

THE CLARION

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FRISCO SHOPS.

Why don't YOU wake up! It is time that you, citizens of Opelousas, realize that you have been placed here, by the Almighty Creator, to attain a purpose. You have been guided by the invisible hand of your Guardian Angel to this city known to some few people outside of Louisiana, and which should be known throughout the United States; but on account of the lack of interest on the part of the people, Opelousas is scarcely known beyond its territory; yet you are here not as an ornament to the community—on the contrary you were destined to be the servant of your fellow-being, in so much that you are in duty bound to do something for the betterment of your city. The time is now at hand when you are in a position to do something for Opelousas and help accomplish your end in life.

There are two most vital subjects now being considered by some citizens of Opelousas, who have the interest of their community at heart, but still these men can accomplish nothing, except a lot of kicking on the part of the mossbacks, if the progressive people of our thought-to-be progressive city do not work shoulder to shoulder with the men who are at the head of propositions which would mean a great deal of good to Opelousas in general and every citizen here in particular. These two questions are the Frisco Shops and Good Roads. We will not speak of Good Roads in this article, but simply refer to the Frisco Shops, which are going to be moved from DeQuincy to some more logical point.

Which town or city on the Frisco lines between Houston, Texas, and New Orleans, is the logical point? It is surely not Beaumont, Texas. And still some one right here in Opelousas will say "It is no use to make a fight for the shops, as Beaumont is sure to get them." Beaumont is almost in Houston's back yard and the Frisco wants the logical place between these two great railroad points, New Orleans and Houston. Opelousas is situated about midway between New Orleans and Houston; it has as much chance to secure these shops as Beaumont, Eunice, or any other place on the line.

It is up to the people here to get the shops. Let every man and woman, of Opelousas, join with the Progressive League and make a fight, and a desperate one at that; always determined that no one will make them divert their attention from their end in view, by complaining that "Opelousas has no show for it," or that "the Frisco people have it against this city."

Get together, citizens, and see what you can accomplish. Let some one propose the best proposition which this city can offer the Frisco people and Opelousas might obtain these shops ere long, as we have just as much chance, to say the least, as any other town. All we have to do is to fight to hold our own. Don't be a mossback—do something for your country.

HAT PINS.

Why could not the city of Opelousas follow New Orleans' example on the hat pin question? There is as much danger of a person having his face scratched up or his eye put out in this city as on the busy and hustling streets of the Metropolis of the South.

No one knows how really dangerous those protruding daggers are, which ladies wear to hold their hats on their heads, until he comes in contact with one, afterwards realizing how very close his eye was missed. All the jewelry stores in this city have an abundance of hat pin protectors or guards and it would not be a bad idea if every lady in Opelousas would go to her jeweler and select one of these; the cost is very little and it would eliminate considerable worry on the part of their men escort.

Only last Sunday one of the prominent men of this community, Mr. Lucius Castille, cashier for the St. Landry State Bank, while coming out of church barely escaped the crucial pains of having an eye put out by a lady's weapon, called a hat pin. It is true that ladies are not responsible in a direct way for the wounds inflicted upon others by their long hat pins, but it would be best if every lady in Opelousas would purchase one of these protectors, so as to be on the safe side, thereby perhaps avoiding blinding one dear to them.

As Mr. Castille was walking out of the church a lady next to him turned around and happened to strike him, with her hat pin, just a fraction below the eyeball. It was not her fault, nor was it Mr. Castille's, but this is the way accidents take place.

New Orleans has a law on hat pins, why can't Opelousas have the same law? At the same time it would be better if such a law would be passed by the Louisiana legislature.

There are evidently some persons in this community who think that we are mind readers or expert decipherers, as nearly every week, letters come in written in such a manner that one would think that a bottle of ink was "dumped" on the paper and a chicken allowed to walk across it.

The Clarion is glad to be able to print any communication, in which citizens of this parish, as well as of the entire state, express their views on live topics, but at the same time it is NOT glad to attempt to make out the writing of people who write about as badly as a new-born babe.

There are other letters which come here to be printed which butcher the English language. Of course such letters are subject to grammatical correction by the Editor of this paper, or they will not go into print.

Everyone who desires to write a communication to the Clarion, is earnestly urged to do so; we will be glad to print it whether it is in accordance with or against our views, just as long as it is of interest to the community at large. But we ask one favor from these people and we hope that they will comply with our request of writing in a very legible manner or using the typewriter, so as to avoid errors when we go to print.

Be sure to have your communication TYPEWRITTEN, if possible.

Who gets more cursing out than the editor of the newspaper? He is yet to be found and still the entire population expects the editor to extend them favors at all times of the year. Don't expect more from your editor than he exacts from you.

Opelousas should have another newspaper which should be known as the "Chronicle Kicker." There are enough people in this city who do the kicking to write up a decent editorial on "Why Opelousas hasn't got this" or "Why the city is such a bum place."

Against Good Roads.

Sunset, La., May 13th, 1913.

Mr. Editor: With your permission I would like to say a word to the taxpayers of the parish on the subject of the proposed road tax and bond issue.

To begin with: I have served the people of the parish, as well as my ward, conscientiously and faithfully, for the past nine years, and would not, at this late day, have them to misunderstand my position on any question, especially on a proposition that is as serious as this one. Right here I want to say that I am earnestly and seriously opposed to the tax proposition and bond issue.

To begin with: we have 700 or 800 miles of public roads in the parish, and they are all important and have to be worked and bridged. Now it doesn't take much of a mathematician to see that after you figure out the interest on a forty-year bond issue, a large per cent of your money is lost. Then, when you go to work to put down sand and gravel (the cheapest material) and not very thick, as we want it to go as far as possible, and as this work is always costly, and more so to beginners; and after you figure out a lot of salaries, I am confident that it will not go near as far as the most enthusiastic advocate of the scheme believes.

Well, in two or three years you will have spent your money—then what? I will answer that you will have to go to work filling ruts and holes on the roads you have spent this money on, and the balance of roads requiring more and more work each year on account of the increased traction. Where is the money coming from? I guess you would have to vote more taxes. But you have saddled a tax on yourself for the balance of your life, and a part of your children's life, and not much to show for it. Our children would be blaming us and wanting to know where the money was spent, anyway, as the sand and gravel would have long since been sunk and buried in the ground. But they would still be paying the tax!

I will say here that the only money we would have to work roads and keep bridges would be what we could spare annually from parish taxes, and I am in a position to know that we could not spare enough to do much, if any more, than buy lumber and keep up bridges—do no road work nor drainage.

Now, reader, I have not painted this picture too dark. I could make it darker, and be nearer the truth. Oh, yes, I am in favor of good roads—that is why I am writing this. The difference between me and the other fellow is that I work at it all the time, and he does all the talking.

Now, dear reader, I never oppose any proposition unless I am ready to offer something that is better. If the people are not satisfied with our present road ordinance or road tax (and it does not seem entirely satisfactory), let the members of each police jury ward get together, take the assessment of their ward and figure out the needs or wants of their people; let it be 2, 3 or 4 mills, and call an election by wards, and if they vote it they know it will be spent in their ward—without any bickering, wrangling or strife, as there would be under the other plan.

In conclusion I would like to say a word in defence of what has been done in the past eight years. When we began we had nothing; there were comparatively few bridges, and they were old and in bad shape; and very little drainage, and no machine work had been done.

These roads have been graded a number of times; hills and banks torn away; roads widened and drains widened and made deeper, and a great number of canals and ditches dug, where there was no drain—and the mileage nearly doubled, and good bridges built on that. All of this, and more that I could mention, has been done, with six years of the heaviest rain fall in the history of the state.

And I want to ask, right here, reader, that with these bad seasons and the boll weevil, would it be right to burden ourselves and children with this tax—especially as there is so much doubt as to it doing any lasting good.

I will close by saying to the taxpayers of this parish: Take the advice of your humble servant, and go to the polls and vote this proposition down.

Sincerely, J. E. D., Police Juror 2d Ward.

Pierie Mistic was a business visitor to Arnaudville during the week.

Morton Thompson was in Ville Platte, attending to business recently.

SOUTHWESTERN INSTITUTE

WINS SATURDAY'S GAME OVER ST CHARLES.

Grand Coteau, La., May 19.—The St. Charles baseball team went down in defeat Saturday by the Southwestern Industrial Institute of Lafayette by a score of 10 to 1. The score up to the sixth was a pitcher's battle. Broussard sprained his side on one of his spitters and retired from the game. Drouet went in and yielded 5 hits. Galdo pitched a good game for Lafayette and with mastery support almost blanked St. Charles College.

The score by innings: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 R. H. E. S. W. I. 0 0 0 0 0 2 3 1 4 10 8 4 S. C. C. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 3 8

Struck out: by Galdo, 10; by Broussard, 10; by Drouet, 2. Battery: Galdo and Bergeron, Broussard, Drouet and Melancon.

A scrap team of the Louisiana Traction and Power Co., and the town boys was defeated Sunday by the College team, 16 to 1. Guilbeau and Sibille of the visiting team each struck out 2 men, while Vandegaer, the College twirler, fanned 13. Battery: Guilbeau, Sibille and Howe; Vandegaer and Young.

The College will play against the following teams here on the senior campus: Church Point, May 25; Opelousas, June 1; Rayne, June 8.

Grand Coteau, La., May 21st.—Mr. Archie Oge, formerly of this place, and Miss Emily Web, of Lafayette were married Monday at St. John's Catholic Church Lafayette in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. A large number from here were present at the marriage, Rev. Father Mollo officiated. The groom is the son of Major M. Oge, a prominent citizen of this place, and who represented this parish in the State Legislature several years ago. Our congratulations are extended to the happy couple.

Misses Zita and Louise Smith returned home after visiting relatives at Arnaudville.

Miss Lelia Lastrapes, of Grand Point was a Monday visitor.

Mrs. J. Lasalle and daughter, Miss Igot, of Opelousas, were visitors to St. Charles College Sunday.

Mrs. George Melchior, of Carenco was a Sunday visitor at the Sacred Heart Convent.

Mrs. E. S. Barry visited relatives at Lafayette this week.

Robert Budd Is Now Proud Father.

Mr. Robert Budd is now a daddy, he is so proud of his big girl, which his wife presented to him on Thursday, that upon speaking to a friend of his baby he said, "She weighs 48 pounds." Gee, she must be his entire eyes and soul for him to estimate her weight at such a scale.

No matter whether his baby girl weighs five pounds or whether she would beat the world's record on weight Robert does not care. He is the proudest young man in this community. The only thing which he was disappointed was that the baby did not resemble her father, but is a living image of its pretty mother—this is indeed a blessing to the child—to favor its mother.

Mr. Budd married about a year ago to Miss Celestine Roos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Roos. They moved to DeQuincy, where Mr. Budd went to accept a position in the master mechanic department of the Frisco lines. He remained there until the latter part of January when he and his charming wife removed to their old home, Opelousas, where they have been ever since.

We congratulate Mr. Budd most heartily upon his present received from his wife and we hope that the little girl when she will have grown to womanhood will still resemble her mother.

Mrs. Budd and child are reported as doing splendidly.

Mansfield Scene of New Oil Well.

Mansfield is jubilant over the recent discovery of oil near that town, by the Gulf Refining Company, and the progressive citizens of that enterprising little city have cause to be happy over such a splendid finding, if the well proves to be a good one.

Realizing that Mansfield has a very bright future before it the agents of various oil companies would not leave the farmers in the vicinity of the gusher sleep on the night of the discovery of oil until these men would grant the oil companies leases on their places. Naturally this caused a commotion—but a mighty happy commotion, it should be supposed.

Numa Dupre, of Prairie Ronde was a business visitor here on last Monday.

STORK IS ALSO GOOD TO BERCIER FAMILY

This week has been a happy one for several families in this city as the stork has been extremely generous to some families of Opelousas. Dr. Eugene Bercier, younger member of the firm of Bercier & Bercier, Dentists, can vouch for the above statement. He is one of those to whom the stork was good; on Wednesday his wife bore a big bouncing boy, mother's love and papa's joy.

If nothing happens Opelousas will be a large city before long, as there were registered three births within a few days, which goes to add considerably to the already increasing population of this city.

Mrs. Bercier, before her marriage to the popular young dentist, was Miss Louise Bienvenu, daughter of Mr. Lionel Bienvenu, of this city, and she was during her girlhood days one of the most popular young ladies in Opelousas. The young couple who have been blessed by the arrival of a new member to their family have numberless friends in this community and these rejoice with Dr. and Mrs. Bercier at their good fortune.

LEWIS AND DOUCET HAVE DISSOLVED FIRM

On Monday the liquor firm of Lewis & Doucet was dissolved, Mr. Frank Doucet buying Mr. Bill Lewis' interest out. The partnership which had been in effect since the beginning of the year was dissolved under most amicable circumstances; it was due to the fact that Mr. Lewis was desirous of establishing a saloon at a point in Evangeline, near Oakdale, and only a short distance from the Allen parish line. He left this week, with Mr. Butler, his new partner, to fix up everything, pending his moving out there.

Mr. Doucet who has been connected with this liquor house, directly opposite the courthouse, known as the Courthouse Cafe, was up to the time of his going into this business, jailer of the parish prison. He was in the employ of Sheriff M. L. Swords for many years, having moved here from Grand Prairie to accept this position. Now that he is in business of his own and is no longer a salaried man, and having thousands of friends all over the parish, it is hoped that Mr. Doucet will flourish in his enterprise.

The saloon has done remarkably well under the guidance of Messrs. Lewis and Doucet and it is expected that as time passes Mr. Doucet will prosper more.

It is to be hoped that the two Opelousas men who will establish themselves in business in Oakdale will prosper and it is the sincere wish of their many friends here that there will be nothing but success strewn before their feet in the path of life.

Let's Brighten Up Our Premises.

Many of the residence and business properties in Opelousas are badly in need of repairs, paint and whitewash. A few dollars expended in this direction would improve their appearance very much, and now is the season when this work should be done. Unsightly fences and outbuildings can be made to look well for a few nails and a little whitewash. Yards and lawns can be made things of beauty by removing the weeds and mowing the grass. Tumbled-down building and fences should be removed; they are of no use and only detract from the appearance of otherwise presentable premises.

May we not urge upon the property-holders of this city the necessity of cleaning, repairing and restoring to their wonted condition their homes and other property. Besides being a source of great satisfaction and enjoyment to themselves, it will enhance the value thereof and be an asset to the community at large. We do not mean that those who are able to make costly improvements are the only ones to follow these suggestions, but all should take pride in beautifying their premises, and in many cases the outlay would be trifling.

Opelousas is about to entertain the State Firemen's Association and a large number of visitors from every part of the state will be here. They will be favorably impressed with our town and its people, doubtless, but a little effort and expense along the lines suggested will add much to their estimate. Let us encourage each other to brighten up!

Frank Dimmick, of Shuteston, member of the Police Jury, was in Opelousas on Sunday.

Gus Voltz, of Washington spent Sunday in this city.

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