

Yesteryear

By: D. Craig Asbury

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MOBERLY, MISSOURI

12 Pages

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Quarantines From The Past: *Moberly's Pest Houses*

MOBERLY'S FIGHT AGAINST CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Contagious disease outbreaks were not uncommon throughout Moberly's history. When the town was incorporated in 1868, it started to corral any maladies that affected the community. Smallpox was one of those maladies that made several appearances in Moberly.

Smallpox was a dreaded contagious disease where red spots first appear on the tongue and in the month. It was accompanied by body pain and a high fever. The sores spread all over the body. Not to get into all the details of the disease's progression, but it was not something one would want to get. Some strains of smallpox had a 40% fatality rate. (If you see an old photo of someone and they have pot marks all over their face, they probably once suffered from smallpox.)



C1950 Photo of Russian Premier Joseph Stalin
Note the smallpox marks on his face

Isolation was a time-proven method of stopping the spread of contagious disease. Towns would set up a Pest House, where those infected and without a place to be given care, were taken to be quarantined. (Pest is short for pestilence, a general term for infectious deadly diseases.) Pest Houses were located outside city limits.

MOBERLY'S FIRST SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC

In 1869, smallpox made an appearance. The Town Trustees (before there was a Council), created a Board of Health with the authority to take charge of all persons who had smallpox and have them properly located and to use all possible means to prevent its spreading.

There were no hospitals and doctors had limited archaic knowledge. (Think of Dodge City and Doc Adams from "Gunsmoke".)

Citizens that contracted the contagious disease were placed under quarantine. If they were able to stay at home, no one could leave the premises, including those caring for the person. No visitors were allowed. A card would be placed on the door that let everyone know the house was to be avoided. They could not leave until certified by a physician.

Usually, the family was the caregiver and everyone tended to get the disease. Sometimes, if the husband escaped from being initially infected, he would move out so that he could continue working.

Quarantine meant total isolation from the outside world. This was a time when there was no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no radio, no TV, no phone, no internet and no music in the house. Imagine being confined in a three-room house (typical of the era) with your immediate family and no entertainment except maybe a deck of cards or checkers and just a Bible to read. There would be absolutely no contact with any other people. If one could afford it, the weekly newspaper might be delivered. There would be minimal medical attention to ease any suffering. This seclusion would last for weeks.

Restrictions were placed only on known infected persons; business around town continued as usual.

Image From The Past



KWIK CHIK Drive-In
Randolph County Historical Society Image

MOBERLY'S FIRST KNOWN PEST HOUSE

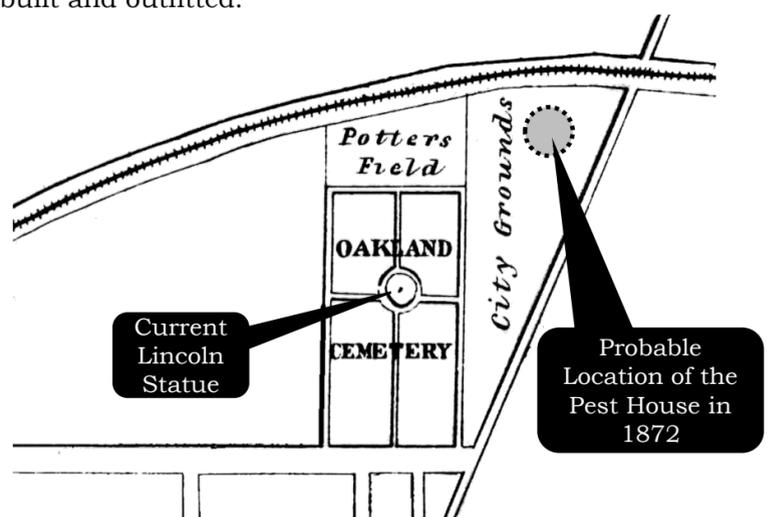
Moberly's first known Pest House was rented to the town by C.J. Tannehill in 1869. It was about a quarter of a mile north of the then town limits. It appears to may have been around where the Farris Door Company on Morley is currently located. A superintendent was hired to oversee the daily needs and a nurse would visit every two hours during the day and the early evening. Dr. C.W. Buchanan was the physician in charge. Persons confined there were charged 60 cents a day (about \$13 today) to help defer the cost for providing their care.

A smallpox vaccination was available (it had been around for years), but not everyone had taken it. The Town Trustees passed an ordinance where all persons that have not had the disease and were living within the town limits must be vaccinated. Persons that had any contact with known smallpox victims were to change their entire clothing and wash their face and hands. Any person violating this ordinance was subject to a minimum \$5 fine (over \$100 today).

MOBERLY'S SECOND KNOWN PEST HOUSE

By 1872, the Trustees thought it would be best to build a publicly-owned Pest House instead of renting one.

Land just to the east of town had been recently purchased for a cemetery (Oakland). It was decided that a Pest House would be constructed there. A structure was built and outfitted.



It was also established that no one could come into contact with a known smallpox infected person without a previously approved permit. If a person violated that order, they were not allowed inside the town limits without receiving a permit. Anyone violating these orders were subject to a \$50 fine (over \$1,000 today).

Guards were ordered to routinely check on smallpox victims to verify that they stayed in their designated quarantined place, nor have visitors, whether it was their own home or the Pest House.

In 1873, it was determined that all smallpox

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MOBERLY'S SECOND KNOWN PEST HOUSE

(Continued From Page 1)

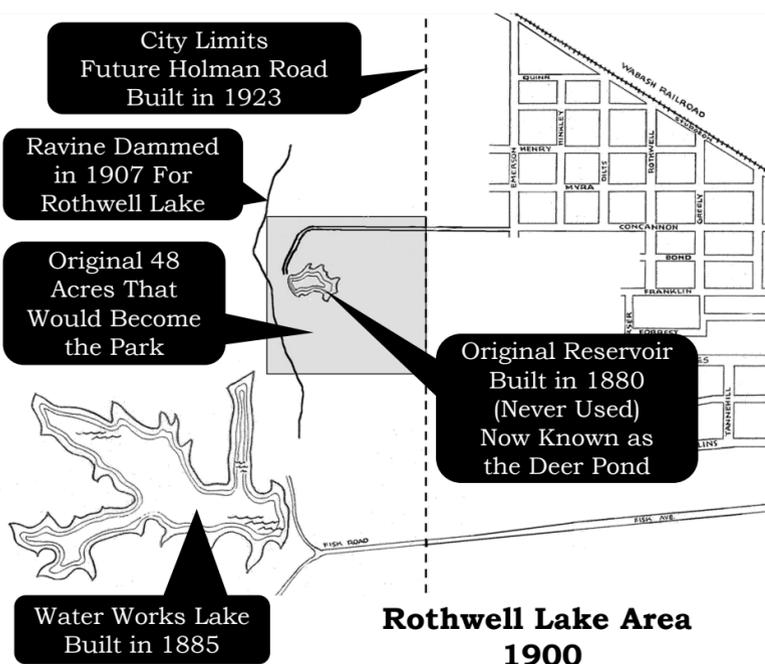
patients should be removed to somewhere outside the town limits. Additional places were rented. It was also ordered that all students must be vaccinated or not be allowed to attend school.

Due to limited information, it is not known how long this smallpox outbreak lasted in Moberly, but it was at least 4 years in duration.

THE TURN OF THE CENTURY PEST HOUSE

Other than an occasional small farm pond, there were no standing bodies of water within miles of Moberly and the town needed water. Wells or cisterns were the only sources of water. The railroad had dug a small lake just to the northwest of the Coates Street railroad crossing but it was only to be used by the railroad and its steam engines.

The town set out to get a reliable water supply and in 1880 purchased 48 acres of land west of town with a ravine. The ravine was dammed and a reservoir was created. Unfortunately, the town did not have the money to pipe the water and the land sat unused (except when townsfolk used it as a dumping ground for their dead horses and other garbage). Moberly's first reservoir is now known as the Deer Pond.



(Water Works Lake was constructed in 1885 by a private company that sold the water to Moberly. The city took over that lake around 1910.)

By the 1890's, Oakland Cemetery had been enlarged and the Pest House there was gone. Moberly needed a new quarantine house and built one on the vacant grounds of their unused reservoir. The exact location of this Pest House is currently unknown.

[HISTORICAL NOTE: The reservoir was not a total financial loss, the town did sell the rights to cut the ice from the pond in winter to companies that stored it and resold it to people for their iceboxes in summer. There were no electric refrigerators. Electricity was a fairly new item; few electric lights and motors existed in town.]

ICE ICE ICE
PURE LAKE ICE.
 We have in store a quantity of pure lake ice, and will deliver to customers 16 pounds per day at \$1.50 per month from now on until January 1, 1900. In 100 pound lots or more 20c per hundred.
 To farmers and large customers special rates will be made.
 Stop wagon or leave orders with Lehman & Dombach.
Haag & Giddings; Prop.
 Phone 158.

1898 brought additional quarantine regulations. Beside the standard rules, more protocols were implemented. No children in an infected house were allowed to attend school. If neighbors shared a common outhouse and one family was infected, the neighbor's children were also forbidden to attend school. Any member of the Board of Health and any police officer could enter anyone's private residence at any time for health inspection purposes. If an infected person was found, they could be forced to go to the Pest House.

If deemed best for the public safety, personal belongings could be burned. This included clothing, bedding, furniture and even a house.

1899 brought a scarlet fever outbreak. There were 82 cases of the disease and those infected were strictly quarantined at home. 6 of those died. (The death rate for scarlet fever was 1 in 14 of those catching the disease.)

Along with the scarlet fever came diphtheria which affected the southwest part of town.

In 1900, it was the still the era of the horse, with the railroad being the preferred method of travel between towns. Boarding a train at that time was as universal as hopping into a car today.

Smallpox started to pop up in several locations around the county. Moberly knew it had to close its borders from the unseen threat. The City Council made an ordinance which would allow a quarantine be placed upon towns that were known to have smallpox. It mandated that no one from those areas could come to Moberly and no one from Moberly could go into those areas.

A permit from a health official was required before those from a quarantined area were allowed in town. If a person was found without a permit, they were immediately taken to the Pest House for observation.

It was also dictated that no products from those quarantined areas could come into the city. The railroad would be notified not to sell tickets to passengers or ship goods to Moberly. The outskirts of town were patrolled.

This was a very common ordinance shared among the towns and cities across the country.

In March of 1900, smallpox rose its ugly head in Huntsville. The next month it appeared in Moberly when a young woman was found to have the disease. She became the first person to be taken to the Pest House. Two more cases quickly followed.

Moberly invoked a quarantine against Huntsville in hopes of stopping the spread. Unfortunately, that was not to be. Quarantine cards went on several Moberly houses and the Pest House was fully used.

QUARANTINE CARDS
 For small pox cases the yellow card will be used; for scarlet fever, red; diphtheria, blue; for all other contagious diseases the white card will be used. The use of these different colored cards is required by the state board of health and the health board of this city now has the required cards and ready for use. For cases under observation where developments are being watched the white card will be used.

Cases of the dreaded disease would occur over the next few years and then slowly declined. But smallpox was not the only disease of concern. A snapshot of April 1906 showed that there were 3 cases of smallpox, 42 cases of scarlet fever and 4 cases of diphtheria.

After 7 years, the smallpox outbreak was declared over with all quarantine cards down and the last person released from the Pest House.

In 1907, the railroad dammed up the ravine to the west of the Deer Pond and created what is now Rothwell Lake for their steam engine use. The city designated the 48 acres around the Deer Pond as Forest Park (later to be named Rothwell Park) and later added the land around Rothwell Lake and the Water Works Lake.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT



In January of 1914, the City Hall was about where Fire Station #1 is now. It was a two-story building with a full basement. As it housed the Police Department, it was left unlocked and it was not unknown for vagrants to slip inside the basement to get out of the cold.

One Thursday night, a vagrant was found in the basement and he didn't appear well. A doctor was summoned and it was determined that he suffered from smallpox. The vagrant was taken to the Pest House and City Hall was fumigated.

THE ROARING TWENTIES PEST HOUSE

Moberly was on the tail-end of the Spanish Flu pandemic (story on page 10) when a man from Hannibal visited some friends in the town of Holliday in the spring of 1920. Unknown to anyone, this man had smallpox. The family that he was visiting became infected and the disease quickly spread to 150 people there.

One elderly woman from Holliday then came to Moberly to visit her family. She did not know she had brought along the illness. The symptoms of the disease appeared and she immediately went back to Holliday. It was too late for her grandchildren; they came down with smallpox.

(Continued On Page 4)

1959 WAYBACK PAGE

Items Gathered from 1959 Moberly Newspapers

The Following Grocery Stores Will Close July 4th

QUALITY MARKET
419 E. Carpenter

WRAY'S GROCERY
136 S. Sixth

BRADLEY'S MARKET
839 West End Place

RENTCHLER GROCERY
713 Promenade

WILHITE MARKET
407 Taylor

CLEMENTS MARKET
823 W. Rollins

PAYTON'S MARKET
616 S. Fourth

EDWARDS MARKET
620 E. Logan

MILEHAM'S GROCERY
408 Johnson

NOEL'S MARKET
619 Burkholder

HINKLEY ST. MARKET
913 Hinkley

Candy Cane City Opens With Big And Happy Rush

Parents and Kids
All Like New Play
Equipment at Park

HEY KIDS!



LOOK
For His
Scooter!
LISTEN
For His
BELL!
THE
ICE
CREAM
MAN
In Your
Neighbor-
hood
SOON!

Forget About
the BELL

Listen for the

MUSIC of

MOBERLY'S NEW

JOLLY WAGON

(Watch for "Kelly"
Your ICE CREAM MAN)

63 Drive-In



GRAND

COOLED BY REFRIGERATION

Thanks For A Grand Opening! Clearance Shop

205 W. Reed Where Every Item BEGINS—Not Ends—As a Bargain

Dickinson

OK USED CARS NOLL MOTORS, INC.

4th & Coates PHONE 697
Buick—Chevrolet—Oldsmobile

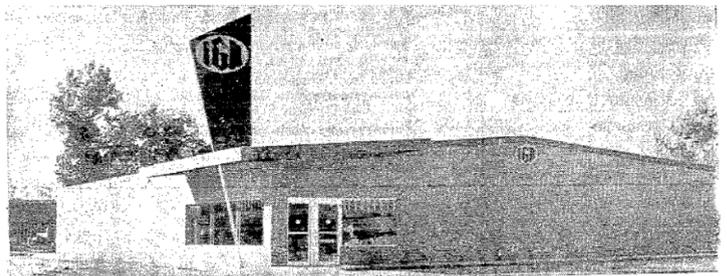
TEDFORD FLORISTS INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR
323 W. Reed

NEW STORE AT THE CORNER OF REED AND FOURTH

We're Repeating A Grand Opening Special that Was Quite Popular

Carnations
Fresh for Our Neighbors from Denver doz. 1.49 Cash and Carry

Tedford Florist 343 W. Reed Phone 286



VAN'S IGA THE MOST MODERN FOOD STORE YOU'VE EVER SEEN!



MOBERLY
Ivies Uptown Shell, 104 N. Clark
Blockmore's Home Improvements, 509 N. Mosley
Finnell's Conoco Service, 402 Coates
Mead Skelly Service, Rollins & Williams
Mears Drug Store, 122 W. Reed

Kroger Supermarket, 530 W. Reed
Southside Cleaners, 106 S. Clark
Stark Shop, 303 W. Reed
HUNTSVILLE
Roy's Derby Service, Hy. 24, Jct. C

Each gift guaranteed to give you complete satisfaction—or you may return it for replacement or exchange.



Top Value Stamps

They're just like Gold

Your Nearest Top Value Redemption Store, 215 W. Reed St., Moberly

THE ROARING TWENTIES PEST HOUSE

(Continued From Page 2)

Soon, six houses in Moberly had the quarantine card. Renick, Cairo, Macon and Clifton Hill invoked their quarantine policies against Moberly. Huntsville was persuaded by the Moberly officials not to do so.

More cases popped up around Moberly. Unfortunately, many of the citizens refused to be quarantined and freely walked the streets. The City Health Physician himself came across a man walking around town that had smallpox. The physician asked the man where he had contacted the disease and he said he got it from his son. The physician then asked the man why they had not been put on the quarantine list. The man replied that the doctor attending them said it was not necessary.

(Smallpox was not the only disease running through town. There was also an outbreak of 44 cases of diphtheria and 100 cases of chicken pox.)

Doctors of the time were treated as personal friends of the family as they made house calls and they got to know each other. Doctors themselves added to the problem by not reporting those infected with smallpox.

The names of persons infected and their addresses were published in the newspapers to let other citizens know to stay away from them and thus not spread the disease. People did not want that stigma, much less have to be quarantined. The doctors were very lax in the upholding the laws and smallpox had spread throughout the town. Because of the stigma placed on infected persons, a Pest House had not been used.

Finally, the city officials cracked down on their own laws and mandated home quarantine and did follow-ups on those infected. Smallpox slowly started to disappear from the area until there was only one case in December of 1921. There had been 223 quarantined houses during the year.

Then suddenly, after celebrating the 1922 New Year, it exploded again. The cases jumped to 15 in the first week and then to 17 by the second week. The city decided that all smallpox patients should be interned at a hospital.

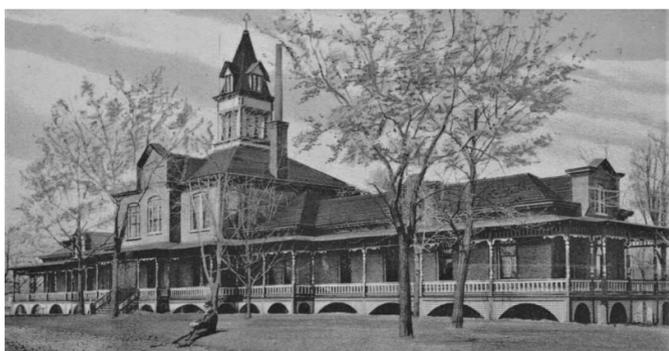
Moberly had three hospitals at that time; Woodland Hospital, McCormick Hospital and the Wabash Hospital for railroad workers. These hospitals had limited bedspace and the quarantining of smallpox sufferers was not conducive to caring for other patients.



Woodland Hospital



McCormick Hospital



Wabash Hospital

The City Council set out to vaccinate the citizens and to create an Isolation Hospital (the new, refined name for a Pest House). Some ideas were tossed around until the Country Club offered the use of their building with conditions.

The city was to install a furnace (as the building did not have one) and protect the current hardwood floor with a covering. When it was no longer needed, the city was to completely fumigate the building and revarnish the inside and repaint both the interior and exterior of the clubhouse. It would cost \$1,500 (over \$20,000 today) plus the day-to-day costs for fuel, food and medical care.

Just as the final touches were placed on the Country Club contract, the Mayor dropped it.

It was decided that the Country Club was too far distant on a dirt road (now Route JJ) that may be impassable during rainy weather and thus would not be favorable for proper patient care. The expense was also a detrimental factor as Moberly was having financial difficulties (it had just come through the Spanish Flu pandemic).

An agreement was quickly made with the Wabash Railroad where they provided several old passenger railcars to be used as an isolation hospital. A quarter-mile track spur was constructed on railroad property, just to the north of the railroad shops (the railyards are not inside the city limits). The city only needed to pay for the track line (the cost was probably low as the rails, ties, spikes, etc were available on-site and the construction of such was a minor task for a railroad company).

One railcar with benches was to be used as a convalescent area. Another car provided kitchen facilities and a commissary. Other cars had the seats taken out and 12 cots were installed in each. Additional railcars could be added as required.

The Missouri State Board of Health traveled to Moberly on January 21st to review what steps had been taken in regard to the smallpox epidemic. They checked the local hospitals and interviewed doctors. Quarantine regulations were reviewed. Over 7,000 citizens had been vaccinated in the previous month which brought the total to 12,000. 99% of the students and 90% of the citizens had been given the shot. The isolation train was approved.

All the doctors were ordered to provide accurate reporting records to the city and quarantines were strictly enforced. Quarantines were not lifted from a residence or anyone released from the isolation train until certified from the Health Commissioner.

With the following of strict quarantine rules and extensive vaccinations, the smallpox outbreak was over a few weeks later. Finally, after two years, there was no longer a need for the isolation train. The railroad probably just burned the old railcars and Moberly was again without a Pest House.

Even though the smallpox outbreak had subsided, Moberly still had other diseases. During the 1922-1923 schoolyear there had been 24 cases of diphtheria with two deaths, 68 cases of scarlet fever with one death, along with measles, whooping cough, chicken pox and typhoid fever.

1910 RAILROAD PASSENGER CAR INDIANA



This passenger car, on display in downtown Moberly, is reminiscent (although more opulent, larger and in better condition) of the ones retrofitted for use as the isolation train.

QUARANTINES AGAINST TOWNS WERE SERIOUS

In January of 1922, Macon had a quarantine against Moberly. Six Moberly men drove an automobile to LaPlata on business. Unfortunately their vehicle broke down just south of Macon.

They walked to the city limits but Macon police would not let the men enter. They were forced to turn around and start walking in search of a telephone.

After six miles, they found a home that had a telephone that was able to contact Moberly (most phones then only allowed for local calls). They called up a friend who got in his car and headed north.

The businessmen were glad to see their colleague arrive. At one point during their walk southward in search for a phone, the men had traveled past the Still-Hildreth Sanitarium. They had a hard time convincing the guards at the gate that they were not escaped inmates.

Shadow From The Past



'Seasoned Citizens' may remember the black and white arrow-shaped sign pointing to MOBERLY on the then 2-lane 63. 1966 MODOT Aerial Image

1966 WAYBACK PAGE

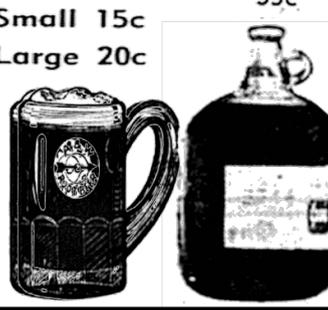
Items Gathered from 1966 Moberly Newspapers

DANCE TONIGHT
 Municipal Auditorium - 8:30 to 12
Wolfgang And The Worlocks
 Members Selected From
KRAZY KATS KINGSMEN WOLFGANG

DOOLEY'S NURSERY
 1211 Myre - Phone AM 3-2562
 Open Evenings And Sundays Until Noon

A & W Drive-In
 624 N. MORLEY
 TINY TOT MUG Root Beer Gal. Root Beer
 A&W Floats 55c
 Root Beer Small 15c
FREE Large 20c
 To Children 5 years Old and Younger

TRY OUR BURGER FAMILY
 Papa 50c
 Mama 30c
 Baby 20c
 Teen 45c
 Cheese Only 5c Extra



Moberly Miniature Golf
Pig n' Bun Road

OASIS BARGAIN CITY
 Highway 24 West
MOBERLY, MO.
 Remember You Paid
 Too Much If It Didn't
 Come from the
OASIS



WATCH !!
For Opening Soon
Frostop Drive-In
 819 S. MORLEY ST.
 "THE SANDWICH THAT CALLS FOR ANOTHER"

DANCE
 To the Dalton Gang
 Tonight
 Municipal Auditorium
 8-12 FER PRODUCTION

coupon
50-EXTRA-50
 GOLD BOND STAMPS
 With Purchase of \$3.00 or more Gasoline And This Coupon
Clark Super 100 Station
 600 N. Morley Coupon Good Until Jan. 12, 1966

NOW OPEN!
 Hy. 24 East
 Moberly, Mo.
 Open 11 A.M. Daily
DELICIOUS FOOD



DOG 'N SUDS
 Highway 24 East



colorful

extension telephones are a practical way to brighten up your home. Smart decorator colors complement any room setting. Choose from pink, white, blue, green, turquoise, yellow or beige. And the cost is just a fraction of your regular service. Be colorfully practical. Call the telephone business office or ask any telephone serviceman.

Southwestern Bell 

Tonight is the Biggest Motion Picture Event Of All Time!
 Premiere Tonite 8:00
 Box Office Opens At 7:15
 Band Will Perform From 7:15-8:00

YOU KNOW I BET WE HAVE THE BIGGEST ATTENDANCE TONITE IN MOVIE MUNSTER HISTORY.

Co-Featured With
Plato and the Philosophers
 Mid-Missouri's Number One Band
 On Stage Tonite!
 7:15-8:00



UNIVERSAL PROUDLY PRESENTS
MUNSTER, GO HOME!
TECHNICOLOR
 With The Wildest Drag Race In Motion Picture History!

Special Costume Contest
 The best costumed person tonite will receive passes to further engagements, and will be guests of honor at the next Bills Theatre Premier.

—SPECIAL ATTENTION—
 On hand tonite will be a gorilla, vampires, Go-Go Girls, and a special Tie In with the Dog 'N Suds for a Free Root Beer after the show.

NO PASSES TONITE

THE 1938 PEST HOUSE

In 1920, Forest Park mainly sat underutilized as it was on a dirt road away from town. To entice visitors, the old Pest House there had been converted into a shelter house with cooking facilities.

The Park Board was created in 1923 and a tax levy was passed. Over the next few years, the Park was cleaned up, roads built, a dance pavilion created and a swimming area in the railroad lake was constructed. Forest Park was renamed to Rothwell Park in 1933 to honor R.R. Rothwell who was the mayor when the Park was created in 1907.

In January of 1938, a lineman working in Moberly for the telephone company became sick and left town to go home. He sent back a letter telling the town officials that he had smallpox.

A few days later a porter for the Moser Hotel (located at the current parking lot just west of the Parks and Rec building downtown) was sick. He went to a local doctor and was diagnosed with smallpox. He had living quarters in the basement of the hotel and was ordered to be quarantined there until the health officials could determine what to do.

When the doctor went later to check on the patient, he was gone. A city-wide search was made for the infectious man. A few days later he was found in a rented room on Fifth Street. It was discovered that the family he was staying with had also come down with smallpox and the house was put under quarantine.

Quarantine cards were replaced by quarantine flags and one went up at that home.

The next day, the police went to the house to check on the residents, but the porter was gone. Another search was started. The porter eventually turned himself in at the Police Station (City Hall). He was immediately locked up in the 'drunk tank' in the basement.

The City Council did not know what to do with the man. They could not keep him in jail as he posed a threat to the police force, firemen, other prisoners and anyone else that came to City Hall. There was no Pest House.

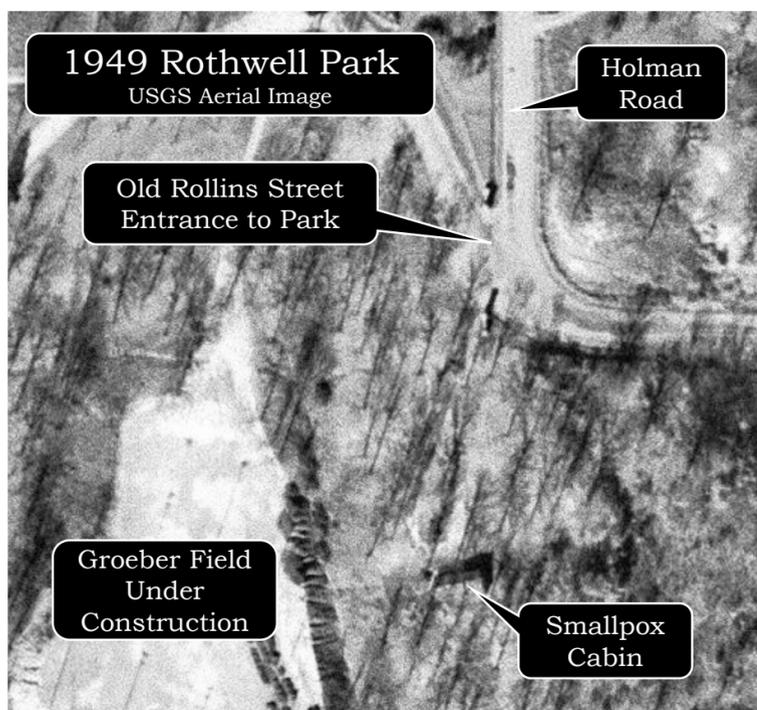
Various proposals were suggested, but none met the immediate need. The mayor then ordered that the porter be quarantined in the sexton's tool shed at Oakland Cemetery and hired a person to see to his needs. Meanwhile, another person in town came down with smallpox and was quarantined in their house. Soon the cases jumped another three.

A woman from Hannibal was working in town as a nurse. The woman had been vaccinated 20 years earlier but she still came down with the disease. She had been staying at the Moser Hotel, but checked out on the day the porter was diagnosed and transferred to the American Hotel (located where Home Care of Mid-Missouri is now).

The City Council now had another person they needed to isolate, but could not put her in the tool shed with the porter. It was decided that she would be housed in a small cabin just to the northeast of the Deer Pond that was used by Park personnel.

Around town, two more yellow flags went up on houses. The mayor highly suggested that anyone that had not had the vaccination in five years, to get a new one.

It became apparent that a Pest House was going to be needed and the City Council set out to make plans to construct one. A location just to the south of the then Rollins Street entrance to Rothwell Park was selected. (It was just to the east of the then future site of the Groeber Field that was built around 1949.)



After spending three weeks of isolation in the tool shed, the porter was certified as recovered and released.

By the first week of March, the new Pest House was completed. It was two separate one-room log cabins that were each 14-foot square. A 10-foot porch connected the two structures. Each of the rooms had a plank floor, two

windows and a flue for a small cast-iron stove. Electric lights were installed and an outhouse was constructed.



Smallpox Cabin
Randolph County Historical Society Image

81 logs, each 17 feet long, were needed to construct the building. A brick floor for the porch and screening were planned for later. It had a green roof and trimmed in white and green. The building sat on a rock foundation built by a group from the National Youth Administration (one of the federal programs set up during the Depression). The total cost was about \$200.

Several people, mainly children, contracted smallpox over the next few months and tended to be quarantined in their homes. Over 60 homes had the yellow flag in 1938 and it is unknown how many individuals were at the Pest House.



Rear View of Smallpox Cabin (the attached room was added later)
Randolph County Historical Society Image

The city set up immunization clinics at the various schools. These clinics were held multiple times throughout the next few years. Around March, 1939, the Moberly smallpox epidemic was over, but it was replaced with a flu outbreak that affected over a quarter of the school children.

The Pest House was thoroughly fumigated and the contents burned. It was turned into a reception center for use by local or visiting school or church groups.

In 1945, the city donated the cabin to the Camp Fire Girls. It was given the name: Camp Waunoka (Camp Happy Land).

Over the next few years, the building was improved with enlargements to the structure. An electric range and a sink were added. An outdoor fireplace was constructed. Many Camp Fire Girls and Bluebirds from miles around attended summer camp and get-togethers there.



Camp Fire Girl's Original Sign
From the Randolph County Historical Society Collection

In 1960, the City made plans to extend Holman Road to Fisk Avenue and the cabin sat right in the construction zone. In 1961, a proposal to move the cabin to the west side of the park was made. It was found that the building was not structurally sound, so it was demolished when the road was finally constructed.

A new building for the Camp Fire Girls was constructed just to the southwest of the Rothwell Lake dam. It is now known as the James Youth Center.

So, how many Camp Fire Girls and Bluebirds that attended Camp Waunoka in the 40's, 50's and early 60's knew that they were sheltered in Moberly's Pest House?

FOR THE FARMERS

In 1887, Randolph County farmers averaged:

- Corn: 30 – 60 Bushels per Acre
- Wheat: 15 – 25 Bushels per Acre
- Oats: 25 – 40 Bushels per Acre

Land Prices: \$15 - \$30 per Acre for productive ground

Selected Historic Corn Prices per Bushel:

1882: \$12.91	1917: \$29.90	1952: \$14.44	1987: \$ 4.38
1887: \$12.50	1922: \$10.24	1957: \$10.12	1992: \$ 4.47
1892: \$11.32	1927: \$11.56	1962: \$ 9.46	1997: \$ 3.84
1897: \$ 8.09	1932: \$ 5.14	1967: \$ 7.88	2002: \$ 3.29
1902: \$11.99	1937: \$ 8.75	1972: \$ 9.61	2007: \$ 5.21
1907: \$14.03	1942: \$14.33	1977: \$ 8.69	2012: \$ 7.65
1912: \$13.71	1947: \$25.29	1982: \$ 6.81	2017: \$ 3.49

1966 WAYBACK PAGE

Items Gathered from 1966 Moberly Newspapers



THE CROSSROADS—Moberly's newest eating place will open for business at 8 a.m. Tuesday. The richly furnished cafe is located near the junction of Highways 24 and 63 at the north edge of Moberly. Owners of the business are Cooksey-Collier Development Company whose stockholders are Ben Collier, Gary Collier, Robert Stansberry, Lon Cooksey and N. J. Cooksey. (Monitor-Index Photo by Randall Spicer)

GILLAN'S GOODIES

Cocoanut Maccaron
Vanilla or Chocolate

COOKIES
2 DOZEN 39¢

Home Made Butter Topped

BREAD
LOAF 29¢

Fresh Peach

COFFEE CAKE
EACH 69¢

GILLAN BAKERY
210 N. 5th AM 3-4848

T.G. & Y.

5¢ TO \$1.00 STORES

DISCOUNT

Men's HANDKERCHIEFS

Seconds
Assorted Color Woven Border
and Solid Color White.

Reg. 10c NOW ... **7¢ EACH**

LIVE—LABOR DAY ONLY

GOLD FISH 3¢ ea.

7" DINNER PLATES

To Use for Festive and Family Meals Without Worry!
White.

Reg. 29c Each **23¢ EACH**

OFFICIAL SIZE—LABOR DAY ONLY

FOOT BALL 87¢ 1.49 Value

9" PAPER PLATES

100 Ct.
White. Perfect for Parties and Picnics. Durable and Sturdy.

Reg. 88c **63¢ PKG.**

JUMBO PACK—LABOR DAY ONLY

ENVELOPES 7¢ Reg. 10c

Luncheon NAPKINS

200 Ct.
White. Stock Up Now At This Low Price!

Reg. 37c **27¢ PKG.**



Open To Public For Food Service Red's Norfolk & Western-Inn

1 Block N. of Coates Street Crossing



- COMPLETE MENU
- DINNER SPECIALS
- SHORT ORDERS
- TASTY HAMBURGERS
- WE BUY THE BEST — IN ORDER TO SERVE THE BEST
- PHONE ORDERS AM 3-9603

Give The Family A Break, For A Dinner At Red's This Sunday

Open 24 Hrs. A Day, 7 Days A Week

NOBLE SLY, Prop.

FORMERLY RED'S GRILL - NO MORLEY ST

GRAND OPENING

LOCATED AT 1303 N. MORLEY
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
July 29th - 30th

FEATURING THESE GRAND OPENING SPECIALS...

HAMBURGERS
only **10¢**

YOUR CHOICE . . . STRAWBERRY VANILLA OR CHOCOLATE!

MILK SHAKES
only **22¢**

FREE BALLOONS

CRISPY GOLDEN
FRENCH FRIES 15¢

FREE 2 BIKES

ONE BOY AND ONE GIRL

from Bike's BURGER BAR

HEY KIDS! SEE OUR CLOWN!

DON'T MISS THE 5 MINUTE SPECIALS All Day Long!

at

1303 N. Morley
Moberly, Mo.

FROM THE HOME OF THE RAINBOW COLORS!

At Last! A Film So Horrible
We Had To Construct A Coward's
Corner Complete With Fear
Flasher and Horror
Horn To Protect You
From Dropping Dead
In Our Theatre!

CHAMBERS OF HORRORS

CHAMBERS OF HORRORS

Can You Take it? If you can't take the film—Take the hand then!

Made Even Worse In Technicolor
It's A Mess!

STATE

2 Performances
7:00-9:00
Starts Today!

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe!"
Starts Sept. 28th

THE FOG MACHINE

In May of 1960, the City of Moberly tried out a machine to kill mosquitoes. A six-part kerosene and one-part insecticide mixture was pumped under high pressure to produce a bug killing fog. This machine could be placed in the back of a truck that would patrol the various neighborhoods.

The insecticide fog was said to be non-toxic to humans, animals or birds and was not harmful to food. (Yes, this is how the fumes of the DDT and kerosene mix were described).

The Navy Brand Manufacturing Company of St. Louis provided the demonstration of the anti-insect apparatus. The unit would cost about \$1,200. Three applications during the summertime were expected to control any insects.

By June, the fog machine was being used to fumigate the city. Even though advanced warning was given by both newspaper and radio, the fire department received several calls that buildings were on fire.

Anti-Insect Machine Will Be Used Tonight

Bugs are requested not to read this:

The city plans to use its anti-insect fogging machine in the southwest part of Moberly tonight

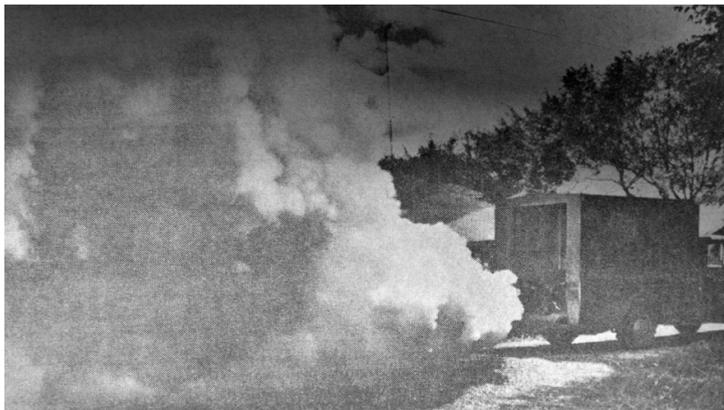
The fogging machine was purchased and put in use last year.

Moberly Monitor-Index June 6, 1961

Every Boomer knew the sound of the Fog Machine. Just as soon as the noise was heard in a neighborhood, it was like a starter's pistol going off - kids would race outside and jump on their bicycles. Whether it was a 20" bike with high-rise handlebars and a banana seat or a Montgomery Ward 26" bike with headlights and a carrier, it was soon pedaling behind the Fog Machine.

Packs of kids would ride through the dense smoke for blocks and blocks through their home turf. This was one of the simple pleasures during that time.

While the kids were out riding though the magic fog, parents were busy turning off fans, shutting windows and bringing in pets. More than one curse was said by the adults as the Fog Machine passed by their house.



The Fog Machine

Moberly Monitor-Index Image

The machine did make a lot of noise as it was described by one local resident that it 'sounded like an airplane landing on her house'. The noise, smell and intrusive fog played havoc on a normally quiet and tranquil time.

Whether you were a kid or adult then, hopefully you haven't forgotten The Fog Machine.

THAT WAS A LAW?

In 1901, the Moberly City Council passed a law which read in part:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to spit, or expectorate upon any public sidewalk or any part thereof, within the city ..."

Cards were printed that spelled out the decree and put up in public places for all to read. Fines ranged from between \$1 to \$5 (\$30 to \$150 today).

Everyone reading this will have a different take on this law, whether it is thought to be a good idea due to sanitary conditions and common decency or it might be thought to be an over-reaching governmental intrusion into personal behavior - after all, what's the big deal with a little spittle?

As with all occurrences of history, a step back in time must be taken to understand the state of affairs. One cannot judge the past with current morality.

At the turn of the 20th century, Moberly was a prosperous city. The Wabash Railroad shops employed

hundreds of workers and the two premier brick manufacturing companies (Moberly Brick and Star Brick) were providing paving and building bricks throughout the Midwest. The elegant Miller's Park and Fairground in the southeast section of town (approximately bounded by McKinsey, Harrison, Logan and Promenade Streets) had almost become the location of the Missouri State Fair. This prosperity brought a myriad of vagrants into the city.

The women of the day followed the current fashion of elegance with modesty. A long flowing skirt brushing the ground was the dictate of the era.

Chewing tobacco was a universal convention imbibed by most of the male population and spittoons were found in the saloons, dinners, stores and theaters. When a spittoon was unavailable, the chewer would just spit a chewed wad wherever he was, leaving a disgusting pile of saliva and tobacco.

Moberly's downtown was flanked by wood-planked sidewalks. Vagrants hung out on the sidewalks, leaned against storefronts and taunted the citizens walking by.

These uncouth male loafers would continually spit their tobacco into a great puddle on the wood sidewalk. This would cause a typically reserved woman to have to lift her floor-length skirt more than usual to avoid contact with the foul mess. The loafers would then make rude and indecent remarks towards the female.



Complaints about the sidewalk tobacco spitting harassment were addressed to the City Council, but the members did not really have a problem with the occasional spitting of tobacco, as it was a widespread custom and was probably practiced by the council members themselves. The council did not want to punish the typical law-abiding citizen (including themselves).

The City Council finally passed the no-spitting-on-the-sidewalk law but "instructed" the police for it to be directed towards the loafers.

The Council thought that if the loafers were targeted, it would eliminate their ill-mannered behavior towards the feminine citizen and still allow the upright citizen to be able to do their occasional tobacco spit.

MOBERLY'S FIRST AUTOMOBILE VISIT

Moberly Daily Monitor - November 21, 1898
(The term 'car' refers to a railroad freight car.
Some had the sides painted like billboards)

In Town.

The horseless carriage has come to town. This is no joke nor idle talk. It is down at the depot in a car on the side track which belongs to Montgomery Ward the great Chicago department store man. The cars are out to advertise the business of the store. The horseless carriage is for the same purpose. If the weather is favorable the carriage will be run over the paved streets. It is run by electricity - will run thirty miles at a ten mile per hour gait.



1973 WAYBACK PAGE

Items Gathered from 1973 Moberly Newspapers



PIZZA HUT.
It's Our
Grand Opening



Highway 24 East

WE SERVE MORE PIZZA THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

VICTORY BAR
Wednesday Night
Special
Wednesday, June 27, 1973
6:00 to 11:00 P.M.
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
All You Can Eat
\$ 1.50

FORMULA "22"
LATEX HOUSE PAINT

HERE'S ECONOMY FOR TOUGH EXTERIOR PAINT JOBS. Designed to withstand nature's elements. Cleanup is fast and easy, with soap and water.

FORMULA "22"
LATEX HOUSE PAINT
0790 WHITE
Davis Paint

Thompson's
House of Color

THE BODY SHOP

Bill's
MEN'S & YOUNG MEN'S WEAR
401 WEST REED
MOBERLY, MISSOURI

We've added a new dimension to our menu. Now featuring delicious new sandwiches & seafood.

Sandwiches
Try Our **Rueben Sandwich**
A Delicious Combination of Corned Beef, Sour Kraut & Swiss Cheese, served with Tossed Salads. **\$1.35**

Seafood
We feature Sea Food at a reasonable price, including Shrimp, Oysters & Scallops.

Submarine Sandwiches
Three Kinds: Beef, Ham, Salami or Combination.

Everyday Special
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hamburger Steak Dinner
Includes Hamburger Steak, Baked Potato, Texas Toast and Tossed Salad. **\$1.20**

Steaks
Every Day Special
Filet Only **\$1.85**
Sirloin Only **\$1.85**
Also We Serve:

Top Sirloin	\$3.00
12" oz. T-Bone	\$3.45
Country Ham	\$1.95
Pork Chops	\$1.85
Ham Steak	\$1.60
Hamburger Steak	\$1.40
Chicken	\$1.85

All Steaks served with French Fries or Baked Potato, Salad and Texas Toast.

Rome Pizzeria & Steak House
409 West Reed John Kardakos, Manager Phone 263-7042

WESTLAKE'S GRAND GIVE-AWAY CONTEST





NEW 1973 FORD MUSTANG
Automatic Trans., Radio, Heater,
& White Walls

Col. Sanders Chicken
New Business on North Morley

PIZZA HOUSE
1401 South Morley On Old Highway 63
Phone 263-7841 North Central Missouri's Finest

WE ARE OPEN
Tuesday Thru Saturday, 5 P.M. to 12 Midnight
Sunday 2 P.M. to 8 P.M. Closed on Mondays.

Don't Forget
the Wed.
Night Special!



MERRILL FINLEY (OWNER)
For Carry-Out Service Phone **263-7841**

GLINT EASTWOOD IS BACK

HIWAY 63 DRIVE-IN THEATRE

SATURDAY ONLY
Dusk To Dawn
9 Hrs. Of Action

No. 1 **"A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS"**

No. 2 **"FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE"**

ADULTS \$1.50

No. 3 **"THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY"**

No. 4 **"HANG 'EM HIGH"**

Chubby's
Wayside Inn
TEENAGE DANCE
Tues., July 10
8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Featuring the Band Called
"The Radge"
All Teenagers Welcome
Wed. Night, July 11
"The Johnny Howard Combo"
From 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Dinner Served From
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic in Randolph County

1918 SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC

In 1917, the U.S. entered into the war against Germany (World War I). In 1918, there were some reports of a mysterious illness affecting the troops and people in Europe. News of such tended to be suppressed as actual war news was of paramount importance.

Spain was not involved in the war and therefore news was not blocked from there. They freely reported the outbreaks of influenza in their country. Soon this disease became known as the Spanish Flu. (The exact origin has yet to be found, but it wasn't Spain - they were just the first to widely report on it).

U.S. soldiers were crisscrossing the Atlantic Ocean and the disease started to pop up on the eastern seaboard. On September 13, 1918 the U.S. announced that the Spanish Flu may be in the country and described it as "short-lived and of practically no permanent serious results."

At the end of the month, the Missouri State Board of Health issued the following rules for the prevention of the possible spread of the disease: All infected persons were to be quarantined and in case of death, the residence must be thoroughly fumigated. The deceased could not be given a public funeral and the casket must be closed.

The flu raged throughout the major cities of the east coast. On October 1, Philadelphia had 20,000 cases. The city shut down all public venues, including schools, churches and theaters. New York City was seeing 1,000 new cases a day, along with scores of deaths.

On October 2, the Missouri Health Department at Jefferson City announced that Missouri had eluded the Spanish influenza so far to date. They expected to nip the epidemic in its first appearance and predicted that the state would escape with surprisingly few casualties.

On the same day, Springfield, MO had its first case of the flu. Just one week later, the city had 5,000 cases (1/7 of the population) and had 49 deaths.

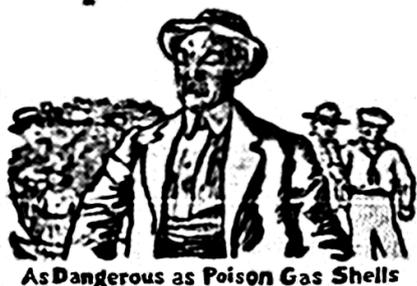
It is not known when the disease appeared in Moberly, but its first casualty was on October 3rd, an eleven-year-old boy.

On October 4, the disease hit Mexico, MO. Four days in, the cases jumped to 100 (1 out of every 60 people) with 3 deaths.

In one week, Philadelphia went from 20,000 cases to 200,000.

No one knew where or how the pandemic started, so it was blamed on the war enemy. Germany was well known for using poison gas during battles. "Influenza is no doubt another form of Germany atrocity. It is believed to be the result of turning loose germs of this disease by German agents."

Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases



As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shells

On October 9th, Missouri Governor Gardner issued a proclamation to close public gatherings statewide to combat

against the Spanish Flu. The next day, Huntsville reported its first flu-related death, a 28-year-old man.

At Moberly, the Ministerial Alliance and the mayor met to go over the situation in town. It was decided to enact an ordinance to close public venues.

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION.

In obedience to the request of Governor Gardner and deeming it necessary for the protection of the citizens of Moberly from a threatened epidemic of Spanish influenza which is prevailing over a greater part of the United States and acting under the authority of the ordinances of the City of Moberly and the laws of this state we hereby order that on and after 6:00 o'clock a. m., Friday, October 11th, 1918, all

Theatres,
Moving Picture Shows,
Schools,
Lodges and Societies,
Public Funerals,
Open-Air Meetings,
Dance Halls and Conventions,
Sunday Schools and Church Meetings,

And all other gatherings of twenty or more persons,
Be at that time closed and discontinued and remain closed and discontinued until further notice.

The police department will see that the provisions of this order are obeyed.

F. L. McCORMICK, M. D.
City Health Officer.
I. F. HARLAN, Mayor.

Public venues immediately closed for business.

4TH ST. THEATRE

This theatre will be closed during the epidemic of influenza

YOUR NEW GRAND THEATRE BEAUTIFUL

This theatre is temporarily closed on account of epidemic.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

A typical house had no radio, no TV, no internet, no in-house music. There might be one voice-only in-house phone with limited service.

There were no unemployment payments, no massive tax-funded federal relief programs, no social security, no welfare. People were responsible for themselves and their families.

Most had an emergency fund to get them through trying times and also put away money for their golden years. Family members tended to take care of each other

Those that could, would donate to their local churches or benevolent societies which would help provide relief for those in true need. If there were desperate situations, towns or counties would review each individual case and determine what could (or should) be provided.

No one would have conceived of purchasing an expensive automobile and then later have to show up in a food line because they hadn't prepared for a crisis, such as what

happened during Covid-19. Personal financial responsibility was the order of the day.

One month after the U.S. government stated that the Spanish Flu posed "practically no permanent serious results", the disease had run wild in Washington, D.C.

CONGRESSIONAL ADVICE.
October 14, 1918.
Editors, Democrat,
Moberly, Missouri.

Washington is suffering from an unprecedented epidemic of influenza. The fatality is alarming. The city is crowded to its capacity and the disease, which seems to be uncontrollable, is rapidly spreading.

Young people from my district have been arriving here daily. No others should come to Washington until conditions improve. I feel it my duty to impress this forcefully upon each and every one contemplating accepting a position in Washington.

(All county papers will please reproduce this letter in order that the people may be fully warned.)
Very respectfully,
W. W. RUCKER..

Ten days after the Moberly ban was instigated, 10 more Randolph County people died; 8 in Moberly and 2 in the rural area and the casualty count continued. Panic had set in across the country and over-the-counter remedies soon sold out.

DRUGGISTS!! PLEASE NOTE VICK'S VAPORUB OVERSOLD DUE TO PRESENT EPIDEMIC

In a little over one month into the pandemic, there were 195,000 deaths in the U.S.

During the first week of November, the end of the war in Europe was in sight and the need for celebration was realized.

On November 10, after being enforced for a month, Moberly decided that the ban could be lifted. There had been a total of 27 flu-deaths in Randolph County in 38 days; 14 in Moberly, 5 in Huntsville and 8 elsewhere in the county. (My grandfather's 18-year-old younger brother was one of those deaths.)

On November 11th, the official announcement that the war was over came and the lifting of Moberly's ban was publicized.

"FLU" BAN GOES OFF AT 6 A. M. MONDAY

Health Commissioner Towles Says
Greatest Danger Period Has Now
Passed—Only Four New Cases.

The influenza ban will be lifted in Moberly Monday morning at 6 o'clock: Health Commissioner Towles notified the Democrat yesterday morning that the acute period of the epidemic had passed in Moberly and he felt that there would be no grave danger in lifting the lid. He stated that during the last two days there had been only four new cases in the city, which to his mind showed conclusively that the disease had spent its force. He said the city probably would not be entirely free from it for two or three months—that in a city as large as Moberly there will be cases here and there for some time—but as an epidemic he thinks it has been largely subdued and he has decided that it will be safe to open things as formerly on Monday morning.

(Continued on Page 11)

1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic in Randolph County

(Continued From Page 10)

In the two and half weeks after the ban was lifted, another 17 people died from the flu; 9 in Moberly, 4 in Huntsville and 4 in rural Randolph County. But things only got worse.

President Woodrow Wilson had proclaimed November 28th, as a national day of Thanksgiving in rejoicing over the end of the war. Towns were encouraged to take the day off and celebrate.

On November 30th, the 14-year-old son of the Moberly mayor died at Macon while visiting relatives. The mayor's wife and daughter also became seriously ill there.

Between Thanksgiving and the end of the year, 47 more citizens died; 2 at Huntsville (one of which was on Christmas Day), 20 in rural Randolph County and 25 in Moberly (including two that had also died on Christmas Day).

Even though the war in Europe was over, the military was still required to stabilize the area. Flu was ravaging the U.S. from coast to coast. Senators requested help from the military by allowing serving doctors to come home. The Army Surgeon General made a ruling to release all doctors over the age of 45 and that had served one year to be allowed to fight the battle against the disease in the States.

On average, since the pandemic began, one person a day had died from the Spanish Flu in Randolph County.

Moberly reopened its schools on December 29th.

In Randolph County, the first week of the 1919 New Year was free of flu fatalities, but not free of the disease. Ten days in, death returned, when a 24-year-old Huntsville woman died.

During the month of January, 3 people died in Huntsville, 4 in Moberly and another 3 in the rural area.

February brought a reprieve with only 3 county-wide deaths, but that turned around in March when the deaths reached 10.

In March, the product supply line finally caught up with demand.

DRUGGISTS! VICK'S VAPORUB SHORTAGE OVERCOME AT LAST

Over the spring and summer, the monthly death count slowed until no deaths occurred due to the flu in September. One year after it started, everyone thought the pandemic was over.

As the late fall and early winter progressed, just a few deaths a month were recorded.

Then at the end of January, 1920, a new round of the deadly disease swept across the U.S.

Moberly again imposed a ban on public venues.

INFLUENZA CLOSING ORDER.

I hereby order that all public, private and parochial schools, play-houses, pool halls, dance halls, lodge rooms and all public gatherings be closed, beginning February 4, 1920, at 6:00 a. m., until further notice.

THOS. L. FLEMING,
Health Commissioner.

F. M. GRIMES,
Acting Mayor.

One week later, the ban was lifted.

REMOVAL OF BAN.

The ban that was put on on account of the flu epidemic will be raised Wednesday morning, Feb. 11th, at 6 a. m. We wish to state that while the new cases of sickness have diminished some, yet there is a great deal of sickness in this city at the present time. And we urge upon the public to be as careful as possible during this entire week so that conditions may improve. Children attending school who have temperatures above normal should be sent home and all people should use care and discretion until all fear of this danger is over.

THOS. S. FLEMING,
Health Commissioner.
F. M. GRIMES,
Acting Mayor.

During February, 5 people died in Moberly, 2 in Huntsville and 15 in the outlying areas.

March brought an additional 5 deaths to Randolph County.

The death toll slowly subsided until no flu-deaths were reported in July. After almost two years, the Spanish Influenza pandemic was over in Randolph County.

Randolph County Spanish Influenza Deaths				
	Moberly	Huntsville	Rest of Randolph County	Randolph County Total
1918				
Oct	12	4	7	23
Nov	11	5	5	21
Dec	25	2	20	47
1918 Total	48	11	32	91
1919				
Jan	4	3	3	10
Feb	1	0	2	3
Mar	6	0	4	10
Apr	6	0	0	6
May	4	2	0	6
Jun	1	0	1	2
Jul	2	0	1	3
Aug	0	0	1	1
Sep	0	0	0	0
Oct	0	1	1	2
Nov	0	2	1	3
Dec	2	0	1	3
1919 Total	26	8	15	49
1920				
Jan	0	0	1	1
Feb	5	2	15	22
Mar	2	2	1	5
Apr	1	0	1	2
May	0	1	1	2
Jun	0	1	0	1
Jul	0	0	0	0
1920 Total	8	6	19	33
Spanish Flu Death Totals	82	25	66	173
Covid-19 Death Total				30

RESEARCH INFORMATION

Unfortunately, data concerning the numbers of Randolph County citizens contracting the Spanish Flu has not been found. Only flu-deaths have been tallied. These are flu-deaths that actually occurred inside the County and does not include those that died outside, due to work (i.e., railroad workers, military personnel), or visiting or caring for relatives. 983 Randolph County death certificates were examined.

Anyone that wants to do so, can review all the rest of the counties and other state death certificates for Randolph County folk that died there and pass the information along.

While researching, one might come across some interesting causes of deaths, such as the 21-year-old man that died from four gunshot wounds to his head or the man that died from eating too much ice cream too fast (the fact that he was 79 years old and working as a miner appeared to have no connection to his death).

Spain and England reported a marked increase in tuberculosis after recovering from the flu. There were scores of people in Randolph County that died from various tuberculous types, but those are not included.

FLU INFORMATION

In Randolph County, about 173 people died from the Spanish Flu vs. 30 from Covid-19.

The Spanish Flu killed 1 out of every 160 people in Randolph County vs. 1 per 825 for Covid-19. Everyone had a family member or someone they personally knew die from Spanish Flu.

If a flu variant ravaged the U.S. now on same scale as the Spanish Flu, there would be over 600,000 deaths in the first month, way too fast and deadly for anything to be done about it. Millions would die before it ran its course.

Flu epidemics are a matter of record:

- * 1918 Spanish Flu Deaths
650,000 - U.S.
50,000,000 - Worldwide
- * 1957 Asian Flu Deaths
116,000 - U.S.
1,100,000 - Worldwide
- * 1968 Hong Kong Flu Deaths
100,000 - U.S.
1,000,000 - Worldwide
- * 2009 Swine Flu Deaths
12,000 - U.S.
150,000 - Worldwide
- * 2020 Covid-19 Deaths
600,000 - U.S.
3,500,000 - Worldwide

Between 2010 and 2020, there were, on average, over 35,000 U.S. seasonal flu deaths every year.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

It used to be an unwritten financial rule that a family have three to six months worth of expenses in an emergency fund in case of calamities. (Personal Financial Responsibility)

People have insurance on their cars, homes and health - they should also have 'financial insurance' via an emergency fund.

Unexpected job loss, tornados, wars, floods, fires, recessions and epidemics - something *will* happen.

Those nights out on the town or the upgraded vehicle, vacation, new phone or fancy gadget won't do much to feed the family or pay the bills when in need.

Put some money away first, and then purchase those items. They can then be enjoyed with no regrets.

Even government assistance and unemployment checks take a while before they kick in.

When the next disaster strikes, will you be financially prepared?

The Story Behind MOBERLY MONEY

In the early 1870's, Moberly was a simple town. It was run by a Board of Trustees whose duty was to maintain the dirt roads, construct wood sidewalks, remove nuisance buildings and keep the peace. These services were paid for by property taxes, business licenses and fines against lawbreakers.

Moberly's modest monetary requirements quickly changed in April, 1872 when the town made an arrangement with the North Missouri Railroad to switch the manufacturing shops from St. Charles to Moberly.

The town induced the move by giving the railroad over 600 acres of land. Land that they did not actually own yet. Moberly then created \$35,000 of bonds at 10% interest to pay for the purchase of the properties to give to the railroad. (That was over 7 times the town's yearly expenses. It would be like Moberly incurring a \$160 million debt today.)

It was thought that with the new railroad industry situated in town, it would draw new workers and other businesses to Moberly and the town would thrive and quickly pay off the debt.

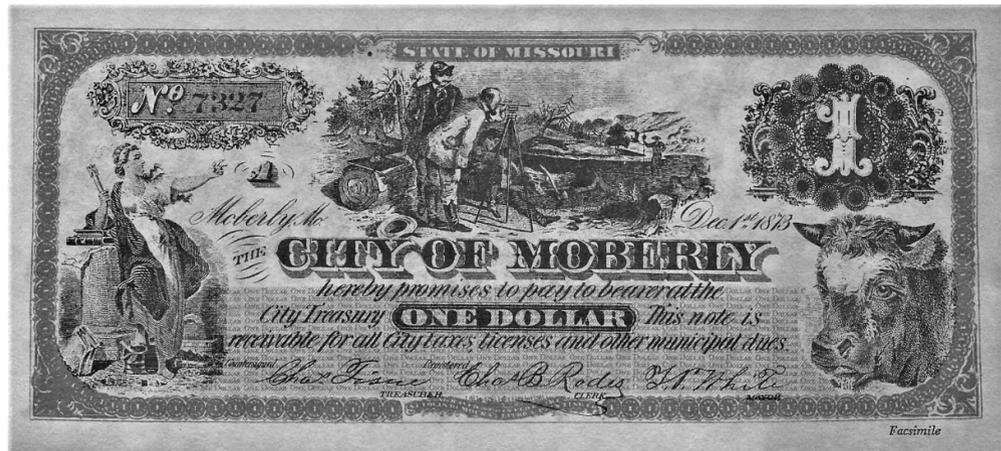
People did flock to Moberly and readily purchased high-priced properties. New businesses were started and things started to look up for the fledgling community.

The town officials saw nothing but prosperity for the future. A debt financed spending spree ensued (similar to what is happening in the US today). A new City Hall was constructed, along with other money intensive projects.

Then came the 'Panic of 1873'.

A worldwide depression set in and money became tight. Banks failed, wages were cut and many became unemployed. Railroads stopped construction, with some going into bankruptcy. Property prices fell. This sudden loss of tax income was disastrous, Moberly was now drowning in debt.

The city looked for whatever ways it could to overcome the lack of money. It increased fines against 'bawdy houses' and gamblers. (Moberly had its fair share of both. While it was illegal to operate either of these businesses inside the city limits, the authorities did not close them down as they did generate money for the town, via fines.) Taxes were increased and the town cracked down on delinquent tax payers and ramped up the selling of tax-incumbered property. Moberly postponed their own debt payments as long as they could.



Images Courtesy of J. W. Ballinger

The Street commissioner and street workers were eliminated. Any desperate need for street work was contracted out or done by prisoners.

The meal cost of feeding prisoners was reduced. (In 1872, each meal cost around 30 cents, this was changed to 20 cents - there were a lot of cheese and crackers served.) The rights to cut wood in the new cemetery were sold. A dog tax was implemented.

To help get over this immediate need for money, the town of Moberly decided to print its own local currency. These promissory notes (scrip) were not backed by gold or silver, just a promise to pay. (Similar to current US money.)

In the fall of 1873, the city created an ordinance that allowed them to make local scrip. In December they had \$5,000 in ones and \$5,000 in twos printed up. (about two years of city expenses.)

The city then started paying their local debts with this scrip. This 'Moberly Money' was soon integrated into the local economy. While local businesses would accept the scrip, they would not give as much goods as if purchased with US currency. (After all, it was just a promissory note and it depended on how much a person trusted that the issuer would keep their promise to pay.)

After a few years, the economy began to turn around, and as the town would receive scrip from the

citizens, it would be destroyed.

Fortunately, one of these historic scrips missed the burn pile.

The exact story is not recalled, but it seems as if a city worker was cleaning out a vault in the early 1960's and found one of the old bills.

It was reproduced and sold as souvenirs during Moberly's 1966 Centennial Celebration.

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If there are any problems with the format, spelling, grammar, content or just general errors; too bad - what do you expect from a free publication?

If you enjoyed this publication, it is suggested that you help support the

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Monday: 10 AM to Noon
Tuesday: 3 PM to 6 PM (Genealogy)
Thursday: 1 PM to 6 PM
Saturday: 10 AM to 1 PM
Or by Appointment



SONIC
BOOM
ALLEY

In the 1960's, the United States and the Soviet Union were in a cold war. These two nations were at odds with possible nuclear annihilation. Long-range bombers on both sides made practice runs within their own borders to be prepared for an intercontinental excursion if the need arose.

The US designated Lincoln and Omaha Nebraska as practice targets. Flight corridors were set up to these targets.

Moberly was located on the path of the corridor from St. Louis to Lincoln. In March of 1962, B-58's began soaring at twice the speed of sound through this corridor. The military stated that the noise would sound like distant thunder, but those that were around will well remember the house-shaking, window-rattling sonic booms of the early 1960's.