

# The Riverdale Holiday Record.

A Good Paper in a Lively Town

RIVERDALE, MICH., DECEMBER 3, 1908.

Talk for Riverdale; Boost Riverdale—Don't Knock



## "HOLD UP"

Don't buy your Christmas gifts until you visit our store

## HOLIDAY GOODS

**OUR HOLIDAY ASSORTMENT OF**  
**NECKTIES** **HANDKERCHIEFS**  
**NECKSCARFS** **GLOVES**  
**HOSIERY** **FURNISHINGS**

is the best and most varied we ever had

## Christmas Presents Worth Giving

We are offering some excellent articles for Christmas presents in Silverware, Carving Sets, Toilet Sets and China Ware, Enamel Ware, Steel and Enamel Covered Roasters and cooking utensils of all kinds.

What can be a more acceptable gift to the whole family than

## FURNITURE

The gift that all can use

**BUT 18 MORE SHOPPING DAYS THEN CHRISTMAS.** It's none too soon to begin your Christmas shopping now.

**R. E. MOBLO & CO., Riverdale.**

## GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

Then Come in and See Us.

We have lots of things desirable for Christmas gifts in our regular line of **Dry Goods, Shoes and Groceries**

We have one of the best furnished stores in this section of Michigan. We invite you to make it your headquarters whenever in town.

**WYETH & SON,**  
**RIVERDALE, MICHIGAN**



### Station Agent Reed.

There are always some who aid materially the town in which they live but who seldom are in position where their work shows up. This might be well said of the busy agent H. H. Reed at the P. M. depot. Mr. Reed has held this position for several months and his close attention to details, and his efforts to accommodate local patrons of the P. M. road is winning him deserved recognition.

### Another Familiar Face.

It would be hardly complete to write any kind of a synopsis of Riverdale without a reference to the town marshal, Deputy Sheriff F. M. Belknap, although he has grown old in the service, Mr. Belknap is as alert and re-

sourceful as ever. He has a little popcorn stand next to the Wyeth store, and he keeps busy during his idle hours—looking after this.

### Maynard & Elliott.

Maynard & Elliott are recent comers. They built their present blacksmith and woodworking shop early this spring, and are already doing a big business. They both come from Elmhurst. Mr. Maynard looks after the woodworking end of the business, and Mr. Elliott takes the blacksmithing. The former is also an experienced furniture worker and turns out some handsome work along that line—particularly in mission furniture. The firm also manufactures potato crates made in such solid, sub-

stantial manner that they last a long time.

### The Cement Man.

One of the new comers is L. Nostrandt, the cement man, who built the walks this summer. He has purchased the McMurphy farm of 40 acres just north of here and is now busy stumping and cleaning it up. He has the job half done now. Mr. Nostrandt comes from Grand Lodge, and is also an efficient stone mason. His services are already in great demand. He has taken quite an interest in his new home town and can be depended on to help better it.

Mrs. Arthur Wyeth, who has been on the sick list, is much improved.

## Riverdale the Coming Town

**A Glimpse Of One Of The Fastest Growing Towns In Central Michigan—Full Of Live, Energetic Men—New Firms Coming In Rapidly—Has Enjoyed A Big Building Boom In Last 18 Months.**

Riverdale is one of those sections of Gratiot county where early pioneers hewed their way into unbroken forests to establish their homes. Like all the country, its wonderful pioneer era laps on its present period. Many of those who came to Riverdale and helped found this thriving little village are still enrolling among its hustling inhabitants, and they are as ever watchful, alert and alive to advancing Riverdale today as they were in those early days. And their work today is as creditable as it was years ago.

Look over Riverdale today and you cannot but respect and admire those men who were the founders of this bustling village. The name of Mabio, Bradley, Talland and Houck, and many others are still to be found here. Their work was the creative work—that of making, in the face of almost unsurmountable obstacles, a home and a village. Through the lumber days when all central Michigan was alive to the sound of the ax and saw, Riverdale had a natural boom. Then came the period when depression set in caused mostly by the sudden stagnation of the great lumber business which went as quickly as it came. And here more than anywhere else was shown the pluck and staying qualities of these men.

But gradually new blood began to work into the community and assimilate with the old. Other men began to move into the village. The stump lands came into demand as farm lands and land rose rapidly from \$4 an acre until it has reached the present day price of from \$40 to \$80 per acre.

And now we come to the more recent date, when attracted by the activity of the village, outside capital and business men came to the village. They brought with them a renewed stimulation which was quickly combined with that of those present, and Riverdale began to make them all sit up and take notice.

First came the elevator, built by V. P. Cash. This gave the town and surrounding country a ready market and was of inestimable value. One followed another. Wyeth & Son opened a big store. Libby, McNeil and Libby built a big pickle station. W. D. Owens started the drug store. And right here came the biggest lift of all, the Riverdale bank. All of these new men were hustlers and they were not inactive very long. As a result the town has enjoyed a building boom and a consequent stimulus that has brought it right up to the front rank of growing Michigan towns.

Today it possesses six live general stores, the chief of which are R. E. Moblo & Co., Houck & Son, Wyeth & Son and F. C. Hyde. It also has the bank, elevator, a new jewelry store, the pickle station, two blacksmiths and wood-working shops, a millinery store, a good, clean, well-managed hotel, a well furnished livery stable, an efficient shoe cobbler and harness maker, a barber shop, a church furnished with a parsonage, an excellent school building, a fine layout of sidewalks and then a man we all love and respect, a wide-awake, generous-hearted doctor who entertains that high regard for his profession that puts the love of science first and the thought of reimbursement last—always last.

The village numbers close to 600 now and is situated on the P. M. railroad, thus giving it an excellent outlet. It is the natural shipping point for territory 12 to 15 miles north and south. We can, in closing, give you one sure tip—and that is, watch Riverdale and be prepared to hustle if you want to keep up to the pace they are setting down there.

Riverdale has enjoyed a building boom in the last three years that any town might be proud of. Briefly we mention some of the buildings and houses that have gone up and some of the improvements that have been made.

The Riverdale bank built in 1905 is a handsome cement building, nicely finished inside and out. It cost \$2,000.

Libby, McNeil & Libby built the pickle station in 1904 at a cost of \$7,000.

Wyeth & Son built their new store last year, taking an outlay of \$2,500.

W. A. Bradley's new building cost him \$2,000.

Maynard and Elliott spent \$1,500 in building and equipping their new wood working establishment and blacksmith shop.

The new M. E. parsonage was erected this summer at a cost of \$1,500. Dr. C. B. Gardner bought the old Strong hotel this summer and has expended several hundred dollars in fitting it up as a residence and private hospital.

W. D. Owens, the druggist, built a \$25,000 house this summer which he has just occupied.

Earl Houck has gone them all one better in his new \$4,500 house built this year.

C. E. Goring has built two new houses within the last year, probably at a total cost of \$3,000.

Fred Rowland is responsible for this

building fever. He, soon after coming to Riverdale, built himself a handsome dwelling, spending about \$3,000.

L. Houck & Son have expended several hundred dollars on a new addition to their store and in remodeling Mr. Houck also remodeled his house this summer.

A. Vanalstine and Neil Vanalstine each spent several hundred dollars this year in repairs to their dwelling houses.

T. S. Talland built late last year a neat store building next to Wyeth's store at an approximate investment of \$500.

And then this fall the new school house addition costing about \$2,000 has been built.

The new sidewalks built this summer represent an outlay of \$400.

Last fall Fred Strong built a bean elevator near the station costing \$2,500. He has not operated it this year but expects to in the near future.

Frank Schnepf's new house was built this year at a cost of \$1,500.

And so in summing up everything one finds that about \$50,000 has been spent in the village in three years and most of this within the last fifteen months. If this does not represent progress we don't know what does for a town of hardly 600 people.

### The Postoffice.

In no better way is the rapid growth of the section of country about Riverdale shown than in the post office. Postmaster W. A. Bradley was appointed to the Riverdale office in 1896 and under his administration the business of the office has increased wonderfully. The business of today done in the local office compared with even as recent a time as four years ago has increased over 200 per cent. Last year's stamp sales increased 35 per cent over those of the year previous.

In the 12 months which closed July 1, '08, 1855 money orders were issued for a total of \$25,000. The Riverdale rural route is the largest in the county. In fact it is large enough to make two routes. It serves 160 patrons. The route was established in 1896 and under its administration rural carrier when it was established in 1903 and has since served in that capacity acceptably to all.

Last spring the postoffice was moved to a new home in the new cement building Postmaster Bradley erected next to the bank. Here it is established in large comfortable quarters and is in excellent shape to take care of its rapidly increasing business. Postmaster Bradley is a courteous, painstaking official, always willing to accommodate everyone. His popularity is well illustrated by his tenure of office.

### The Pickling Station.

The pickle station was built here four years ago at a cost of \$7,000. It has proved a good thing for both the investors, Riverdale, and the farmers about here. Cucumbers grow well in the kind of soil about Riverdale. And they pay all the way from \$75 to \$140 an acre. Each year the company has put down from 20 to 30 thousand bushels of pickles. Its average is steadily increasing and will in time compel the enlargement of the present station.

### R. A. Hilsinger's Store.

The name of Hilsinger is a familiar one in Gratiot county history. R. A. Hilsinger of Riverdale is one of the big family of Hilsingers, who settled in Seville township years ago. He keeps a big dry goods, shoe and grocery store. Mr. Hilsinger was until two years ago engaged as a farmer near Elmhurst. At that time he bought the old Houck building which he now occupies. Mr. Hilsinger is a man of method and keeps a good close tab on his business. The latter is growing every year and under his able management, is fast becoming one of the busy stores of busy Riverdale.

### Tom Talland, The Hustler.

Tom Talland, the manager of the pickle station, is one of the veterans of Riverdale. Mr. Talland came to Riverdale when the town was a little hole in the woods as he expresses it. He has stayed ever since. Some of the time he has been in the lumber business, some of the time in the store, and for the past four years, manager of the pickle station here. Mr. Talland built several buildings at one time or another and has ever been a hustler for a bigger Riverdale. It was largely through his efforts the pickle station was located here, and it is much to his credit that Libby, McNeil & Libby have seen their business increase here every year.

### A Harness Maker 50 Years.

John Waldron has been a harness maker and shoe cobbler for over a half a century. He came to Riverdale six years ago, and his figure has long been a familiar sight on the village street. As a workman, he is one of the first class and plies his needle as dextrously today as he ever did.

### Old Henry Tucker.

"Old Henry" is what we all call him. He came to Riverdale in 1896 and he has grown to be a great favorite with everyone. Kind hearted to a fault, always smiling, and a democrat to the last hair in his head, he has come to be one of the familiar figures about town.

Often he has been the victim of some harmless joke on the part of the boys but he always accepts it with a smile. He keeps a little grocery store and has quite a line of customers. He has been the victim of his own generosity a number of times as his account books show. But one seldom hears him complain.

Riverdale would not seem quite the same without Henry. There is hardly a traveling man on the road but knows him. Many of them know him of old when he was a knight of the grip. But with one and all he is a great favorite. Here is wishing you a long life, a merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year, Henry.

### Owen's The Druggist.

Running a drug store in a small village requires lots of perseverance. But W. D. Owens must be possessed of something like that, for he has successfully conducted a drug store here for three and one-half years. Mr. Owens came to Riverdale from Stanton in 1905, buying out Fred Hudson. He carries a big stock of drugs and the customary articles found in drug stores including school supplies.

He has taken to Riverdale, and Riverdale has taken to him. If you hear any one making a loud noise for Riverdale, and you take the trouble to peek over the fence to see who it is, you generally find it's Owens. This summer he built a handsome new residence for himself and wife, and he was one of the chief factors in getting the new cement walks put in the entire length of Main street.

Mr. Owens is wide awake to his opportunities. While he realizes we all have some short comings, he believes in making the most of them, in all of us, and he makes it a practice to ferret out this good and get us to enlarge on it. He is just another example of the progressive spirit that is abroad in Riverdale.

### The House Of Houck.

One of the veteran business men of western Gratiot county is L. Houck, and one of the hustling, growing firms of Riverdale is that of L. Houck and Son. Almost as far back as one can remember L. Houck has been in business. It used to be Houck & Blair at Elmhurst before Riverdale was on the map. Then Mr. Houck sold out to Mr. Blair.

But he could not keep out of business if he wanted to and a few years later he opened a store in Riverdale. He put in a general line of groceries, shoes, dry goods and stoves, and he has been at it ever since.

In 1903, Earl Houck, his son, was admitted to the firm and its name changed to L. Houck & Son. They used to be down the street in the old Houck building. Last fall they bought the Talland building and early this spring moved into it, occupying both stores.

Houck & Son are one of the three big firms of Riverdale. They sell everything. If they don't have what you want, they get it. Each year has seen their business increase in volume, and the balance on the right side of the ledger has grown steadily.

Both members of the firm are pleasant, agreeable men, and always strive to please their customers. They are two more of the units working for Riverdale's advancement. And they have the faith of their convictions for they are contemplating, in fact have decided upon, the erection of an addition to their present store. The addition will be on the vacant property north of their store. It will be 25 feet in width and extend the length of the present store building.

The firm of Houck also spends its money at home. This summer it built a new ware house in the rear of its store. Earl Houck, the junior member, also built himself a \$4,500 house and L. Houck has made some extensive repairs upon his house. It's just the same old story. Go where you will in Riverdale and you find good live business men with confidence banking in their faces and prosperity sticking out all over them. And the house of Houck is no exception to the rule.

### New Jewelry Store.

John G. Young of Shepherd has opened a new jewelry store in Talland's store. Mr. Young has put in a big line of new up-to-date stock in watches, jewelry and silver ware and will also make watch repairing a specialty. Take your work to him. He is a hustler and a good fellow.

## MEATS AND POULTRY

We are in the market for both **ALL THE TIME**

**Vanalstine & Co.**  
 RIVERDALE

The **Riverdale Hotel**

**NEW OWNERSHIP FURNISHING**

Everything Clean and Neat

**Table Board**  
 All Home Cooking

**A. MINER, Proprietor**  
 Riverdale

**Potato Crates**  
 The Kind that last

**MISSION Furniture**

We make up special orders for Mission Furniture.

Work Guaranteed

**MAYNARD & ELLIOTT**  
 Woodworkers and Blacksmiths  
 Riverdale, Michigan

**BOYS,**  
 Don't Forget

**"Old Henry"**  
 When you are in town to buy a few groceries.

**AT IT STILL**  
 I am still doing business at the old stand.

**DROP IN**

**Henry Tucker**  
 Riverdale