

MANY PAPERS AND PUBLISHERS STROVE TO SERVE COMMUNITY

Times Consolidated With News In 1932 To Form Times-News

Mount Pulaski as one of the new and growing towns in the early days of Mount Pulaski, naturally had a newspaper, the first one being that of Francis M. Dalton, who established The Sentinel in 1870. He did not continue as the publisher for long, being succeeded by John Bush.

The following year in August, 1871, Frank Sloan took over the paper and changed the name to The Observer. Then in July, 1873, the paper was taken over by Joel Dunbar who changed the name to The Dollar Star. Dunbar again changed the name soon afterward to The Mount Pulaski Star, and continued it until October, 1876, when he sold it.

Shortly afterward, the Mount Pulaski Citizen was started by the Conklin Brothers, but sold in 1881 to H. C. Suttle. He disposed of the paper to O. G. Bekemeyer, who founded the Times in 1882. The two papers were now united as the Times-Citizen. In 1884, Thomas H. Smedley began the publication of the Mount Pulaski Republican. The following year, or in 1886 the year of Mount Pulaski's Semi-Centennial celebration, Smedley sold the business to Samuel Linn Beidler, who changed the name to the Mount Pulaski Weekly News, conducting the business in connection with the Beidler drug store on the west side of the square.

Thos. Smedley remained with the News until 1902, after which the paper was published for 30 years by Rell C. and Paul E. Beidler, in the building on West Cooke Street, across the alley from the Farmers Bank. The Old News was in the Beidler family for 47 years.

The News was sold to Harry J. Wible in August, 1932, who consolidated the paper with his publication, the Mount Pulaski Times, which he had bought in May of that year. The paper then became known as the present Mount Pulaski Times-News.

The Mount Pulaski Times, which was purchased by Harry J. Wible in May, 1932, had previously been known as the Mount Pulaski Press, being combined with the Mount Pulaski Times in 1906. The late Robert L. Conn was the publisher in the early 1900's. He sold the paper to the late G. A. Drum, who published it a number of years, then selling it to John and Matilda Eyre. Drum entered the automobile business in Cerro Gordo for a few years, then went back into the newspaper business at Tolono, Ill. Mr. Eyre died while still publishing the Times and his wife being broken in health, the late Lou F. Myers, was appointed as conservator, selling the newspaper to the present owner.

The Mount Pulaski Times-News grew along with the rest of the Mount Pulaski business interests, operating a few years in the Schafer building on the east side of the square, then moving to the Odd Fellows building on the northwest corner of the square as it outgrew its quarters. Then in August, 1940, with further expansion plans in mind, the old Jenner Hotel building, a three-story affair, was purchased from the Mount Pulaski Building and Loan Association, and after considerable remodeling, the Times-News moved into its present home on South Washington. A few years later the two-story room adjoining on the north was acquired and is now used as a business office.

GEORGE UNDERHILL BUILDS LOCKERATOR PLANT (Nov. 17, 1938)

George Underhill, proprietor of the West Side Meat Market, is erecting a building at the rear of his market on the west side of the square in which to house a lockerator cold storage plant.

The building, which is of brick construction, is almost half completed and Mr. Underhill says it will be finished in 30 days.

REFLECTIONS

By H. J. Wible
(July 16, 1959)

"Old Faithful," the pride of Yellowstone Park, has a counterpart in Mount Pulaski.

Mount Pulaski's "Old Faithful" attained his coveted goal of four score years this week.

The local counterpart has been "spouting" words instead of water these many past years.

We know of no man who has had a closer relationship or deeper interest in his community than has Paul Beidler.

In his role as an editor and publisher of the Mount Pulaski News for many years, it was always Mount Pulaski first, then the rest of the world.

He worked long hours in those years, not only to earn a livelihood, but to serve to the utmost the community he is so proud of.

He has touched every segment of the community life and it has always been good.

With a sense of humor and an ability to see the humorous side of a drab or commonplace incident—

His writings have been homely accountings of the doings of his neighbors—

Their comings and goings, their joys and sorrows, their activities and their contributions to the community.

He has been such an intimate part of the community life that he is a walking encyclopedia of Mount Pulaski of yesteryears.

His evaluation and tribute to those who have passed on to that unknown world beyond, have been a source of great comfort and solace to countless loved ones.

He wrote as he thought with no attempt to glorify his writings as priceless gems of rhetoric.

They were words written from his heart to the hearts of his readers.

We will eventually miss that phase of Paul Beidler, and so will our subscribers.

When we liken Paul to "Old Faithful," we are paying tribute to his loyalty, which has known no bounds.

The fact that he sold his paper to us and then became a part of the Times-News organization in 1932, could well have disgruntled some folks—but not Paul Beidler.

He helped us fight our battles, as though they were his own personal combats.

And in those many years we have heard not one word of envy or back-biting.

That is a tribute that can be paid few men, including this publisher.

We firmly believe that when we took over the Mount Pulaski News in 1932, that we inadvertently prolonged the life of Paul E. Beidler.

Not too robust in health and somewhat older than ourselves, we relieved him of the heavy burden of work as well as the responsibility of making a country weekly continue to breathe during those depressing days of the thirties.

His picture taken Tuesday on his 80th birthday, belies his age.

Paul, we've never seen you look so good, even though you may not feel that way.

We are proud to have had the privilege of associating with you so closely and to have had your loyal friendship and trust.

This is in no sense an obituary, but a feeble attempt to let you and our subscribers know, just how deeply we have appreciated your fine loyalty these past twenty-seven years.

To us, you will always be "Old Faithful" to the very end.



MR. NEWSPAPERMAN HIMSELF—PAUL E. BEIDLER

The Big Blast . . .

By Phillip Bertoni

The explosion of an oil tank car has left behind it a devastated area . . . cluttered with all kinds of contorted material things. A reeky odor hovers over the mass of torn and twisted steel; and the June morning is dull and dark and misty. Some smoke still rises from the ruins, which blends in with the gray sky overhead. There is a very large hole, quite

deep . . . with no sizeable lumps of dirt remaining within. Tons of earth lie in streaky paths, showing very effectively the lines of force which were established as the dirt was pushed up, out, and away in all directions from the explosion point. A stretch of track now lies broken and curled like ribbon at the edge of the huge crater. A portion of highway running somewhat parallel to the railroad is covered with this earth—this scorched and pulverized earth. The tank car—the source

of all the destruction about it—indeed is no longer a unit of transportation, having been ripped and severed and whose halves are now resting in twisted wreckage many yards apart. A sooty residue covers much of the scattered debris and the scene is brightened only by patches of spilled flour here and there.

Editor's Note: The above was written as a class assignment by Phillip at Notre Dame University and rated an Excellent.

KIDS ENJOYED SNEAKING INTO OLD OPERA HOUSE

The kids used to sneak into the Scroggin Opera House.

That was something dear to the hearts of the kids back in the 1880's and 1890's, when Scroggin Opera House was going good, and many road shows were coming to Mount Pulaski.

The seats were placed on platforms, and each one higher than the other, until reaching what was known as the balcony. The last platforms had enough space for boys to hide. At that time there was a wood awning along the south side of the building, supported by iron poles. The boys would climb these poles and get to the windows, then hiding under the platforms until they had a chance to sneak on to the balcony. This provided much sport for the kids. Maybe some of the adults reading this could have been among those sneakers??

As for the awning, in front of part of the hotel, many traveling salesmen and regular hotel boarders would spend many summer evenings sitting out on the sidewalk.

Of course the coming of moving pictures and the automobiles changed everything.

Visitors to Mount Pulaski will find the city filled with gracious hosts and hostesses. Our folks have always had a fine reputation for friendliness and this occasion will fully prove it.



It's a Pleasure to Serve World's Greatest Little City

FOR several years it was our pleasure to serve Mount Pulaski community with bulk delivery of fuel oil and gasoline for both farm and city.

NOW we have the added privilege to also serve the community from our service station and motel location here on the edge of Mount Pulaski.

WE are very thankful for the patronage that has made our business successful, and now that our city is celebrating its 125th Anniversary, we extend sincere congratulations to every resident of the area.

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