

# THE CHARITON COURIER

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## A Thrilling Story Is Told By Mrs. Oscar Oswalt of Moberly

Moberly has seethed with excited indignation since learning early Friday morning of an outrage perpetrated on Mrs. Oscar Oswalt and two children Thursday night.

About midnight Mrs. Oswalt was awakened by a flashlight thrown in her face as she lay sleeping with the two children. Immediately she was seized and as she struggled to free herself she was choked until her nose bled, the blood running down and staining her night dress. She was overpowered, a rug thrown over her head and she was then tied with a rope to the bed. The children were treated similarly. A blanket was thrown over their heads to smother their cries and they were secured to the bed.

In the darkness of the room Mrs. Oswalt was not able to see the assailants, but says she is morally sure there were at least two and they were negroes.

While Mrs. Oswalt and the children were hopelessly bound, the men searched every room in the house and turned things topsy-turvy. The marauders got into Mr. Oswalt's box where he keeps his deeds, insurance papers, etc., and left these scattered about the room. There was missed this morning \$68.00, a lady's gold watch, \$2.50 gold pieces and \$1.00 gold piece.

The severe shock given Mrs. Oswalt and the fright of the experience caused her to lapse into unconsciousness. When she came to she finally managed to get the rug off her face and get loose so that she could get up. She then made her way to the kitchen and procured a butcher knife with which she cut the rope from her hands and then she went to the telephone to call for aid, but the phone was dead. It was found later that the wire had been cut on the outside about 19 feet from the house.

Mr. Oswalt, who is an engineer, got home off his run about 1 o'clock. When he learned what had happened naturally his wrath knew no bounds, and had he had the guilty ones before him he would have made short shift of their time on earth. After administering to his wife and the children, who had cried themselves sick over the terrible fright of this experience, he went out to a neighbor's and called for the bloodhounds.

The dogs were out on another trail, but got back in time to get on the Oswalt trail about 3 o'clock a. m. The scent had been kept intact and Genevieve went out on a pretty direct trail on this man hunt.

The Oswalt home is at 513 Fulton avenue in northeast Moberly. She went from the house west to Morley street, thence south to Rollins, then turned to the right until she reached Ault, when she again went south to McKinsey street and from there down a short distance and on to the negro rooming house on South Williams, near the brick plant. After entering the house she went to a room in which were two beds, each occupied by two negro men. She went to one of the beds and wanted to get up on it. She smelled the shoes and clothing of these men and trailed down stairs to a shed where kindling was kept and back again to the room.

The two negroes are John Lee and Henry Randolph. The woman who runs the house gave an alibi for the negroes, saying that they were in the house at the time the negroes are said to have been at Oswalt's. The men, however, were put under arrest and were placed in the city jail, to await further developments.

Mr. Oswalt said this morning that he thought the men had entered the house through the dining room. He found on the floor of the dining room two 22 cartridges. He said the men had opened every door on the place, including closet doors, and had ransacked everything and left doors wide open and everything in a jumble.

It is known that there were at least two men on the job and it is thought that there was a third man who stood on the outside to act as a lookout.

After trailing to the negro hotel on South Williams street, the dogs were taken back to the Oswalt home and took up a second trail, which indicated that there probably was a third member of the gang. This trail led down Bertley street to Union avenue and thence to the Washburn

yards. No one was picked up on this lead.

All morning long crowds of men surged around the city jail watching front and back.

Remarks were passed showing the temper of the crowd and officers fearing that some leader might start something made arrangements to get the men away to safety until it could be ascertained whether or not they were guilty of any wrong.

The getaway was made like this: The Moberly officers were all at the city hall and Sheriff Milam and Deputy Sheriff Steve Jones drove up in front in the sheriff's car.

Two policemen went into the jail and got the negroes and hurried them to the sheriff's car, the engine of which was kept running. The men were scarcely seated before the car was under full speed and Mr. Milam broke all traffic rules in the rate at which he went lickety-split down South Clark street. Just where the men were taken is not known, but it is safe to say they are not in the county.

One of the negroes has lived in Moberly seven years. The other has been here about a year.

Police officers say they are both good workers and have never been in any trouble while living here.

The woman who runs the house where they roomed and boarded stays by her statement that they are innocent as they were in the house last night at the time of the alleged robbery.—Moberly Democrat.

## KEYTESVILLE HIGH IN "SAFETY FIRST"

The dramatic class of the Keytesville high school put on their annual play at the American Theatre last Friday night.

The theatre was taxed to capacity and everyone received their money's worth and then some.

The school orchestra was present and entertained the audience with a number of pieces which were exceptionally well rendered.

To attempt to go into detail and tell which one of the amateur actors were the best would be taxing the capabilities of any critic, and as the Courier man does not pose as a critic of honest efforts and especially of the doings of the young folks the Courier will say that it would have been exceptionally hard to pick out the real stars—you know all plays and playettes have stars—let it go at that. All took their parts, excellently and carried them out as only a bunch of care free, happy youngsters can.

The orchestra is an institution of which the Courier is proud and all citizens of the city should be proud of the work this organization is doing.

John Gregory Alspaugh, jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Alspaugh, has been a flu patient for several days but is improving.

Bowser was a farmer all his life and out on the farm friend wife sent him out to the pump in all sorts of weather to observe his daily ablution. In time Bowser learned to delight in this function. He liked the idea of being able to splash around and bubble in the H-2o and not be brought to task for splattering on the floor.

He was a cold water enthusiast—sure enough, and if he had been living in a city with a bath tub he would undoubtedly have taken a cold plunge every morning. He claimed that the pump scrub was all that could be desired, just because it sort of thoroughly woke him up for the day's activities, and he sort of formed the habit.

Habits are hard to break. Regularly, once a year, Bowser and friend wife (Mandy) went to a far-off city to see the married daughter, Jane. Now Jane lived in a modern flat and had running hot and cold water and yet Bowser could not accustom himself to this modern convenience, and he had to draw off the correct amount of cold water and retire to the back porch—just so he could splash around and sort of keep up appearances.

The war time prices gave Bowser more money than he could possibly spend on the farm so he retired to the "city." This city happened to be the town where he had bought his tobacco and other household necess-

## Very Enthusiastic Meeting of Commercial Club

An adjourned meeting of the Keytesville commercial club was held Tuesday night at the American Theatre. Those in attendance were pepped up by several speakers on a number of things. Of course, the water works proposition was paramount to all others, and the work is growing apace with the importance of the innovation.

The next thing taken up was the matter of bringing up for consideration the matter of "pep."

"Pep" was injected in large quantities and those in attendance all admitted that they felt better.

The matter was brought up about two weeks ago of giving away cars and other things at some future date, but it seems that it was only talked. At the meeting Tuesday night it was shown beyond all question of doubt that Keytesville merchants were between two fires of great activity.

Salisbury has pulled off their little stunt of two cars and went way over the top, and Brunswick wishes to emulate her big sister city. Keytesville has been just sitting around and sitting around and wondering where every one was and Tuesday evening they were shown just where the traders were, and moreover, they were shown where the farmers were

## CHAS. F. LAMKIN'S HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

Sparks from a chimney Monday morning about 9 o'clock came very nearly adding another serious fire loss to the Keytesville list.

One of the boys started for school and upon reaching the sidewalk discovered the roof to be ablaze. Quick work on the part of himself and his brother in getting up to the roof with a pail of water saved the home from complete destruction.

Had the fire been discovered about ten minutes later the bucket brigade would have been useless, and one of the best homes in town would have been lost.

Mr. Lamkin is away being in the south at this time, and Mrs. Lamkin would have had a most trying time getting things out and finding a place in which to live.

Of course, owing to the fact that this home was not destroyed, that the boys just happened to be on the job and the fact that it was discovered in time will be another argument for any and all who are not in sympathy with the opposition of water works for Keytesville—if there happen to be any such "sittin' around."

Lets suppose that the fire had not been discovered for a matter of 10 or 20 minutes longer, and, also, lets say there was a chemical truck in town with a few feet of hose, the building could have been easily saved, for the chemicals would have put out the fire in just about four minutes after the stream had been directed on the blaze.

There's just a wee, bit of a moral attached to this. Think it over. You,

going to go this summer if something was not done to show that the merchants of Keytesville wanted to get their business.

To this end the merchants have been busy just signing their names on the dotted lines and the proposition is well nyo completed.

Other things were brought to the attention of those who were present, and the Courier will have more to say about these matters in the next issue. It has been so long since the business interests have really been brought up to the firing line that it sort of took their breath away to know that they had got to make a move that would be attractive to all out-of-town trade. However, after the matters were discussed from all view points a committee was appointed to go and get the signatures of the merchants in town for the purpose of putting things over the top. Next week all the little details will have been worked out and full announcement will be made.

The Courier must say that the enthusiasm shown so far has been exceptionally to the point. Everyone is for it, and therefore its going to go with a bang. Just watch the Courier and keep abreast of all Keytesville activities.

Mr. Doubter, may be visited by the next incipient blaze, and if the water proposition is defeated those who take a stand against this question will be entitled to absolutely no sympathy should they be the loser by a fire in their own homes.

## CLIFTON HILL FIRE SUNDAY A. M., NO FIRE PROTECTION

Fire starting in the basement of the Clifton Hill Mercantile Co.'s basement which was discovered at 3:15 a. m., Sunday morning caused a loss of approximately \$50,000 before it burned itself out.

That thriving little metropolis was entirely without fire protection and the only wonder is that the fire did not cover a greater area.

The Moberly chemical fire fighting apparatus started for Clifton Hill shortly after the conflagration was discovered, but only got as far as Huntsville when the machine "threw a tire" and was rendered hors de combat.

The losses from the fire are estimated as follows:

W. W. Jones' loss on the building was \$7,000, with \$3,000 insurance; F. M. Grimes, two buildings, \$12,000; Clifton Hill Mercantile Co., loss on stock, \$11,000, with \$8,500 insurance; W. Y. Terry, loss on stock, \$19,000 with \$6,000 insurance. The Masonic lodge owned upper half of one of the Grimes buildings. Their loss is estimated at \$2,500, with \$1,500 insurance.

The Clifton Hill Lumber Co. estimate their loss from falling walls at \$2,000.

## A City Interest Storiette The Town Pest

sities for many years. He knew everyone in this city and it was a county city, and he wanted to be where he and friend wife were acquainted and have a good time the balance of his life.

These "twilight" endings to busy lives are great and more especially when one has accumulated enough to get by without having to worry about the little daily expenditures.

It seems that these men often have their habits made up from years of practice and Bowser was no exception to the rule. He still had to wash out at the well, and in this particular instance it came easy because the town was not modern.

The town of Caseyville had no waterworks, no electric lights and no ice plant. The year following Bowser's retirement from the farm the city just managed to get electric lights from a neighboring city, but, toward modernism, that is as far as the inhabitants went. All other propositions were voted down with alarmingly rapidity.

In fact when the proposition came

## Wins Courier's Ford Sedan Miss Nell White in Class by Herself

After holding the unwavering interest of Keytesville, Chariton County and this entire section of the state during the past few weeks, the Courier's big automobile prize contest came to an official end Wednesday afternoon, and the winners of the big prizes were named.

It was a strenuous time all around and an anxious time, to be sure, but now that the race is over and the results announced, every-one is pleased and satisfied.

Naturally the greatest struggle was for that splendid new Ford Sedan—the grand capital prize. The Courier offered the best prizes obtainable. We were willing to pay liberally for good work, and we got it, for never before in this section of the state has there been such a successful campaign as the one just closed by this newspaper.

The aggregate vote totals reached enormous figures, representing yes, thousands of new and renewal subscriptions secured by the various candidates during the past few weeks. And, as a result, The Courier covers Chariton county and surrounding territory like a blanket—and this is what delights the advertisers.

To these new readers and patrons, and our old subscribers as well whose interest made this contest the success that it was, The Courier is indeed grateful and indebted. On behalf of the candidates, and the paper itself, the public is entitled to the most emphatic thanks for the general good will shown them during the campaign.

But as to the winners the figures below speak for themselves.

To those whose energies carried them through this campaign to success, The Courier extends the heartiest congratulations. We are proud of the people who took part in this competition, and we hope they, who, by right of conquest, have just claimed their reward will be proud of the prizes won.

While the prizes themselves were remarkable for their value, there are other considerations to be taken into account. During this campaign those who have participated have learned much that will be of benefit to them. They have made new and pleasant acquaintances; they have formed more correct ideas along business lines, and most of them have developed a sense of observation that will pay future dividends.

The competition has been a splendid training and a valuable experience. It has taught, among other things, that courage and perseverance are the two most essential elements necessary to overcome the obstacles that beset this never ending conflict called "life."

Of course, it is inevitable that, in a campaign of this kind, all the candidates cannot win the first prize. That was an understood fact from the very beginning of the race. And, right or wrong, civilization seems to have accepted and applied na-

ture's rule of the survival of the fittest. To accomplish a given purpose a great amount of energy is necessary, and fortune seems to lavish her richest gifts on those who are equipped to carry out the mandates of ambition.

In conclusion we wish to say that our relations with all the candidates have been very pleasant indeed. They, in turn, have dealt with an organization that, to the best of its ability, has made this campaign one to be remembered long for it's wholesome character and fair dealings. It was a great race, and leaves in bold relief that cardinal virtue—ambition.

Under lock and seal the ballot box remained in the vaults of The Farmers Bank of Chariton County, this city, during the last three days of the contest. At 4:30 o'clock sharp—right on the dot—Wednesday afternoon the race was declared closed. The judges lifted the box and conveyed it to the office of The Courier, and immediately thereafter, or as soon as the votes could be tabulated, the final count was made in the presence of all candidates and other interested parties.

Awards were made by the judges, under the rules of the contest announced at the beginning of the campaign, according to the statement below.

### Finding of the Judges

We, the judges in the contest conducted by the Courier and just closed, after canvassing the findings in the sealed ballot box and adding this to the previous published totals find the following candidates to be the winners, to the best of our conception:

	Votes
Miss Nell White	4,669,919
Miss Lenora Grapes	2,216,300
Miss Zettie Sneed	1,596,770
Mrs. Jas. Bushnell	648,870
Miss Mary Huss	475,790
Miss Lenna Smith	408,110
Signed, A. F. Arrington, A. F. Taylor, A. L. Sutter, J. O. Richardson, W. E. Sutter, Chas. Hayes, Judges.	

The Courier asks the kind consideration of all those who have had their names added to the Courier list. It will take some time to get all the corrections and additions made. If these little odds and ends are not attended to within a reasonable bit of time let us know and oblige the management of the Courier.

Mr. and Mrs. Clem Oestrich were in Salisbury Saturday shopping.

The Legion boys are giving a dance on the 22nd which will be followed by other activities soon.

### METHODIST MEMBERS

Every member of the Methodist church at Keytesville is urged and expected to be present this coming Sunday; that is, every one that is able and can come.

Preaching Sunday morning at 11 a. m. Sunday School at 9:45 and Epworth League at 6:30. We will dismiss the preaching service Sunday night to worship with the Baptist church. O. L. Hunt, Pastor.

### HUNTSVILLE TELEPHONE SCRAP IS STILL ON

The farmers line some 27 different organizations, are still scrapping the subject over with the local telephone company. Estimates have been received as to the cost of putting in an independent exchange and at this time the matter is sort of hanging fire while a live committee is on the job attempting to raise enough of the long green to buy out the three-fourths interest of the present local exchange. They are having a beautiful time, and the farmers are a long way from being whipped.

### THANKS FOR THE "ROSES"

Morris, Minn., Feb. 9, 1922, Editor Chariton Courier, Keytesville, Mo., Dear Sir:—Find herewith enclosed check for \$2.00 for renewal to the Courier. I hate to have to pay two dollars per for the Courier just because I do not live in Missouri, but I can't get along without it, and John D. Taylor's speech is worth the two dollars, especially to a Missourian way up north, so send her along for another year. Yours truly, M. H. Pennybaker.