

# THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

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## THE FINAL REST COMES TO JOHN FINIS PHILIPS

### A Great Missourian Who Helped to Make Much State History Crosses the River

### He Had Much to Do with Events and Men Who Gave This City Notoriety

A large delegation of St. Joseph attorneys headed by Judge R. E. Culliver and L. C. Gabbert went to Kansas City last Sunday, called there by the desire to pay the final tribute to a man who had done much for Missouri, not alone at the bar, but in work for the advancement of this great state.

Judge John Finis Philips, who for from 1885 to 1919 was federal judge for the Western district of Missouri and who served on the bench in the federal building here in many noted cases, died at Hot Springs, Arkansas, on Thursday. The remains were brought to his late home at Kansas City on Saturday and the funeral ceremonies occurred there on Tuesday. There was a great outpouring of the friends of the deceased and the services, although simple, were impressive, and of a character that fitted the life of the deceased. The remains were laid to rest in the family lot in Mount Washington, not far from where rests the mortal remains of the late Col. C. C. Coit who served under him in the St. Joseph office.

Judge Philips was intimately known to every member of the St. Joseph bar. Those who came to know him the most intimately, loved him the best. He was a jurist of remarkable power, possessed of a mind that could grasp the most intricate question and decide it correctly.

#### In Striving Times

Judge Philips was one of the men who when the great civil strife broke out did much to hold Missouri in the Union. At the time that the war broke out he was a bosom friend of George G. Vest and of Francis Marion Cockrell and Thomas T. Crittenden, all of whom helped make history for the state and who represented it later in the highest places. Their friendship was so marked that they were known as the "Big Four."

As to the part he played in saving Missouri to the Union it can be stated that when Philips was only twenty-six years of age he was chosen a member of the convention called by Governor Jackson to determine the relations between the state of Missouri and the Federal Union. He was next to the youngest man in that convention. There was a strong Union sentiment among the people throughout the state, but the state government was secessionist. The secessionists expected the state convention would take Missouri out of the Union and line her up with the seceding states. Claiborne Jackson fully planned for that to happen, but the plan was foiled by men in the convention of the type of Philips. He made many speeches in the convention and throughout the state urging loyalty to the Union, and the fiery oratory of the young lawyer Philips had much to do with blocking Jackson's well laid plans.

When the secessionists saw that they had failed, Jackson and some of his followers left the state and went South. Vest went with Jackson.

#### "Big Four" in Conference

Not long ago Judge Philips told of a meeting between himself and Vest, Cockrell and Crittenden to talk over what each should do. Cockrell was an out-and-out secessionist, and there was no doubt about what he would do. Philips and Crittenden were Union men, and there was no doubt about what they would do, but Vest had been bitterly opposed to secession and Philips and Crittenden tried to persuade him to go with the North, but he decided to cast his fortunes with the South. Said Judge Philips: "Vest chose to emigrate to Arkansas with the seceding state officials, and down there Joe Shelby's brigade elected him to the Confederate Congress. I don't blame them—Vest had a persuasive tongue. I suppose he talked to them as he talked to a jury, and Vest's juries usually did what he told them to do. Few men could resist either his eloquence or his logic. He told me once he never had studied an English grammar, but no public speaker had a better command of the language or understood more perfectly the effective marshaling of

sentences or the magic use of words. But that was not all. He had a voice that was a worthy vehicle of his finest periods, and a dignity and presence that stilled and inspired all men.

#### Their Ways Lay Apart

"Vest went to Richmond and I went to Jefferson City as a member of the provisional convention. Our ways lay apart for four years. There was no longer any doubt of Missouri's stand after the convention met. The legislature had invested it with extraordinary powers, confident that it would do Jackson's bidding, and it used those powers to defeat his plans and cement the state to the Union. The convention declared the state offices vacant and appointed Hamilton R. Gamble governor. I was commissioned to raise a regiment and took the field at the head of the 7th Missouri Cavalry, but retained my seat in the convention and attended its sittings whenever I could leave the saddle long enough to reach the capital."

And so, the law offices were closed, Vest's and Philips' in Georgetown, one man fighting for the preservation of the Union, one to work for its dismemberment; and in Warrensburg the office of Cockrell and Crittenden was closed, one to fight in the Confederate army, the other to take a command under Judge Philips.

Philips was in the battle of Westport, a colonel, and his gallantry there in fighting General Price and driving him off along the Wornall Road to the south earned for him a nomination as brigadier general.

#### Defended Frank James

"In 1883 occurred one of the spectacular events in the life of Judge Philips. That was his defense of Frank James, the bandit, on trial for murder in Gallatin, Mo. T. T. Crittenden had been elected governor of Missouri. Determined to put an end to the outlaws that were injuring the state, he offered a reward for the capture of James and his associates.

#### Bernard Muse Kills Himself

After he had lain dead in his room for nearly a week, the body of Bernard T. Muse, a former employe of the Crystal pool hall, was found at 411 North Fifth street Sunday night. The body was badly decomposed. One of the dead man's hands clasped a picture of his wife, and the other a partially drained bottle that had contained carbolic acid. Notes left by him stated that as his wife had instituted divorce proceedings he did not care to live longer. The body was claimed by his mother who lives at Maryville. Muse was honorably discharged from army service a few

#### Uncle Sam Grants an Extension

After having taken in at this city on Saturday for that day alone a total of nearly one million dollars and then not being over half way through, the income tax collectors here were notified late that night to go ahead and accept taxes without penalty until further notice. This was welcome news to the many who on account of the shortage of blanks and the frightful weather conditions of Saturday could not do their part in helping Uncle Sam to get out of his financial difficulties.

#### Prices Then and Now

In the Thursday edition of the Democrat-Forum of Maryville appears this price list taken from the files of that paper of March 15, 1879. Quite a difference now:

"(From the advertisement of Geo. H. Hutton & Co.). 20 lbs. dried peaches, \$1; 20 lbs. dried apples, \$1; 8 lbs. choice coffee, \$1; 8 lbs. good coffee, \$1; 12 lbs. rice, \$1; 14 lbs. New Orleans Sugar, \$1; 4 lbs. good tea, \$1; 8 gallons sorghum, \$1."

#### Grand Jury Not Yet Reported

So far there has been no report from the special grand jury that has been at work over a month at the court house, and the wise ones—who generally know less than the average citizen—say that there will be nothing done—except to pile up more indictments for the taxpayers to foot.

## GEORGE SQUIRES LOSES

### Judge Allen Hands Down a Final Decree and the Judgeship Contest Is Over.

Judge T. B. Allen handed down a decree Thursday in the Squires-Brendel county judgeship contest. John Brendel gets the office; George Squires has a cost bill of \$250 to pay; it has been found that there was crookedness on both sides in the voting and returning; a whole parcel of fellows who told candidates that they had voted one way, but really voted for the other fellow and have thus been shown to be plain, unvarnished and common liars; and that is about all that the now ended contest has amounted to.

When court convened Thursday Oscar McDaniel, attorney for Squires, announced that while there had been plenty of fraud found, after all had been taken into consideration Brendel would still with all votes thrown out that his client claimed, it would still leave Judge Brendel the winner by nine votes, and "therefore on the part of my client I ask that you award the judgeship to Judge Brendel."

Judge Allen did so and after taxing up the costs amounting to about \$250 against Squires, he ordered the next case called and the case will soon be but a memory. The one point fact that it did bring out, however, was the glibness with which voters will lie to candidates—that is the majority of them—and the ease with which these liars can be discovered when a contest takes place.

## DEATH CALLED SUDDENLY

### And Frank K. Roberts of the St. Joseph Water Company Responded.

It was a great shock to the many friends of Frank K. Roberts when they were notified yesterday afternoon that he had passed away at his home, No. 223 South Sixteenth street. His death occurred at 1 p. m.

For some weeks he had not been feeling well, but was able to attend to his duties as assistant superintendent of the St. Joseph Water Company, up to last Friday, although he did come to the office on Sunday and had a short conference with Supt. Taylor. His death is attributed to the consequences following a siege of the influenza.

There were few more respected or highly esteemed business men in St. Joseph than Frank K. Roberts, and few who had more friends. He is survived by his wife and one son, Joseph H. Roberts, who is superintendent of the shell department of the Midvale Steel Co. of Philadelphia, and who is now on route home. He is also survived by two brothers, Jesse I. Roberts of the Nave-McCord Mercantile Co., and Charles W. Roberts, who resides on the old homestead just east of this city. The deceased was fifty-four years of age and almost his entire life had been spent in this city and county.

## THE VICTORY STAMP

### It Is of Most Handsome Design and Is Now Offered to the Public.

The new Victory three-cent stamp is now on sale at the St. Joseph post-office.

The design presents a standing figure of Liberty Victorious, with a background composed of the flags of the five countries which were most actively engaged in the cause. The left arm is partially extended, and the hand holds a balance scale, presenting justice. Back of the figure appears the American flag; at the left are draped the British and Belgian flags, and at the right the Italian and French flags.

Extending across the top is the inscription, "U. S. Postage." At the bottom, directly beneath the figure, is a straight line of Roman capitals in the word "Cents," flanked by circles containing the numeral "3" in each lower corner of the stamp.

A new thirteen-cent stamp also has just been issued. It will be used largely by senders of special delivery and registered letters until July 1, when the old two-cent rate on postage will again go into effect, making the charge for this kind of mail twelve instead of thirteen cents.

## ST. JOSEPH BLUECOATS TO HAVE MORE

On Wednesday afternoon the St. Joseph police bill which will increase the salaries of the patrolmen and detectives of this city \$25 per month, was sent to engrossment by the house of representatives, by a unanimous vote. The bill carries a clause eliminating the number of police detectives for this city to fifteen. At present there are eighteen of them now in the employ of the board.

## THE AUDITORIUM A BOWER OF BEAUTY

### Amid the Most Pleasant Surroundings the Big Auto Show Was Opened

### THE GREATEST DISPLAYS EVER SHOWN HERE

### Everything on Wheels or Wings That Man Has Devised Is Shown to the Admiring Thousands Who Each Day and Each Night Fill That Capacious Place to Its Full Capacity.

Cars to the right of them—cars to the left of them—and cars before and behind them—is the situation with which the thousands of visitors who attended the automobile show at the Auditorium this week, and which closes today, found themselves. All that they could see on every hand were automobiles of all grades, prices and descriptions walled in with flowers and palms, and over the whole floated the strains of sweet music to give tone to the color and artistic effects. Never before have the enterprising dealers who make up the St. Joseph Motor Car Association, put on such a splendid show—for it was never before possible.

#### The Dealers Are Busy

The attendance has been more than was anticipated—the great structure being crowded from the moment that the doors open until the lights are turned out—and by people who come from all sections of this part of the West—and each and every one has naught but praise.

And the dealers who are doing the good work—they are of the right sort—and the right men in the right place—for they can show the people that it is cheaper to own a car than to be without one. As a sample read these reasons advanced by one of them:

"The man who is afraid to spend a dollar isn't as likely to have a dollar to spend as the one who isn't afraid to spend it. The fellow who walks to save a dime isn't as likely to have as many dimes as the fellow who uses a car to help get his dimes. It is all right to preach economy—to talk about saving and to prevent waste and urging people to lay up something for a rainy day. To do otherwise would likely encourage thriftlessness and to bring on disaster, but there are a lot of failures in the world today that might be attributed to too much economy, or to false economy.

#### A Pertinent Query

"Take the automobile. A lot of people think there is a great waste in the purchase of a car. Too often we have heard people criticized for buying a car and the gossip busy telling us that this man or that one cannot afford to keep a car. The truth is, that in these days and times, there are very few people who cannot afford to do so. The time that is saved through the use of a car—that usually compensates for the outlay, to say nothing of the luxury of riding. Take the doctors—would you have them go back to their horses and buggies, particularly if one of your family was very ill? Take the farmer; what one would give up his car?

"The family that owns a car will live twice as long as the one that doesn't. That is, it will go twice as far, see twice as much, and learn a great deal more. The family also is likely to have better health and enjoy greater happiness. An automobile gives its length of life to any one who uses it, in every sense of the word. It isn't false economy any more for any one to own a car; it is the greatest economy, and as expensive as it is to maintain an automobile, it is the cheapest thing there is in the world today, considering its ability."

## ST. JOSEPH MAY HAVE NATURAL GAS

It is possible that St. Joseph may soon have natural gas again, now that the federal supreme court has ordered the Kansas Natural Gas properties taken from the hands of the receiver and turned over to the original owners. When this is done City Counselor Faust predicts that this city will again be given natural gas at a rate of 40 cents per thousand if the company does not secure a public utilities raise. All that is necessary to give St. Joseph natural gas again is to repair the break at Weston where the pipe line was swept away by the Missouri river.

## CHARLES F. BOOHER LANDS IN NEW YORK

Bruce B. Booher of 3198 Savannah Avenue received a telegram Tuesday night from his brother, Charles F. Booher, announcing that he, with the members of his division had landed from the Europa at New York that day, and that he would with the others be taken to Camp Funston to be mustered out of service. He hopes to be at home here in the next two weeks. The young soldier, who is a nephew of Congressman Charles F. Booher, was a member of the 196th brigade tank corps, and had been overseas nearly a year. He will be accorded a warm welcome when he reaches here.

## ATTENTION! MAYOR WHITE-SELL

"We the Committee, appointed by the Cosmopolitan Club, request that the Mayor and Council, do all in their power to give us bubbling sanitary Drinking Fountains, at the down town street corners, also to urge merchants to provide larger rest rooms.

"The necessity for the former will become greater following July 1st.

J. R. Barleigh,  
Kara Harrison,  
Stephen K. Owen."

## TO SPEND A MILLION

### The Street Railway People Will Make Extensive Improvements at the Local Plant.

St. Joseph is to have a lighting and heating plant that will meet every requirement—and it is to have it the present summer—and be ready for all emergencies the coming winter.

That is what general manager John H. Van Brunt told Mayor Whitsett in an official communication to him Tuesday. The improvements are to cost \$1,000,000 and work is already under way.

This will be said new to the select colorie who had all plans complete to launch a bond issue and get the city mixed up with public utilities for the benefit of a select gang of future place holders.

The principal portion of the money spent will be utilized to make the power house so vast in material and resources that no amount of additional burden placed on it will affect it.

## TO BUILD—BUILDINGS

### The Building Industry Club Decides That It Is Time to Boost Construction.

If the plans outlined and approved by the St. Joseph Building Industry Club at its meeting held at the Commerce Club Tuesday night are an indication, the building industry will be given an impetus in the next few days that will put St. Joseph on the construction map this year.

Plans were approved whereby designs for four, five and six-room dwellings will be submitted with complete estimates for all material and labor, so that those inclined may be fitted out without trouble—in short no person who desires to build need hesitate. Plans were also made for providing financial help to those desiring it.

## NEARLY SEVEN INCHES OF RAIN FELL

The storm of Saturday and Saturday night was the worst experienced here for some time, the heavy down-pour of rain doing much damage to terraces, sewers and bridges. It is estimated that about \$25,000 damage was done to sewers alone. In the county, Highway Engineer Mayer estimates that it will require \$75,000 to repair roads and bridges. Much damage was done to railroads running into this city and service was badly demoralized. The records of the weather station show that from Saturday forenoon to Sunday morning a total of 6.37 inches of rain fell here.

## FOR TACK THROWERS

The bill prohibiting common-law marriages in the state has been engrossed in the house.

A measure providing a severe penalty for throwing glass, tacks, nails, etc., on a public highway has been presented in the senate.

The senate has engrossed an amendment to the constitution providing for an increase of pay for legislators from \$5 a day to \$1,000 a year.

The senate elections committee added a rider to the suffrage bill providing that the matter be submitted to the voters of the state. The measure has already passed the house and is now on the calendar in the senate for final passage.

A bill drawn by John M. Atkinson of St. Louis has been presented in the house providing for a one-man police commissioner in St. Louis. This idea has been in force in other states.

The tax on soft drinks will probably be fixed at 2 cents a gallon instead of 8 cents as was at first proposed. The tax is now 1/4 cent per gallon.

A measure with the provision that state committees may decide upon a primary or convention plan for nominating state officers has been engrossed in the senate. There was quite a heated debate over this measure.

## MISSOURI TO GO AFTER FOREIGN BUSINESS

### Too Much Is Lost Because It Is Not Gone After

### A DISCOUNT BANK WILL DO THE WORK

### The Legislators at the State Capitol Are Requested by the Business Interests to Take Up the Matter and Help to Get For This State a Large Volume of Business That Should Now Come to This State, But Which Now Goes Elsewhere.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 20.—(Correspondence.)—A measure permitting bankers and manufacturers of the state to form a discount bank for the purpose of carrying on business with foreign countries has been introduced into the assembly at the request of St. Louis bankers and business men.

Brockbridge Jones, president of the Missouri Valley Trust Company, and Fustus J. Wain, president of the Mercantile Company, appeared before a joint meeting of the house and senate and urged the adoption of the measure.

They agreed that if permitted by law to organize such a bank, by permitting other banks and corporations to purchase stock much business could be secured from foreign countries. They declared that because of the lack of ability to extend proper credits this section of the country has been unable to secure its share of the business.

The plan is to form a bank with from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 capital stock and carry accounts of foreign countries and business concerns who are desirous of "making purchases here."

The bank will not receive deposits or be in competition with other banks. The speakers declared that with such an institution more business would come to this section than had ever been known heretofore.

## GOES PERMIT DANCING

Dancing in the lobby of the house was objected to by a few members this week. A resolution offered against it was referred to a committee. The fight was between Republican members. The Democrats felt that since the house is controlled by Republicans and the clerks are of their selection they should not speak on the matter.

The senate has engrossed the measure providing for the repeal of the Tax Commission law by a vote of 17 to 12.

A measure tending to protect sheep and goats has been engrossed in the house and provides for a tax of \$1 on male and \$2 on female dogs. The bill provides that the tax collected shall create a fund with which to pay for sheep and goats killed by the canine tribe.

War workers who assisted in the Liberty Loan, Red Cross, and other war campaigns were warmly thanked for their service by a resolution which was adopted in the house.

## JOHN A. SCHELHAMER CALLED

For over thirty-five years John A. Schelhamer had been a resident of this city, and for many of those years had conducted a drug store at 628 South Eighth street. He died at an early hour Tuesday morning following a stroke of apoplexy with which he was afflicted Sunday. He was a native of Dayton, Ohio, and leaves behind his widow, a brother, Charles Schelhamer, of St. Louis, and two sisters, Mrs. Harmon Sehner of Dayton, Ohio, and Mrs. John Neff of Kansas City. The funeral services were conducted Wednesday afternoon by Rev. Chilton and were largely attended as the deceased was widely known and highly respected and esteemed.

## A FORMER GAZETTE VICISSITUDE

The St. Joseph Gazette has had many ups and downs in its long and useful life. In the Forty Year Ago column of the Kansas City Times of the 17th of the present month appears this down-and-up:

"The St. Joseph Gazette, which was knocked down by the sheriff last week, came up smiling again Wednesday morning and looking more hopeful and promising than ever. Col. C. B. Wilkinson continues in editorial charge, with Lewis Barnes as business manager."

Officers of the Anti-Horse Thief Association have been here urging legislation providing that a certificate of ownership must be furnished with every automobile sold. They contend that if this is done fewer cars will be stolen. Persons familiar with the association are of the opinion that a great deal will be accomplished should the law be enacted.

Members of the legislature are being bombarded with petitions from Germans and German organizations against the passage of Representative Cassel's bill prohibiting the teaching of all foreign languages in elementary grades of the public schools and passage of a measure of Missouri.

## SUPPOSED TO BE SPY

### But It Was Found That Rucker Was Insane and He Is Locked Up.

A patient was received at State Hospital No. 2 this week who had rented a flat in a frame in Ray county during the war that the war is over, for he was supposed to be an agent and spy for the German government.

The man, whose name is L. Y. Rucker, is blind, and for some time had been treated by Richmond, where he followed the profession of poet and magazine writer. He was at one time connected with a New York newspaper in an editorial capacity. Last week he went to Excelsior Springs where he was arrested and held in jail for forty-eight hours with little to eat or drink and nothing whatever to sleep on. Rucker was held, not being allowed to communicate with friends, retain a lawyer, buy smoking tobacco or read. Messages he offered for the telegram were wadded up and thrown away unread. His release was as mysterious as was his arrest. He was not charged with any crime, he was not indicted and official, he was just locked up and then taken before the county court who had him committed to the state hospital here. The finding of the following letter shows his effect—what he thought about his arrest—the letter is as follows:

Kaiserlich Deutsche Botschaft, Imperial German Embassy, Washington, D. C.

New York, Feb. 5 1915.—My Dear Mr. Rucker: With many thanks for your favor of 2d instant, with enclosure, I will be glad to assist you of your kind offer as soon as opportunity offers.

Yours very sincerely,  
J. Bernasconi.

Mr. Rucker went to Excelsior Springs to write a Roosevelt story to submit to the Metropolitan Magazine, and in the files of hundreds of personal letters from Roosevelt to Rucker, from which he was taking his material, there was by accident the letter from Van Hornetoff.

"If the cops had been able to read the date they would have known the letter was not espionage," said Mr. Rucker. "We were not at war at that time. The letter from Bernasconi was one in answer to one in the ambassador. I was there at the time and I was assigned to get a story from Bernasconi for the Hearst Magazine on the newspaper advertising the embassy did, warning Americans not to sell on the ship. That was all the letter was about."

But just the same Rucker is now an inmate of the state hospital here.

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