

## Stewart Verckler's Abstracts of Abilene Newspapers

1900

- Midway is moved from downtown to factory site of C.W. Parker.
- Store[s] will close at 6:30 beginning February 1.
- Article endeavoring to establish a Library in the City Bldg. (Where the marshal now lives.) Library would be under the Board of Education. High School has 1400 books but they may not be circulated—A plan to sell memberships.
- Western Union and the railroad depots still do not use electric lights.
- Dr. A. B. Seeyle bought the Opera House on Feb. 16, 1900. It cost \$38,000 to build, price now was \$5750. [Another source reports \$45,000 as the cost to build the J. E. Bonebrake Opera House in 1871. In today's dollars it is equivalent to \$937,000. \$5750 in 1900 is equivalent to \$140,244 today.]
- Presses of the Reflector are to be moved to the basement, needs more room. [There was a Daily Reflector and a Weekly Reflector.]
- Walter McDonald's Circus wagons are being painted in the Opera House rooms. Tent is erected on West 1<sup>st</sup> St. near Mulberry for the acrobats to practice in, a menagerie is being collected, will leave Abilene after performance on April 21.
- City Council turned down plan for City Library in City hall.
- Allen Commercial College opens July 2<sup>nd</sup> in the old Masonic Rooms.
- Abilene may get free delivery of mail if streets are marked, houses numbered, streets lighted and sidewalks constructed. Receipts must be over 10,000.

- A. M. Ward will move to Gulick's Drug Store after July 1.
- A. B. Seelye signed contract on June 18 for improving Opera House. Stage moved to ground floor, 4 boxes to be constructed. Gallery, entrance moved to West end of Building. J. S. Holland of Topeka is the architect and supervisor. J. L. Kruger will do the work. It will open on Oct. 6 with the play "Prince of the World." Will be called Seelye Theatre. Cost of re-modeling was \$8000 [\$195,122 today].
- Old water works building at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Walnut being torn down.
- Lutheran Church adds a furnace and electric lights.
- Lights finally put in the UP Depot. Western Union now has telephone.
- Seelye Medicine Co. offices are in the east end of the theater building.
- Brown Telephone Co. stringing cable with 100 wires to Cedar St. from office in Reflector building.

Courtesy of Dickinson County Heritage Center