

REENACTMENT OF BATTLE OF SAN JUAN HILL WAS SPECTACULAR

One of the most spectacular celebrations held in Mount Pulaski in the years gone by was the day when the soldiers came here from Camp Lincoln, Springfield, on an Illinois Central train and rushed up the hill to the log cabin fort built in the street on the west side of the square, after some shooting, captured it from the local defenders. The day proved a big one for everybody, and many will be glad to be reminded of the date it happened. The battle was part of the Old Settler's Day reunion. Following is the information printed on a badge:

1868 - 31st Annual Reunion - 1899
Logan County Old Settlers' Association, Mount Pulaski, Wednesday, August 23, 1899.

Souvenir Silk Badges distributed to Old Settlers dating from 1840.

Souvenir Button Pictures of Jabez Capps, gift of Chicago Record, to the Snow Birds of 1830-31.

The speakers were Hon. O. F. Berry, Carthage, Ill.; and Hon. J. M. Graham, Springfield, Ill. Reminiscent talk by Old Settlers. Band music, singing, declamations.

Great Military Spectacle! Battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba. Realistic representation by Col. J. S. Culver, with a Battalion of 5th

Regiment Illinois Infantry. Squad of Artillery and Gattling Guns from Camp Lincoln, Springfield.

Grand Military Banquet at 7 p. m., including home veterans of the rebellion.

Vice-Presidents and townships of county they represent:

West Lincoln: David Hummell. Hurlbut: Joseph Willbanks. Broadwell: John Critchfield. Corwin: John Long. Lake Fork: N. P. Gasaway. Oran: Thomas Sullivan. East Lincoln: George I. Harry. Laenna: William H. Kretzinger. Atlanta: Abel Larison. Sheridan: Thomas H. Price. Orvil: John Malone. Eminence: Arthur P. Miller. Aetna: Thomas Patterson. Elkhart: H. A. Baldwin. Prairie Creek: J. C. Leavitt. Chester: R. H. Templeman, President.

Mount Pulaski: S. Linn Beidler, Secretary.

Badge and Register Committee: Robert Clark and Alfred Tom'inson.

Arrangements Committee: Mayor John Rothwell, J. P. Fowler, A. W. Leslie, Dr. F. B. Bullard, T. A. Scroggin, Herman S. Bekemeyer, Dr. N. A. Jones, Wm. H. Clear, William Rupp, Jr., M. J. Myers.

had to be made through all kinds of weather especially when muddy.

The coming of the automobile in the 1900's caused the livery business to give way to progress. The frame front of the present garage has stood there for perhaps 70 years and will be replaced at a later date with a more substantial addition, to be connected with the concrete building to the rear.

Moving Skeleton

In the Gay 90's some Mount Pulaski "wise guys" went to the section of the livery barn where Mr. Gordon kept the hearse, put a skeleton in it, and fixed small ropes to it so that the skeleton would move around at the will of the perpetrators. Then a young

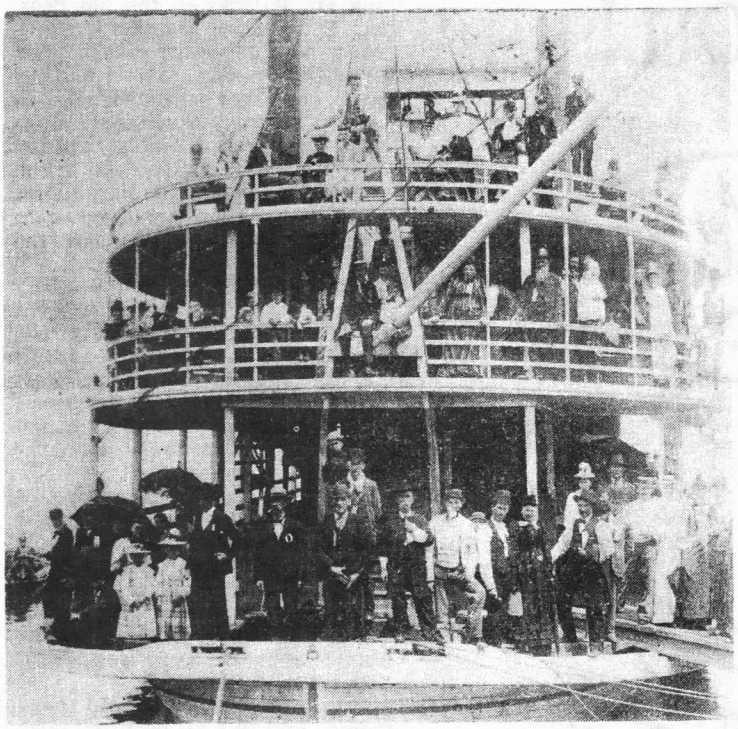
fellow was sent into that big room to get some kind of an article, and when he saw those bones moving around he ran out of there, grabbed his coat and hat, left town on the run, and never did return. (He may be running yet.)

On the spot where the new structure is going up, Mr. Gordon built a long two-story house and the family lived there for years. As time went on this building was torn down and left a vacant lot there for many years.

On Feb. 23, 1841, a road was ordered laid "beginning at the center of the east end of the first street north of the court house in Postville, thence in a southeast-

erly direction to Mt. Pulaski, thence in a southeasterly direction to the southeast corner of the county. This was the beginning of the present Mt. Pulaski to Lincoln road.

In 1857, an act was passed by the General Assembly donating the old court house at Mt. Pulaski to the town of Mt. Pulaski, to be used forever for school purposes. Henry Vonderleith, George Turley and Jabez Capps, were created a board of trustees to manage and control the property for two years, making rental of same and using the rental money for repairs. At the expiration of the two years, they were to turn the building over to the Board of Education of Mt. Pulaski.



EXCURSIONS POPULAR IN 80's - 90's

Back around the late 1880's and early 1890's the people of Mount Pulaski and area enjoyed the excursions to Peoria on the P.D. & E. trains, and a steamboat ride up to Illinois River to Chilli-cothe and Henry, or, to Pekin and down the river to Copperas Creek dam.

The excursions were arranged by S. Linn Beidler, and with the co-operation of Mr. Starbuck, of Mattoon, superintendent of the Peoria, Decatur & Evansville Railroad, and Captain Sol York, owner of the steamboat, City of Peoria, these events were made possible at a very low price for the entire round trip.

There are many people still living here who will remember making these trips, and how they took baskets of food with them and ate their dinners picnic-style, while traveling along on the Illinois River.

The excursions were patroniz-

ed by hundreds of happy people, it sometimes taking as many as 15 passenger coaches to transport them to Peoria or Pekin.

On one of these trips to Pekin, and down the river to Copperas Creek Dam, many of the excursionists took buses to overland Canton, about 18 miles away, over sandy roads, and attended the Illinois State Firemen's Tournament, and saw the Mount Pulaski firemen win the state championship. Returning to the boat in early evening the crowd, along with some of the firemen, made the trip back to Pekin on a beautiful moonlight night. Taking the train again, they came home very late and greatly elated over the day's outing.

These excursions all took place more than 65 years ago, and the youngsters today listen with great interest to anyone who tells them all about it, and now the people enjoyed themselves.

Old-Time Livery Stable Replaced By Modern Transportation Methods

(Jan. 9, 1958)

If you could know the history of the northeast part of the square since Mount Pulaski was founded in 1836, you would find some interesting information.

At the east end of the block now occupied by the Curtis Oil Co. station, 100 years ago Christian Rau, who had come to Mount Pulaski from Germany, built a blacksmith shop and operated it for a number of years, after which he bought land northeast

of Latham and commenced farming.

In 1872, J. G. Gordon, a native of Pennsylvania, constructed a frame livery barn on that site and eventually enlarged his business by building an addition to the west, now the Hayes Garage. The livery horses were kept in the first building and the latter was used to keep the buggies, carriages, bus and hearse. In those days all vehicles were pulled by horses, and some mighty rough trips

Greetings and Best Wishes

From The

Weidenbachers

There Has Always Been
a Weidenbacher
in Mount Pulaski
For Over 100 Years...

Gustave Weidenbacher, a tailor, was the first of the Weidenbachers to arrive in Mount Pulaski over a hundred years ago. He worked at his trade of making men's clothes by hand.

Louis F. Weidenbacher, a son of Gustave Weidenbacher, also had a long record of association with the business life of Mount Pulaski, serving the public efficiently and courteously as a barber. Mr. Weidenbacher was a member of the famous Mount Pulaski Fire Department that won the state championship three years in a row, back in the '90's. He was a charter member and was awarded an honorary 50-year badge. He passed away Sept. 4, 1956, and is survived by his wife, Grace, who lives on West Jefferson, and is now 89 years of age.

Paul Weidenbacher, son of Louis F. Weidenbacher, attended Mount Pulaski high school, clerked for Michael Lee grocery in Mount Pulaski, was county Recorder of Deeds of Sangamon county for 12 years before becoming associated with General Motors. He has one of the largest Oldsmobile agencies in central Illinois at 340 N. Broadway, Decatur, Ill.

May Your Sil-Tennial Be A Tremendous Success

PAUL L. WEIDENBACHER
DECATUR