

ESTABLISHED 1854.

LEON, IOWA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1910.

REPORTER SERIES VOL. XXXV NO. 26.

THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowsher Celebrate that Coveted Goal, which is Reached by but Very Few.

One of the most notable society events ever held in Leon was the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowsher, two of Leon's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, at the home of their son, J. R. Bowsher, whose magnificent new residence, "The Linger Longer," is nearing completion. Work had been rushed night and day to get the residence finished in time for the celebration, but the weather interfered so that it was not entirely done in time for the celebration Monday of this week.

In order that all of their friends might attend, Mr. and Mrs. Bowsher did not send out individual invitations, but gave a public invitation to all their friends through the columns of the newspapers, and they responded in great numbers, the large house being thronged with visitors all day, and in the evening by those who called to pay their respects to this worthy couple. The home was beautifully decorated in yellow in honor of the occasion, the dining-room having a profusion of yellow cut flowers to add to the beauty of the decorations. Throughout the day delicious refreshments were served to all who called, the guests being received by Mr. and Mrs. Bowsher; their son, Mr. J. R. Bowsher, and Mrs. Bowsher; their grandson, Mr. Port Bowsher, and Mrs. Bowsher, of Lamoni; their grandchildren, Miss Edna and Mr. Robert Kohler, of Butte, Mont.; Mr. and Mrs. James Gutch, of Albia, and Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Younkin, of Des Moines.

In the afternoon and again in the

Look at Your Tag.

As will be seen by a notice published in this issue, the publishers of every newspaper in Decatur county have agreed that on and after March 10 they will comply strictly with the postoffice department's ruling that all subscribers to weekly newspapers must not be more than one year in arrears or the paper will be denied admission to the mails. The date to which your paper is paid is printed on the yellow label after your name on your paper, and we ask all our subscribers to examine their tag and if a year or more in arrears to send us a check or draft, or call at the office and pay the account. If you fail to do this you will not receive The Reporter after March 10, and the account will have to be placed for collection, as we cannot keep track of the accounts after the paper is stopped. Don't neglect this, but attend to it at once.

Rev. Coakwell will go to St. Joe.

Rev. Chas. Arthur Coakwell, for the past two years the popular pastor of the Christian church of Leon, has accepted a call from the St. Joe Avenue Christian church of North St. Joe, and will enter on his duties as pastor April 1st when he closes his labors as pastor of the Leon church, having announced his resignation some weeks ago to take effect on April 1st. The charge at St. Joe pays him quite a nice increase in salary, and his friends will congratulate him, but will be sorry to see him leave Leon. Mrs. Coakwell is now visiting relatives in Ohio, and he has stored his household goods until he moves to St. Joe.

Preaching services at the Presbyterian church 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Subject for morning, "The Religion of Jesus Christ and How it Compares With the Religion of Leon."

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

In view of the fact that the United States Post-office department is now at work rigidly enforcing the the department's ruling that all subscribers to weekly newspapers must not allow their subscription to become more than one year in arrears or the publisher of the paper will be refused admission to the mails under the second-class postage rate, it becomes necessary for the newspapers of Decatur county to comply with the department's ruling. On March 10, 1910, every subscriber to the newspapers of Decatur county who is one year or more in arrears will have their paper discontinued.

Please don't blame the publishers for this, for we must comply with the postal ruling. We can make no exceptions and all subscribers will be treated alike. We dislike to cut off subscribers who have taken our papers many years, but there is no alternative.

If you desire to continue receiving your paper it will be necessary to settle up your subscription account.

O. E. Hull, Publisher Leon Reporter.
Will F. Lindsey, Mgr. Decatur County Journal.
R. C. Hoadley, Publisher Garden Grove Express.
Chronicle Publishing Co., Pubs. Lamoni Chronicle.
Lambert Bros., Publishers Lamoni Patriot.
H. O. Tuttle, Publisher Van Wert Record.
R. C. Hoadley, Publisher Weldon American.
C. M. Grimm, Publisher Grand River Local.

TWINS 98 YEARS OLD

John M. and Eli Phipps—Born Feb. 14, 1812, are the Oldest Living Twins in the World.

A remarkable birthday celebration was observed on Monday of this week at the home of Mr. John M. Phipps, who lives half way between Shenandoah and Farragut, it being the ninety-eighth birthday of twins, Mr. John M. Phipps and his brother, Mr. Eli Phipps, who came from his home at Hennessey, Okla., to attend the celebration in his honor.

Mr. John M. Phipps is the father of Mrs. E. A. Gardner of Leon, and frequently visits in this city, having been here but a few weeks ago. He was one of the early settlers of Decatur county, and is acquainted with many of our older citizens.

The Shenandoah Sentinel-Post of last Friday has the following very interesting article in regard to the twins:

Mr. Eli Phipps, of Hennessey, Oklahoma, is expected here tomorrow to visit with his twin brother, John M. Phipps, and celebrate their ninety-eighth birthday together at the home of the latter between here, and Farragut next Monday.

Some weeks ago the Chicago Record-Herald published an account of the lives of twins ninety-one years old and claimed for them the distinction of being the oldest twins in the world, but we can beat them by seven years. John and Eli Phipps were born in Washington county, Virginia, February 14, 1812.

This date conveys little impression upon the mind unless one stops to make comparisons. It was a few months before the declaration of war against England in 1812. It was before the battle of Waterloo was fought. Before the fall of Tecumseh, the famous Indian chief who fought

Iowa and settling near Farragut about thirty years ago where he has since resided. He came here from near Independence, Mo.

Mr. Phipps never used tobacco, opiates or liquor. He used plain food and loved corn bread, buttermilk and cider. He nearly always took a nap at noon, and spent a great deal of time out of doors. He loved the open air and exercise, and even now at his great age it is hard to keep him in the house as much as necessary for his health. In all his long life he has had few spells of sickness and has taken but little medicine. He never had but one spell of fever, and that was when a young man. He likes to visit with his neighbors in the good old fashioned way—just go and spend the day. It has been his custom in winter to bathe his feet in the snow, and in summer in water fresh and cold from the well. He sits in the house with his feet bare a great deal and never seems to take any cold from it. In fact he used to cure himself of rheumatic attacks by cutting a hole in the ice and sit with his bare feet hanging in the icy water beneath.

Mr. Phipps is a remarkably vigorous man for his age, insisting upon doing hard work, until recently, and even now doing more work than many men 40 years younger. He travels alone to visit relatives in Nebraska and a few days ago made a trip to Leon, Iowa. The train from Farragut to Shenandoah was late, and when he reached Shenandoah the K. & W. train had pulled out to the half-mile away. Uncle John started out on foot to catch the train, caught it and went on his way rejoicing.

Mr. Phipps has been a great man to ask questions, but always reticent to talk about himself. Regarding his early life he seldom talks, although he could no doubt tell his deeds and experiences enough to make an interesting book. This reticence, or modesty, brought him

COMMERCIAL CLUB BANQUET.

There was a Full Attendance and a Big Time at the Banquet last Friday Evening.

The second annual banquet of the Leon Commercial Club was held on last Friday evening and it was one of the swell events of the season. The banquet, a six course one, was served at 7 o'clock in the Biggs hall by the Estes Cafe, music being furnished by the Leon orchestra. Plates were laid for over two hundred people and there were no absentees. O. E. Hull presided as toastmaster and after the invocation by Elder J. S. Coffin everybody got busy.

As it was 10 o'clock before the last course of the banquet was finished, and there was a big minstrel entertainment to follow, the time for toasts was limited. The first on the program was "Leon's Progress in the Past Year," which was responded to by W. C. Stempel, president of the Commercial Club, and in a few words he gave some idea of the many improvements which have been made in Leon since the club banquet a year ago, showing by actual figures that the private improvements made during this time was almost \$50. per capita for all the residents of Leon. "The Benefits of Our Public Improvements" were shown up in a careful manner by Horace Farquhar and when duly considered is a record to be proud of. "Will the Commercial Club Deliver the Goods" was responded to by James W. Hurst, and he was firm in the opinion that they would, as has been shown in the past. A. P. Olsen gave a short but splendid eulogy of Abraham Lincoln and it was regretted that the speaker did not have more time in which to do justice to that grand old man. Geis Botsford, secretary of the Des Moines Commercial Club, was the guest of honor of the evening, and spoke of "Some Iowa Possibilities and How to Cash Them In." Mr. Botsford is a live wire, and he could have filled in an entire evening telling of the great possibilities of the great state of Iowa. He has given much careful study and work to this question and was prepared with facts and figures to show that Iowa has advantages possessed by no other state in the union, and all we have to do is to take advantage of them. He said that Iowa was the greatest fruit country in the world and in the recent horticultural convention held at Denver Iowa carried off the first prize for the best apples against Colorado, Oregon, California and all other competitors. He also spoke of the dairy interests, and of the good roads movement. Mr. Botsford is a splendid talker and those present would have enjoyed hearing him for a whole evening, but he condensed his remarks in order to give the minstrel talent a chance.

After the toasts were finished everybody went to the K. P. hall where members of the Commercial Club presented a black face minstrel entertainment of almost two hours in length, and say, it was about the best thing in this line ever seen in Leon. Each and every artist appearing on the program was an artist and had to respond to a hearty encore. Such staid old citizens as John Wasson, C. M. Akes, Mose Jones, Dr. Rowell, George Ogilvie, George Hurst, Dr. Foxworthy, Marion Woodard, and others could secure an engagement on the road any time. The program opened with a comic song from R. O. Allen, which made a hit. Then Mose Jones, in plug hat and a mouth made special for the occasion gave the speller's announcement of the show and he must have had experience in this line in his younger days. Carl Hale, as the lady singer and skirt dancer,

made many of the ladies green with envy for he made up as a stunning young lady and the way he did the dancing act was a caution. Deacon George Ogilvie as a handsome little "coon" lady was the star of the evening, and he could not be beat. George Hurst and Wilbur Miller also appeared as "cuddly" ladies, and they handled their skirts to perfection. Frank Farquhar, Ray Layton, Dr. Woodmansee, Lou Pease, Pete Brady and R. O. Allen in singing and dancing features were out of sight. Marion Woodard in the character of old grouch portrayed in only too true a manner the attitude of a few old knockers who still live in Leon. James Hurst as interlocutor and Dr. J. W. Rowell and Dr. F. A. Bowman as end men and vocal soloists were strictly there with the goods. And last but not least there was "Tiny" Stempel and "Katrina" Kopp, our two "French" druggists, in their Dutch character sketch, wooden shoe dancing and singing, and everyone screamed with laughter at their antics, and called them back again and again.

The crowning feature which closed the performance was the Lincoln tableau, in which W. C. Stempel impersonated "Old Abe" to perfection, even if it did necessitate the sacrificing of his mustache.

The K. P. band and many of the members of the Commercial Club met Secretary Geis Botsford at the depot upon the arrival of the train from Des Moines and escorted him to his hotel.

So well pleased was everyone with the minstrel show that the boys have been requested to repeat it soon at the opera house, so that everybody in Leon can see it, as on account of lack of seating capacity the attendance at the K. P. hall was limited to the guests at the banquet and a few others.

The Leon Commercial Club is in a flourishing condition, having an active membership of over 100 members. During the past year they have accomplished a number of good things for the benefit of Leon and have plans laid for a number of others during the coming year. The members are boosters from the word go, and Leon is making herself a name throughout the state as a live town where the boosters are in the saddle.

Marriage Licenses.

Jake H. Lockwood, Woodland... 24
Minnie Rains, Woodland... 24
James S. Bond, Lamoni... 24
Ada E. Toney, Lamoni... 22
Wm. H. Smith, San Francisco... 31
Blanche Rose, Detroit, Mich... 29
George Fry, Van Wert... 20
Josie Hall, Weldon... 20
Geo. Woodmansee, Jr., Decatur... 24
Esther Shields, Grand River... 18
Orel Everett Baker, Cainsville... 21
Edis Baldwin, Cainsville... 19
Albert W. Fleet, Lamoni... 24
Marie M. Siltz, Lamoni... 23
Edward Hartman, Van Wert... 26
Rebecca J. Green, Van Wert... 21

"A Prince of Sweden."

After a hard day's work in the office, at the factory, behind the counter, or wherever it may be, what is more refreshing and restful than a hearty, wholesome laugh? One forgets his or her troubles and worries. If you care for an evening of pure, clean and refined entertainment you should not overlook seeing that funny, good-natured Swede comedian, Carl Olson, as the "Prince of Sweden" at the new opera house, Decatur City, Iowa, Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Wanted—At the county farm, a good farm hand. Apply to E. L. Shira, steward county farm.



MR. J. A. PHIPPS AND LITTLE GRANDSON.

evening Rev. J. L. Boyd performed a second ceremony, uniting Mr. and Mrs. Bowsher even more strongly in the bonds of love and affection.

Mr. Bowsher was born in Wyandotte county, Ohio, Sept. 11, 1814, and will be 76 years old next September. Mrs. Bowsher, whose maiden name was Mary Jane Drake, was born near Tiffin City, Ohio, Oct. 19, 1837, and will be 73 years old next October. They were married in Crawford county, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1860, and went to Upper Sandusky to live, and in 1866 they came to the then far west and settled at Princeton, Mo., where they engaged in the hotel business, and for many years conducted the Old Buckeye house at Princeton, one of the well-known hostleries of northern Missouri, and later conducted the Mineral Springs hotel. In 1894 they came to Leon and Mr. Bowsher engaged in the implement business with his son, J. R. Bowsher, under the firm name of Bowsher & Bowsher. Although having reached the age at which few men are still in active business, Mr. Bowsher is as spry as many younger men and takes an active part in the firm's business, both at their big store in this city and the branch stores at Lamoni, Pleasanton and Decatur City.

During the day many hundred of their friends called to pay their respects and wish them many more years of wedded happiness. As a souvenir of the happy occasion the guests were presented with a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Bowsher taken the day of their marriage and also as they appear today, which we are happy to reproduce for The Reporter readers.

For Rent—A five room cottage. See Harry Bradfield.

A New Trial for Dr. Sells.

The supreme court last Tuesday handed down an opinion reversing the verdict found by a jury in Clarke county against Dr. F. W. Sells, a prominent physician of Osceola, for attempting a criminal assault on a young lady who was a patient at his hospital in Osceola. The opinion in the case was written by Judge Weaver and says the evidence against Dr. Sells was insufficient and there was not enough corroboration of the young lady's story. It was held that her story might possibly be true and they did not want to brand it as false, but as it stood it was not enough. In reversing the verdict of the lower court, the supreme court remands the case back for a new trial, but suggests that unless the state has more evidence, that the indictment against Dr. Sells be dismissed.

A Big Horse Sale.

A big commission horse sale will be held at the brick sale barn in this city on Saturday, Feb. 26, and all parties who have any horses to sell should list them at once with Fred Teale, clerk, so they can be advertised next week. There will be a number of good buyers here to attend the sale, and horses are in good demand at present and bringing top prices.

Baker—Baldwin.

Mr. Orel Everett Baker and Miss Edis Baldwin, both of Cainsville, Mo., were married at the clerk's office in this city last Thursday afternoon by Rev. J. L. Boyd, pastor of the M. E. church of this city. The happy young couple returned to Cainsville on the evening train where they are well and favorably known.

notoriety a few years ago that proved amusing after it was over. Miss Ida Tarbell, a magazine writer, stated that William Rockefeller, father of John D. Rockefeller, was living under an assumed name in obscurity in Iowa, and the Chicago papers undertook to find him. They got a clue that the old man was living near Shenandoah, and reporters were sent here from Chicago to hunt him up. There was no one here of the right age to fill the description except Uncle John Phipps, and for two or three days they labored with the problem of proving that Phipps and Rockefeller were the same person. They drove to his home before daylight and pestered the old gentleman with questions by the hundred, trying to get him to admit that he was William Rockefeller, but the clue was a false one. There has never been any reason to think that Mr. Phipps is other than he represents himself to be.

For thirty years he has lived in the community, modest, industrious, kind to neighbors and friends, with some peculiarities, but withal a good citizen.

May he and his twin brother live two more years and round out the century is the wish of all who know them.

Yeomen Will Celebrate.

The Brotherhood of American Yeomen will celebrate the 13th anniversary of their order at the K. P. hall on Thursday evening, Feb. 24th, and all members of the order and their families are cordially invited to attend. Each archer is also privileged to invite one or more friends outside the Homestead, and they are anticipating a very pleasant time.