

THE DEMOCRAT-SENTINEL.

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LOGAN, HOCKING COUNTY, OHIO, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1908.

The Only Democratic Paper in the County
Circulation 3000 One Dollar Per Year

Trip Through Salt Creek Valley----By Si Hubbard

EDITOR DEMOCRAT-SENTINEL:—I am undertaking to write up my trip around No. 2, in the lobby of the hotel, DeFloyd, and if you don't find it just as interesting and comprehensive as you anticipate, please accept the following statement of a banquet in progress as an ample apology. I do think this hotel is patronized by the most strenuous and sudden class of people on earth. Milton Armstrong, the leading and enterprising farmer of the vicinity, the father of every public enterprise that goes to make Laurelville the metropolis of Hocking, every new idea for the advancement of the farmer, and the father of eighteen children, (the most of them boys and girls), was crowned "King of the May." He was placed in a high chair, on an elevated platform, facing the assemblage, with a wreath of binder's twine embellished with Johnny jump-ups, Sweet Williams, Dandelion and Golden Rod, encircling his alabaster brow. To his shell-like ears were hung cow horn combs, on the right ear a "starter" and on the left ear a "catcher." In his right hand he held a long-necked bottle, lightly corked and labeled "prosperity," and in his left hand a can opener. His right arm pointed down Salt Creek, his left arm pointed up Moccasin, his front side toward South Perry and his back toward Adelphia. He was most wonderfully and fearfully constructed. His power was unlimited. At his feet sat Christy Harris and Pete DeHaven, his pages, with a horse collar encircling their necks. In their right hands were curly combs and in their left, horse brushes. Over their shoulders were draped variegated and fumigated horse blankets (the robes of authority) with here and there a horse shoe ornament. In front of the King stood the chamberlain. General William DeHaven, a lineal descendant of Count DeGrasse of our revolutionary fame. The chamberlain was in full regalia. He had round his head a wreath of wild grapes vines in full leaf, interspersed with may apple stalks and dogwood blossom. In his right hand he held a side-hill plow and in his left hand a disc harrow. His feet were incased in thistle and hemlock sandals, snugly and artistically bound with slippery elm bark. His regulation knee pants were composed of two of Armstrong's mill sacks, with red flannel ruffles at the bottom, held to place with green brier suspenders and black thorn buttons. He was a most imposing and commanding figure. The King's court consisting of four: Thad McLain, the very meek and lowly, quiet and serene manager of affairs religious, J. L. Dinsmore, the wild and woolly extremely fastidious and artistic designer and manager of personal embellishment, Tecumseh Floyd, the flower gardener and plantation manager and John Dun the crown musician. The court was not very large, but it was awful, awful sudden after the opening ode:

"Dis an de teaching dat I learned at school,
Two and two makes four,
Every little bit, added to what you got,
Makes just a little bit more."

At the command of the King: "On with the dance, let joy be unconfined," pandemonium broke loose. The clocks stopped, business was suspended and even the sun and Harry Scott stood still. The entire population of the metropolis were awakened and hastened to the Hotel DeFloyd to do homage to the king of the May. The band played, the choir sang and the enthusiasm was at its highest pitch. The fiddle and the banjo were in tune, and to the beautiful strains of "Turkey in the Straw" the King and the court were executing buck and wing dances. When I thought I could stand it

no longer and just about the time for the walls to give way, Sheriff Williamson, of Logan, stepped in and commanded peace. He certainly saved my life. Now Mr. Editor, it was under these distressing circumstances that I write this letter, so do have mercy for I got none there.

DOWN SALT CREEK.
Well, I started down Salt Creek, and I want to say that it just seemed to me that success was in the air, and it was, for I had unusually good success. Everywhere I stopped I got a new one and the old ones had nothing but praise for the DEMOCRAT-SENTINEL, the official organ of the county and the best county paper in the state. The only objection I met with was: "Si, you have just a little bit too much county news, it takes up too much of our time. We can find time for fifteen or twenty correspondents but when it comes to sixty, it takes entirely too much. You are getting out a dandy paper and I wish you success."

STOPS AT NELS DELONG'S.
I got as far as Nelson Delong's, an old subscriber, where I was invited to supper. Of course I stayed Mr. Delong brought forth a relic that was a relic, a double-barrelled flint lock deer rifle made in 1812, by Stoffle. It was the property of his great-great-grandfather Andrew Delong. The rifle has had the best of care and is in just as good condition, with the exception of just the very best preceptible wear on the hammer, as the day it was made. The barrels are 42 inches long and has 38 rifle bore. Instead of the barrels running parallel, side by side, they are arranged one on top of the other, to revolve either way. The sights are adjustable and can be detached at pleasure. The stock is made, it is presumed, of boiled-in-oil apple, the butt is brass lined, and shows wear from being placed on ground and rock while loading. The tallow and patchen box in the stock is made of German silver, and still contains some of the tallow and patchen, of near a century ago. The powder horn and charge attached and deer skin pouch for ball and flint are still intact and in good condition. The gun was made to order in Berks county, Pa., in 1812, at a cost of \$50.00. The flint is attached with a vice in the hammer and strikes a spark and ignites the powder in the pan. The tube is at the side instead of at the top. Mr. Delong has been offered fabulous prices for the gun, but prefers to keep it as a relic.

Mr. Delong showed me a legal document, in perfect preservation, nearly 79 years old. It was found in the wrecking of the old Gaul homestead some seven years ago, and is as follows:
"Mr. George Gaul: You will please to attend at the house of Christian Eby, on Saturday, the 30th day of May 1829, to appraise that tract of land where Mr. Eby now resides.
By order of the Court,
May 29, 1829. John H. Lutz."

DON'T KEEP TRAMPS.
After an elegant supper I started out with a "good luck to you, Si," from the family down the pike and doing excellent work. At night time I had reached John Hutchins. I had stayed there before and had but very little doubt but what I could stay there again. I met Mr. Hutchins at the gate and asked if I could stay over night. "No, sir," replied Mr. Hutchins. "We have quit keeping tramps. Besides Walter Curtis, the great Salt Creek Valley stock buyer, took dinner with us yesterday and eat up everything in the house. He eat as much as a company of guerillas and only wanted to give me ten cents. We have not fully recovered and recuperat-

ed as yet and can give you no accommodations." It was a very cold reception. It looked like rain and I became very cold. I had given up all hope and was scanning the fields for a hay-stack, a corn shock or a sheep pen, fully calculating to spend the night out, "Come in Si, take off your traps and make yourself at home."

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Immediately after the program M. W. Alstadt, Geo. D. Mowry and Doc Barton made short addresses.
After the dinner, which was at 2 o'clock, the teachers took their pupils to Drumm's Ice Cream Parlors for a treat, which was highly appreciated and very much enjoyed.
The directors are loud in their praise for Superintendent L. C. Watts and his very able and efficient assistants, Mr. D. C. Macklin and Miss Mary Todd. They are more than satisfied with the results.

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MORE ABOUT LAURELVILLE
In our brief mentions of the business industries of Laurelville, last week, we missed the U. B. Church, Simeon Hoey, the blacksmith, and Andy Metler, the shoemaker. While we are of the opinion that the notice of Mr. Hoey was mislaid, in some manner, we are not sure, but hope that the omission will be pardoned. I tried my best to do justice to all parties concerned, but it seems as though I didn't get enough information as regards the churches. Mr. Metler I missed entirely. He is located in the second story of the Metler block, back of Dr. Cain's suite of rooms. Please accept my honest apology.
SIMEON HOEY
Simeon Hoey is known to every man, woman and child in Perry and adjoining townships as one of the most expert and reliable smiths in the community. Competition has never given him one hour's rest. He plays the "Anvil Chorus" from day break until dawn, unceasingly. Each jot turned out is indelibly labeled, "Come again," and they come. Mr. Hoey pounds out as many, if not more, dimes than any blacksmith in Central Ohio. His work always gives satisfaction, his prices always please, and his courteous treatment, his agreeable manner is assurance of unlimited work. He's always busy and always has time for a pleasant word and a good wish. His shop is one of the most popular resorts for the farmer in Laurelville.

U. B. CHURCH
The United Brethren Church is the only church in Laurelville that maintains a pastor, has a regular minister. They have a membership of more than fifty,

carpenters. The first of May was school closing day and a big dinner was given in commemoration. There was an immense crowd in attendance and the following scholars assisted in recitation, song and music in one of the most enjoyable programs ever offered by the school, in the following order:
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PUBLIC SCHOOL DINNER
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have their own church and regular preaching every two weeks. Rev. Sollers is their pastor. He is a very forcible and eloquent minister, very popular with the people and usually talks to crowded seats. The members of the U. B. Church are unusually devout, earnest, eager and charitable. They are not wealthy, arrogant nor proud, but common, ordinary everyday christian people with an always extended right hand of fellowship. Visitors to Laurelville are especially invited to come and worship with them. They have a modern, commodious church, handsomely, though not elegantly, furnished with all necessary church equipments.

ANDY METLER
If you could travel six months over Hocking County, I don't suppose you could find a better known or more highly respected man than Andy Metler, the cobbler. His shop is located in the Metler block, up stairs, where he can always be found pegging away. He is considered one of the best shoe-makers in Ohio, he does all kinds of cobblering. His work is the neatest possible and his prices the most pleasant and profitable feature of all. Go in and see him, his sunny disposition dispenses all gloom, he eliminates frowns and puts a smile on your countenance and soles on your feet. There is no extra charges for his pleasant and courteous treatment, it's just a habit, just his way. Call and see him and go away rejoicing.

THE TOAD RUN ACADEMY, TEACHERS, PUPILS AND DIRECTORS.

The following history furnished us by the teacher, D. C. Macklin, will no doubt prove very interesting to many of your west end readers:

"On the banks of Toad Run, at the last wind in its course, and about one hundred yards from where it unites with Salt Creek, and in the shades of a wide-spreading walnut tree stands a very handsome, modern brick school house. The old Salt Creek Valley turnpike bounds its play grounds on the south, and those who pass to and fro on business or pleasure, for there not a more delightful drive in Ohio, are more than wont to give it attention. However, it deserves a greater respect than its handsome exterior commands for its walls could reflect the forces or all who got their "larnin'" there, and seemingly, actually reproduce the sounds of recital and song and the swishes of birch and hickory, that were so necessary to obedience and attention.

The location suggests the name of the "Strous" school, the original name, but it is generally known as "No. 10," or "the brick," but at times is known as "the Toad Run Academy," given by some of its old pupils who regard it with great pride and veneration.

In the fall of 1869, it was decided by John Strous, Rufus Dodson and Isaac Culp, the then directors of sub-district No. 10, Salt Creek township, Pickaway county, that the old frame school, which stood on the banks of Laurel, was not to shackle for the fall and winter term of '69 and '70, and that that term should be the last, and so it was, for plans, specifications and preparations were immediately begun for the new building. In the spring of '70 a plot of ground was purchased of John Strous, and W. G. Jones was given the contract for the brick, stone and plastering. In his employ was Geo. Hoeler, Sr., as helper on the walls, and Ben Jadwin, who did the plastering. The brick were obtained from the Parcel kiln, near Stringtown, and were made, no doubt, by Old Man Briner. Wm. Deems secured the

carpentry contract and was assisted by Daniel Raymond. These two men, during the summer of 1870, pushed the frame work until they got to the shingling. The good oak shingles were there in readiness but "the sign" was not right, and not until the horns of the moon pointed down would Uncle Johnny Strous submit to have the shingles laid. "Now, that roof will last for thirty years," said Uncle Johnny, and time has proved the correctness of his statement for the old oak lap-shingles still defy the elements.

David Iles, of Bloomingville, made and put down the first seats, double seats, very large and were arranged in four tiers. They were constructed entirely of wood, were large, strong and convenient. The old school record shows the following expense account:
"October 10, 1870. Paid for one eight day clock, for school room, \$5.00."

A month later it was hung on the wall, just above the black-board, by Rufus Dodson, where it still hangs, ticking as regularly and as accurately as it did a quarter of a century ago.
The bell, which cost \$8.00, was purchased by Mr. Dodson with a fund contributed by the pupils. The bellfry was built by the contracting carpenter, as was the teacher's desk, and very little, if any, of the old furniture was brought to the new school house, possibly the teacher's chair and a wood stove, now displaced by a coal stove, were removed, since the record of the expenses do not include these supplies.

Arch Shaw and Tom Hockley put up the first post and plank fence which enclosed the play grounds, built the outhouses and are charged with having received \$12.00 for the work. It was not until the fall of 1872 that a well was dug and a pump put in, by Tom Hockley. The water was never good, and after the pump decayed the well was abandoned and filled up.

Fred Binkley was given the contract for spouting and a year later a Mr. McMasters placed lightning rods.

Otto Defenbaugh enjoys the honor of having taught the first term in the new school house the fall and winter of '70-'71. On the morning of the first day the three district fathers were there to open the new school. As they started home the teacher is credited with saying, "Come to see me often, gentlemen, but bring your dinners with you." The record Mr. Defenbaugh kept has been misplaced and the township clerk's reports have been lost, so the exact enrollment cannot be given, but there were the Albins, Strous, Drums, Riegels, Dunkles, Dodsons, Daghmans, Roses, Culp, Rodockers, and lots of others whose names we are unable to call to mind. Mr. Defenbaugh's term was four months.

W. E. Pettit taught the next spring, term of two months. He was again hired to teach the fall and winter term of '71-'72, a six month term. Improvements were being constantly added at this time, and it is possible that just as many window lights were knocked out as at the present time.

In the fall of '73 Lewis C. Alexander, then a young theological student but now a Methodist divine, took the contract to teach the regular term. The "big" girls of his school, so it is said, would have shown a much better grade in deportment and got more "larnin'" had they thought more of their books and less of the young divine. In this regard the school could be hardly termed a success. J. B. Riason taught the fourth fall and winter term, and also, the following winter assumed control, which was rapidly growing. He

continued to completion a very successful six month term. Capt. Webster Thomas taught the fifth term. The records of his term are lost or destroyed, and judging from the fact that no one remembers any particular events, the training in this regard seems to have been neglected.

In the summer of '76 R. Dodson, Sylvester Dodson and Michael Dent were directors. R. L. Sullivan was engaged for the summer term. Mr. Sullivan kept a complete record, which shows an enrollment of 54 pupils. From time to time the registers have been kept and some of the reports are both interesting and amusing to the readers of today. For instance: "Lewis Culp, 18; Charles Dent, 17;" and "Ella Dunkel, 18; Myrta Kittsmiller, 9;" On later registers can be seen: "George Morrison, 12; Willie Hoeler, 5;" and "Gracie Strous, 6; Nettie Ebert, 8." Mr. Sullivan conducted a very successful term and was hired to teach another, the fall, winter and spring of '77-'78.

Alanson Newman was the seventh teacher, the fall and winter of '78-'79. Seventy-two scholars were enrolled during this term and how Mr. Newman provided seats for all is not easy to determine. The extraordinary height of some of the scholars gives credit to the current report that they were hung up on the hat hooks—feet down of course.

In the winter of '79-'80 J. B. Riason again took charge. The records of his term have been lost but it is reasonable supposed that the enrollment was larger than the previous term. There were the Hummels, Morrisons, Strous, Culp, Dents, Reigels, Markels, Karshners, Hoelers, Albins, Friends, Smiths, Jones, Brumages, Warners, Dolsons, Steels, Hoovers, Lutz, Hoys, Birts, Polings, Morris, McLats, Kittsmillers, and Shaws. The main seats were all occupied and several seats were placed on the rostrum.

John S. Hummel taught the following spring term. This was short but strenuously memorable. The register shows an enrollment of 28 males and 42 females with an average daily attendance of 48. The school house in Laurelville was built during the fall and winter of '80, so that these were the last days of the Laurelville pupils in the Strous school. At the close of the term Mr. Hummel was hired for the winter term of '80-'81. The enrollment was reduced from 70 to 31, the major part of those named above making up the new school in Laurelville. This term was the first of four successive and successful terms taught by him. During his last term the greatest number of Riegels attended. Of the three families there were twelve in the school. Since that time the Riegels have left the neighborhood and at present there is not a Riegel representative.

In 1884 the school again changed hands, Nelson Armstrong taking charge. He very successfully taught the fall and winter term. Under his supervision began a series of very pleasant exhibitions, "The Hureka Sausage," "Wide Enough for Two," "The Mormon Family," "The Train To-morrow," "Rags" or "The Haunted House." The proceeds of these exhibitions was used to buy the dictionary, cubical blocks, lamps and a library of 41 volumes, all very useful at the present day. Mr. Armstrong continued to be teacher for five successive terms and holds the honor of being in service for the longest term.

W. A. Williamson was the tenth teacher, teaching the twentieth year term '89-'90. The register shows an average attendance of thirty pupils. The term was a

(Continued on last page)