 1928**

The year 1928 will mark the first change in size of paper money since 1861. The new notes will be 6 5/16 by 2 11/16 inches whereas the notes now in circulation are 7 7/16 by 3 1/8 inches.

**January 23, 1928**

Last Saturday night Sheriff Williams and Deputy Shelburn made a booze raid at the farm home of Nelson Bros. near Oxford junction. The officers found eleven and two-thirds gallons of booze, but no still.

Mr. and Mrs. James McGeachin of Orleans, sailed from New York Monday on the Laurentic for a Mediterranean cruise. They expect to be away until the middle of April.

**February 27, 1928**

Van Meter Relief Corp No. 44 held their annual Civil War veterans dinner and observance of the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington last Thursday. The GAR has +seven members: P.P. Bentley, J.F. Ziegler, Wm. McNamara, Geo. Joyce, L.B. Bell, C.R. Potter and J.F. Bash.

**May 22, 1928**

Huntley High School students Orlie Watts and Clyde Miller went to Lincoln Thursday to take part in the State Track Meet. Orlie won second place in the half mile race.

**May 29, 1928**

Miss Bernice Graff, "Miss Grand Island," will go to Galveston, Texas, to represent Nebraska in the world wide beauty contest to be held there June 5 and 6. Miss Graff was chosen from among a bunch of contestants at Omaha, last Saturday night as the most handsome girl in Nebraska. Her parents live in Harlan County, near Naponee.

**June 5, 1928**

Miss Genevieve Snyder and Jack Dugan, both of McCracken, Kansas, were married at Great Bend, Kansas, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Miss Snyder was a teacher in that city. Mr. Dugan has held a position in the mechanical department of the R.G. Dunlap garage for several months. The newlyweds have rented the D.S. Hardin residence in Alma where they will soon be at home.

**June 26, 1928**

Thursday morning the Orleans Flour Mill, together with about 1,000 bushels of wheat and a car and one-half of flour was consumed by fire at about 3:00 o'clock. The Orleans mill was owned and managed by H.C. Smith, and its destruction removes one of the old land marks from this territory.

The Nebraska State Bank at Republican City closed its doors Tuesday noon and is now in the charge of the state banking board.

**July 3, 1928**

Parties in Alma or vicinity who have band instruments are requested to report to Glenn Kerr. A band for Alma is being organized and your assistance is solicited.

**September 11, 1928**

The Omaha Cold Storage Co., has opened a cream buying station in Alma, in charge of E.M. Bowlin. The station is located the third door east of the Chevrolet garage. Harold Stahn resigned his work as mechanic in the Ford garage. Guy Gowdy of Almena has filled the vacancy.

**December 11, 1928**

The Alma-Orleans High School football game was scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, but on account of the snow storm on that day it was postponed until Wednesday. The Alma school was dismissed for a half-holiday and everybody, and their aunt, accompanied the team to Orleans. The Orleans team moved out in a lead of 26 to 0, and closed their football season without an opponent crossing their goal line during the entire season's playing.

**February 5, 1929**

W.G. Haskell, C.E. Alter, O.E. Shelburn, Andy Legg, F.R. Furse, in company with several other Alma, Huntley and Ragan representatives, went down to Lincoln Tuesday to enter their protest against the proposed relocation of the road leading north to Holdrege from the section line running north along the cemetery from Alma to a line north from Midway school house between Alma and Orleans.

**March 11, 1929**

The Burr Hotel property, a prominent hostelry in Alma for many years past, has been purchased by Mrs. Margaret Wilcox who has christened the place, the Harlan Hotel.

**November 25, 1929**

Regardless of the stormy weather on Tuesday, the box supper given in school district No. 55 by Miss Emma Imm and her pupils was a success. Miss Bernice Aldinger received the box of candy for being the most popular young lady and Harry Sprague, the jar of pickles for homeliest man.

**January 13, 1930**

On Christmas Day about twenty-five relatives of Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Ransdell of Ragan, gathered at their home to help them celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were married at Syracuse, Nebraska, and moved to Harlan county in the spring of 1880. Mr. Ransdell is a Civil War veteran and one of the very few left in Harlan county.

**February 10, 1930**

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Skiles celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home in Huntley, Nebraska, February 1<sup>st</sup>, with sixty-five relatives and friends to eat dinner with them. Both Mr. and Mrs. Skiles were born in Illinois. Mr. Skiles is a son of Elder W.C. Skiles, who was a Baptist minister and pioneer having immigrated to Harlan County in the spring of 1879. The next year his son, W. P. Skiles, returned to Illinois for "the girl he left behind him," Miss Nancy Ann Wilson, of Industry, Ill. They were married February 1, 1880 and a few days later started for Nebraska, in a prairie schooner, making the trip in twenty-four days. They arrived at their destination with \$2.50 in cash.

**December 10, 1951**

David Harold Meyer, 20, son of Harold E. Meyer and the former Bernice Graf, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Warner Graf of Alma, has just been signed to a seven year contract by Universal-International Picture Studios. David will be known in pictures as David Janssen.

**May 23, 1952**

According to late information available, eleven bands, twenty-eight outstanding floats and ten saddle clubs have made entries for the gigantic parade to be held in Alma the morning of June 10 as a part of the Harlan Dam dedication and celebration. The parade is slated to start moving through Alma streets at 10 o'clock a.m., the first event of the all-day celebration. Seven hundred invitations have been issued for the luncheon at the Alma auditorium. The program at the dam site will start at 2:30 p.m.

**June 6, 1952**

All highways lead to Alma for the celebration and dedication of the 48-million dollar Harlan County Dam located about eight miles east of this city. This huge flood control structure which is now nearing completion will be dedicated on June 10.

**June 13, 1952**

A crowd estimated from six to eight thousand attended the dedication ceremonies held at the Harlan Dam site Tuesday afternoon. With temperatures during the afternoon climbing to a season's high of 101 degrees and a stiff south wind kicking up clouds of dust, conditions were anything but pleasant.

**June 27, 1952**

Wendel Godeken, enterprising young farmer residing south of Naponee, is the owner of the first Super M L.P. burner sold in this area. Post's, local IH dealers, were able to obtain the tractor for Mr. Godeken.

**November 21, 1952**

The Harlan County Dam at Republican City, eight miles east of Alma on Highway No. 3, is now completed and Friday afternoon workmen removed barricades from the road across the top of the structure and opened the area below to the public.

**December 26, 1952**

The community enjoyed a "white" Christmas. A blanket of snow measuring from 14 to 15 inches in depth covers the countryside.

**January 23, 1953**

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Foltz, residents of Alma for many years, will observe their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Sunday with an open house at the Christian church.

**May 29, 1953**

High school students at Republican City will go back to school next fall in a "regular" school building after holding classes during this school year in the American Legion Hall. The new school is now well toward completion and should be in use next school term.

The new completed Funeral Home, owned and operated by the Zulauf Funeral Service will be dedicated at Wilcox May 30.

**September 11, 1953**

Work has started today in dismantling the old ironclad building located at the corner of Church and First street to the rear of the Zulauf Furniture store. This building is numbered among the oldest frame structures within the city.

**September 18, 1953**

Rev. James E. Scott Jr., who has served as pastor of the Methodist Church in Alma for the past year, announced his resignation to the congregation Sunday. Rev. Dwight Ganzel of Ocama, Ill. has accepted the Alma charge and he and his family plan to move to Alma in October.

**January 22, 1954**

The Republican City Methodist Church will hold dedication services for their new church building and will celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the church on Sunday.

**March 11, 1954**

Carl Haeker, local taxidermist, informed the Journal this week that he has on display in a show window at the Haeker Furriers, a white quail, property of Bob Walker of Alma.

**November 25, 1954**

Walter Hosick this week became owner of the McCleery Rexall Drug store in this city.

**February 10, 1955**

Bill Richards of Orleans, a Harlan county resident, was elected vice-president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Friday, at the annual convention of the association held in San Diego, Calif.

Tuesday morning, promptly at 9:00 o'clock, subscribers over the Orleans exchange of the Continental Telephone Company, made the change over to dial telephones, doing away with the necessity of maintaining operators at that exchange.

### **February 17, 1955**

A surprise dinner was held on Sunday at the Alma Country Club in honor of the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Haeker. The event was attended by approximately seventy-five guests.

Coach Loyd Howsden's Huntley High School "Bearcats" won the Harlan County basketball championship Saturday night when they knocked of the Alma High "Cars" in the final game of the annual tournament. The inability of Alma to throttle Huntley's scoring ace, Loyd Lowe, spelled doom for the local club. Loyd racked up a total of thirty-three points.

### **March 29, 1976**

The Board of Education of Stamford has voted, by a 5-1 margin, to merge grades seven through 12 with the Alma School District, effective at the start of the 1976-1977 school year.

### **May 3, 1976**

Alun Buttermore, Steve Dunn, Jay Anderson and Dave McCue, members of Alma High's 880 yard relay team, blazed to a 1:32.8 clocking, third fastest time for the event in the state this year, at last Tuesday's Alma Invitational.

### **May 23, 1977**

Don Ehrke of Stamford was named recipient of the first Joel Wiens Scholar-Athlete Award at Alma High School graduation exercises Monday night. The \$500 award is to be given annually to an Alma senior.

### **May 30, 1977**

The Ford mileage contest conducted by Harlan County dealers from Alma last Saturday afternoon proved to be a real attraction. The route was from Alma to Oxford via Orleans, thence to Stamford and Oxford. The return trip direct to Alma over the Golden Rod highway. All gasoline was drained from the tanks and a gallon placed therein in the presence of the judges of the contest. Howard Warren, of Orleans, was declared winner, making 38.7 miles.

### **June 27, 1977**

A hail storm hit Republican City about 10:30 last Thursday night. The storm brought baseball-size hail stones and a quarter of an inch of rain. It will cost an average of about \$1,000 per building for repairs according to Alma insurance man Clarence Waggoner.

**November 21, 1977**

The Harlan County Historical Society held an open house at its project in downtown Orleans Sunday afternoon, showing off an old log cabin, the Midway school house, and an old Orleans jail, all of which have been refurbished.

**May 8, 1978**

It took three days over gravel roads but a railroad depot once used at Roseland, Nebraska is now located in Alma. Bob Dodds of Huntley pulled the 24 by 60 foot turn-of-the-century depot into Alma last Tuesday afternoon. The depot, located at Fifth Street and Highway 183 in Alma, will house an antique furniture business and will be called the "Depression Depot."

**May 22, 1978**

Alma senior Jodi Waggoner was honored at an awards night program last Thursday for winning 12 athletic letters during four years at Alma High School. Jodi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Waggoner, received letters each year in volleyball, basketball and track. She is the first girl at Alma High School to accomplish the feat. Her name will go on a plaque which until now had contained only four boy's 12-letter winners: Larry Parker, Bill Freas, Kent Peterson and Doug Long.

**June 5, 1978**

The public is invited Sunday afternoon to the dedication of the Hoesch Memorial Public Library which will be given to the City of Alma by Albert Hoesch of Lincoln. Mr. Hoesch built the library in memory of his parents who homesteaded east of Huntley.

**March 11, 1979**

A late winter rain storm turned to snow over the weekend causing problems for members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion stationed at Fr. Riley, Ks., who were scheduled to blast away old concrete structures on the lake bed of the Harlan Reservoir. Seventy-five members of the group set up camp at the Hunter Cover recreational area. They spent such a miserable night Friday in their tents that they received permission from the Republican City school board to bed down and eat in the school's gymnasium Saturday and Sunday.

**June 6, 1992**

Thirty one celebrity-donated items will be auctioned off at 6:45 p.m. June 20 to help convert the old Republican City schoolhouse into the Republican City Repertory Theatre.

Wesley and Elma Christensen of rural Philipsburg, Kans., are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with an open house at the Ag Center in Orleans on June 7.

**June 13, 1992**

Gov. Ben Nelson weighed in a two-pound walleye Sunday on the concluding day of the governor's Cup Walleye Tournament, then returned the fish live to Harlan Reservoir. For the second year in a row, Gov. Nelson teamed with Omaha World-Herald outdoor writer

Larry Porter in the tournament. Nelson is the only governor ever to participate in the event.

**January 9, 1993**

Dwight Bash retired at the end of the year as senior vice president of the Republican Valley Bank in Orleans following nearly 19 years of employment there.

**April 10, 1993**

The Harlan County Reservoir experienced its third highest March inflow on record 71,917 acre feet of water. That was the most for the month since 1960 when inflow was 163,000 acre feet.

**January 22, 1994**

Approximately 200 friends and relatives attended the party Sunday afternoon for Robert Romjue who retired after 37 years of service with the Naponee Post Office.

**June 19, 2003**

Bloomington, Franklin County – Lawrence Waring and Bob Muckel have been collecting pictures of those from Bloomington, who have fought in wars dating back to World War I. The pictures are in groups of World War I, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam, Bosnia and Desert Storm. The display is in the Bloomington Community Building, said the Franklin County Chronicle last week. The two say that more pictures are promised and they will make frames as long as we have pictures for them.