

Practice upon. I send you one herewith.

I was 13 years old when I began to learn the trade and after serving three years you gave me an honorable discharge, which I have carried with me ever since till last March, when it was lost with other valuable papers when my house was robbed. It was written by you and had upon its face a U.S. Revenue Stamp, and was given me while the office was in the back part of the old Imhoff building. In 1866, Anson B. McCreary became a partner. I left Rock Port in May 1873 or 1874 and went to Omaha, then to Salt Lake City. Worked in Ogden, Evanston, Laramie, Cheyenne and Denver, and finally came to the Black Hills 21st March 1877, and have been here ever since. Have been engaged in almost every kind of business; have been up and down several times but hope to make a good big "raise" within the year, and will then come home once again to look upon the scenes of my boyhood days."

With the help of William B. Campbell, who had partially learned his trade, and who has since become a very efficient newspaper man, whose whereabouts we cannot find, we overcame numerous difficulties, and on 19th September 1863, issued No. 1, Vol. 1 of The Journal.

That our readers may the more fully appreciate the noble purpose of the men who engaged in this good work in those perilous days, we reprint the salutatorial from the first issue. Colonel Thompson was chosen editor by unanimous consent. He wrote the article, but it had the most thoughtful consideration of his colleagues and their hearty approval.

"With the present number we commence the publication of a weekly newspaper in Rock Port, Atchison County, Missouri and to our patrons and the people of the West we would offer a few words of explanation of the cause and purpose for which The Atchison County Journal has commenced life. Numerous efforts have been made to publish a paper in Atchison County, Missouri, within a few years past, but from various causes all have been unsuccessful and subscribers have realized no benefit from their publications.

The publishers of the Journal wish to remove any fears the public may have in regard to the publication of this paper regulary, promptly and permanently. No one who subscribes or favors us with their patronage in any manner shall have cause to regret so doing, as we are able and determined to continue the publications of the paper whether it pays or not. In fact, we do not expect to realize any profits from its publication. Such is not our reason for starting the paper. We commence it for the purpose of advocating the interest of our County, State and Nation, and though its efforts may be feeble, they will be exerted to the best of our judgment and ability.

The Journal will inflexibly support the Government in its efforts to subdue

the rebellion which has so long bid fair to destroy the best Government on earth; and our support shall not be of the character that is prompting the pro-slavery party by all manner of appeals to the prejudices and passions of a morbid feeling work itself into power by creating a disaffection among the Union men. In giving a free and unreserved approvals of all acts of the Government to sustain itself, we are only doing a duty that all patriots owe to their Country. We shall urge a vigorous prosecution of the war until the last rebel shall be thoroughly subjugated and the flag of our Country shall float triumphantly over every foot of soil that ever belonged to the Federal Government, and citizens can again claim protection in any State and know that it has supremacy over all, and until traitors have realized the stern fact that a government which has so liberally given its citizens so much freedom can also inflict a punishment as severe as its obligations are mild. We shall oppose all attempts of Copperheads or other parties who are working under the guise of loyalty, and who in their zeal to build themselves up politically would do so at the loss of the Union. Believing as we do that the past political preference of men are no proper tests of their present loyalty, we desire to bury all party predilections at the present and will denounce all attempts to distract the Union party by introducing past political creeds.

In question of State policy we shall sustain those principals which of common consent are becoming known as those of the Radical party. Believing it to be to the interest of the State to get rid of slavery in the shortest period possible that law can give, and believing that a vast majority of the loyal citizens of the State demand that a new State Convention shall be called, not only to act upon the question of emancipation, but to revise the entire State Constitution, we shall favor the call of such a convention at the earliest period possible. We shall firmly oppose the ordinance of emancipation as passed by the State convention for reasons which we shall give from time to time, but at present shall only say that we consider said ordinance an imposition upon the loyal men of the State, and one if the people were allowed to vote on its adoption or rejection, would be buried beyond resurrection.

Having seen the works of a conservative policy towards our "erring brethern", who forsook their own true government to set up a "bastard" one, conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity, and who by a tort association with it have become so wicked as to murder in cold blood defenceless and quiet people, we shall insist upon a policy that will meet out justice to such demons, and deliver us from the terrors which have kept our State in such commotion for the last two years. We shall endeavor to restore peace to our distracted country, on an enduring basis, and will labor dilligently to bring about the day when civil law shall be fully enforced and act as a check upon all evil doers and violators of the law, and we

shall support no party or man who is not unconditionally in favor of the preservation of the Union, and the suppression of the Rebellion. We will take strong grounds in favor of freedom and oppose slavery, in any shape whatever. We will endeavor to bring to justice and speedy punishment all violaters of the law, both, State and National. Many unprincipalled persons are taking advantage of our present national troubles, to commit all kinds of depredations more particularly on person who have the most property. We dondemn, and advocate punishment of all citizens taking and converting to their own use any species of property whatever, which does not legitimately belong to them. Men who are prompted by patriotism and love of country will enlist and fight for their country, rather than to try to crush the rebellion by stealing and converting property to their own use. We shall at all times advocate the best interests of the Radical Union party, and in return we ask its support.

THE ATCHISON COUNTY JOURNAL will advocate political principles that conservatives will call radical. In politics it will take the "shute" known as the radical one in the State of Missouri, believing that the advocacy of the principles of the Radical party is the only one that will drive out Bushwhackers and rid us of Rebel sympathizers, and save our State from ruin, and again place her upon the high road of honor, renown and prosperity. These disinterested patriotic chaps who simply hold office for the good of the people, against their will and in the face of their remonstrance, call us Revolutionists, for the reason that we will have no sympathy for Rebels, and no mercy or kind words for bushwhackers, no love for copperheads, and no respect for allies, the conservatives. Such soft epithets as these will not deter us from our duty. Hence the Atchison County Journal will receive little support from the conservatives or their friends, the Copperheads. The course and plan of the Journal being such as to curry no favor from the quarter therefore it will behoove every unconditional union man in the Country to exert his influence and give all the aid and assistance in his power, to the Journal. It will take the aid and influence of all to make the paper otherwise than a sinking affair for those engaged in the publication of it.

We see no reason why we should not have a subscription list of two thousand names and we cordially invite all, especially the unconditional Union men of this Country to sustain and increase the circulation of the Journal. Every citizen should patronize and take a wholesome and active interest in their County paper. It is the best mode by which emigration is induced to come and settle among us. Through its influence our Country is built.

When the County of Atchison is properly known to those seeking homes in the West, the richness of her soil unsurpassed, and the beauty of her praries, and bottom lands unrivalled, magnificently watered and timber in abundance, then a tide

of emigration will flow in that will fill up the deserted homes and farms and make all cheering again, with the presence of honesty, loyalty an industry. Then will the geographical agricultural and other advantages of our Country be made known, and richness properly developed. Then will the hearts of all be made cheerful again by the ring of business.

(Note: picture of Jas. D. McNickle)

\* \* \* \* \*

Atchison County Journal

1 Oct. 1903

The first job of printing that was turned out of the office was 110 hand-bills for A. E. Wyatt who was then Sheriff. They were notices of lands to be sold under execution for debt and touched many of the best lands in the County and some of the very best farms. The law then required the posting of one written or printed notice in each township in the County. There were six or seven townships in the County, and William G. Bartholomew, who was Deputy Sheriff had a tedious job in finding public places to post the bills, for it took a place as large as the side of a good sized barn, and barns were not numerous in those days in Atchison County. These bills had to be printed before the first issue of the paper, but the work went on day and night till the job was done and the first paper was printed. It was an event of interest, and could the scene be reproduced, with the intense interest expressed in the faces of those who wanted to see the first paper printed, it would be a delight to look at it. Would that we had the skill of the artist to throw it upon canvass, as seen by our mind's eye to-day. We cannot describe it in words, and somehow there is a mist settling over our vision when we think how few of those then eager souls remain this side the mystic tide.

"Shall we gather at the river?"

Before The Journal made its first appearance we had by the united effort of the entire force, secured 200 subscribers, or one-third of the entire voting population of the County. William Hartman was the first subscriber. He was a genial, yet sturdy and honest German member of the Rock Creek Colony, among whose numerous descendants are still to be found a goodly number of our most worthy citizens, friends and faithful subscribers.

Mr Hartman came early to town on the first day of our labors, with butter for landlord Garrison of the Rock Port Hotel, where we made our first stopping place. John W. Smith introduced Mr Hartman to the New printer and we "got him down" as the first subscriber. Mr Smith then asked him to give an exhibition of high kicking, which he did by standing flat footed and kicking the hat off a six footer with

the care that none but a printer could bestow. The location was on the west side of the main street, up stairs in a wooden building. Mr. Dopf was the proprietor, and two or three young men were busy at the case, among the number Mr. L. P. Cunningham. Col. P. Aus. Thomspson was active and efficient in his efforts to promote the new newspaper as the best means to bring order out of chaos and begin the work of rebuilding the waste places and ruined fortunes occasioned by the war between the States, which then gave evidence of an early ending. Col. A. B. Durfee was among the most active of the new paper's many true friends and supporters.

The tax list not being quite ready for the compositors, I was put to work on an article for the paper, written by Mr. Durfee. It was a discussion of the question of a Constitutional Convention for Missouri, as I remember it. I had not gone very far into the manuscript until I made the discovery that I could not read it. This discovery was communicated to Mr. Dopf, with a request for help in deciphering a few of the hieroglyphics. That gentleman made no effort to help me out, but simply said, "I can't read it myself. Do the best you can with it." (Years of association and numerous reading of Mr. Durfee's queer chirography, made it plain as print and as easily read. - Dopf) This I proceeded to do, and when the good-matured, genial Durfee read the proof of the article, he smiled accompanied with the remark that, "The Colonel had made a good many changes in my article, but I think he has improved it." His reference was to Col. Thompson, who had not seen the article at all.

A building was fitted up on the east side of the street expressly for the office and to which it was moved. My stay with The Journal was about a year, I believe. Mr Dopf having been made County Surveyor, and the entire County requiring resurveying he was very busy most of the time outside of the office, leaving the mechanical part mostly in my charge, assisted by a couple of bright boys who were learning the art. The name of one, (Sam Todd), I do not now recall, but one was Jimmie McNickel, an exceptionally good boy.

Everybody pulled for the rebuilding of Rock Port and Atchison County. Money was plentiful and prices of products were good. There was no struggle for existence. The paper prospered; the merchants and mechanics prospered; farmers were getting rich, and it seemed that everybody prospered and were contented. If, Perchance, one did not have all he needed, his neighbor had to spare, and it was given ungrudgingly. There were several good stores. Mr Stivers perhaps led in men's clothing and furnishings. But the leading general mercantile house was that of the Messers. Thompson, Col. P. A. and Mr F. M., the latter being the general manager. Old father Wells kept the big hotel on the corner, and genial, whole-souled Dan Snyder and his matchless wife kept the stage station, where the numerous

all thought him about the biggest one of the crowd. But the time came when workmen were engaged in fixing up the little cottage on the hill which John had bought. Nothing was said, but there was a good deal of thinking. One day John went to Illinois, and when he came back "Mary" came with him. Well, nobody had the heart to blame John. He had simply put into execution that rare good judgment which has characterized his whole life. And the writer of this now, as then wishes them a long and happy life.

But my sketch of misty recollections is growing too long for your 40th anniversary issue. I could tell of more people and more incidents of 40 years ago in Rock Port, but will step down and out and let some one have a chance who can tell it better than I. However, it won't do to omit old "Klink". You remember he lived up the creek, just over the hill, down among the bushes, where he made and kept on hand the best quality of lager beer that was to be found in all that country. Peace to his ashes.

I have lived a long time and in many places since I left Rock Port; have been in the newspaper business all the time, and as yet, and expect to die in the harness. I had the honor of contributing an article to the Carthage, Mo. Press last year, by request, for its 30th anniversary issue. In 1872, after an experience of seven years with the Sidney, Iowa American-Union, I established the Carthage Press and remained with it until 1884. The Dalton, Ga. Herald, of which I am now the publisher, has entered its 11th year; founded by the writer 4 May 1893. I do not recall a single period in my life of similar time that afforded me more pleasure and enjoyment than the brief year I spent in Rock Port."

(Note: picture of J. A. Bodenhammer. "Klink" was Charles Klinkhart. Started a brewery on Boney Branch in 1855, operated until 1867)

\* \* \* \* \*

Atchison County Journal

15 October 1903

Josh might have added many pleasing recollections of those days of long ago. They were by no means days of halcyon. Those were days of earnest endeavor and honest purpose, but not devoid of pleasure. Social functions were by no means rare. The dance was a never failing source of amusement, and distance was no obstacle in the way of going. After the day's work was done, we would secure the services of Billy Thompson, a younger brother of Colonel Thompson, we would repair to Dr. Dick Buckhams corral with its hundred mules, where we would select and Thompson would lasso our choice of the herd and they would in short order be saddled, bridled and mounted by Billy, Josh and John and they were off for Linden, VanLeuvan's, Fanning's, Brownville or even more distant points to trip the light fantastic toe till the small hours of morning and then a long ride to resume our labors. This trio were

good dancers and good dancers were popular. Hospitality in those days was unstinted, girls and women were modest, unaffected, genuine and true, and not altogether uncultured. Many of our beaux of those days are grandmothers now, and we know of whose children need blush for their humble parentage.

We cannot pass from this period of our early recollections without referring to our home life in the family of Colonel Thompson who had kindly permitted us to sit at his table, though we still slept on guard in the office. Mrs Sue P. Thompson was the queen of that home and as good a mother to us as to her other boys, and to this day she calls us her "oldest boy", an honor we delight to acknowledge. Her reward is the homage of a large family of boys and girls of talent, industry and integrity, but "blood will tell".

It was about the last of September 1864 that we became sole proprietor of the Journal. 3rd December Colonel Thompson's valedictory was published. Having been elected to the State Senate at the November election it was inconvenient to longer edit the paper. On the following week we were editor in chief and made our editorial bow in a very few words, which we copy:

"Having decided some time since that we could find no better place to locate permanently we shall continue the publication of the Journal so long as it meets the hearty support that it has in the past. Our interest being identical with the people of the County we shall strive for whatever is of benefit to them. Hoping that the list of our friends in Atchison County may continue to increase, we shall try to make the Journal a welcome visitor to every fireside in the County."

As intimated by Josh in his story, 17th December we visited Illinois. There were so many indications that the war would soon end, and that peace would spread her white wings, that we were successful in persuading a blue-eyed, golden haired little beauty to consent to domicile a little house that once stood at the southeast corner of the block on which now stands "Hillcrest Home", and where for nearly forty years our home has been blessed by her presence, and she is none less our sweetheart now than then, but this is only a part of the old, old story that makes all the world kindred. Our bridal trip was to Missouri, and on Emancipation Day we crossed the Father of Waters at Quincy, Ill. and set foot on Free Soil Missouri. On arriving at Rock Port we found a hearty welcome at the home of Dan Snyder and wife. It was the custom in those days for the grown-up men to serenade a newly married couple with bells, tin pans, horse fiddles, guns, and anything that would make a noise, much as the little boys now do, but Uncle Dan Snyder and a number of our stage driver friends decided to "cut it out," and we escaped, much to the joy of Mr and Mrs Snyder and the bride and groom.

Early in April following peace was declared and none but those who have passed through the "Hell of War" can tell what PEACE means. New life seemed to animate