

THE LEON REPORTER.

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WILL DEVELOP COAL

Albia Coal Co. has Leased Large Tracts of Land Here and will Begin Drilling this Week.

At last the big coal deposits which are believed to underlie the country around Leon are to be developed. For a couple of weeks Mr. L. R. Rosebrook, representing the Albia Coal Co., has been in Leon making a quiet but careful investigation of the findings of the drillers in the several coal holes which have been put down here, and so well satisfied is he that coal in paying quantities and quality is to be found here that he has secured leases on two tracts of land of about 1,000 acres each, one west and the other east of Leon, and two drilling outfits will arrive this week to commence drilling.

The Albia Coal Co. is composed of John Ramsey and his two sons-in-law, Byron A. and Homer H. Harris. They are men with abundant capital and are practical coal operators, now operating coal mines at Albia and Oskaloosa, and Mr. Ramsey is also a heavy stockholder in the Maple Block Coal Co., of Des Moines. We have talked personally with Albia businessmen, and they speak in the highest praise of the gentlemen who own the Albia Coal Co., and say they are men of splendid business ability who mean business.

This means that many thousand dollars are going to be spent here commencing at once. The company will drill from nine to twelve prospect holes in order to locate the coal veins, and each hole will cost them in the neighborhood of \$1,000. They have leased the land from the owners on a royalty basis, at a stipulated price per ton for coal mined, and the leases provide that drilling shall commence within sixty days, and that shafts shall be in operation within a period of two years.

Mr. Rosebrook, the gentleman who has been conducting the negotiations in this city, is a very pleasant and gentlemanly man, who has been engaged in practical coal operations all his life, and he has absolute faith in the finding of plenty of coal here. He informs us that the drilling outfits are being loaded for shipment and will be here this week and the work of prospecting will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

The opening of coal mines here means a big future for Leon. The coal mines are what have built up Centerville and Albia, which have made such rapid strides in the past few years. It is said that at Centerville there has been almost \$70,000 paid out for labor since the coal prospecting was started, and this does not include any money paid out for material. We have railroad facilities for making Leon a great coal shipping point, and we are fortunate in having the Albia Coal Co. locate here. They go to the work in a businesslike way, are not asking for bonuses or financial assistance, but propose to spend their own money in developing the coal. They must spend many thousand dollars before they receive a cent in return, and run a risk of losing the money spent in prospecting if coal is not found. If they are successful, they are entitled to have their reward and every citizen of Leon and Decatur county will be glad to see them make all kinds of money out of their enterprise.

Prof. Voelker to Leave.

At a meeting of the school board Monday night Prof. A. C. Voelker formally notified the board that he would not remain at the head of the Leon schools next year, declining the re-election tendered by the board. He has been contemplating a change, and as yet has made no definite plans. Since taking charge of the Leon schools four years ago Prof. Voelker has made a marked improvement in our schools and they are now fully accredited. He has been a hard worker and very popular among both patrons and students, and his work in the musical lines will be sadly missed. He is a splendid school man and has a bright future before him, and many friends in this city will learn with regret that he is to leave the Leon schools.

Another Bus Line.

Leon is rapidly putting on metropolitan airs, and this week a second bus line will be put in operation by Frank H. Woodruff, of Gallatin, Mo., who will bring three auto buses, two seven and the other an eleven passenger, together with a regular bus which will be used in bad weather. Ralph Sigler, owner of the present bus and transfer line has announced that he will also put on an auto bus at once, so you can take your choice, ride in an auto, a bus, or walk.

A Tremendous Rain.

This vicinity was visited by a very heavy rain on Sunday afternoon, the government gauge at the home of Morris Gardner, the local observer, registering 1.32 inches in excess of thirty minutes. The rain simply fell in torrents and did quite a bit of damage to gardens and newly plowed fields, by washing. The rain was followed by a sudden drop in temperature Sunday night, Monday forenoon it snowed, and Monday night the thermometer dropped to exactly freezing point, but it is not thought any damage was done to fruit or vegetables.

WEIGHING AND COUNTING MAIL.

All Postmasters Must Weigh and Count During Month of May.

The postoffice department has directed all postmasters to weigh all classes of mail passing through their offices during the month of May. This includes both incoming and outgoing mails. Not only is it required that the mails be weighed in separate classes, of which there are four, but it is also required that each separate piece of mail be counted and an accurate account kept of the number of pieces of each class. Nor is this all. Each employe of the department must keep account of the length of time required in handling each class of mail matter, and furnish said account to Uncle Sam.

This order of the department applies to the rural carriers as well as to the employes in the postoffices. It will mean a great deal of extra work, sorting, weighing and counting four classes of mail matter. We presume this order is for the enlightenment of the special investigating committee appointed by the last congress to investigate the cost of handling different classes of mail. It will be remembered that the postoffice department and the magazine publishers got into a big dispute relative to proper charges for mailing magazines and in order to settle matters on an equitable basis congress appointed a special committee to investigate the relative cost of handling various classes of mail. Frank letters and official letters are also included in the order for counting and weighing, making really six different kinds of mail that is to be separately reported upon.

The Public Drinking Cup.

The public drinking cup is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. People are commencing to realize that it transmits disease. Consumption, diphtheria, typhoid fever and other maladies may be carried from mouth to mouth in this manner. School children often become infected by the common drinking cup or dipper used in our public schools. Carelessness of this kind may affect the child in such a manner that he will never recover completely, and therefore carry some physical defect as long as he lives. On public days, such as Decoration day and the Fourth of July, it is a custom for the towns entertaining on that occasion to supply water in barrels for the people to drink. They have tin cups fastened to each barrel so that all may use it. From the same cup the dirty, filthy, the tobacco user, the one with a sore mouth, the one with consumption, the child, the fond mother and the drunken father all drink and drink freely. In this manner contagious diseases may be carried for miles—break out and infect others and possibly cause death. The public drinking cup on railroad trains is a menace to all the traveling public and its use should be discarded. When traveling use your own drinking cup. See that every one of your family do the same thing. See that your child at school has one, and teach him the danger of using any other than the one that belongs to him. Look after the helpless baby and see that he don't drink after all the rest of the family, and thereby become doubly liable for disease. The common drinking cup is more dangerous to you and your family than high or low tariff; fully as important as reciprocity with Canada, and more to be feared than war with Japan.

Sigler Insurance Agency to Continue.

The big insurance business which was conducted by the late L. P. Sigler, will be continued, under the firm name of L. P. Sigler & Son, and Mr. R. A. Sigler will have personal charge of the business, with an office in the Sigler building at the southwest corner of the square. The agency writes insurance in a number of the best companies doing business in Iowa, and the general agents of all the companies have been here in Leon and made the formal transfer of the business to the new firm. Renewals and new business will be looked after promptly, and a continuance of the splendid business accorded Mr. L. P. Sigler is asked for by the new firm. If you want any kind of insurance, including wind storm, hail or cyclone, drop them a card or phone them and they will call on you at once.

Coulter's Circus Here Today.

W. H. Coulter's new railroad circus will be in Leon today. For several years Mr. Coulter has been carrying a fine dog and pony show, but this year he branches out with a full sized railroad circus, embracing all the features of a first-class circus. The show comes here from Corydon where they exhibited Wednesday. They opened at Lancaster, Mo., Saturday, and were at Bloomfield Monday and Centerville Tuesday. Reports from these towns say they gave a splendid performance. Mr. Coulter has been a frequent visitor to Leon with his dog and pony show, and has many personal friends in this city. He is a clean gentleman and runs a good clean show.

Commercial Club Election.

The annual election of officers of the Leon Commercial Club will be held on Friday evening of this week. There should be a full attendance at the meeting.

Marriage Licenses.

Walter A. Horner, Weldon. 23
Birdie L. Weaver, Weldon. 17

DEEP WELL ACCEPTED

City Council is Satisfied Deep Well Will Furnish Plenty of Water for Waterworks System.

At a special meeting of the city council on Tuesday evening it was voted unanimously to accept the deep well, it being decided that the pumping test was sufficient, and the city clerk was instructed to secure the necessary papers from the Iowa Engineering Co. to close up the contract with M. T. Peterson, who drilled the well, and then bids will be received for erecting the standpipe and installing the water mains. The well was drilled to a depth of 765 feet, starting with a sixteen inch hole at the top, and gradually being reduced down to seven inches at the bottom. The pump to test the well had started when we went to press last Wednesday, and it pumped steadily for six hours, when one of the pump rods broke and considerable time was lost in fishing the pump out and making repairs. The pump was started again on Saturday and again a rod broke after pumping a few hours. On Monday the pump was kept going continuously for nine hours, throwing sixty gallons of water per minute and when a rod again broke at 2 o'clock Tuesday morning the water was perfectly clear and a full stream being thrown. Mr. Peterson says that with the proper pumping facilities the well will furnish 100 gallons of water per minute. He is now at work taking down his machinery and getting the well in condition to turn over to the city when his contract will be completed.

Chautauqua.

The work incident to providing and arranging the Chautauqua program for this season is drawing rapidly to a close. All of the attractions have been secured and it only remains to arrange and date them and the program will be built.

Mr. Vawter is in Chicago this week putting the finishing touches on the program booklet. It is to be a work of art surpassing in illustration and color effect anything heretofore attempted.

In music, in oratory and in entertainment features, the 1911 program is exceedingly strong. It would be a difficult matter to surpass previous programs in point of platform oratory—in fact in any line—but the music and entertainment features for this season will surpass anything we have had before.

Within a short time it will be possible to make definite announcements of the full program. It is a feast of reason and a flow of soul.

Announcement.

Result of Stempel & Cherrington's "Aid to Charity" Contest for the month ending April 30th, 1911:

Month of	Total to	April.	Date.
Catholic church	3631	3631	
of Woodland	2353	7629	
Christian church	1736	3996	
M. E. church	90	3152	
Presby't'n church		87	
Baptist church		32	
Home's drs lodge		10	
Library		6	
K. P. lodge		16	

From the above it will be seen that the Catholic church, of Woodland, received the largest number of votes during the month of April, and will therefore receive the \$5.00 donation.

Rustle for your favorite church or society during May and get the \$5.00 this month. And don't forget the large donation for the largest total at the end of the year.

Stempel & Cherrington,
Pharmacists.

Presbyterian Notes.

The Presbyterian Mission Band will give a bazaar at the church on Saturday afternoon with a social in the evening. A cordial invitation is extended to all. The Sunday school orchestra did splendid, which added greatly to the singing. A cordial invitation is given to any one not attending some other school to come and meet with us. Sunday school at 9:45; Junior Endeavor at 3:00, and Senior Endeavor at 7:00.

More Hungarian Partridges.

Deputy state game warden Wesley Bryant, of Creston, was here last week and delivered eight more of the state's Hungarian partridges to Senator J. D. Brown, but one bird was dead when he arrived with them. One pair were sent to J. F. Gill at Garden Grove, and the others were placed on the farm of C. W. Hoffman, north of town, for breeding purposes.

Death of Mrs. Edmond Barrett.

Mrs. Edmond Barrett, one of the pioneers of Decatur county, died at her home near Blockley quite suddenly Monday night. She had been in good health, but during the night was taken with a smothering spell and died in a few minutes, heart trouble being the cause of her death. The funeral will be held on Thursday.

Boy Scouts to Organize.

The Boy Scouts movement has reached Leon and an organization will be perfected at a meeting to be held at the M. E. church on Friday evening. Rev. E. M. Hoff, pastor of the M. E. church, has charge of the work.

ICE CREAM TO BE BETTER.

Purer Product of Ice Cream This Season—New Law Passed.

According to a new law passed at the last session of the Iowa legislature, all ice cream that is kept for sale this year must contain at least 12 per cent of butter fat, and less than 3 of 1 per cent of acidity. M. E. Flynn, of Burlington, deputy food and dairy commissioner, makes the following statement respecting the new law:

"Ice cream to be ice cream unnot luxury. It is surprising the amount that is used daily in any large city. And the people are beginning to demand that they get ice cream when they pay for it and not frozen skim milk or congealed sour cream, or corn starch and other commodities which have been used in the manufacture of alleged ice cream.

"If not ice cream this year, it can not be sold as such but must be purveyed under some other name. This law was passed with the sanction of many reputable ice cream dealers of the state but was opposed by some others.

"Ice cream to be ice cream under the state law must contain at least 12 per cent of butter fat, and this must be fresh, not soured. The old method employed by some dealers in the past of freezing over old ice cream which has become soured will not be tolerated this year. If the cream contains three-tenths of one per cent of acidity it will not come under the requirements of the law.

"Most of the large manufacturers understand the law and know its requirements, but many of the smaller dealers, who make their own ice cream to sell, may not be conversant with the requirements and should acquaint themselves with them.

A Human Rattlebox.

The Reporter man had the pleasure of witnessing a unique demonstration at the office of Dr. Fred A. Bowman in this city last Friday. We had heard of some freaks of nature who could dislocate any joint in their body, but never before had we seen one. The demonstrator was Ellis Whitman, of New York City, a young man 23 years of age, who makes it his business to travel over the country giving exhibitions before physicians and medical colleges and he certainly is a wonder. At will he could dislocate any bone in his body, dislocating both hips at the same time and walking around the room. The same was true of his shoulder blades, elbows, and in fact any joint in his body, including his spine, which he distorted so that it looked exactly like he had curvature of the spine. The young fellow was exceptionally well posted in anatomy, and has read medicine, but says he can make more money and make it easier giving demonstrations than by practicing medicine. He has appeared before all the leading physicians and medical colleges in the country. Another feat which he performed was transferring his heart from its normal position down in his abdomen, a distance of seven inches. He first became aware of his peculiar power over his bones when he was seven years old.

Mrs. Matt Thiel is Dead.

Friends in Leon were shocked last Thursday morning when a telegram was received from Tipton, Iowa, with the sad news of the death of Mrs. Matt Thiel, formerly Miss Ollie Bobbitt, at her home in that city, after a very short illness. Funeral services were held at Tipton on Thursday morning, interment being in that city. The deceased was born and raised in Leon, and enjoyed the warm friendship of many friends in this city, who are deeply grieved at her sudden death.

Kraft Clothing Co. Incorporates.

The Kraft Clothing Co., which operates a chain of twelve big clothing stores, has been incorporated, each store being a separate incorporation. The store in this city is incorporated as the Kraft, Grimes Clothing Co., with a capital stock of \$7,000, the officers being George Kraft, president, I. N. Beard, vice president, and M. F. Grimes, secretary and treasurer. The store at Osceola was incorporated as the Kraft, Beard Clothing Co.

Change in Time of Trains.

It is announced that a change will shortly be made in the time of the morning and evening Des Moines trains. It is said that the morning train for Des Moines will meet the early passenger train from Chariton at this station at 6 a. m., and that the evening train from Des Moines will be about an hour earlier, passing the north bound afternoon train at Decatur City instead of at Van Wert as at present.

New Auto Transfer Co.

Frank H. Woodruff, of Gallatin, Mo., came in this morning with his three auto cars, and they will be followed shortly by some regular buses and a baggage wagon. He has rented the big Hamilton building on Commercial street, formerly occupied by Harry Wright's implement store, and will commence business Monday morning, making all trains and calls to any part of the city.

400 acres of Pasture for Rent.

400 acres of splendid pasture, well watered, for rent.
Ed H. Sharp, Agent.

SOME OLD LEON PAPERS

Items from the Old Leon Pioneer and Leon News Published Nearly a Half Century Ago.

J. B. Snyder, who lives a few miles east of Leon, brought us in several old papers, which were found put away at his home, they having been taken by the father of Mrs. Snyder, the late Benjamin Hawkins, one of the pioneers of Decatur county. One of the papers is a copy of the old Leon Pioneer, now The Reporter, dated July 16, 1869, being forty-two years old. G. N. Udell was the editor at that time, and it is rather a crude newspaper compared with The Reporter of today, only two pages of the paper being printed in Leon. The advertisements are unique, and the only advertiser who appeared in the paper at that time who is still doing business in Leon, is J. R. Bashaw. Some of the advertisers at that time were A. S. Updegraff, harness shop; Hildreth & Sales, druggs; C. D. Sellers, dry goods and groceries; A. B. Long, general merchandise; Leon Woolen Factory, run by R. M. Mudgett & Co., who advertised they would pay 50 cents per pound for tub washed wool, and sold flannel from 65 to 85 cents, jeans 75 to 85 cents, satinetts \$1.00 to \$1.20; the Misses Vaughn were in the millinery business; Jacob Warner had opened a new jewelry store; Wm. Carroll had a furniture store over John Baldwin's grocery; Bobbitt & Pickering ran a blacksmith shop and Charles Carroll a wagon shop in connection and they advertised they would take all kinds of country produce in exchange for work; J. L. Young and George Woodbury were bankers, doing business under the firm name of Young & Co.; A. W. Dally had a single factory five and a half miles south of Leon, making oak, walnut and elm shingles; Mrs. F. P. Nott sold "lovely bonnets and sweet little hats;" Charles Shaw and G. W. Jenree were painters; Drs. C. P. Mullinix and B. F. Raiff were physicians; J. B. Morrison and J. W. Penny were attorneys; Dr. J. H. Reynolds, dentist; A. Frazier was selling sewing machines at from \$65 to \$88; The Burlington railroad was advertising the completion of the bridge over the Mississippi at Burlington, and the road was only built as far west as Ottumwa; The Osceola grain market was quoted, wheat 70 @ \$1.05, rye 70, corn 50, oats 40, white beans \$2.50, timothy seed \$2.50 to \$2.75, millet 70c to \$1.00, green hides 5 and 6c, hogs 6 1/2 to 8c, cattle 5 to 6c, salt \$3.85 per barrel. There was not a single item of personal or local news in the paper, and the editor evidently did not have much work to do, aside from getting up a small amount of type.

Another old paper was a copy of the Leon News, which afterwards became the Pioneer, the editors being J. P. & C. P. Finley, which is dated March 17, 1864. Among the advertisers in it were J. B. Lunbeck & Son, grocers; Clark & Covington, harness and shoes; John Patterson, saddle and harness maker; Joseph Lockwood, wagon shop; J. W. Blunk, harness shop; Richards & Hale, general store; Wm. Whitecar had opened a saloon; Chas. S. Stout was a dealer in English, French, German and American drugs; Jas. M. Coffin, photograph gallery and jewelry shop; Jacob Courteyou, blacksmith. Prices were considerably higher than in 1869, the following market quotations being furnished by Richards & Hale: Flour per 100 pounds, \$4 to \$5; corn meal per bushel, 60c; wheat, \$1 to \$1.25; oat, 40c; potatoes, 50c; hay per ton, \$5 to \$6; lard, 3 1/2c; bacon, 6c; hams, 8c; beef, 2 1/2c to 3c; assorted nails, 8 1/2c; sorghum, 50c; coffee, 37 1/2 to 40c; sugar, 16 to 20c; rice, 12 1/2c; honey, 8c; dried hides, 14c; butter 12 to 15c; eggs, 10c; chickens per dozen, \$1.00.

The soldier boys of Co. D, 4th Iowa Infantry, had just returned home from the war, and that is the only item of local news in the whole paper. The following is the account of their return and a reception supper given them:

"The boys of Co. D, 4th Iowa Infantry arrived in town last Saturday p. m. All are in good health and looking pretty hearty. Some of the younger members of the company have changed so much that they were hardly recognized by their own friends.

"Captain Springer gave us an example of his speed on advance, in the rapid manner of his making tracks for home, giving us hardly time to say 'Howdy, John,' as he went whisking around the corner. Lieut. Bowman never looked better in his life; sojering must agree with them all, now they are fairly used to it. This company has seen hard service in the severest and most important battles in the west. Pea Ridge, the Siege of Vicksburg, and the battles around Chattanooga, having lost by death over one-third its original number. Nearly all the remainder have re-enlisted. We hope they will be made to enjoy the short stay they will spend with us.

"May all honor be done to the brave boys of Company D.

"The boys of Company D were entertained with a supper given by the citizens of Leon Tuesday eve last; considering the short time for preparation, it was a good thing and well the boys enjoyed it. Speeches were made by Capt. Springer in behalf of his company thanking the citizens for this cordial reception, replied to by J. S. Warner, Esq., in behalf of

the citizens extending to the noble boys heartfelt gratitude for the noble services done on many battle fields. Samuel Forrey, Esq., and Mr. Penny, Esq., also made short but telling speeches. The affair passed off very pleasantly.

A third paper was a copy of the Decatur County Journal of July 3, 1874. There were many changes in the business of the town as shown by the advertisements. The Grange store was run by H. C. Bechtold, Dr. I. F. Hildreth, Hammer & Finley and C. W. Beck were running drug stores, the First National Bank was doing business with John Clark president and L. P. Sigler cashier; C. B. Jordan was running the abstract office; T. J. Wilson advertised a stage line from Leon to Osceola; Miss Belle Tharp did dressmaking and Miss Kittle Givens gave lessons on organ or guitar; Monroe & Brennan, A. S. Updegraff and John Patterson were running harness shops; Mills & Co., blacksmiths and wagon makers; John Hagan dry goods and groceries; W. Cole, Jr., had a lumber yard; Leonard Guilden was running the old Leon brewery, J. M. Pickering was repairing guns and sewing machines; Abernathy & Thompson were running a boot and shoe store; Drs. Sandford & Layton and Finley & McClelland were the physicians advertising; J. W. Penny, Warner & Bullock, John W. Harvey, Morrison & Robb and Post & Roberts were attorneys; Mrs. W. J. Darr had a millinery store; G. W. Jenree and Phillips & Green were painters; G. W. McGrew was running the old Farmers House; Drs. J. C. Delisle and Mrs. F. Rea were dentists.

A glance at the names of the advertisers in these old papers shows that nearly all have passed away.

Young Men Wanted.

All the young men in Leon and vicinity are wanted at the Christian church next Sunday night. The occasion is a special service in honor of the young men. The pastor will tell you what the leading young ladies of Leon think a young man ought to be. For the morning service is especially for the members of the church and all are requested to be present. Don't forget to come to the great Bible school and bring your bible. We have received our international certificate and are now working to become a Front Rank school. Will you help us by your presence and a bible?

An unique service was held last Lord's day evening. It was "Tuberculosis Day" and the pastor selected the services of Dr. Elker for a lecture of that subject. A red light was arranged on the pulpit and it would flash on for just a second every three minutes. The audience kept wondering what it was for. When the doctor reached the proper point in his lecture he explained that every time they saw the red light flash on it meant that somebody had died of tuberculosis in the United States, for one dies every three minutes of the terrible plague. The lecture was along the lines of prevention, and was well given and very much appreciated by the large audience. It was both interesting and instructive. Don't forget the special service next Lord's day evening, May 7th.
J. S. Coffin, Pastor.

The Inter-State Trail.

Much interest is being manifested along the various proposed routes of the Inter-State Trail through Harrison county. Good road work is being done by township boards and by individuals. Last Friday two automobile crowds from Bethany inspected work being done by the enterprising citizens of Eagleville, about five miles south of that place, on what is called the Bethany-Eagleville road. O. W. Curry, Walter Morgan, John Vanzant, Chas. Anderson, and others were making full hands and much good was accomplished. Abo a dozen teams were at work and some pictures were taken of the crowd. But in developing the pictures Bert Heaton used some water that had been cleared with lime and the plates were ruined.

Last Monday another crowd visited Albany and received much encouragement from that place and adjoining places where the trail is likely to be established. Ezra H. Frisby, B. P. Sigler, and Len Heaton are the trustees from Bethany and are spending time and money to push along the good work.

Another trip will be made shortly to Pattonburg when further arrangements will be made for road work from that place to Bethany.—Bethany Clipper.

Preventable Diseases.

Secretary Sumner, of the state board of health, has issued a bulletin in which he declares that Iowa last year lost 4,266 citizens through what he calls preventable diseases. His table shows that pneumonia headed the list with 1,908 deaths. Tuberculosis came next with 1,479 deaths, all preventable; typhoid fever was next with 380, all preventable; diphtheria and croup came next with 205, all preventable; whooping cough was next in line with 127 deaths, all preventable; measles came next with 60 deaths, all preventable; and smallpox came last with one death, and it could have been prevented. The waste of life, time and money entailed by preventable disease is simply appalling.

Dog Notice.

After May 10th the marshal will begin to take dogs that have no tag. If your dog is missing see him at once as dogs will be held only three days. S. G. Mitchell, City Clerk.