

THE HERITAGE NEWS

Jefferson County Historical Society, Jefferson County, Missouri
Rebecca Gagnon, President
Dave Hallemann, Betty Olson, contributing editors

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Books available from the Society.

Jefferson County Post Offices	\$7
Index to the 1876 Atlas	\$15
Reprint of the 1876 Atlas	\$15
Jefferson County's Country Schools	\$29.95
1907 Jefferson County Directory	\$10
Index to the 1898 Atlas	\$15
Shipping & Handling- each additional book	\$3 \$1

- SEND YOUR
- ORDERS TO:
- Jefferson County
- Historical Society
- % Betty Olson
- 712 South Main Street
- De Soto, MO 63020
- Membership in the Society is \$10.00 per year- includes 4 issues of the newsletter.
- Items of county history welcomed.

1930 CENSUS AVAILABLE

The long awaited 1930 census microfilm is now available in Jefferson County in two libraries that we know of. One is the Jefferson County Library, High Ridge Branch at High Ridge, Missouri and the other is the De Soto Public Library.

Census records are released 70 years after they were taken. This new census will have people on it that are still alive. Perhaps your name is on this one.

The copy available at the De Soto library appears to be quite readable, with these exceptions. One of the census takers apparently had a leaky fountain pen

and there are some ink blotches on his pages. Another apparently did not use a permanent ink because his pages are faded and difficult to read. The other sections are very readable.

You might want to call either library before you go there just to make sure a microfilm reader/printer is available along with the census microfilm for your use. You might also call the library closest to you to see if they have this microfilm.

We also hope you have found our Roots Web mojeffer site on the internet. If you don't have internet access at home that's another reason to visit your nearest library!

RURAL SCHOOL GRADUATION 1917

De Soto Press May 18, 1917

The country school graduating exercises were held here Saturday with the usual large attendance from all parts of the county. There were 164 graduates and all townships were represented. Rev. T. S. Matthews gave the graduating address.

The program for opening consisted of music by the Crystal City schools;

Invocation by the Rev. O. A. Kern; address of welcome by E. S. Fauth, president of the De Soto Commercial Club; Reading, Elsa Leuderman, White School; Reading Fredia Beckmeyer, McGehan School; "Glorious Constitution" by John Schafer, Pevely School.

Valle Township won the banner for having the largest attendance, taking it from Joachim Township. Scholar-

ships to the De Soto High School were awarded as follows: Big River, Edward Burns; Central, Martha Reppy; Joachim, Mildred Clark, Meramec, Joseph Yenicek; Rock, Elsa Leuderman; Plattin, Cyril Ashton; Valle, Cecelia Burda.

There were more than a hundred contestants in the writing contest. (Continued on page 8)

1913 Jefferson County by Dave Halleman

I recently acquired a Jefferson County Map dated 1913. It apparently came out of a book of all the counties in Missouri. This is the first map I have seen dated 1913 and gives us a glimpse of that time period. By cross-referencing this map to a modern county map we can see how roads have changed, plus the location of towns, creeks, and other landmarks. On the back were agricultural statistics for the county at that time.

The sidebar on the map was a report of current activities in the county that would be of interest to anyone who might be considering moving here.

James H. Winer, Presiding Judge with William Schwalbert and William C. Kerchoff, Associate Judges, William Pillard, County Clerk and Joseph Hoeken of Hillsboro, supplied the map to the publisher.

De Soto had a Commercial Club looking after the interests and prosperity of the county. The farmers belonged to organizations which saw that their products were properly and quickly marketed and their welfare was taken care of.

Dr. J. Scott Wolff, a dental surgeon from Festus, represented the county in the 1913 General Assembly.

Jefferson County newspapers in 1913 were: The Jefferson County Democrat and Jefferson County Record located in Hillsboro; Festus News and the Tri City Independent in Festus, and the De Soto Press, all of which were weeklies. The Jefferson County

Republican of De Soto was a daily paper.

Jefferson County was one of the main producers of strawberries in the state with output being marketed mainly in St. Louis. An electric railway was proposed to pass through Hillsboro to open up a very fertile portion of our county to St. Louis markets.

The Meramec and Big Rivers could offer waterpower to manufacturing facilities. There was plenty of fuel wood that could be obtained in the vicinity of Hillsboro for \$2.50 a cord. Timber still standing could be used for lumber and ties. Hillsboro could support a cannery and a lighting plant that would use electricity developed by a water power plant. There was still unimproved land in the county that could be bought for \$3 and acre. However it was more feasible for settlers to purchase better land, which could be had for \$5 to \$10 an acre, since it cost \$5 to \$10 an acre to clear the land.

Jefferson County at one time had many steamboat landings along the Mississippi River. These could easily be reopened by a government dredge removing the sand bars, thus making it possible for them to once again be points of commerce.

The churches of the county were: Presbyterian-10; Catholic-9; Methodist-25, Baptist-25; Christian-5; Lutheran 12; Unitarian-1, and five miscellaneous denominations.

De Soto was an industrial center that offered inducements to businesses to locate there. Frank Warner, Secretary of the De Soto Local of the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of

Desirable immigrants who help level the unimproved portions will receive a hearty welcome.

Much has changed in almost 90 years, however through this glimpse in time we are able to add a few more pieces to the mystery of our heritage.

ADDITIONAL ADOPTIONS

Dave Halleman has given us some new adoption listings that he came across doing research at the courthouse. These all appear in the books containing deed records and transfers of property.

Flynn, Gertrude Virginia

4 month old daughter of Loretta Flynn of Jefferson County, adopted by Theodore Sontag and wife Susie M. Of Jefferson County, March 13, 1911. Recorded in Book 71, Page 8.

Page, Wilma Marie

5 year old. Daughter of Marie Stroup, formerly Marie Page, adopted by W. C. Schmick and wife Ollie of De Soto, November 16, 1916. Recorded in Book 81, page 509.

Long, Adele

13 years old. Adopted by L. K. And Sarah Jane A. Williams of Jefferson County, February 6th, 1909, through the Baptist Orphans Home. Recorded in Book 53, Page 310.

Tracy, Olive C.

A minor whose father is Harmon W. Tracy. Adopted by Amanda F. Scott and Drucilla F. Hicks of Jefferson County, March 1st, 1902. Recorded in Book 53, Page 310.

Armstrong, Florian

Adopted by Bernard and Matilda Schneider, formerly Matilda Armstrong of Jefferson County, December 4, 1909. Recorded

In Book 65, page 609.

Smith, Velma

Adopted by Ray L. Smith and Mattie his wife, of Jefferson County, March 21st, 1910. Recorded in Book 69, page 159.

Pevely News Items

May 4, 1917

The Grey Eagle will stop at Riverside landing Sunday, May 13th. Don't fail to take the trip to Ste. Genevieve and return. Adults 50 cents, Children 25 cents. Those who went last year will long remember the most pleasant outing they ever had. Boat leaves about 11 a.m. and returns at about 6:15 p.m.

The "Debatin Society" of the Pevely School will give an entertainment next Saturday at the Schoolhouse.

The winners of the declamatory contest at the Pevely School last Saturday were Lester Ruebel and Mary Jane Ennis. The contestants were warmly cheered by a very large and enthusiastic audience.

The City Council will meet next week in the Club rooms. The business men have been invited to attend as well as other citizens who are interested. It is the purpose of the present Council to convince the people that the business of the town is their business and not a government by a few.

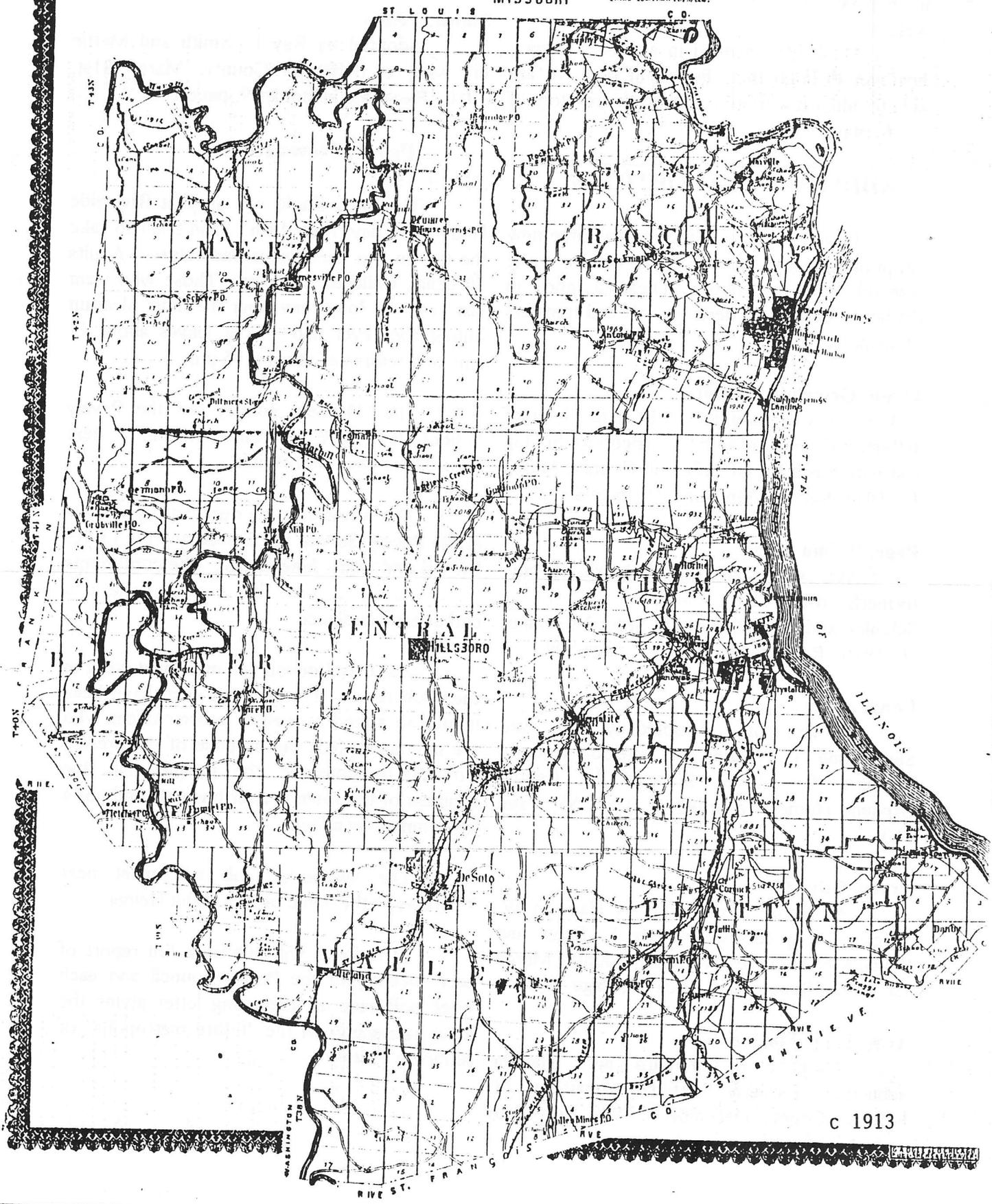
The Mother's Club will meet next Thursday at the home of Mrs. John Heiner.

(The Press will publish a full report of each meeting of the Pevely council and each week will have an interesting letter giving the local happenings of the "future metropolis" of Jefferson County.

OUTLINE MAP OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY

MISSOURI

Scale 1/2 inch to 1 Mile.



c 1913

Agricultural Statistics, Jefferson County.

Farms and Farm Property: Live Stock; Principal Crops; Production of and Value; Cost of Operating Farms; Domestic Animals not on Farms; Number and Value; Federal Census, 1910.

TABLE A.

Population	27,878
Number of farms	2,720
Color and nativity of farmers:	
Native white	2,217
Foreign-born white	486
Negro and other nonwhite	17
Number of farms, classified by size:	
Under 3 acres	6
3 to 9 acres	105
10 to 19 acres	122
20 to 49 acres	398
50 to 99 acres	708
100 to 174 acres	795
175 to 259 acres	319
260 to 499 acres	213
500 to 999 acres	50
1,000 acres and over	4

LAND AND FARM AREA, ACRES.

Approximate land area, acres	435,840
Land in farms, acres	355,272
Improved land in farms, acres	172,717
Woodland in farms, acres	168,406
Other unimproved land in farms, acres	14,149
Per cent of land area in farms	81.5
Per cent of farm land improved	48.6
Average acres per farm	130.6
Average improved acres per farm	63.5

VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY.

All farm property	\$14,466,508
Land	9,158,950
Buildings	2,939,725
Implements and machinery	475,747
Domestic animals, poultry and bees	1,392,086

Per cent of value of all property in—

Land	63.3
Buildings	20.3
Implements and machinery	3.3
Domestic animals, poultry and bees	13.1

Average values:

All property per farm	\$5,319
Land and buildings, per farm	4,448
Land per acre	25.78

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.
(Farms and Ranges.)

Farms reporting domestic animals	2,660
Value of domestic animals	\$1,784,914

Cattle:

Total number	21,797
Dairy cows	12,636
Other cows	1,461
Yearling heifers	2,427
Calves	3,757
Yearling steers and bulls	785
Other steers and bulls	731
Value	\$568,891

Horses:

Total number	7,296
Mature horses	6,387
Yearling colts	619
Spring colts	290
Value	\$687,752

Mules:

Total number	2,482
Mature mules	2,167
Yearling colts	218
Spring colts	97
Value	\$301,525

Asses and burros:

Number	48
Value	\$12,375

Swine:

Total number	23,421
Mature hogs	14,958
Spring pigs	13,463
Value	\$191,139

Sheep:

Total number	6,053
Rams, ewes and wethers	3,928
Spring lambs	2,125
Value	\$22,692

Goats:

Number	197
Value	\$540

POULTRY AND BEES.

Number of poultry of all kinds	177,750
Value	\$104,373
Number of colonies of bees	1,104
Value	\$2,794

TABLE B.
FARMS OPERATED BY OWNERS.

Number of farms	2,107
Per cent of all farms	77.5
Land in farms, acres	275,982
Improved land in farms, acres	135,402
Value of land and buildings	\$9,378,065

Degree of ownership:

Farms consisting of owned land only	1,917
Farms consisting of owned and hired land	190

Color and nativity of owners:

Native white	1,856
Foreign-born white	438
Negro and other nonwhite	13

FARMS OPERATED BY TENANTS.

Number of farms	597
Per cent of all farms	21.9
Land in farms, acres	71,088
Improved land in farms, acres	34,326
Value of land and buildings	\$2,430,210

Form of tenancy:

Share tenants	155
Share-cash tenants	34
Cash tenants	211
Tenure not specified	197

Color and nativity of tenants:

Native white	547
Foreign-born white	46
Negro and other nonwhite	4

FARMS OPERATED BY MANAGERS.

Number of farms	16
Land in farms, acres	8,202
Improved land in farms, acres	2,989
Value of land and buildings	\$290,400

MORTGAGE DEBT REPORTS.

For all farms operated by owners:

Number free from mortgage debt	1,351
Number with mortgage debt	745
Number with no mortgage report	11

For farms consisting of owned land only:

Number reporting debt and amount	621
Value of their land and buildings	\$2,599,525
Amount of mortgage debt	\$723,300
Per cent of value of land and buildings	27.8

TABLE C.

COST OF OPERATING FARMS.

Labor	\$1,091
Farms reporting	
Cash expended	\$152,304
Rent and board furnished	\$23,696
Fertilizer	\$5,141
Farms reporting	
Amount expended	\$94
Feed	\$111,933
Farms reporting	
Amount expended	
Receipts from sale of feedable crops	\$124,624

TABLE D.

LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS.

Dairy Products.

Dairy cows on farms reporting dairy products, number	11,345
Dairy cows on farms reporting milk produced, number	7,676
Milk—Produced, gallons	2,207,611
Sold, gallons	2,040,852
Cream sold, gallons	11,523
Butter fat sold, pounds	10,877
Butter—Produced, pounds	599,033
Sold, pounds	333,937
Cheese—Produced, pounds	12,598
Sold, pounds	5,775
Value of dairy products excluding home use of milk and cream	\$386,180
Receipts from sale of dairy products	\$328,719

Poultry Products.

Poultry—Raised, number	417,443
Sold, number	234,195
Eggs—Produced, dozens	1,310,587
Sold, dozens	938,517
Value of poultry and eggs produced	\$505,162
Receipts from sale of poultry and eggs	\$338,906

Honey and Wax.

Honey produced, pounds	21,076
Wax produced, pounds	883
Value of honey and wax produced	\$4,133

Wool, Mohair and Goat Hair.

Wool, fleeces shorn, number	2,544
Mohair and goat hair, fleeces shorn, number	56
Value of wool and mohair produced	\$3,795

DOMESTIC ANIMALS SOLD OR SLAUGHTERED.

Calves—Sold or slaughtered, number	6,566
Other cattle—Sold or slaughtered, number	3,589
Horses, mules, asses and burros—Sold, number	869
Swine—Sold or slaughtered, number	27,674
Sheep and goats—Sold or slaughtered, number	2,369
Receipts from sale of animals	\$533,069
Value of animals slaughtered	\$160,126

TABLE E.

VALUE OF ALL CROPS.

Total	\$2,195,193
Cereals	1,250,845
Other grains and seeds	11,333
Hay and forage	380,036
Vegetables	199,261
Fruits and nuts	238,254
All other crops	115,464

SELECTED CROPS.

(Acres and Quantity.)

Cereals:		
Total	acres	73,669
Corn	bushels	1,831,601
Oats	acres	43,064
Wheat	bushels	1,369,667
Rye	acres	4,640
Wheat	bushels	90,025
Wheat	acres	25,925
Rye	bushels	371,268
Rye	acres	15
Kafir corn and milo	bushels	238
maize	acres	25
maize	bushels	403
Other grains and seeds:		
Dry peas	acres	36
	bushels	166

Hay and forage:

Total	acres	29,534
All tame or cultivated grasses	tons	39,769
Timothy alone	acres	25,899
Timothy alone	tons	34,286
Timothy and clover mixed	acres	11,716
Timothy and clover mixed	tons	12,994
Clover alone	acres	3,440
Clover alone	tons	5,227
Alfalfa	acres	9,742
Alfalfa	tons	14,195
Millet or Hungarian grass	acres	496
Millet or Hungarian grass	tons	1,219
Other tame or cultivated grasses	acres	470
Other tame or cultivated grasses	tons	615
Wild, salt or prairie grasses	acres	35
Wild, salt or prairie grasses	tons	36
Grains cut green	acres	8
Grains cut green	tons	10
Coarse forage	acres	1,063
Coarse forage	tons	1,562
	acres	2,564
	tons	3,911

Special crops:

Potatoes	acres	1,900
Potatoes	bushels	136,573
Sweet potatoes and yams	acres	267
Sweet potatoes and yams	bushels	36,331
All other vegetables	acres	825
Tobacco	acres	13
Tobacco	pounds	9,647
Cane, sorghum	acres	330
Cane, sorghum	tons	1,627
Syrup (made) gallons		20,465

FRUITS AND NUTS.

Orchard fruits:

Total	trees	262,155
Total	bushels	86,712
Apples	trees	113,390
Apples	bushels	50,534
Peaches and nectarines	trees	110,998
Peaches and nectarines	bushels	11,573
Pears	trees	17,233
Pears	bushels	12,346
Plums and prunes	trees	11,816
Plums and prunes	bushels	8,813
Cherries	trees	8,205
Cherries	bushels	3,420
Grapes	vines	119,765
Grapes	pounds	428,582

Small fruits:

Total	acres	763
Total	quarts	1,984,739
Strawberries	acres	445
Strawberries	quarts	1,267,105
Blackberries and dewberries	acres	247
Blackberries and dewberries	quarts	597,206
Nuts	trees	903
Nuts	pounds	12,185

TABLE F.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS NOT ON FARMS.

Number reported	484
Value of domestic animals	\$89,932

Cattle:

Total number	624
Value	\$16,053
Number of dairy cows	390

Horses:

Total number	606
Value	\$56,357
Number of mature horses	588

Mules and asses and burros:

Total number	112
Value	\$13,357
Number of mature mules	78

Swine:

Total number	509
Value	\$3,752

Sheep and goats:

Total number	154
Value	\$413

DISASTROUS TRAIN WRECK

(From the June 16, 1938 Jefferson
Republican)

A disastrous train wreck which followed and was caused by a virtual flood of the Joachim Creek occurred early last Saturday morning (June 11) when the fast mail train No. 7 dove into the raging water near Bailey Station. A rain storm of cloudburst proportions hit this vicinity about 6:00 Friday evening. It rained without ceasing until early the next morning, resulting in a flood which inundated the tracks for almost a mile at the point of the wreck, and washed the trestle away.

C. T. McRill, the fireman, stated that the engineer W. W. Malloy, ran through water for a considerable distance and was proceeding slowly when the engine gave a lurch and toppled over into the raging waters. McRill managed to extricate himself from the cab and in rising to the surface, became entangled in the telegraph wires. He finally wormed his way through the strands but not until after he had taken considerable water into his lungs. He caught hold of the branches of a small tree and hung there for four hours until taken to safety by rescuers in a motor boat. He was brought to De Soto and given emergency treatment by Dr. Karl McKinstry. Later he was taken to the Missouri Pacific Hospital in St. Louis.

At this particular point the water covered an expanse of ground at least 2000 feet in width, inundating rich farm lands with several feet of water. The water continued to rise after the wreck until it was within a few inches of the floor of the cars which remained standing on the tracks. The National Guard of Festus was called out to keep the thousands of curious people away from the scene and to prevent possible looting of the mail and express cars.

J. S. Withington, local agent for the Railway Express Company, went to the wreck in order to get the pay checks for the shop and railroad men, and it was necessary to swing down into the car by ropes, but he brought the checks back with him, even though they were soaking wet.

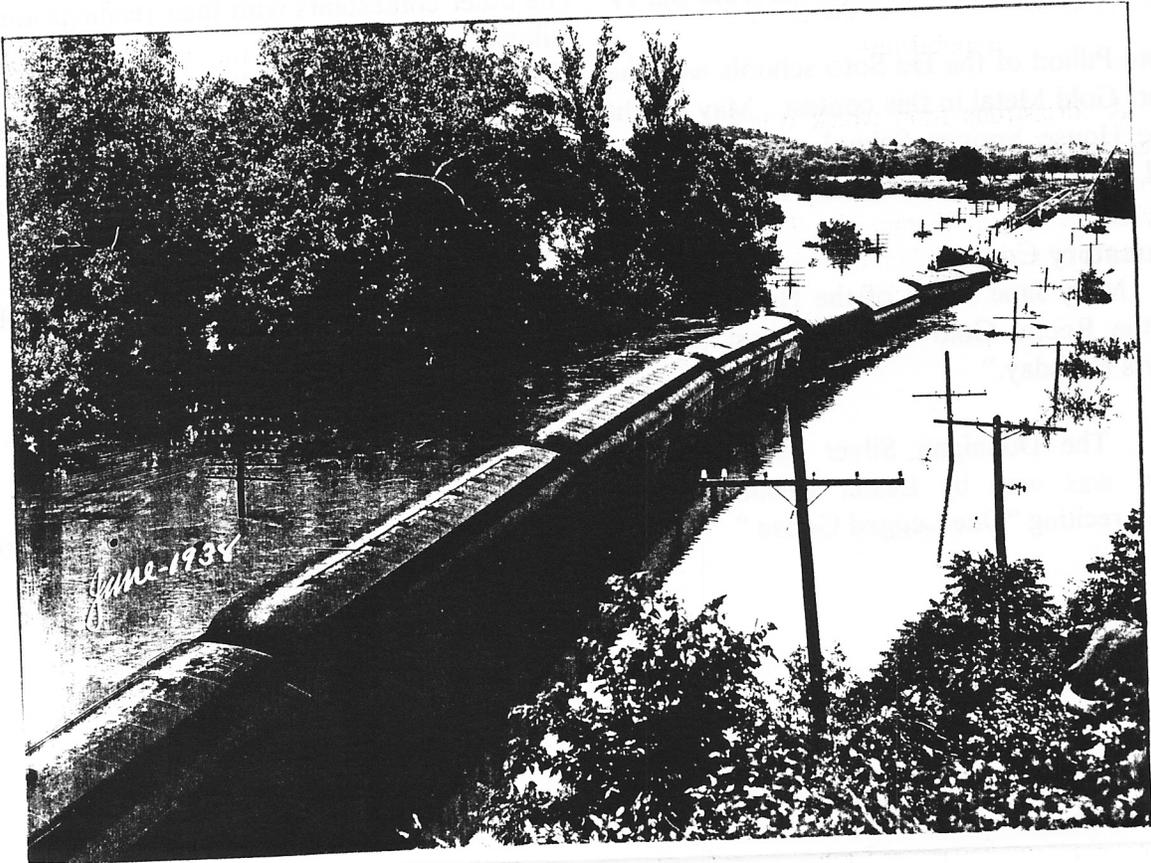
When the engine slid into the water three baggage and express cars were also partially submerged, but the express men and mail clerks managed to race through the rear cars to safety. Sixty-five passengers who were marooned in the coaches were finally taken to safety after a bridge had been built from one of the cars to the bluff, near the home of Alvin Son.

The engineer was trapped in the cab and according to McRill, it appeared that he was trying to stop the train when the water suddenly became so deep that he realized the track had been washed from under the engine. Divers called to the scene searched for several hours, and finally recovered the body about 7 o'clock Saturday evening.

Repair crews were summoned from St. Louis and Poplar Bluff early Saturday and the work of repairing the damage was started. The track for several hundred feet was washed away as well as the trestle.

The crew worked without ceasing and the damage was temporarily repaired for traffic by daylight Sunday. In the meantime trains were rerouted with little inconvenience to passengers and with only the slightest interruption to mail service.

John Kern 82 years old of St. Louis died when he fell from a bluff that overlooked the scene of the accident. He had come with an acquaintance to view the accident. Witnesses said as he turned around he lost his balance and toppled over the bluff backwards. Coroner Frank S. Frazier gave a verdict of accidental death by broken neck at the inquest which was held at the Politte Funeral Home in Crystal City.



JUNE 1938 TRAIN WRECK

Rural School Graduation (cont. from pg. 1)

Celeste Pilliod of the De Soto schools won the Hilgert Gold Metal in this contest. May Leight of the House Springs School won the Silver Metal.

Declamatory Contest

Mary Jane Ennis of the Horine School won the Reppy Gold Medal contest reciting "Milly's Birthday."

The Dunnigan Silver Medal in this contest was won by Lester Reubel, Pevely School, reciting "One Legged Goose."

The other contestants with their readings are as follows:

"One Niche the Highest" Katy Yeats,
Rock School
"Swan Song" Martha Reppy, Hillsboro School
"Bobbie Shaftoe" Edith Martin, Danby School
"Si and I" Ida May Pipkin, Bowen School,
"Billie Brad and a Big Lie" Margaret Frazier,
Danby School
"Grandma Keeler Gets Grandpa Ready for
Sunday School" Grace Blackwell,
Danby School.

The Judges in this contest were: Miss G. A. Clark and Mrs. G. E. Webster of Webster Groves and Miss E. R. Helmrich of St. Louis.

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