



Ogle County's third jail was described as "one of the handsomest of its type" in the State. It used to set on the corner where the present county parking lot is located. Note the new courthouse in the background. Circa, 1895.



Wm. Mackey (seated). Sheriff, and Deputy George Banning, in the office of the jail, 1917. (Courtesy of Ogle County Republican Reporter)

stairway, door knobs, doors, etc. So, even though the building is gone, its memory is still with us in many homes throughout the county.

Biblio: Ogle County Republican Reporter, History, 1968 Interviews, notes from Edith Fridley, by Lynne Kilker, 1986 Conversation with Sheriff Brooks, 1986, by Jan Stilson

THE PRESENT JAIL

The present jail was constructed during the administration of Sheriff Ed Lang (1958-1962); 1966-1970). It was completed in 1969. There was a question at the beginning of the project as to where to build the new jail. The old jail (1874-1968), was razed, but that space alone, would not be enough to meet the county's needs. Finally, it was decided to locate the new facility south of the courthouse, and connected to the courthouse.

The current facility is a one-story brick building with a basement. Recently, the basement has been converted to additional office space for the Sheriff and for the new computer. The facility has space to accommodate 51 prisoners, with separate quarters for men, women, and juveniles, and has a fully equipped kitchen for the convenience of prisoners and staff.

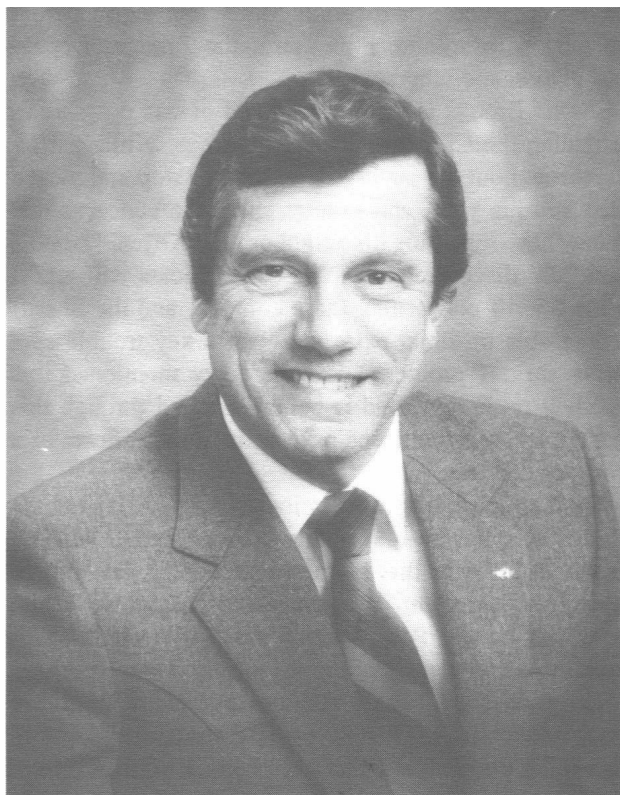
When the new building was completed, it was necessary for Sheriff Lang to add a number of deputies, matrons and general staff. At that time, Lang also supervised a mounted patrol and used a trained dog.

Sheriff Lang was succeeded his second term by one of his deputies, Gerald "Jerry" Brooks. To date, Sheriff Brooks has been re-elected four times, and is beginning his fifth term this year.

In a recent interview, Sheriff Brooks explained his re-election was partly because of a change in the law, and partly because he had excellent employees who cooperated with his programs. In 1970, the law in Illinois was changed, and for the first time, a Sheriff was allowed to succeed himself. This allows a Sheriff to build a program which assures greater professionalism. The Merit Commission has also been successful in removing some of the politics from the law administration, allowing for professional development of all the law officers within the county.



1987 Ogle County Sheriff's Office and Jail. (Donna Kennedy photo)



Sheriff Gerald "Jerry" Brooks, just elected to his fifth term. 1970-1986.

In the 16 years of Sheriff Brooks' administration, his department has solved all major felony cases (murder, rape, armed robbery, etc.). There have been 18 murders in 16 years—all solved. On burglaries, the national average of crimes solved is 14 percent. Ogle County's record has consistently been 96-98 percent. This kind of record is a credit to the employees in Brooks' department, and reassures the citizens of the county that their community is a safe place in which to live.

Jerry said the motto of his department is "There's something we can do for everyone." He explained that everyone who called or stopped in may not need a law officer, but his staff will courteously direct the person to the agency or resource that can help. Brooks stated that to achieve this motto, he believes in training employees to use their common sense, to be kind, to be disciplined, including physical fitness, and to offer service. He plans many of his successful programs around the belief that citizen involvement in crime prevention comes about through education and through contact with the department officers.

Some of the programs which have been started in the last few years have been citizen/service oriented. People will recognize that some of these services have touched their families in positive fashion: patrolling of premises while you are away on vacation; weather and road conditions; rifle and shotgun training for youth; speaking engagements to all ages in various organizations, such as churches and schools; drug education; the snowmobile patrol to check on your safety during blizzard conditions;

the Shriner's horse patrol shared by Winnebago County; the CB radio volunteer program; the Reserve Deputy Association and others.

Sheriff Brooks is justifiably proud of one program in particular, the Citizens' Contact Program. While patrolling throughout the county, deputies will stop and meet a citizen in his yard, and inquire about the concerns that he may have regarding his neighborhood. Often, "trouble spots" are discovered. Each day, the officers will report to the Sheriff concerning these contacts, and the Sheriff is then able to direct extra patrol to a key trouble spot before serious problems develop. Jerry mentioned that speeding on Flagg Road is being curtailed through this program, because citizens have notified the officers of a potential problem.

Another program is the Stationary Patrol. "It's not the number of miles an officer drives each day, but what he does with his time that is important," is the best way to explain this program. If an intersection, such as White Pines and Lowell Park, were deemed a "trouble spot" because people were running the stop signs, a patrol car would park there twenty minutes out of an hour. He observes the traffic. People passing see him, people in the neighborhood know that he's there. He is a deterrent because he is visible. If there is no traffic while he is waiting, he tapes his reports for the day instead of filling out paperwork. This allows him to be in the field longer. This program has cut the number of miles driven in half, and has allowed the department to trade cars every two years instead of every year. The savings also will help to finance other service oriented programs.

Sheriff Brooks pointed out that many Sheriffs from around the State and Nation, have contacted him for information on his programming and policies. Some, he said, have tried the same programs but have not been successful because their employees did not cooperate. This speaks well of our law enforcement officers and commanders. They work hard for a Sheriff that they admire and respect, and in return, are rewarded by programs for employees that treat them in a positive fashion.

Why has Sheriff Brooks been elected and re-elected numerous times? Just because a law was changed in 1970? Probably not. More likely, it is because the people of Ogle County have come to rely on his type of law enforcement. Carry on Sheriff.

Biblio:

Several articles from area newspapers. Interview with Sheriff Brooks by Jan Stilson, November, 1986.

THE CANNONS ON THE SQUARE

(This is a serious piece; try not to smile when you read it.)

Like the Soldier's Memorial on the square, the cannons east of the courthouse stand as a sentinel to Ogle County's participation in the Civil War. Twin cannons were ordered from Army Surplus in Bremerton, Washington at the request of Civil War Vets, and with the help of Congressman Hitt of Mt. Morris. This was done in the late 1890's, as America was involved in the Spanish-American War. These cannons were relics of the Civil War, and arrived



Children at play on the cannons in front of the courthouse. A common sight on a summer day. (Donna Kennedy photo)



Cannon at Riverview Cemetery. (Donna Kennedy photo)

in town as Dewey was involved in a major Navy battle in the Bay of Manilla, in the Spring of 1898.

When the cannons arrived by rail, they were shunted up the side of the track along the river, and unloaded with a great deal of effort at First and Jefferson Streets. Each cannon weighed four and a half tons. Before they could be moved up the hill to the square, a group of unmarried, young men of the “notorious” Owls, decided to cut loose in celebration of Dewey’s naval victory. They shot off one of the cannons to have a little fun. The reader should now place tongue in cheek before reading on.

Dr. Harry Wade, Mayor of Oregon at the turn of the century, knew all about this, though he wasn’t a part of it. (He could no longer be an Owl because he was married.) He said that several Owls loaded the cannon with 4 kegs of gunpowder (and themselves, with an undetermined amount of apple jack), and strung the fuse through the length of the barrel. One of the more conservative Owls, thinking he would prevent the whole escapade, filled the barrel with leaves, bricks and other debris to prevent it from firing. Instead, when the long fuse was lit the cannon blew up. Miraculously, no one was hurt. However, one chunk weighing 500 pounds flew up the hill, landed at the corner of 3rd and Jefferson, imbedded in a private yard throwing dirt against the house, and skidded in like fashion for another block, coming to rest in a vacant lot!

In 1948, 82 year old Dr. Wade said in a taped interview, “The old soldiers reared ya know. Matmiller was cavin’ around town and somebody said to him, ‘You better not be so loud about it. I kind of think your son-in-law was in on it’ (Dr. Wade, himself). Well, I’m not saying.”

Those responsible did not get into trouble (another miracle), but they did have to pay the freight on shipment of a second cannon. A special committee was formed and searched the nation to find a matching cannon, but they could not. They ordered a second cannon from Bremerton and waited two years for it. The cannons appear to be the same at first glance, but aside from the fact that they were both cast in 1846, one is a 6½ Parrott, and the other is a Columbiad.

With both cannons on hand, Chet Nash made the supports at the foundry and also did the labor required to

set them. A number of cannonballs came with the cannons, and for a number of years were piled in a pyramid between them. One day, some of the cannonballs were retrieved as they were rolling down a hill on the highway toward oncoming traffic. As a result, the pile of cannonballs was moved to the basement of the courthouse, where they are still presumed to be.

The first cannon, (it would have been the one on the south side) was appropriately laid to rest in the cemetery north of the Church of God on Third Street.

If you’ve ever attended Memorial Day Services at the entrance to the cemetery, and wondered what the black obelisk topped with a golden ball is, you may be surprised to know that it is the front end of the barrel of the cannon. It stands on a pedestal just inside the entrance in front of the flag pole.

If you drive by, you will notice that it matches the north cannon. And, so it is that Oregon has 2½ mismatched cannons. It was probably fortunate for the community that the Owls disbanded shortly after the turn of the century!

Nevertheless, we do owe a debt of gratitude to all those involved in arranging to have the cannons for a memorial. Together with the Soldier’s Memorial, they make a fine statement of our respect for the lost heroes of Ogle County.

Biblio:

Conversations about this with Randy Stilson, who studied all about it in Mr. O’Rourke’s 5th grade class.

Wade, Harry, Sr., Interview with Barbara Weng, 1948, printed in the History of Oregon, 1976.

Gelander, Kathryn. “Old Cannons Stand Guard,” Rockford Register Star, no date.

Roth, Norma. “A Fine Thread to Past,” Leisure Magazine. Register Star, 10/31/71.

THE SOLDIER’S MEMORIAL

During the first World War, the County Board wanted to honor American Veterans from Ogle County lost in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the current war. They proposed a list of names cast in bronze plates, but they were not sure where they could mount such a heavy item. When Mr. Lorado Taft, of the Eagle’s Nest Camp Art Colony heard about it, he asked if he might be of help.

Here is Taft’s own description of the project. These remarks are from a lecture, “Beauty in the Home Town” and he had been speaking of his love for Oregon.

“A little later I had an opportunity to make a soldier monument for them. I saw up in their Court House a list of 3500 names, stencilled on the wall of a little memorial room. It was most impressive—think that there were so many individual men in that county away back in the days of the Civil War, who were willing to sacrifice themselves for their country! There were the heroes of Ogle County. I said, “That is the most impressive monument I ever saw, but let us put it in a more solid form—

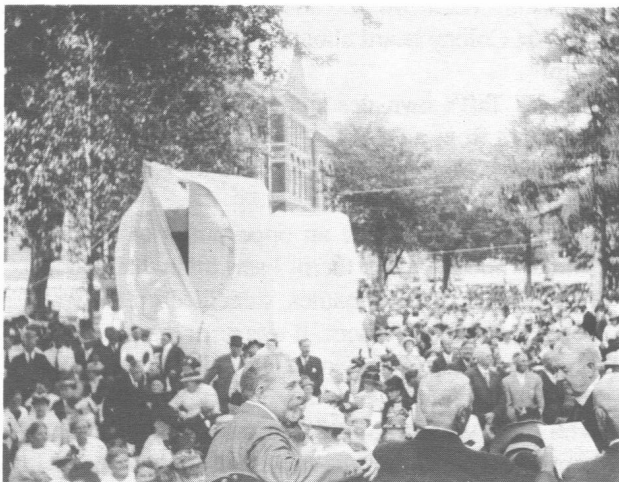
something permanent.” So I contributed a year’s work and they paid the actual expense, and we have an exedra (architectural design for the existing monument) and all those names on bronze tablets and a great figure of America crowning them and a soldier at either end guarding the roll of honor. And with this the town seemed well pleased (as it had with Blackhawk).

The other day I picked up an automobile “Blue Book” and turning feverishly to Oregon to see that it was all right. . . . What did I find? ‘Oregon, II, 2300 in habitants,’ then, ‘Points of Interest’ First—Artists’ Camp on the hill Second—the Blackhawk Monument Third—The Soldier Monument downtown. The Fourth—Governor Lowden’s Farm. I do not mean . . . to be boastful. I was simply immeasurably grateful that it had been my privilege to do something to make that little community interested in itself.”

However, at that time, not everyone appreciated Mr. Taft’s benevolence. Among Mr. Taft’s personal papers, was a letter from an irate veteran from Polo, who stated tersely that Taft did *not* have his permission to put his name on the monument. Mr. Taft replied kindly that he had nothing to do with the decision to publicize the names of the veterans, and told the gentleman that he should approach the County Board with his grievance.

The monument was started in 1914. Taft contacted his friends, Pond and Pond, who designed the exedra which would carry the monuments and tablets. The marble was ordered and sent rail freight from Georgia. This was the most expensive part of the project, costing slightly more than \$15,000. Taft designed the three figures, America was cast in a Chicago Foundry, and the two soldiers were cut from marble by Mr. Zimmerman, Taft’s trusted stonecutter. The additional costs of \$6,000 were paid between 1914 and 1916.

Each piece of marble was designed and cut to perfection, so that it could be assembled like a puzzle. It has



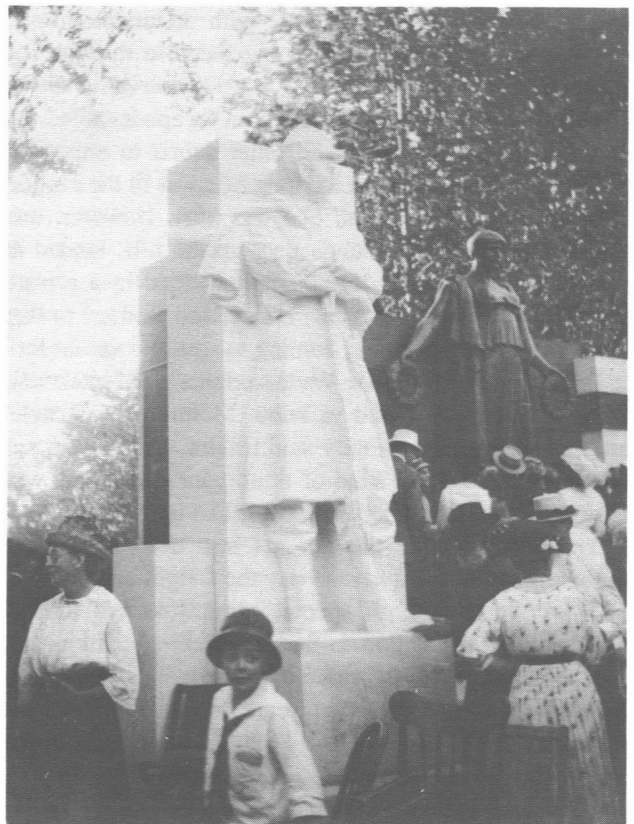
Veiling of Soldier's Monument, 1916. Lorado Taft seated in foreground. (Courtesy Jan Stilson)



Mr. Taft addressing a huge crowd on Oregon's Square. (Courtesy Jan Stilson)

been assumed that the secret to the assembly is behind the last bronze plate, which is mounted on the front. A sidewalk was put around the monument so that the viewers could walk around and enjoy the beauty of the size and structure. The summer of 1916, the dedication ceremony and unveiling was held for the public, and Mr. Taft was the guest speaker.

As the years passed, freezing, thawing and other weathering conditions, caused the front steps to settle. Leaves and debris gathered in the pockets and cracks, and America’s patina became soiled, with fungi growing on the marble, leaving dark, fuzzy patches.



The crowd was appreciative of the gift to the County in memory of its fallen sons. (Courtesy Jan Stilson)

In 1983, Don Reed, a local conservator, was hired to renovate the monument. At that time, it was appraised with a value nearing One Million Dollars. He worked on the monument for a number of weeks, leveling the steps, removing the fungi, sealing the marble, protecting it from further weathering, and giving America and each of the bronze plates a cleaning with a patina very near the original. Each year, the monument will be inspected by the conservators, who will evaluate what weathering, if any, has occurred.



Soldier's Memorial, Oregon, Illinois. (Courtesy Ogle County Republican Reporter)

Over the years, thousands of people have enjoyed the monument. Few communities have soldier's monuments as graceful and elaborate as ours. Ogle County can be proud of its prize.

Biblio:

Taft, Lorado. "Beauty in the Home Town," lecture, circa, 1920. From U of I Archives.

Assorted Taft papers, notes, and letters from files of Jan Stilson.

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Many fine people have given their time to serve in Ogle County Government. Examination of the records will show that often times these individuals were elected, and re-elected numerous times, because of the outstanding jobs that they were doing.

One such example was John Cross, Superintendent of Schools from 1910-1926. He was the son of James and Mary Cross, and a native of Pine Rock Township. John and his family were active in a little country Church of God called Antioch, on the corner of Flagg and Chana Roads.

Mr. Cross ran his office efficiently, introducing features into the school system that gained him the respect of both teachers and students. Thanks to the voters, he retained the position of Superintendent for 16 years. In the election of 1926, he was succeeded by Leland Hanson.

Mr. Cross was a handsome, distinguished man. He and his wife, residing near Rochelle, had three children, two daughters and one son. The girls, Maude and Cecil, were lively, attractive girls. Unfortunately, their brother, met with an untimely death around the time of his twentieth birthday. This saddened the Cross family and the com-

munity as well. The young man was laid to rest near his father in the Washington Grove Cemetery.

The following is a list of other elected officials of Ogle County from the first election in January, 1837. The list was updated for this publication by County Clerk, Peg Fridley, as her last official duty before her retirement. Thanks Peg, and good luck!

OGLE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERKS

James V. Gale	1837-1847
John M. Hinkle	1847-1848
Robert Light	1848-1856
Mortimer W. Smith	1856-1860
Frederick G. Petrie	1860-1872
Henry P. Lason	1872-1876
Elbert K. Light	1876-1884
Ralph J. Sensar	1884-1888
Charles M. Gale	1888-1904
Jerome F. Cox	1904-1912
John D. Mead	1912-1924
Lillie Shelly	1924-1936
John D. Mead	1936-1936
Homer Althouse	1937-1960
Morris M. Roe	1960-1976
Phyllis Roe	1976-1980
Tracy Stewart	1980-present

OGLE COUNTY CLERKS

Smith Gilbraith	1837
Dr. H.T. Moss	1839
Henry Mix	1843
Richard Chaney	1847
John M. Hinkle	1849
Joseph Sears	1853
Elbert K. Light	1857
Albert Woodcock	1861
George W. Hornell	1877
Henry P. Lason	1882
James C. Fesler	1890
Robert F. Adams	1902
Sidney J. Hess	1918
Ada McGurk	1939
Imildrith Pryor	1958
Helvie R. Wooding	1970
Margaret A. Fridley	1977
Jean Wolfe	1986

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFFS

William W. Mudd	1837
Will T. Mix	1837
Horatio Wales	1838
William T. Ward	1840
C. Bun Artz	1844
Elisha W. Dutcher	1846
Alfred Helm	1850
Elias Baker	1852
Charles Newcomer	1854
Elephalet R. Tyler	1856

Frederick G. Petrie	1858
John A. Hughes	1860
Benjamin F. Sheets	1862
Charles R. Potter	1862
James O'Kane	1864
William W. O'Kane	1866
Benjamin R. Wager	1868
John R. Petrie	1870
Henry C. Peek	1874
Fred H. Marsh	1882
George F. Bishop	1886
Charles H. Betebenner	1890
Peter S. Good	1894
George H. Andrew	1898
Joseph L. Seifer	1902
Charles M. Myers	1906
William P. Delaney	1910
William D. MacKay	1914
George D. Banning	1918
Sheridan N. Dodson	1922
Samuel P. Good	1926
Frank B. Murray	1930
Delos Blanchard	1934
James M. White	1938
Bill Hungerford	1942
Joe Maas	1946
James M. White	1950
Charles Allen	1954
Ed Lang	1958
Bill Spencer	1962
Ed Lang	1966
Jerry Brooks	1970
Jerry Brooks	1974
Jerry Brooks	1978
Jerry Brooks	1982
Jerry Brooks	1986

OGLE COUNTY TREASURERS

Oliver W. Kellogg	1837
Jehial Day	1837
Isaac S. Wooley	1839
Edwin S. Leland	1839
Isaac S. Wooley	1843
John Acker	1849
Isaac S. Wooley	1850
Phillip R. Bennett	1853
J.N. Bassett	1855
Albert Woodcock	1857
Horace J. Smith	1861
Martin L. Ettenger	1862
Isaac Brown	1863
Martin L. Ettenger	1865
John T. Gantz	1867
Edwin E. Reed	1876
James C. Fesler	1886
Charles C. Taylor	1890
Asa Dimon	1894
Frank Heflebower	1898

Asa Dimon	1902
George H. Andrew	1906
Charles M. Myers	1910
William P. Delaney	1914
William D. MacKay	1918
Glen Andrew	1922
Frank B. Murray	1926
John J. Farrell	1930
DeWitt Warner	1934
John J. Farrell	1938
Edward Eychner	1938
Leon Ward	1942
DeWitt Warner	1946
Leon Ward	1950
Imildrith Pryor	1952
Imildrith Pryor	1954
Leonard Warner	1958
Francis Mincemoyer	1962
Claude Holmes	1966
Carol A. Blumeyer	1970
Clyde F. Moore	1974
Chrissie E. Martin	1978
Chrissie E. Martin	1982
Chrissie E. Martin	1986

From "Blueberry Moon" by Edith Andrew Burchell:

THE SHERIFF

*Yes, I was just a youngster then
And my brother a growing lad.
When I was in the jail house, see,
The sheriff was my Dad!*

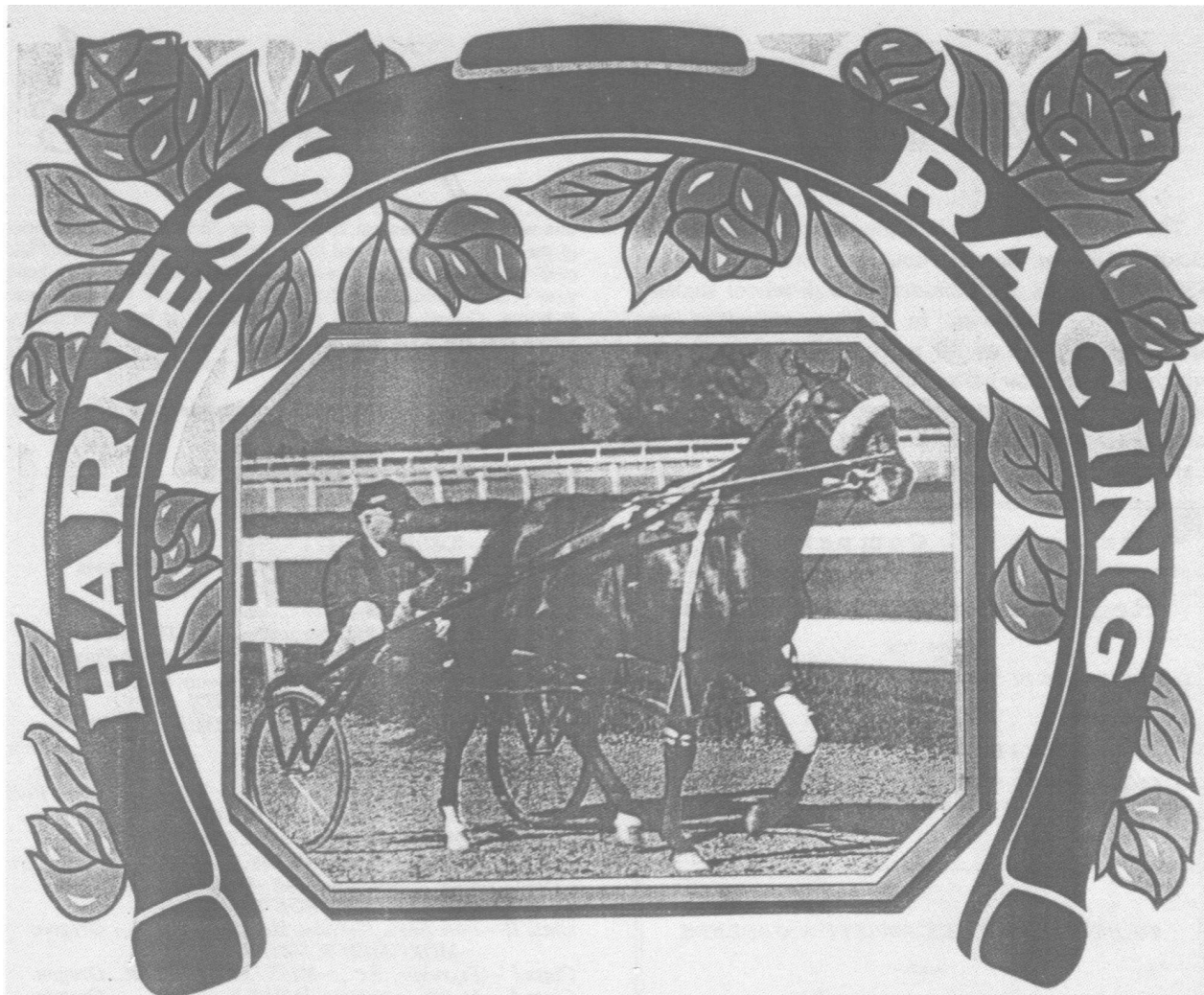
By the time we had moved from this nice little town of my birth to the county seat at Oregon, Illinois, for my father had been elected to the Sheriff's office (to the surprise, no doubt, of the home-town fat boy.)

This picturesque town of over three thousand souls, holds many charms. its unusual beauty rivals the hills of Switzerland. The beauty of Rock River Valley holds many attractions for the art student. On the bluff overlooking Rock River is the famous Black Hawk statue, a masterpiece by the world-famed sculptor, Lorado Taft.

Many Chicago Art Institute people had homes on the Bluff and the scenes painted by these artists of this locality are almost priceless, for many of the older artists are now deceased.

Our library has an art gallery filled with paintings donated by the painters on the bluff above Oregon. The school children here always stand high in their grades of art. How could they do otherwise with so much beauty for all to see! It has been said that people who live here do not appreciate its beauty, but no one in our town feels that way.

One time in coming home from California we took the Feather River Canyon route, the beauty of which is widely known: On the train a lady said to me: "You do not seem to care so much for the scenery, do you?" to which I replied: "I come from the scenic valley of Rock River and I am used to beautiful scenery."



**91ST. OGLE COUNTY
FAIR
OREGON, ILL.
SEPT. 2. 3. 4**

Still vibrant red, blue, green and yellow colors compose this forty-five year old Ogle County Fair Poster. Preserved and hidden it was discovered as the cardboard backing in a framed picture of race horses: Pearl Harbor, Goldie B, Oregon Boy, and Greyhound. It was given to Wayne Dugdale by his uncle Charlie Dugdale—long time proprietor of the Sinissippi Hotel as well as properly loyal Ogle County Fair fan.

County Fairgrounds

The first county fair in Ogle County was held in October, 1853 on the court house square and offered but \$50 in premiums and diplomas to high school students and winners of classes. In 1856 a committee was appointed to purchase 10 acres of land near Oregon which is part of the present site on Route 2. Additional acreage was purchased in 1858 and 1901. Later 10 acres were purchased from the estate of the late James H. Cartwright.

this we make an earnest appeal to the *Farmers* and *Mechanics* of the County to come and bring the products of their skill and care. Bring specimens of everything you produce. Don't leave your product behind and then go away and say you had *better* at home. Come! and take the Premiums. It is by comparing views and methods that we learn to secure the best. Every arrangement possible, for the entertainment of the people, will be made.

A good Band of Music will be in attendance during the Fair.

Officers for 1868.

President,—J. LEAVITT MOORE, Buffalo.
Vice President—HON. JOSHUA WHITE, Marion.
Treasurer—ALBERT WOODCOCK, Oregon.
Secretary—JOSEPH E. HITT, Oregon.
General Superintendent—JOHN W. HITT, Mt. Morris.
Police Superintendent—JAMES O'KANE, Oregon.
Executive Committee:
 JOHN S. STANGER, Oregon; A. J. WAITE, Rockvale;
 GEO. W. HILL, Oregon; COL. D. C. MAY, Flagg;
 HON. D. J. PINCKNEY, Mount Morris.

SUPERINTENDENTS:

Class A—HORSES—CHARLES W. SAMMIS, Buffalo.
Class B—CATTLE—JOEL R. CARLL, Mt. Morris.
Class C—SHEEP—J. W. KNAPP, Monroe.
Class D—HOGS—WM. STOCKING, White Rock.
Class E—POULTRY—ERASTUS NORTON, Oregon.
Class F—MECHANICAL AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS—ORLO NORTON, Scott.
Class G—MILL, FARM, ORCHARD AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS—GEORGE YOUNG, Scott.
Class H—FINE ARTS, NATURAL HISTORY & C., Oregon.
 —MORTIMER W. SMITH,
Class I—FLOWERS, & C.,—MISS LOU. POTTER, Oregon.
Class J—MISCELLANEOUS—JAMES V. GALE, Oregon.

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

CLASS A.—HORSES.

Superintendent—C. W. SAMMIS—Buffalo.

LOT 1—HORSES OF ALL WORK.

Best Stallion, 4 years old and upwards	\$8.00
Second best	5.00
Third best	3.00
Best Stallion, 3 years old and under,	6.00
Second best	4.00
Third best	2.00
Best Stallion, 2 year old	5.00
Second best	3.00
Third best	1.00
Best Stallion 1 year old	3.00
Second Best	2.00
Third best	1.00
Best Horse Colt	2.00
Second best	1.00
Best Brood Mare, 4 years old and upwards with foal at her side	6.00
Second best	4.00
Third best	2.00
Best filly 3 years old	5.00
Second best	3.00
Third best	1.00
Best filly 2 years old	3.00
Second best	2.00
Best filly 1 year old	2.00
Second best	1.00
Best Mare Colt	2.00
Second best	1.00

By the term "horse of all work" the Board means an animal of sufficient weight to pull the plow or wagon, and sufficient action to hitch to the family carriage, and to carry his owner without endangering his neck by falling down.

Free to all Competitors.

Regulations and Premiums

FOR THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL FAIR

OF THE

OGLE COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:

TO BE HELD ON THE SOCIETY'S GROUNDS,

—AT—

OREGON, ILLINOIS,

—ON—

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, October 7th, 8th & 9th, 1868.

Over \$1,300 Offered in Cash Premiums;
 Payable on the Grounds, Friday p. m., October 9th, 1868.

OREGON:
 OGLE COUNTY REPORTER PRINT.
 1868.

Preserve this and bring it with you to the Fair.

Provided Courtesy of Ann Geiken

Address.

The OGLE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY herewith submits its Sixteenth Annual Premium List. We would call special attention to this list. We have tried to adopt it to the wants of the County. The Society is out of debt and in a prosperous condition, and is offering more and larger premiums than any county in Northern Illinois, in the hope of increasing interest in the Agricultural developments and improvement of our county. The grounds are to be improved and new and larger buildings erected. We desire to make the coming Fair the most successful of any in the history of the Society. To accomplish

He should be from 15½ to 16½ hands high, should weigh 1150 to 1400 pounds, and the more good blood he possesses the better.

Committee.—A. E. Hurd, Marion; Norman Hawks, Buffalo; Andrew Worthington, Lafayette.

LOT 2—ROADSTERS.

Best Stallion 4 years old and upwards	\$8.00
Second best	5.00
Third best	3.00
Best Stallion, 3 years old,	6.00
Second best	4.00
Third best	2.00
Best Brood Mare with Colt at her side, 4 years old and upwards	6.00
Second best	4.00
Third best	1.00
Best Filly 3 years old	4.00
Second best	2.00
Third best	1.00

The roadster when mature, should be 14½ to 15½ hands high, and weigh from 950 to 1100 pounds. He should be a "finished" horse with sufficient "blood" to insure spirit and endurance equal to twelve or sixteen miles an hour without injury, and should answer to the very expressive term "a business horse."

Stallions in this class will be expected to show their style and speed, and any unfair driving or running will subject the animal so driven to be ruled out at once by the executive committee.

The committee on this class will be careful not to attach too much importance to trotting alone. General action, size, form, style and endurance, are equally valuable qualities.

Committee.—Daniel Cushing, Grand Detour; W. B. Phelps, White Rock; C. R. Barber, Buffalo.

LOT 3—DRAUGHT STALLIONS.

Best Draught Stallion	\$10.00
Second best	8.00
Third best	4.00

Strength to be tested on the ground in presence of committee.

LOT 4—FARM TEAMS, MARES OR GELDINGS
(IN HEAVY HARNESS.)

Best farm Team, (Geldings or Mares)	\$15.00
Second best	10.00
Third best	5.00

In this and the two following classes matches and pairs will not be allowed to be made up for the occasion, but must be owned in good faith by the same individual.

Ten per cent, will be charged as an entry fee on the premium competed for in Lot 4.

Committee on Lots 3 and 4—Henry Thompson, Oregon; G. W. Bartow, Lafayette; Lyman Carl, Mt. Morris.

LOT 5—CARRIAGE TEAM MATCHED OR SINGLE,
(GELDINGS OR MARES.)

Best Family Carriage Team, Matched	\$15.00
Second best	10.00
Third best	5.00

"Behold this monster of the air, this new disciple of man's urge to conquer the sky, the International type Curtis Aeroplane which was shown at the Ogle County Fair as a feature attraction back on August 25, 1911, about 28 years ago, when aviation was more or less in its infancy. This unusual attraction packed the grounds and the natives stood in breathless anticipation as the aviator Andy Ludwig got the dern thing cranked up and shoed small boys back a couple corn rows so they wouldn't be the object of a crash. He also sent a crew out to caution all those who drove in with their family carriage nags to see to it that they were soundly tied to a hickory tree with a storm hitch in order that they didn't take off at the same time the plane did. Despite the fact that 99⅞ per cent of the large crowd figured the machine wouldn't fly, it did fly, not very long or very high, but it managed to leave the ground and circle around a bit, much to the disturbance of a pair of crows who had located in a dead tree close by and had a brood of young squawkers which they figured the strange bird in the air would devour.

This plane was valued at a lot of money so the manager put up a big yelp about leaving it out of doors all night, figuring it might catch cold, or some mechanically inclined native would start to make improvements on it. So the Fair management permitted a side of the large exhibit hall to be sawed out in order that the plane could be provided with a safe shelter under lock and key."

Republican Reporter—E. D. Landers



OGLE COUNTY REPORTER

PUBLISHED AT

Oregon - - - - - Illinois.

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One door South of the Oregon House, and am fully prepared to do all kinds of work in the line of

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At the very lowest cash price.

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keeps on hand

Harness, Saddles, Bridles, Flynets, Whips &c.

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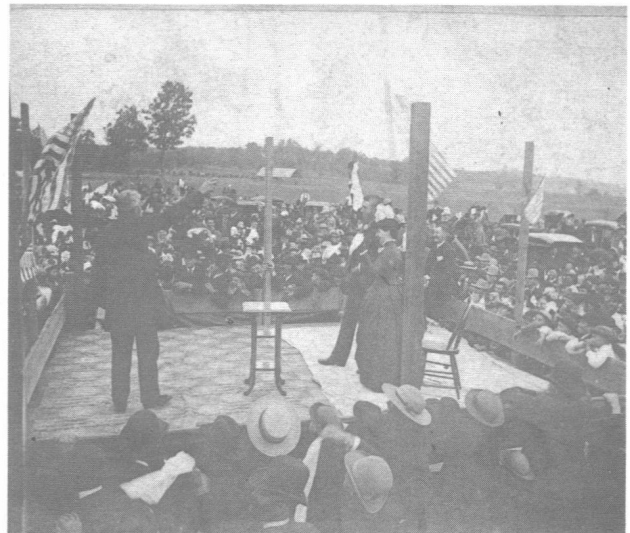
Oregon,

Illinois.

Courtesy of Ann Geiken

*Wedding on the Fair Grounds
County gave them the marriage
certificate, Father Cartwright
married them (no charge) and
the City of Oregon donated
\$25.00 to dollar's worth of pres-
ents. Spoon got up the affair
It was a great success
in drawing a crowd
for Wednesday*

Handwritten report of first wedding—author unknown—but written in Ogle County vernacular—i.e. "Spoon got up the affair." Also demonstrates early clever public relations strategy.



The bridal couple whose names are lost to history being publicly married by Rev. Barton Cartwright before several hundred fair enthusiasts. (Photo Courtesy of Landers)

“Back in the late eighties, or rather what was known as the horse and buggy days, the main feature at the Ogle County Fair one year was a public wedding. For this occasion, the County of Ogle donated the marriage license and the merchants of Oregon offered \$250 in merchandise to the lucky young couple.

The affair was arranged by Austin W. Spoor, hotel proprietor and well known citizen, and it drew a huge crowd. Rev. Barton H. Cartwright, widely known early day minister, performed the ceremony.

The crowd assembled gives a good idea of the dress and customs of that day. Note the high hats, bustles, long skirts and braided and twisted hair of the ladies. to say nothing of the various outcroppings of long whiskers on the men, as well as all sorts of hats, which were the rage of that day.

The horse barns then stood at the east line of the fair grounds, along what is now known as state Route No. 2, and also to the south line.

That was in the days when the Williams, Landons, Daileys and other families raised and raced running horses.” (Republican Reporter)

The last wedding occurred in 1986 between two carnival employees and was performed by Judge John Moore appropriately dressed in his black judicial robe.

One of the bridal couple may have run the ferris wheel as the ceremony took place in that area and when the vows were completed, the blissful couple went for a ride on the ferris wheel bedecked in their wedding attire.

Perhaps a baptism could be arranged in due time at the pick-a-duck water game on the Midway. . . .

Ogle County Fair Out of The Woods September 16, 1920

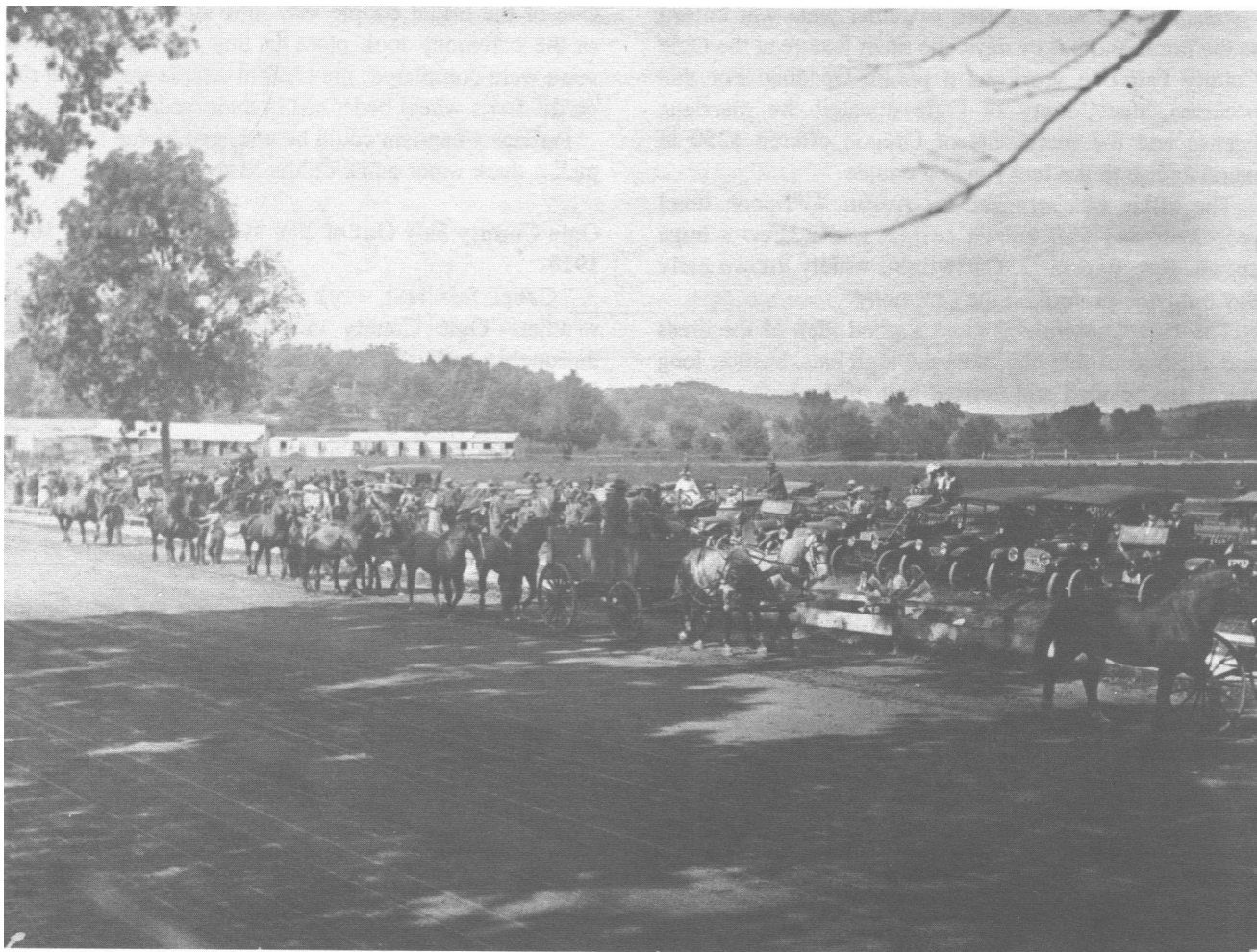
“Great fair last week regardless of threatening weather—Ogle County citizens have finally become thoroughly enthused and citizens have united in boosting for bigger and better fairs. Association out of debt first time in a decade.

The 68th Annual Ogle Fair held last week was by far the greatest success of any fair yet held on the Oregon grounds. In point of attendance, exhibits, free attractions, music and races there was nothing left undone to please and entertain the grounds.

The livestock exhibit was way above the expectations of all, every stall in the barns and a large addition to the hog barn being filled. In quality and numbers no stock show has ever been held in this section which equaled it. In the Holstein class D.B. Kump was awarded the premium for Champion Holstein cow of Ogle county and



Courtesy of Oregon Republican Reporter



Courtesy of Oregon Republican Reporter

Charles Reed and Sons were awarded the premium for champion Holstein Bull of Ogle County. The hog exhibit was the largest ever seen in this section. Close to 300 head of pure bred animals being shown and competition was keen. The Sheep exhibit was better than usual, P.L. Fruin, Oregon having some fine animals on exhibition.

The horse exhibit was not what it should have been, but when one stops to figure that the frivolous "Tin Lizzy" like Pear's soap is now a household article and the gas tractor is fast making itself common on the farms of this section, there is some reason why the raising of horses has fallen off.

The crowds were handled in excellent shape, no accidents and no trouble. A trio of light fingered gentlemen blew in on the midnight train from Milwaukee, Wednesday night—a reception committee met them at the depot, checked them out and sent them home on the next train C.O.D. Much credit is due to Sheriff George D. Banning and his assistants.

The school exhibit was viewed by large crowds each day as well as was the state health exhibit. Also the Red Cross had a first aid station which was an interest to many.

The Schiller Piano Company made a fine showing of their player pianos and Superba Phonographs, which was

enjoyed by the crowds.

The races were above average, a fine string of class horses being entered, and in the majority of the heats competition was keen.

The Aeroplane Flights which were advertised were not given. The plane came to Oregon, Tuesday, landed in the wrong field and broke the propeller off. By the time it was repaired the fair was nearly over and the DuJardin people took it back to Rockford.

Financially the Fair was a success regardless of Thursday's rain and it is apparent at this distance that the last note outstanding against the Association will be paid this year and for the first time in 20 years the Association will begin business next year with a clean slate, something which is contrary to all predictions. The Ogle County Fair never stood better with the people than at present and it is now up to the people to keep it that way.

If the people of this section continue to patronize and boost the Ogle County Fair as they have in the past two years there is no question but what it will be one of the big fairs of Northern Illinois. There has been some complaints from stock holders over not getting free tickets, but management figured that free admissions do not pay premium purses, interest, and notes and for two years past has issued no free tickets." (Republican Reporter—1920)

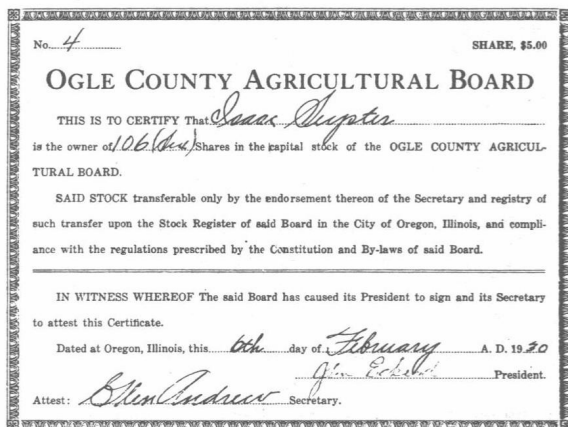


1890 view of the old cow barns, canvas tents and horse drawn carriages at the 37th Ogle County Fair.

(Photo Courtesy of E.D. Landers)

BOYS PIG CLUB IS COMING ALONG FINE

“County farm advisor George T. Snyder and assistant advisor A.W. Johnson state that the boys Pig Club being financed by the Ogle County Fair is coming along fine. Already 15 boys in various townships of the county have entered into the work and many inquiries are coming in to the Farm Bureau office from others.” (Republican Reporter—1921)



Sample of shares sold to stockholders of the Ogle County Agricultural Board—governing body of the Ogle County Fair.

Almost everybody loves a winner, and that is why, back in 1908 a large part of the town's population turned out for a special ceremony to pay tribute to a local heroine.

This heroine was “Citation”, a pacing mare who had made track history at Columbus, Ohio, where she set a world record. Her best heat record was 2:01 for the mile, an excellent time considering the racing tracks in those times.

The calm, royal-blooded little mare was met at the railroad station by the Oregon City Band and a group of enthusiastic fans. After she was bedecked with a collar of roses, the band led a procession escorting her to the intersection of Main and Washington Streets (now the intersection of Illinois 2 and 64) where a special ceremony was held in her honor.

“Citation” was a product of Springvale Farm, then located just North of Oregon. Her trainer was Dick McMahon, and her owner was the Hon. James H. Cartwright, who at that time was a Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court. Cartwright served as Chief Justice from 1895 to 1915. Prior to that he held a judgeship in Illinois' 13th Judicial District.

Cartwright, the son of a pioneer minister, was a product of Rock River Seminary (which later became Mt. Morris



Early 1950's display of the "modern" Allis Chalmers tractors and machinery. (Photo Courtesy of E. Gambrel)



Citation, The local heroine (Photo courtesy of Mary Colson)

College). He also served in the Civil War as a Captain of Company I, 140th Illinois Infantry.

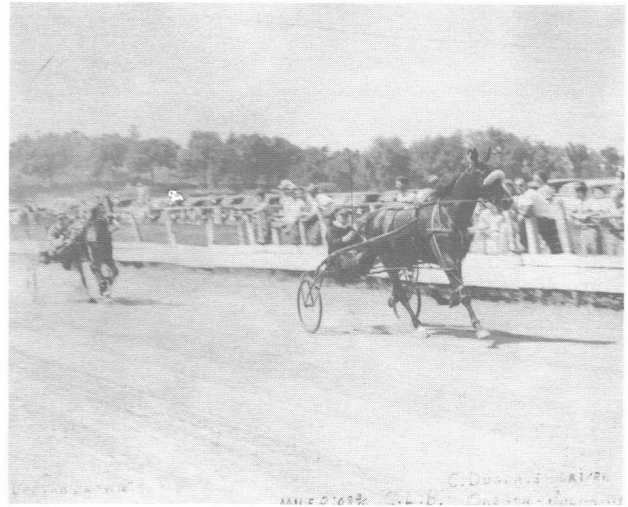
A local resident, Richard Black, now 69 said that he went to work for the Judge at Springvale Farm when he was 16. Black, who remembers "Citation" in her later years, said, "in its day, Springvale Farm produced a good many track favorites".

Local contractor, and Oregon native, Charles Mongan, who himself has owned several race horses, said, "While I don't remember the celebration when "Citation" captured the world's record, I do remember hearing a lot about it." Mongan was one of the co-purchasers of Springvale Farm when it was sold in the late 1940's.

Rumor has it that the Judge was so proud of "Citation" and all the glory she had brought to Springvale Farm in her halcyon days that when she died he ordered her to be buried in the family burial plot just a short distance from his own grave site. The plot was then near the eastern boundary of Riverview Cemetery.

Under terms of the Judge's will, this plot and some area surrounding it was eventually deeded to Riverview Cemetery. Assuming that "Citation" is buried there, she,

her master and his family now lie within the cemetery's boundaries. (Republican Reporter—Kathryn Gelandner)



Coming down the stretch to the wire by a couple lengths on July 4, 1943 is C.O. "Duggie" Dugdale driving C.L.B. Present also for this race was this writer, his future granddaughter invivo with her mother Jule Dugdale Baker. Beth finished her nine month race on July 22, 1943. (Photo Courtesy of Mrs. LaVern (Jule) Baker)



This race in the early 1940's probably resulted in a judges call because only the camera angle makes it appear who the winner is. These were the days before instant replay and many a heated discussion took place with a nose-to-nose finish.



1943 photo of Col. E.J. Baker, his famous trotter Greyhound and driver R. C. "Doc" Flannery. (Photo Courtesy of Wayne Dugdale)

"Over 16,000 people visited an exhibit provided by the State of Illinois Dept. of Conservation. The exhibit consisted of wild birds and animals. Day and night the crowds surged through to see an outstanding exhibit of what we have and protect in wild life in this state. The small fawn exhibited attracted the most attention.

The highlight of the fair was Greyhound, world champion trotting horse with a record of 1:55-¼ and owned by Col. E.J. Baker of St. Charles, Illinois. The special barn fitted for Greyhound was visited by thousands of interested people who had never before seen this

champion. They were thrilled at his performance on the race track where he was driven by R.C. "Doc" Flannery, nationally known horseman and trainer. Mr. Baker visited the Ogle County Fair Sunday for the first time and upon leaving for DuQuoin, where some of the horses from his stable were to race, expressed himself as very pleased at the fair and the fine and friendly spirit shown by the people of this section. Greyhound left Monday afternoon for DuQuoin where he will appear at the big fair held in that city.

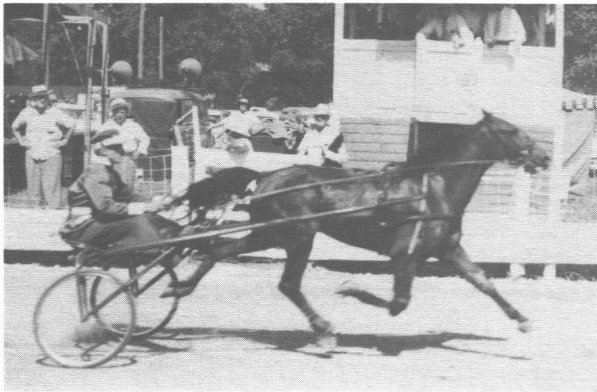
(Republican Reporter 1943 Courtesy of Henry Coy)



Early photo of Leo "Hop" Colson with his famous "Pearl Harbor" who held the Ogle Track record of 2:05. Later a memorial trophy for the fastest mile driven at the Ogle County Fair was given in his memory each year. (Photo Courtesy of Wayne Dugdale)



"Goldie B" (Photo Courtesy of Wayne Dugdale)

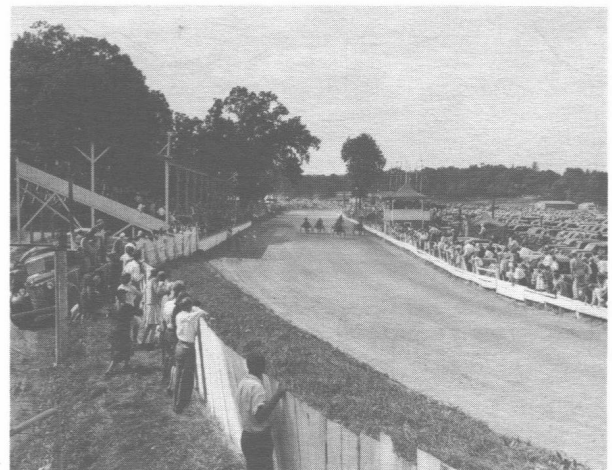


Ken Gearhart driving his winner, Main Colby. Owner and trainer of many horses, he won the "Hop" Colson Memorial Trophy which was especially fitting as he is the brother of Mrs. Colson. (Courtesy Ken Gearhart)

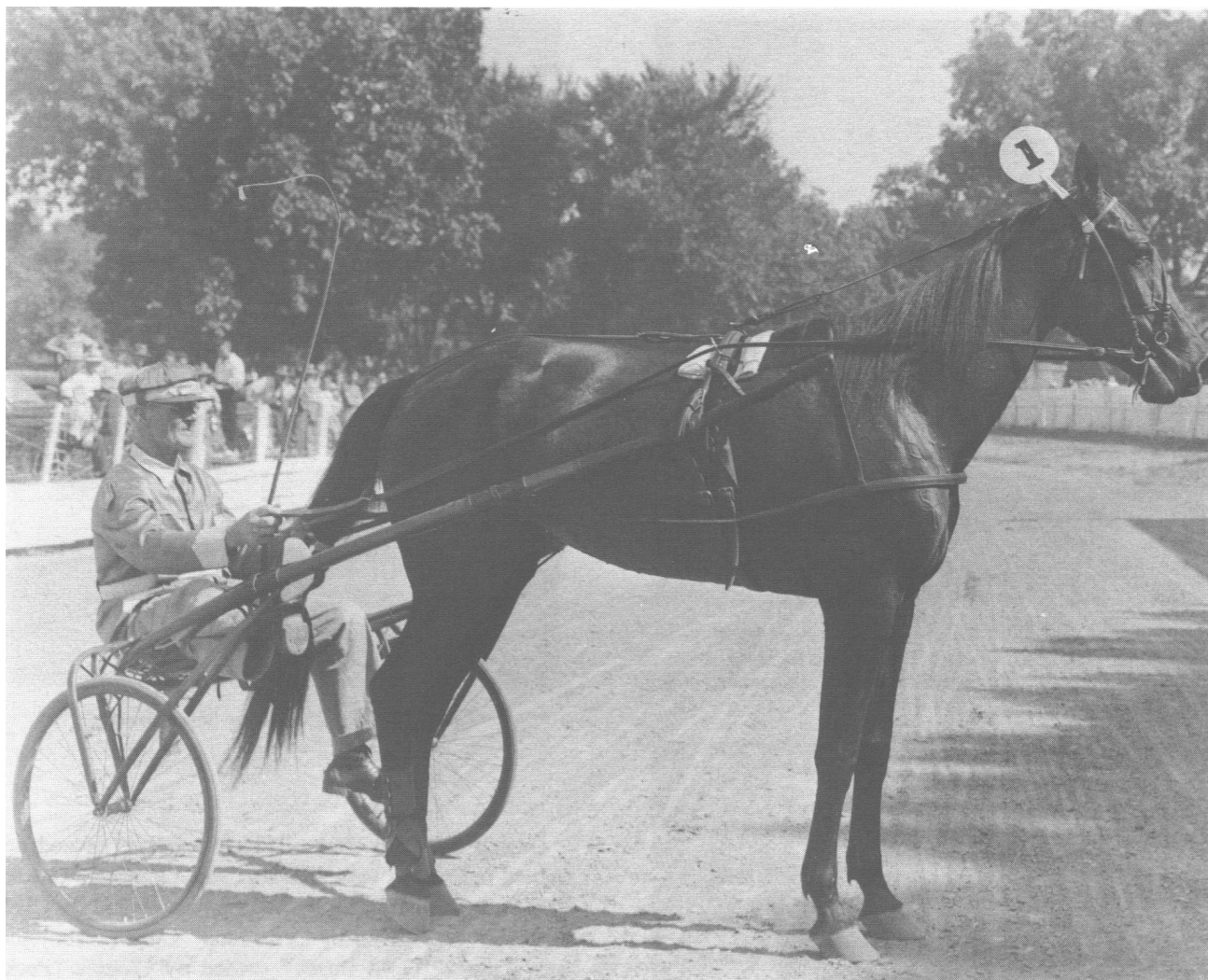
During the 95th Fair, 1948, two horses owned and trained in Oregon were half brothers. One was "Goldies Boy" a trotter sired by Spud Hanover, owned by Clyde L. Myers and driven by Leo "Hop" Colson. The other was a pacer "Gold Brook" owned by Charles "Peck" Stone of Oregon and driven by Eddie Schuyler. Both won heats at the Fair. Their grand dam was that old sorrel campaigner "Goldie B" who hung up many a win at the Oregon track back in the palmy days of her prime. (Courtesy of Republican Reporter)



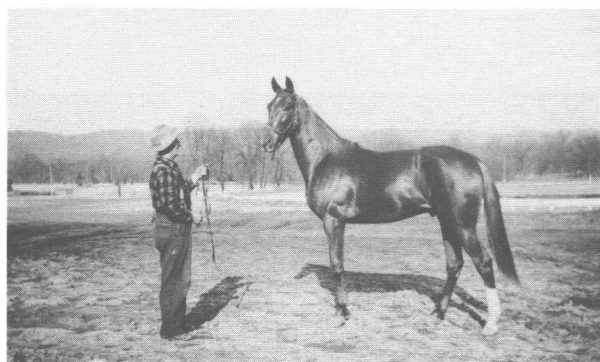
Fayette Waggoner, driver, holding Buster Brown and seated on sulky is Ed Carty minus the racing silks worn by each driver for a race. The cap and jacket were in bright colors chosen by a driver and rarely changed because a certain amount of superstition evolved with them relating to luck in winning. Many other rituals peculiar to each driver were also used. (Courtesy Mary Colson)



1940's view of track in front of grandstand. Note old wooden fence, and many vintage cars parked in the infield. (Photo Courtesy of Mary Colson)



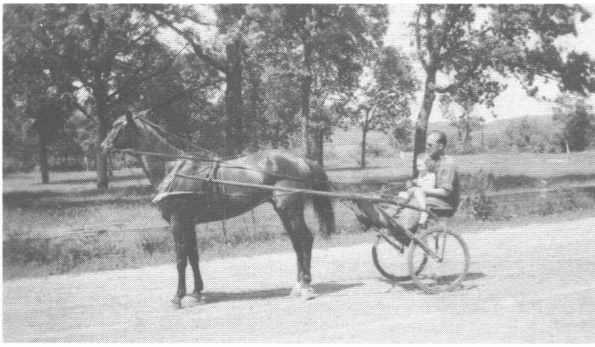
Closeup of driver Omer Amundsen and Pearl Harbor after a hot and dusty race. (Photo Courtesy of Mary Colson)



Clarence Dugdale and Goldies Boy during winter training season. Photo Courtesy of C. Mongan)



Here's a new colt named Boston Blackie born to Ulrica, good race mare belonging to Charles W. Mongan of Oregon. His sire was Popular Abbe, who sired several of the colts in the big race at Springfield in 1952. Ulrica had a mark of 2:09 and was a great race horse in her day. The new colt is black and quite frisky. Republican Reporter. (Photo Courtesy of C. Mongan)

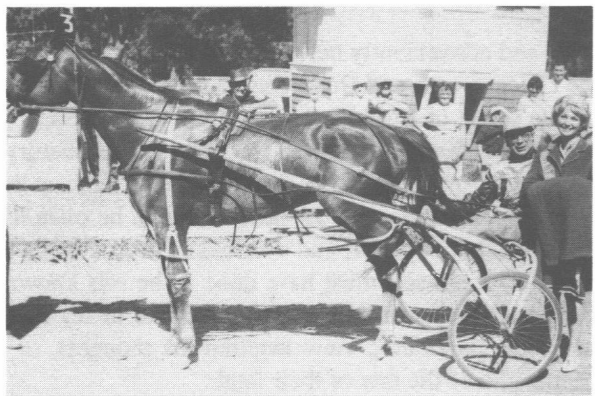


Judy Colson on the lap of her daddy, Leo "Hop" Colson on June 17, 1938.



Paul Rosenbalm, Mrs. Rosenbalm, 1966 Ogle Co. Fair Queen, and Fury Day who won Landers Trophy. (Courtesy Paul Rosenbalm)

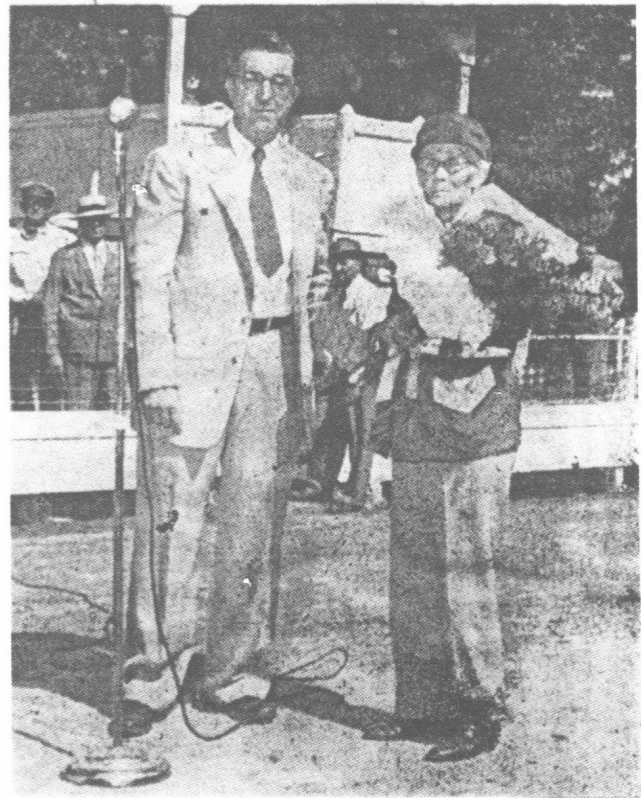
Paul Rosenbalm who started racing in 1955 first owned Brother Nibbs with Neil Allen and later bought Fury Day. He won the Ernie Landers Trophy in 1966 as well as winning that same day with Dennis Skyraider. "Paulie" raced the Chicago and Kentucky tracks as well as Audubon Raceway where he was the top driver for three years.



Paul Rosenbalm and Dennis Skyraider with 1966 Ogle Co. Fair Queen. (Courtesy Paul Rosenbalm)

"Grandma" Neva Burright never heard of Women's Liberation and didn't have time for it anyway because she lived it. N.O.W. (National Organization of Women) for

Officially Opening 100th Ogle Co Fair



Harold Beaty, president of the Oregon Chamber of Commerce presenting Mrs. Forrest Burright, Queen of the 100th Ogle County Fair, a bouquet as she formally opens the fair Saturday for the three days.—Dixor Telegraph photo



Mrs. Forrest Burright who was the Queen of the Ogle County Fair, Sept. 5-7. She has raced in over 2,000 races and has a long experience in driving and training race horses. — Dixor Telegraph photo