

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

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By J. B. MILLER

CONFERENCE RETURNS REV. HENRY TO LIBERAL

Appointment of Former Minister is Pleading to Liberal Folks Who Admire A. E. Henry

The work of the Southwest Kansas Conference closed with the appointment of the ministers to the various charges for the coming year.

Liberal is gratified to know that Rev. A. E. Henry was returned to this charge, and the congregation as well as the friends of Rev. Henry, who are not members of his church, are pleased that he is to be here another year.

Rev. Henry is not only a faithful minister, but a hard worker and is recognized as one of the valuable men in the public life of Liberal. He has demonstrated his ability to make things move in the erection of the new church, and his vision of greater things will be an inspiration to his congregation and the southwest.

Bishop Ernest Lynn Waldorf, presiding at the fortieth annual Methodist Conference here, announced the appointments of ministers to Kansas pastorates.

The appointments for the Liberal district follows:

- S. M. VanCleve, Superintendent. Beaver, Okla.—H. G. Butler. Beaver Ct. to be supplied. Bellview, Okla.—E. K. Hopkins, Liberal, Kansas. Bloom—J. L. Hipple. Boise City, Okla.—C. B. Gentry. Bucklin, C. C. Pearson. Copeland—F. McCormick. Cullison, to be supplied. Elkhart—R. A. Corrie. Elkhart Ct.—D. Huffman. Ematon—J. E. Guy, Liberty. Ensign—Oscar Matthew. Ford—E. C. Allen. Forgan, Okla.—D. A. Leeper. Fowler—E. R. Foiles. Gate, Okla.—J. A. Hopkins. Greensburg—C. D. Whitman. Guymon, Okla.—L. F. Abernathy. Guymon Ct.—J. R. Lambert. Guymon South, Okla., to be supplied. Haviland—A. E. Ayers. Hugoton—O. L. Monson. Johnson—Geo. Engle. Kenton, Okla.—W. W. Reed. Kenton Ct. Okla.—J. A. Jackson. Liberal, A. E. Henry. Liberal Ct.—H. O. Pringle, Tyrone, Okla. Liberal South—F. H. Neff. Marella, Okla.—Ray Poberoy. Meade—F. H. Wheat. Minneola—W. B. Summers. Montezuma—B. G. McCormick. Moscow—B. H. Lewis. Mullinsville—Lyle Day. Plains—S. M. Day. Richfield—R. L. Lockard. Rolla—Levi Hedden. Santa Fe—L. R. Hoff. Santa Fe Ct.—S. V. Lowe. Sublette—R. E. Keyes. Uneda—M. E. Markwell. Ulysses—Geo. W. Ramsey. Wellsford—L. W. Kemp. District Evangelist—H. E. Stipe.

VIC HAHN SELLS SHOP TO PENNEY & COMPANY

V. C. Hahn, who has conducted a cleaning and pressing shop in Liberal for a number of years, has sold the business to H. E. Penney and R. W. Alexander, who are now in charge. The firm will be known as Penney & Company, and E. A. Shelly will assist in the business.

Messrs. Penney and Alexander have been engaged in business at Claremore, Oklahoma, and Mr. Shelly comes from Kingman. They are and promise patrons of the place experienced in this line of business the same painstaking efforts that Mr. Hahn has given.

They expect to add to the equipment and will be in a position to handle the business which may come their way in a satisfactory manner. The Democrat welcomes the gentlemen to the business life of the city.

CANEY HIBBS TO HAVE PUBLIC SALE FRIDAY

Caney Hibbs will have a public sale at the old Cash Waters feed yard in South Liberal Friday afternoon at one o'clock, offering horses, mules, cattle, hogs, chickens, etc. If you need some good stock or poultry better attend this sale and buy the stuff at your own price.

Mr. Wade, proprietor of the Annex Cafe is quite ill at a local hospital.

CONFERENCE CLOSED MONDAY MORNING

Ministers Left for Their Homes on a Special Train That Morning Delighted With Liberal

The Southwest Kansas Conference adjourned Monday morning and the delegates and visitors left on a special train for their homes.

On account of the blizzard which raged for several days, the attendance was small, but the week was a profitable one for those who were fortunate enough to get here before train service was demoralized.

Thursday night was a trying one for all. The ministers and the part of the congregation were marooned in the church all night. Cots were secured from the National Guards and the night was spent in the church building.

The driving snow storm made it unsafe to venture any great distance, and several narrowly escaped death in the storm.

Then the following days it was almost impossible to get about, which hampered the pleasure of the session.

It is to be regretted that such weather came during the session, but the moisture will be a great benefit to the country and all took it good naturedly.

KLEAN KLOTHES KLEAN BUYING NEW EQUIPMENT

F. E. Cawley of the Klean Klotches Klean shop, announces that within the next few weeks, he will add to his already extensive equipment, several machines which will enable him to still better serve his patrons.

Mr. Cawley already has the best equipped shop in this part of the country, and with the new machines now on the way, he will have about everything needed to turn out the work quickly and satisfactorily.

WM. H. DICKERSON PASSED AWAY FRIDAY

Wm. H. Dickerson, civil war veteran and a highly respected citizen of Liberal, died at his home on North Pershing Avenue, Friday, March 10, 1922.

He was stricken with pneumonia last Sunday morning, and sank rapidly, the end coming Friday.

William Harrison Dickerson was born in Indiana, November 8, 1837, and died at his home in this city, March 10, 1922, being 84 years, 4 months and 2 days old.

In 1861, at the age of 22, the Civil war broke out between the states, at the firing on Ft. Sumpter, and Mr. Dickerson offered his services, and was attached to Co. H. Indiana Vol. Inf., where he gave loyal service until the battle of Antietam, in which battle he received a severe wound, which rendered him unfit for further service. On account of this he was mustered out and given an honorable discharge in 1863.

On February 22, 1864, he was united in marriage with Nancy E. Paul of Kentucky, and with the bride he moved into a new settlement of Northern Missouri, where he endured all the hardships of frontier life in a new country, but he founded a home and reared a large family of boys and girls. In 1896 the call of the pioneer was again heeded and he took a homestead in Southwestern Kansas, near Liberal. Six years ago he moved to Liberal where he has resided until death called him home.

Early in life he professed faith in Christ and united with the Baptist church of Harris, Missouri. On coming to Liberal his membership was placed in the Liberal Baptist church, where he was a member at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Masonic lodge.

He leaves behind, his wife, five sons and three daughters, Mrs. F. H. O'Neal of Floris, Oklahoma; Mrs. H. B. Ousmus of Floris, Oklahoma; Mrs. A. R. Hart of Liberal; Tom Dickerson of Lomona, Iowa; R. W., D. C. and C. C. Dickerson, all of Liberal; and one brother, Frank Dickerson of Ravenna, Missouri. Besides these, there are 29 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the family residence Monday morning, March 13th, by John R. Pennington of the Baptist church, and burial was in the Liberal cemetery.

H. G. Butler was in the city a few days the latter part of the week.

REGARDING THE GAS FRANCHISE

W. H. Vickers, a member of the city council, hands the Democrat the following, with the request that it be printed in fairness to Mr. Vickers and the other members of the council the request is granted.

This paper first of all desires to be fair in the matter, and while we have come out openly and expressed an opinion adverse to the city council, we are willing to grant any member the privilege of using the columns of the paper, regardless of the facts that we cannot agree with them.

Mr. Vickers says: "Inasmuch as the question of a gas franchise for the City has been called to the attention of the people at large, it is well that the matter be considered seriously by all the people so that the Council may be guided by their desire."

"The last meeting of the Council at which the request for the franchise was refused was the third time the council had been requested to consider the privilege. The first time the price asked was \$1 per thousand feet. The second time the price was eighty cents per thousand feet. The third and last time the price was sixty-five cents per thousand feet."

"At no instance has the parties requesting the franchise given satisfactory evidence to the council that they could and were ready to immediately furnish the city with gas."

"My personal opinion formed by conversation with the other councilmen is that any party or parties who can furnish the following two requisites will have an immediate and favorable consideration of the council."

First: The Gas Second: Rates and conditions of franchise acceptable to council.

"The council has made much investigation, has on hand voluminous correspondence concerning franchises and has had many meetings to discuss the same"

To make an issue on this matter against councilman who is up for election at this time would hardly be fair, because even the opponent were lected, he would, by his oath of office, be compelled to consider the vital facts which result in the best interest of the community at large."

"The following letter from the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Enid, Oklahoma, gives you one cities' perplexing problem. In considering it you should take into consideration that the requests for a franchise so far have been made by parties who were not producers of gas but who had formed a separate company to distribute the gas and who could at will sell their rights to others."

Enid Oklahoma March 13, 1922

Mr. W. H. Vickers Liberal, Kansas Dear Sir:

Inquiry has been made of me concerning the matter of the gas franchise of the city of Enid and the situation generally concerning the furnishing of gas to private consumers within the city, under and pursuant to that franchise, and particularly whether or not the price fixed in the franchise still governs in the matter of the furnishing to such private consumers.

In reply thereto I desire to say that our franchise was granted in 1916. The price to be charged the private consumer was fixed in the franchise at thirty-five cents per thousand feet, shortly thereafter it was by order of the corporation commission raised to forty cents per thousand feet. Since that time we have had it raised to 45 cents then to 48 cents to 58 cents to 63 and now there is an application pending before the commission to allow the company to charge 75 cents per thousand feet. The city has repeatedly opposed these raises but to no effect. The result is that the people having prepared to use gas and having built their homes and bought equipment with that end in view are as matter of self protection obliged to arrange for other fuel. Many of our citizens turned to coal when the last raise was made and if the new raise is allowed I expect to see many more of them use other fuel. The situation is not at all satisfactory.

I do not know how the franchise could have been improved on so as to obviate these objectionable features, but it has occurred to me that if the franchise was directly with a person or company who was producing the gas the city might be in a better position. The holder of our franchise

when it asks for a raise shows that it is not a producer of gas that it obtains its supply of gas from another company as the producer; that the producing company is charging it (the distributing company) an increased price and therefore it being but a merchant in gas must add a profit.

Again it occurs to me that if the franchise was with a producer of gas it might well provide that if he or it ceased to be a producer of sufficient gas to furnish the city then the franchise should be terminated and the city would be given the privilege of taking over the mains and connections within the city at a fair remuneration to the holder.

The experience of cities in Oklahoma in what has heretofore been the gas belt all goes to warn others that the granting of a gas franchise by a municipality ought to be attended with the deepest study and the most careful and farseeing consideration by those whose purpose it is to guard the welfare of the citizenship of the municipality.

If this information will be of any benefit to you I am glad to be able to give it to you.

Very truly yours, Roy L. Eury Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Enid, Oklahoma.

We shall not take issue with any statement of Mr. Vickers, but we do wish to make a few comments on the letter from the secretary of the Enid Chamber of Commerce.

The first question mentioned by the writer of the letter was the matter of rates. We are of the opinion that the rate asked is not unreasonable. Our reason for the belief is not based wholly on a comparison of rates in other towns, which is unfair, because other towns might be paying either too much or too little.

The price should be based on the cost of the gas, whether produced by the distributing company or purchased from others, as the first factor; the cost of distribution; the cost of depreciation on the system, plus a reasonable profit.

There is authentic information on this subject, and according to this information it seems that the rate asked here is not unreasonable, and that it will furnish heat at a considerable less cost than coal, to say nothing of the added convenience.

This information comes from an unquestionable source and is more reliable method of establishing the question of rates than any comparison.

The secretary of the Enid Chamber does not say what percentage of the consumers turned to coal, and we will venture the assertion that they were a negligible quantity. His statement that he expects more to do so in the event of a raise, is hardly a competent statement in opposition.

We fail to get the viewpoint of the writer in regard to the distributors buying the gas of a producer. Suppose the ordinance did provide that the city take over the system, is it not reasonable to suppose that the producer would ask the city just as much as they would the distributing company, and would not the city be better off without the investment in the distributing system?

Our idea is that the distributing company has a heavy investment in equipment, and that as a matter of self protection they will not make the price so high that people cannot afford to patronize them, for should this be the case they would be the heavy losers. Of course the Enid gas comes thru a pipe line which supplies other cities and is quite a different situation from that which affects Liberal.

We agree that the letting of a franchise should be attended with deepest study, and consequently we have spent weeks going into the matter from a disinterested viewpoint and the more we learn the better we are satisfied with the proposition we are offered.

A rate comparison with the Amarilla is interesting. The maximum rate asked here is fifteen cents higher than the maximum rate at Amarilla. However the Amarilla rate maintains for the first 30,000 feet while the Liberal rate comes down for smaller quantities, and on the basis of 30,000 feet the rate asked here is but little higher than the Amarilla rate.

During the M. E. Conference Rev. G. A. Gebhart of Ochletta, Oklahoma, in the Tulsa country, visited the Democrat office and we got some facts from him which makes the prospect look (Continued on Page Four)

HOW THEY FARED IN THE BIG SNOW STORM

Being the Experiences of a Liberal Party on the Road From Hugoton to Liberal Last Week

On Wednesday, March 8th, Col. C. H. Ellis, V. C. Wilson and wife and H. G. Fuller, all of Liberal, journeyed to Hugoton to attend a district meeting of the Rebekah Lodge I. O. O. F.

The meeting was in charge of Zylpha B. Dix, of Hutchinson, vice president of the Rebekah State Assembly. Mrs. Dix is the wife of C. H. Dix of Hutchinson, who is a brother of Mrs. C. H. Ellis.

A school of instruction was held in the afternoon, a banquet was served at six p. m. in the Christian church, after which an evening session was held and the Rebekah degree was conferred in a beautiful and striking manner by the Hugoton Degree Staff, followed by a very entertaining and instructive address by Sister Dix, who explained the beauties and benefits of Odd Fellowship in that easy, fluent manner which seems to be peculiarly her own.

Mrs. Dix dwelt at length on the subject of the Rebekah-Odd Fellow home at Eureka Lake, making every one present an enthusiastic booster for that wonderful institution.

Mrs. Dix was followed by Col. C. H. Ellis, Past Grand Master, and others, and all in all, it was an evening delightfully spent, but, when the hour of adjournment arrived, it was discovered that a regulation blizzard was in progress on the outside, and some of the people from out of town were unable to get home for several days.

The Liberal delegation, accompanied by Vice President Dix, started for home at eleven o'clock, and after combating the flying snow and drifts for two hours found themselves 7 1-2 miles east of Hugoton, snowed in. We made our way to the home of O. J. Wayland and asked for shelter, and, like the wounded man of old, we were taken in, warmed and fed.

We thought we could go on when daylight came, but on the following day the snow was piling higher and higher, and we were completely shut off from the outside world.

The fact that we were unable to reach home was indeed disappointing to all of us, but our disappointment and our intense desire to get home was in a measure brushed aside by the wonderful hospitality of the Wayland family. Such a welcome, such kindness, such sumptuous meals, such friendship can scarcely be found anywhere and the very name of O. J. Wayland and family will awaken tender memories in our hearts for many years to come.

After putting forth every effort to get someone to bring us to Liberal by auto, horse or mule, and failing at every turn, we climbed into our own auto the following Tuesday at ten thirty a. m. and started on our homeward trip, and, after shoveling snow, wading mud and water and pushing, we made that twenty-four miles to Liberal on our own power, for what the engine lacked in power we supplied by hand, but we are home and we are glad of it, and we will all go to Hugoton again some time.

—Col. C. H. Ellis.

LATE ANALYSIS OF CITY WATER IS SATISFACTORY

State Chemist Gives Favorable Report on the Water Taken From the Liberal Mains

Liberal water is as near pure as water can be, is the opinion of State Chemist P. S. Fox.

Water taken from taps in different parts of the city and sent to the State Chemist for analysis were pronounced to be very satisfactory from a bacteriological standpoint.

In fact the water was said to be in excellent condition from a sanitary standpoint as well.

Liberal not only has good water but an inexhaustible supply, and this fact is very pleasing to Liberal people.

TOURISTS COMING

Tourists are beginning to come to the city already in spite of the roads. There were four parties of tourists camped at the Liberal grounds Wednesday night. W. B. King says that there will soon be a light there and a book where the tourists can register.

PARK BOARD STARTS BUY-A-TREE MOVEMENT

Park to be Beautified This Spring and Other Improvements Are Being Planned

The Park Board held a meeting this morning at which time Albert Dickens of the State Foresters school of Manhattan, was present, and presented the plans for the new park.

Mr. Dickens is thoroughly familiar with the subject and gave just the advice needed.

It is the plan now to arrange to set the park to trees this spring and a movement is under way to attain this end.

The plan is this: each citizen of Liberal is to be asked to buy and set one or more trees in the park. That this may be accomplished arrangements have been made whereby the trees may be purchased and set for \$1 each, and the money is to be collected and the trees purchased by the park board.

A meeting was held this morning and the board organized by electing Joe Bryson chairman, and Ira Riney secretary-treasurer.

Committees from the Lions, Rotary, Womans and other clubs, and the Chamber of Commerce will canvass the town and give each person the opportunity to buy a tree. Should you be missed in the canvass, see one of the members of the board or Mr. Riney. The members, aside from Messrs. Riney and Bryson, are J. G. Ault, Ed Donnelly and Lee Larrabee.

A swimming pool, a tennis court, possibly a lake and playground equipment will be incorporated in the park plans for the future.

The slogan for the tree drive will be "buy the park a tree" and it is hoped everyone will buy one or more. Some small willows are to be set and these will cost 25 cents each. Any child of school age may buy one or more of these.

The park proposition is beginning to take on definite shape and it is hoped everyone will see the importance of the movement and assist in every way possible.

REGISTRATION BOOKS TO CLOSE MARCH 24TH

Better Register if You Wish to Vote in the City Election This Spring Possibly Two Tickets

A city election will be held in April, at which time three councilmen and a member of the Board of Education will be chosen.

There is a possibility of two tickets being in the field in which event you might wish to vote badly.

Unless you are properly registered, you will not be allowed to vote at this election. The registration books are now open at the office of the city clerk and you should call there not later than April 24th, which is the last day you may register.

If you have changed location since voting the last time, you will be required to register.

ELDON DUDLEY SELLS TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT

A business transaction was closed Tuesday afternoon when J. P. Maas and Mrs. S. E. Ferguson became the owners of the cleaning and pressing works of Eldon Dudley.

Mrs. Ferguson will have charge of the altering department. She was recently employed in the shop owned by Vic Hahn. Mr. Maas is of La Junta, Colorado, and has been in the Troxel Cleaning Co. there for several years, and is thoroughly experienced in that line.

There will be some re-arrangements made in the office and Mrs. Minnie Broadfoot will have her hem-stitching machine there after the first of the week.

"SICK-A-BED" BEING SHOWN AT MAJESTIC THEATRE

The "Are You a Mason" Company has been showing at the Majestic all week. The first half they gave "Are You a Mason", and the last half they are playing "Sick-a-bed", matinees and nights.

The company carries fifteen people and they have been putting on good shows, though on account of the bad weather, the crowds have been small.

Friday matinee and night and Saturday night they show "Sick-a-bed", so if you have not seen this play, and want a good hearty laugh and then some more, go to see it one of the performances.