

present postmaster and Mrs. Ferne Patterson and Mrs. Ann Harland are the present postal clerks. Two rural mail routes serve the surrounding area, Guy Eccles, Jr., and Lawrence Kennedy being the present rural carriers, and Jerry Robinson fills the position of city mail carrier.

A television translator tower, promoted by the Greater Rolfe Club and authorized by the Federal Communications Commission, makes it possible for residents of our community as well as those living a considerable distance west and north of Rolfe to receive ABC network programs on UHF Channel 72.

Besides the local church youth organizations, the Scouting program is very active in the community with both Boy and Girl Scout Troops, an Explorer Troop, and Cub and Brownie Scouts. The business and professional people make up the membership of the Greater Rolfe Club, the local commercial club. The Rolfe Lions Club is a very active service club, sponsoring or assisting in practically every worthwhile community pro-

ject. Local organizations connected with the military are American Legion and Auxiliary, V.F.W. and Auxiliary, and Amvets. Fraternal organizations include the Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, I.O.O.F. and Rebekahs. Besides the women's church organizations, there are three federated clubs (Tuesday Club, A.L.D. and Rolfe Progressive Club), chapters of two national philanthropic societies (P.E.O. and T.T.T.) as well as many social groups.

One can't help but have a nostalgic feeling when reading the history of the beginning of our town. However, we are sure none of us would care to give up our modern conveniences and we are equally as sure that our predecessors would not want us to do so.

This is our town as it is in 1963—at the close of the first one hundred years. It is our sincere hope that the citizens of this community in the year 2063 will be half as proud of the heritage we pass on to them as we are of the heritage given to us.

Rolfe's Newspapers

The Pocahontas Times was established as the first permanent newspaper in the county after three previous unsuccessful ventures in that industry. Its predecessors were the Pocahontas Journal, The Cedarville Herald and the Pocahontas Times during the period of its publication by M. D. Skinner.

The Pocahontas Journal was established by W. D. McEwen and J. J. Bruce in the year 1869 when the former was serving as auditor, clerk of the court and county judge, and the latter as county superintendent and member of the board of supervisors, both of whom, after December 1st, that year, were residents of old Rolfe.

The first issue of this paper was printed on Tuesday, June 15, 1869, and the second one on Friday, July 25th following, on the press of B. F. Gue at Fort Dodge. After the lapse of two years, or in July, 1871, W. D. McEwen relinquished his editorial interest in this paper to Thomas L. MacVey and its weekly publication was continued by Messrs. Bruce and MacVey until February 1, 1872.

About this date the legislature repealed the law providing for the publication of the general laws in each county and this left them under the necessity of publishing the paper at a pecuniary loss or of abandoning the enterprise. The paper was therefore discontinued. After its establishment in 1869 it was made the official paper of the county and for advertising the sale of the school lands and printing the proceedings of the board of supervisors and delinquent tax list that year received \$237. In 1870-71 in addition to the other public printing, it published the general laws of the 13th (1870) General Assembly.

The Cedarville Herald and first Pocahontas Times were the other two unsuccessful ventures in county newspapering.

Flickinger in his "Early History of Iowa and Pioneer History of Pocahontas County" stated, "It is a matter for regret that no files of the Pocahontas Journal, Cedarville Herald and of the Pocahontas Times during the period of its first venture, have been preserved."

However, contradictory to the statement, this writer has in possession an issue of the Pocahontas Journal dated October 4, 1871, Rolfe, Iowa.

The Pocahontas Times, established at old Rolfe by W. D. McEwen as editor and proprietor, and of which Volume 1, Number 1, was issued Thursday, April 6, 1876, is the oldest newspaper in Pocahontas County that has been preserved and its publication continued as late as 1904 at least. This paper was first issued as a five column weekly, containing four pages 12½ by 19½ inches.

The first issue contained the proceedings of the board of supervisors at their April meeting (1876) and the professional cards of several Fonda firms as well as the following from Rolfe: Rev. Walter L. Lyons, Presbyterian, services in the brick school house at old Rolfe every other Sunday at 11 o'clock a.m.; Rev. Wm. McCready, M.E., alternate Sundays same place at 10:30 a.m.; W. D. McEwen, attorney at law; Alexander Younke, attorney; W. D. McEwen & Co., dry goods and groceries; A. O. Garlock, real estate and tax paying agency.

On June 15, 1876, when the editor went to the Centennial in Philadelphia as an appointed delegate from Pocahontas county, the office was

left in the hands of A. O. Garlock and Fred J. Ervin. After the issue of October 10, 1876, the place of publication was changed from old Rolfe to Pocahontas Center.

The reporter, a local Republican paper, established by E. W. Duke in 1882, was the pioneer newspaper of Rolfe, and until the establishment of the Reveille in 1888, was the only one published in the town. On October 15, 1886, M. W. and P. O. Coffin became its editors and proprietors, and its publication was discontinued May 8, 1890, when the outfit was purchased by James J. Bruce and added to the Reveille equipment.

The Reveille, a Republican paper, was established by James J. Bruce and Frank H. Plumb, July 12, 1888, and they continued as co-editors and proprietors until May 1, 1890, when the latter sold his interest to the former. On October 1, 1890, J. H. Lighter became a half owner with J. J. Bruce and this partnership continued until January 1, 1894, when Marion Bruce, who had been a workman in the office from the time it was founded, bought his father's interest in it. On September 1, 1895, A. R. Thornton bought the half interest of J. H. Lighter, and the partnership of Bruce and Thornton continued until August 4, 1900, when A. R. Thornton became the sole owner of the paper and then sold a half interest in it to Lottie Thornton, his wife.

The Argus, a Democratic paper, was established February 3, 1891, by Lawrence J. Anderson, as a nine column folio. In November, 1892, J. A. Faith bought it, but after four months left it in the hands of the mortgagees—M. Crahan, C. P. Leithead, V. Hauck and A. B. Symes. M. Crahan then purchased the outfit and the paper was managed by Wm. Porter until April, 1894, when it was purchased by A. L. Schultz, who continued as its editor and proprietor until December 1, 1898, when its further publication was discontinued. The outfit was sold to S. E. Sage of Sibley, the subscription list to J. H. Lighter.

The Rolfe Tribune, a Republican paper, was established March 1, 1898, by Joseph Henry Lighter. It was published twice a week. The Tribune merged in Rolfe Reveille, August 10, 1903.

Number 1, Volume 1 of "The Arrow" was issued Wednesday, May 11, 1910, under the ownership of The Bruce Printing Company with Robert Bruce the managing editor. In 1913 it was published every Thursday by The Bruce Printing Company with Marion Bruce, editor. "The Arrow" consolidated with "The Reveille" February 12, 1914.

With the issue of November 20, 1919, the local paper became known as "The Rolfe Arrow" with Marion Bruce still the editor. As of September 23, 1937, ownership was transferred from Marion Bruce to Henry L. Sawyer.

On July 1, 1939, Michael R. Soth became owner of the plant and effective August 1, 1947,

a partnership was formed by Mr. Soth and Robert Swan for the operation of the newspaper with each owning a one-half interest.

On September 1, 1950, Robert Swan became sole owner of "The Rolfe Arrow." And since his demise his wife, Emma C. Swan, has owned and operated the plant with the help of her son, George E. Swan, and others.

The following is reprinted from R. E. Flickinger's "Pioneer History of Pocahontas County":

The editors of the newspapers established in this county met in the Record office at Pocahontas, November 24, 1902, and effected the organization of the Pocahontas County Newspaper Association by the election of the following officers: L. W. Chandler, Fonda, president; W. S. Clark, Pocahontas, vice-president; D. O. Blake, Pocahontas, secretary; and A. R. Thornton, Rolfe, treasurer. The objects of this association are to afford an opportunity for better acquaintance on their part, and, by the friendly discussion of matters that are of common interest, to secure the best system in the management of their respective establishments. At a meeting held in January 1903, the temporary organization was made permanent.

The newspapers, their date of establishment, editors and proprietors, that were in this county at the time this association was organized were as follows:

THE FONDA TIMES, (1876), the Fonda Publishing & Printing Co., proprietors since January 10, 1901; L. W. Chandler, editor.

THE POCAHONTAS RECORD, (1884), by D. O. Blake.

THE POCAHONTAS COUNTY SUN, (1885), published at Laurens by R. C. Garver; U. S. Vance since December 1903.

THE ROLFE REVEILLE, (1888), by A. R. & Lottie Thornton. (By J. H. Lighter since August 13, 1903.)

THE GILMORE CITY GLOBE, (1892), by H. C. Marmon.

THE HAVELOCK ITEM, (1893), by Frank Jarvis, and by G. E. & F. S. McCaffree in 1903.

THE ROLFE TWICE A WEEK TRIBUNE, (1898-1903), by J. H. Lighter, (merged in Rolfe Reveille, August 10, 1903.)

THE POCAHONTAS HERALD, (1899), by A. L. Shultz.

THE PLOVER REVIEW, (1900), by G. H. Liddell.

THE POCAHONTAS DEMOCRAT, (1901), the Pocahontas Publishing Co., proprietors; W. S. Clark, editor.

THE PALMER PRESS, (1903), by L. O. Hull. "Our County Schools," a monthly paper published by the county superintendent, is printed at Charles City.

The newspaper press has become one of the seven wonders of the modern world. As a controlling factor in society it exerts an influence

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like that of the parent, teacher and pastor. In one view the newspaper reflects the character of its editor, revealing his thoughts, feelings and views on public questions; but in another sense it is a combination of labor, money, intelligence and principles, and has distinct objects before it. It is worthy of note that those who conduct them are learning the dignity of their calling and are making strenuous efforts to place their papers where they belong—among the best agencies that are helping to develop a Christian civilization.

The wide awake, local paper carries to the family circle information concerning local affairs that is of interest to every citizen in that locality. Its record of progress is an aid to popular education and an incitement to further enterprise too valuable to be lightly esteemed. It publishes the local news with a fullness of detail that invests it with an interest unknown to the average daily, while its brief paragraphs, and breezy columns of personals have a charm peculiarly their own. So long as sociability, curiosity and sympathy distinguish human character it will continue to hold its oldtime place in the esteem of the community, while it serves as a faithful chronicler of passing events. One of the treasures of our daily life, like the water we so freely drink and the pure life giving air,

"Is the newspaper, with its welcome message

To matured age and youth,
With pure bright thoughts from many minds,
And many a pleasant truth,
Breaking like a ray of sunshine,
And almost magic charm,
The monotony of the farm."

Such is the nature of the tie that is developed between the good natured and long-time editor and his readers, that he thrives with their prosperity, rejoices in their mirth and sympathizes in their sorrow.

All the newspapers in this community, except the Fonda Times, have been established during the last two decades and they have been greatly improved during the last ten years by the use of improved presses and other printing utilities. When it is manifest that the local paper is putting forth an honest and efficient endeavor to promote the best interests of the community, as an executor and promoter of good morals, every citizen of that locality should naturally feel that he has a certain degree of interest in its prosperity, and do all he can to sustain it and increase its usefulness; for increased support always means enlargement of facilities and corresponding improvement of the paper.

(Submitted by Emma C. Swan)

Rolfe's Doctors and Dentists

The first resident physician and surgeon in Old Rolfe left in 1876. Dr. J. C. Maxwell was succeeded by Dr. J. C. Carey who practiced in Old Rolfe in 1878 and 79.

In 1881 W. W. Beam, M.D., of Tama County located at the Hotel De Tedford in Old Rolfe in advance of the new railway, in order that he might move as a pioneer to the new railroad town in the northeast part of the county.

The following remarks are excerpts from the reading of the minutes in the Pocahontas County Medical Society from August of 1897 until 1963.

A meeting was called for the purpose of organizing the medical association for the county of Pocahontas on August 23, 1897. The following physicians of this area were present: Dr. C. L. Whitney of Fonda; Dr. D. H. Barthel of Pocahontas; Dr. W. W. Beam of Rolfe; Dr. J. D. Wallace of Plover; Dr. Chas. E. Leithead of Rolfe; Dr. D. W. Edgar of Fonda; Dr. A. L. Belt of Gilmore City; Dr. J. W. Higgins of Laurens; and Dr. W. F. Wasom of Gilmore City.

It was moved and seconded that the Pocahontas District Medical Association was to be the name decided upon for the association of the above named physicians. At that time Dr. W. W. Beam of Rolfe was elected the first president of the Pocahontas District Medical Association. Whitney, Barthel, and Wallace were other officers elected.

The president appointed a committee for the organization of the constitution and by-laws for this medical association. The secretary was instructed to write other physicians in the area in good professional standing to attend the next regular meeting to be held in Pocahontas in September of 1897.

At a regular meeting in Pocahontas in 1899, May of that year, three new members were admitted to this society: Dr. E. W. Wilson of Rolfe; Dr. J. W. McQuarry of Pioneer; Dr. J. H. Hovenden of Laurens. The society was now beginning to formulate its strength, with new members affiliated with it to the extent that they would have three meetings a year. It is interesting to note at one meeting in November 1899 it was unanimously approved by all members to hold the next meeting at the Pocahontas County Courthouse by the light of the 1st full moon in January 1900. Travel as it was in that day, it is not difficult to understand why the doctors upon returning to their individual towns would give their horses the benefits of the light of the moon.

It was also at this time that the society was to assume the name of Pocahontas County Medical Society which has continued to the present day.

At Laurens in May of 1900 two new members were brought into the Society—Dr. W. M. Shipley of Ottosen and Dr. H. H. Thornton of Pocahontas.