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CHRONICLE TIMES

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Times Gone By

Friday, December 4, 2009

Compiled by Mike Leckband from the Cherokee Archives



The J. H. Brummer Building - The J. H. Brummer Building, located on the Southeast corner of Main and Second Street, is pictured, sometime prior to 1913. The building has been home to many businesses over the years. Note the barbershop downstairs and 'The Regulator' newspaper. Melander's TV and Appliance store is the current occupant at this location.

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100 years ago

On Tuesday forenoon while Mrs. John Bensley, of Cleghorn, was making preparation to mop her floor she left a dish pan full of hat water on the floor while she went into another room to get an article, the eighteen month old baby girl went into the room and fell backwards into the water unmercifully scalding two-thirds of its body so bad that it died shortly after dinner. Everything that possibly could help was done, but the doctor on being called said there was no hope for the child.

Services were held at Cleghorn yesterday and the child was brought here this morning for burial.

Among relatives from away were Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Bensley, and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Bensley, of Iroquios, S. D.

The sorrowing parents have the sympathy of a host of friends in their sad affliction.

F. Brunson, the bill poster and distributor of advertising matter, last week took a contract for distributing in this city advertising matter and sample packages of patent medicines. His distributors did the work well but not to the liking of citizens having small children and some of these complained to the mayor who ordered the marshal to file information. This was done before Justice J. S. Green, the county attorney appearing for the state. Mr. Brunson on preliminary hearing was bound over to the grand jury for the January term of court and furnishing bond was released. This throwing in doorways and yards of samples of medicines has caused several deaths in Iowa and the legislature enacted a law making the throwing of such medicines into these places a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not exceeding \$500 or confinement in the county jail not more than six months. It is but fair to state that Mr. Brunson says that he instructed the boys who distributed the packages to hand them directly to housewives and not throw them

into the yards and doorways but that his instructions were disobeyed, but he assumes responsibility for their acts.

75 years ago

For the third consecutive years the Wa-tan-ye business and professional women's club will be in charge of the collection and distribution toys to underprivileged children through Associated Charities, according to Dorothy Freriks, club president and chairman of the welfare committee.

All organizations and individuals of the city who wish to contribute either new or used toys are urged to leave them at Garfield school or get in touch with Miss Freriks, school nurse.

Scouts To Aid

Boy Scouts, manual training departments and other students of public and parochial schools will assist the club in renovating, repairing and painting used toys. Many classes also will make new gifts and donate discarded articles from their play chests.

"Believing that there are as many children as ever who would receive no toys except for this activity, we hope that the public will be as generous as in former years," the chairman declared.

Horses on Cherokee county farms are badly infested with bots, according to findings of the Simonsen rendering plant. On examining the carcasses of 18 horses taken to the plant, one of the men found an average of 200 bots in each stomach.

Prompt treatment for this trouble is recommended by the United States department of agriculture, the state experiment station and veterinarians. "Bots fasten themselves to the wall of a horses' stomach and remain so all winter. To obtain the maximum benefit these bots should be removed as soon as possible after the first of December or one month after the first killing frost," agriculture bulletins state.

"Horses treated keep in better flesh and do not get sick as often as untreated horses. Many cases of colic are caused by bots and if all horses of one community are treated there is a noticeable decrease in the number of nose flies the following summer. Cost of treatment is small and the benefits are relatively great," advice of the department of agriculture continues.

"This year when feed and horses are scarce treatment is more important than usual," veterinarians of the county declare.

50 years ago

Christmas plans for veterans at Mental Health Institute here were announced today by Mrs. John Specht, hospital chairmen for the Cherokee County American Legion Auxiliary.

The annual Gift Shop for veterans, sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary, will take place starting at 1:30 p.m. Monday in the Institute auditorium.

Gifts furnished by Auxiliary units of Cherokee, Buena Vista and Sac Counties will be made available to the veterans to choose for their families without cost to them.

Their selections will be gift-wrapped, addressed and mailed by the Ladies in Blue.

Gifts and treats for the veterans are to be distributed to them at the annual Christmas party in Legion Hall here.

The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16. Following dinner prepared and served by the Cherokee Auxiliary unit, entertainment will be provided by Buena Vista County Auxiliary units.

Veterans unable to attend the dinner and party will receive their gifts at the institute. Members of Treptow Post are to provide transportation for the veterans attending the Christmas party.

Teachers Club Yule Party Menu Told

Menu plans for the Cherokee Teachers Club Christmas party December 10 were announced today.

The potluck dinner and party is to take place at 6:15 p.m. on that date in Washington High School library.

Ham for the meal will be furnished by the Teachers Club. Washington High School and Washington elementary teachers are to provide potatoes, vegetables and hot dishes.

Salad, rolls and butter are to be furnished by Webster teachers, relishes and beverages by Garfield faculty members and pie by teachers at Wilson School and Bell Building.

Each person is asked to bring his own table service of plate, silverware and cup. Gifts for patients at the Mental Health Institute are to be brought and placed beneath a Christmas tree in the library.

Each wrapped fits is to be labeled according to its contents, indicating whether it is for a man or woman, color, size and other details.

Suggestions for women patients include cosmetics, stationery, towels and wash cloths, jewelry, aprons and other articles of clothing. Ideas for men are games, articles of clothing other than neckties, cosmetics, cigarettes, pipes, tobacco, cigars, warm caps, mittens or gloves, rings and watches that may be used or repaired.

25 years ago

Nine hundred ninety-eight...999...1,000 bottles from sill to dusty sill have been discovered in the crawl space beneath the Quimby Library.

Til Nelson, member of the library board for the past 23 years, has known for at least the last 15 years that there was an awful lot of bottles under there that could be seen with the aid of a flashlight.

"I figured there was a fortune in bottles," she said. "But I couldn't get anyone interested enough to crawl back there until Shirley Perrett recently became a member of the board."



Oops! - Information for last week's TGB picture of the "Eye in the Sky" was incorrect. The photo (reprinted above) was not taken during the 1960's, but rather in the 1970's. Thanks to many, many phone calls, the correct information can now be presented. Thanks to everyone who keeps the reporter on his toes.

[\[Click to enlarge\]](#)

Since some reporters will go to any length to get a story, Perrett engaged the help of this reporter and her grandson, Zachery Peterson, 8, to investigate. The foursome, including Nelson with some assistance from Doris Mundy, worked two Saturday mornings recently to bring to light big brown gallon jugs, medium sized brown bottles, round bottles, square jugs, clear glass 4- and 6-ounce medicine bottles, ointment jars, boxed and tin can canisters, plus a variety of odds and ends including aluminum splints for setting broken bones for infants to adults.

The mystery remained. Who crawled beneath the library to rack the bottles in such neat and compact rows? And why hadn't someone removed them long ago?

Some of the jugs and bottles contained brightly colored pills and capsules while other, their corks still in tact, contained fluids.

It was a known fact that the late L.S. Brewer, early day physician and surgeon, had the building constructed for office use in 1902. He practiced in the Quimby area for 33 years, until his death in 1929 as a result of an automobile accident in Pennsylvania.

According to the labels, medicines ranged from Glycern, cascara, VEHO, a nonalcoholic vehicle, coco quinine, heroin and tolu compound, cholera infantam, longacyclate, balms, Ruby castor oil (red in color) lobelia (for the croup), and a mixture of quinine, iron and strychnine No. 5.

Brewer, who mixed his own prescriptions, purchased some of his supplies from the G.F. Harvey Co, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; The Smith--Dorsey Pharmaceuticals, Lincoln, Neb.;

Standard Chemicals Co., Des Moines; Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, Ind.; Sharp & Dohme Baltimore, and Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.; according to labels still readable.

Other doctors had used the small building for their practice and a few residents had even made it their home.

It was in the early 1960's that the town council and the library trustees bought the building in a joint venture, the board raising their share (\$250) by holding bake sales.

For about 74 years the bottles have been safe and secure in their dark and dusty hideaway. In light of the upcoming Quimby centennial in 1967, it seems coincidental that some of the bottles should significantly play a part in the life and profession display of the early doctor.

It wasn't until a week ago that the mystery was unraveled. A phone call to Dr. Cleaves (Reitzell) Brewer, retired dentist from Early and son of Dr. L.S. Brewer, brought forth a burst of laughter as he said, "I put the bottles there sometime before 1910. It was over a period of years, but I recall that I was pretty small. My brother, Angelo, probably helped some too," recalled Brewer.

He doesn't remember why, but from time to time when he was at Quimby, he would take a flashlight and check to see if the bottles were still there. "Yes, they were," said Brewer.

However, not all of the bottles used in his father's practice were stashed away. Brewer recalls that his father had a one-horse buggy and they would load bottles under the buggy seat and haul them to the bridge (first Quimby bridge) behind the Pearse house. Stopping on the bridge, they'd drop the brown bottles and jugs over the side into the water to watch them float down stream.

Although discarded as junk at that time, the bottles below the library may serve some purpose yet.

Perrett and Helen Gano, another library board member, appeared before the Quimby City council Monday night to discuss the bottles.

The Council granted the library board permission to dispose of the bottles in any manner the board desires. Also, the board may apply any proceeds from sale of the bottles toward purchases of library supplies.

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