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OLD "BILL" PLATTER

An Old Time Resident of Leon who Drove the Stage Before Railroads Came to Leon.

G. W. Platter, an old time resident of Leon, writes The Reporter from Monroe, Iowa, where he now lives, and encloses the where-with-all to pay his subscription. For many years Mr. Platter has been a constant subscriber to this paper, and he says The Reporter's arrival each week is just like getting a letter from home.

All of the old citizens of Leon remember Mr. Platter as "Bill" Platter, and he was known in the early 40's to every man, woman and child in the village, for he was a driver for The Western Stage Co., long before the iron horse snorted into Leon, and when the highest ambition of the boys of the community was to hold the ribbons over a "four horse" team of the overland company.

Up on the driver's box of a big swaying, rolling Concord coach booted and gloved, with leather strap about his middle, and a shawl knotted around his neck, Bill's stunt was to guide the sturdy four horses that dragged a ponderous stage coach along the old state road that stretched across Iowa. When he piloted his charge up to the hospitable doors of the Sales House in Leon the entire population of the town was on hands to see the passengers disembark and to glean items of news from the outer world. Teams were changed here, but the drivers usually kept on to High Point, or until a west bound stage was met. Sometimes bad weather, or accidents delayed the coaches which were strung for hundreds of miles across the continent, and drivers were compelled to go on, and on, and still on, until a coach was met coming in the opposite direction. Then the drivers exchanged seats and started back, and it was no unusual thing for an unlucky driver to spend twenty-four consecutive hours, and longer, on the box of his coach, perhaps exposed to driving rain, or blinding snow, or maybe to a howling blizzard or stinging sleet. The heavy horses pulled the big coaches through mud up to their hubs at times, and hours were consumed going a few hundred yards. When snow made wheeling impossible, sled runners were attached, and the overland mails went on on these. No excuses served, for the mails simply had to go forward.

Spring freshets made the creeks and rivers impassable at times, for there were no bridges in those days. At streams like Grand River, when coaches were halted on opposite banks because of dangerous high water, the mails were exchanged by ferrying them over on rafts, and the drivers took the back track over which they had just traveled. The unfortunate passengers, and if there were any they were unfortunate, would wade, or swim, or fly if they could about it for the stage company regarded the passenger business as a side issue, and a sort of nuisance, and the company's employees generally reflected this attitude by word and action.

For several years "Bill" Platter was a valued driver for The Western Stage Co., but with the coming of the rail road and the taking off of the coaches, Bill lost his job, for never more would the big thorough-braced stages roll along the state road into Leon, and every boy in the community changed face and determined to become a locomotive engineer, for the profession of stage driving had lost its glamour.

Mr. Platter is said to have been rather opposed to rail roads in general in those days, and especially to the building of the line from Clarion to Leon. And who could censure him, for didn't the pesky thing knock him out of a job?

And now at a green old age, Mr. Platter has many memories of those old times, of his Leon home, and of the many friends he had here, and he is interested in Leon still, for he keeps in touch with current events through the columns of The Reporter. He is possibly the last surviving member of the capable corps of drivers who put the overland mails through Leon in the 60's, and when he comes down here on a visit, as he intends to do, he will have many things to relate of those stirring times, and his friends here will be glad to greet him.

"Buck" Hurst Elected Captain of Ames Eleven for 1912.

The following special from Ames tells of the election of Raymond Hurst, of Leon, to the honored position of captain of the Ames football eleven for next year. "Buck" was captain of the team the past season and to his good work is attributed in a large degree the many victories of the Ames team.

Ames, Ia., Dec. 16.—"Buck" Hurst, the scrappy quarterback, was elected captain of the Iowa State college eleven for 1912 by the men who had won their letters on the team this fall at a smoker held last night at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house on the college campus.

Burge and Juhl were also candidates, but received so few votes that the election of the quarterback was declared unanimous. Hurst is now in the senior class of the mining department, but has decided to take another year's work at the state college, so that he will be able to lead the eleven through what is hoped to be another successful season.

Have you sealed your letter with a Christmas Seal?

Good morning! Have you read Christmas Seals?

New Court Cases.

Farmers & Traders State Bank vs. Emmet Gore and Albert Farnes. Suit is on a promissory note for \$166.85. J. W. Harvey & Son, attorneys for plaintiff.

J. E. Anderson vs. Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co., et. al. Suit is brought to restrain J. E. Andrew, sheriff, from executing a sheriff's deed to property owned by plaintiff which was sold to satisfy a judgment in favor of defendant, the plaintiff alleging the judgment was discharged when he went through bankruptcy proceedings in 1901. V. R. McGinnis, attorney for plaintiff.

A. D. Kelley vs. William Marshall, et. al. Is an action to quiet title to the south half of the southeast quarter and the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 9, township 69, range 26, Decatur county, Iowa. S. Varga, attorney for plaintiff.

A. J. Caldwell vs. James Carey, et. al. Suit is brought to quiet title to the south half of the southeast quarter of section 10, and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 11, township 69, range 26, Decatur county, Iowa. S. Varga, attorney for plaintiff.

Mrs. Jennie Delsher vs. Board of Supervisors, et. al. The plaintiff appeals to the district court from the appraisers' award of \$125 made her as damages for land in Woodland township condemned for road purposes, claiming the amount should have been considerable more. V. R. McGinnis, attorney for plaintiff.

D. M. Day vs. Mary C. Fry et. al. Suit is brought to quiet title to the land owned by plaintiff in Long Creek township. S. Varga, attorney for plaintiff.

Joseph C. Barnard vs. Nettie Barnard. The parties were married at Seattle, Washington, April 17, 1904, and a divorce is asked for on the grounds that the defendant deserted him June 1, 1908. S. A. Gates, attorney for plaintiff.

Thomas and James Butcher vs. William Butcher, et. al. The parties are the heirs of Mrs. Matilda Butcher, who died November 15, 1911, and ask that the shares of the heirs be confirmed and the estate be divided. G. W. Baker, attorney for plaintiffs.

Rosa Thomas vs. Frank Thomas, et. al. The parties are the heirs of Henry J. Thomas, who died Oct. 22, 1901, and ask that the lands owned by the estate be sold and the proceeds divided among the heirs. S. Varga, attorney for plaintiff.

Thomas A. Sutherland vs. Roy Sutherland. Plaintiff owned a tract of land to the defendant to be planted in corn and alleges defendant failed to properly care for the crop and in dividing the crop plaintiff failed to receive his full share of the corn. He asks for judgment in the sum of \$80. V. R. McGinnis, attorney for plaintiff.

Thomas A. Sutherland vs. B. F. Sutherland. Suit is brought on an account for pasture and feed for horses owned by the defendant amounting to a total of \$125. V. R. McGinnis, attorney for plaintiff.

Jurors for January Court.

The next term of the District Court will convene at Leon on January 15th, with Judge H. E. Evans, presiding. The following is a list of the grand and trial jurors drawn, the grand jurors being drawn for the entire year of 1912 and the trial jurors for service at the January term of court.

Grand Jurors. R. J. Lambert, Fayette. J. R. Penniwell, Leon. J. R. Brown, Garden Grove. Frank Lewis, Franklin. W. H. Colter, Decatur. Elba Shoemaker, Grand River. J. G. Cashen, Richland. T. B. Ramsey, Long Creek. J. S. Beavers, Woodland. E. N. Underwood, New Buda. W. B. Pryor, High Point. Jasper Spargur, Hamilton.

Trial Jurors. J. A. Geating, Decatur. Hal Lutz, Leon. Ed Phipps, Garden Grove. C. A. Ofield, Woodland. Mike Bedier, Grand River. R. L. Still, Garden Grove. J. L. Wreath, Decatur. John Scott, Burrell. Abe Goodman, Garden Grove. T. S. Munyon, Long Creek. John Randall, Bloomington. D. A. Manchester, Eden. Robert McLain, Garden Grove. Thomas Umphries, Burroil. G. S. Barr, Long Creek. S. P. Spence, Garden Grove. F. E. Wise, Long Creek. Homer Moorman, Hamilton. J. N. Madden, Center. D. Woods, New Buda. John Pixley, Morgan. S. F. Elmore, Hamilton. W. J. Blades, Long Creek. B. W. Lanning, Leon.

Waterworks are Finished.

The work of installing the waterworks system in this city, is practically finished, foreman J. H. McGuire and his force of workmen who had charge of erecting the stand pipe leaving last Thursday for Dayton, Iowa, where they will commence work on another job. Foreman Jones, who had charge of installing the mains, has his work all finished and most of his men have left. All that remains now is to start the pump and this has been delayed waiting for some leather washers for the cylinder of the pump which were received yesterday and it is expected that the work of pumping the mains and standpipe full of water will commence today.

Good morning! Have you read Christmas Seals?

Have you sealed your letter with a Christmas Seal?



BURGLARS ARE IN JAIL

Fellows who Robbed Ray Easter's Store at Van Wert are Held to the January Grand Jury.

Sheriff Andrew went to Ellston last Saturday and arrested a fellow giving his name as George Carlton, who is charged with burglarizing the store of Ray Easter at Van Wert, the night of December 2nd, and he is now confined in the Leon jail. Sheriff Andrew and county attorney Sharp went to Clarinda Tuesday and the second burglar who was under arrest in that city, the second man giving his name as Joseph Howard, and both claim to reside in Appanoose county near Centerville. The fellows are supposed to belong to an organized gang of burglars who have been operating in this section for several months, a store at Humeston also having been burglarized and also one at Garden Grove. The two fellows were arrested at Clarinda some days ago on account of their suspicious actions. Nothing could be proved against Carlton, and he was released at the time and later was arrested at Ellston. Howard when searched was found to be carrying a big revolver and he was given a jail sentence on the charge of carrying concealed weapons by Mayor Earl Peters, of Clarinda, and he was turned over to Sheriff Andrew yesterday morning, being brought to Van Wert yesterday afternoon where a preliminary examination was held before Justice A. L. Belding and he was bound over to the grand jury, so both men are now in jail.

Marriage Licenses. J. F. Bixler, Garden Grove. . . . 37 Mamie Cooper, Garden Grove. . . 31 Thomas E. Willis, Grand River. . 61 Lydia Fogleman, Grand River. . . 61

A square deal for all is a Red Cross Christmas Seal.

A gift within the reach of everyone—The Red Cross Seal.

Death of One of the Pioneers of Decatur County.

Many of the older residents will remember N. H. Riggs, for many years a prominent farmer living on the farm now known as the Olsen farm, a mile south of Lamoni. Mr. Riggs came to Decatur county from Keokuk county in 1866, and for many years engaged in farming and stock raising. He died at Indianola on Tuesday of last week, having moved to Indianola some fifteen years ago for the purpose of educating his children at Simpson college. Mr. Riggs had been in frail health for some time, and his disease, hardening of the arteries, and his advanced age was the cause of his death, which was not unexpected.

Noah H. Riggs was born near Stubenville, Ohio, in 1837, and was married in 1863 and emigrated to this state soon after, coming to Decatur county where they lived until about fifteen years ago when they moved to Indianola. Mr. Riggs leaves his aged wife and four daughters and three sons: Mrs. Geo. Cosson, Des Moines; Mrs. Nellie Riggs, Indianola; Mrs. J. M. Biddle, Centerville; Mrs. Edith Williams, Long Beach, Calif.; T. R. Centerville; Clarence, Burman; and Harry, of Pasadena, Calif.

Mr. Thomas Teale of this city, tells us that it was at the home of Mr. Riggs that he was called upon to carve his first turkey, long before he was married, and J. E. Leeper, of northeast of Leon, was a frequent visitor at the Riggs home in his younger days, as he worked when a boy on J. R. Smith's farm near Lamoni, and at that time there were but three houses between the Smith place and the Riggs home.

The many old friends of this estimable gentleman will be pained to hear of his death.

A cent for every seal and a seal for every cent.

A gift within the reach of everyone—The Red Cross Seal.

Looking for Runaway Boy.

R. B. Hall, of Creston, district superintendent of the Iowa Children's Home Society, was in Leon Tuesday, looking for a fourteen year old boy who had run away from his home at Derby, Iowa. The boy is quite large for his age, and left home on account of some small trouble, and if this should reach his eye he is urged to return home, and the trouble will be adjusted and he will be given another chance to make good.

Sold a White Orpington Chicken for \$350.

C. W. Reeder, manager of the Leon Orpingtons, returned yesterday morning from Chicago, where he had been in attendance at the big Poultry and Pet Stock Show. Mr. Reeder took only ten chickens to Chicago for exhibition, there being over six thousand chickens entered at the show, yet he won his share of the prizes. Leon Prince, 2nd, his fine White Orpington cockerel won second prize over all White Orpingtons and was sold for \$350 to Col. J. L. Gribble, a noted chicken fancier of Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Reeder while at Chicago also bought two prize winning White Orpington cockerels for which he paid the fancy price of \$125 each, and was offered \$150 for each of the birds before the show closed. He also won 1st prize for Partridge Rock Pullet and 5th prize on Partridge Rock Cock. When it is considered that he had only ten birds entered and won three good prizes, his showing was remarkable, for many breeders had from 50 to 100 birds entered and did not get a single prize. The show was the biggest thing in the line of a poultry show ever held in America. Mr. Reeder also took orders for several hundred dollars worth of chickens and eggs for delivery in the near future.

PENSION BILL PASSES

In the House by Vote of 229 to 92 and Goes to the Senate. Taft will Oppose its Passage.

The Sherwood pension bill passed the house of representatives last Tuesday by a vote of 229 to 92, and it now goes to the senate where it is predicted it will also pass, but the old soldiers have not yet won their battle for the pension bill, for it is reported that President Taft will not sign the bill if it is passed by the senate. The old veterans have many warm friends in congress who will insist on granting them the pensions provided by the Sherwood bill, and even if President Taft should veto the bill it might pass over his veto. We have been asked to publish the Sherwood bill, which is as follows:

Be it enacted, That any person who served in the military or naval service of the United States during the late Civil War, and who has been honorably discharged therefrom, shall, upon making proof of such facts according to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may provide, be placed on the pension roll and be entitled to receive a pension as follows: For a service of ninety days or more and less than six months, fifteen dollars per month; for a service of six months or more and less than nine months, twenty dollars per month; for a service of nine months or more and less than one year, twenty-five dollars per month; for a service of one year or more, thirty dollars per month. (2) That any person who served in the Civil War and received an honorable discharge and who was wounded in battle or in line of duty, and is now unfit for manual labor through causes not due to his own vicious habits, or who from disease or other causes incurred in line of duty resulting in his disability to perform manual labor, shall be paid the maximum pension under this Act, to-wit, thirty dollars per month, without regard to his length of service. (3) That no one shall be entitled to pension under this Act who is in receipt of an annual net income of one thousand dollars or more, exclusive of any pension he may receive. (4) That no person shall receive a pension under any other law at the same time or for the same period he is receiving a pension under the provisions of this Act. (5) That rank in the service shall not be considered in applications filed hereunder. (6) That pensions under this Act shall commence from the date of filing the application in the Bureau of Pensions after the approval of this Act.

Referring to the St. John's day banquet to be given by Grand River lodge No. 78, A. F. & A. M. on Wednesday evening, December 27th, the committee is very anxious that no Master Mason, either a brother or Master Mason's widow should be slighted. As it is impossible for the committee to know the names of all sojourning brethren or Master Mason's widows, those who have not received an invitation will confer a favor if they will advise either M. S. Jones, Fuller Avery, F. C. Mullinix or W. C. Stempel.

K. P. Band Elects Officers.

The boys of the K. P. Band have closed a contract with Prof. Beech Parritt, who has been instructing the band for the past two months to remain with the band through the coming year. Prof. Parritt is an experienced band man, and the boys are making marked improvement under his instruction. The following officers have been elected for the coming year:

Manager—C. M. Akes. Secretary—Ed. Farquhar. Treasurer—Lou Pease. Ex. Committee—Leslie Grimes and Earl Akes.

Sells Millinery Store.

Mrs. Sallie Coyne has sold her millinery store on the north side of the square to the Night-Red Millinery Co., of St. Joe, who will take possession January 1st. The new firm has leased the store room owned by Mrs. Lucy Ray on the north side of the square, now occupied by the Clark Millinery Co., who will move to the room in the north side hotel formerly used as the hotel office and dining room.

C. P. Browning's Sale Postponed to Tuesday, December 26th.

The big sale of C. P. Browning, at his farm six miles southeast of Leon, which was advertised for yesterday, was postponed on account of the sleet and snow storm until next Tuesday, December 26th. Mr. Browning has a big sale and it was thought best to postpone it rather than to try and hold it on such a bad day.

George Lloyd's Sale Postponed to Wednesday, Dec. 27th.

The big closing out sale of George Lloyd at his farm six miles southwest of Decatur City, which was to have been held yesterday, was postponed on account of the snow storm until Wednesday, Dec. 27th. Read his small advertisement on page 4 of this issue. He wanted a big advertisement but we were crowded for space and had to condense it.

Change in Grocery Firm.

Will Gardner has sold his interest in the grocery firm of Gardner & VanNostrand to Henry VanNostrand, a brother of Lem VanNostrand and the invoice is now being taken, and the new proprietors will take possession at once.

Don't forget that if you pay a year's subscription to The Reporter in advance at any time during the month of December we will send you without extra charge either the weekly Chicago Inter Ocean or the Kansas City Weekly Star, a full year, without extra cost. This offer is good only until January 1st, so don't put it off if you want to secure two papers for the price of The Reporter.

A letter from Uncle John Givens, who is spending the winter at the home of his daughter, Mrs. R. D. Martin, at Fillmore, California, says he is enjoying himself in great style out in California, and has gained 15 pounds in weight since he went there. He does not expect to return to Iowa before next April.

Mrs. Mary Foster, the oldest person in Crawford county, and possibly the oldest in Iowa, died at the home of her grandniece, Mrs. Robt. Buntel, in Denison on Thursday, Dec. 7th, at the age of about 105 years.

Post cards of all kinds at Van Werden & Kopp's.

Parties desiring cut flowers for Christmas should place their order with us today if possible, as the final order will be sent out Friday noon. Don't wait and have to pay telephone charges and run the risk of not having your order filled. O. E. Hull, local agent for Lozier, of Des Moines.

Notice—All book accounts and notes must be settled by Jan. 1st, 1912. I have been accommodating you but now I must have a settlement with all customers. J. A. Caster.

Get him a box of Havana Spikes for Christmas.