

Stewart Verckler's Abstracts of Abilene Newspapers

1891

- 10 young Abilene people and their families are spending a few weeks at Green Mtn. Falls, Colo.
- Central Kansas Free Fair at Hope, Sept. 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Abilene to have the fair, \$6000 [\$139,534.99 today] in prizes for horse racing, 200 horses will be here. \$4000 [\$93,023.25] in other premiums.
- Balloon ascension to be made by Prof. Driscoll, at the Fair. Ropes kinked and parachute would not release aeronaut. Dragged through trees, landed in one, balloon stretched across F.B. Wilson's lawn. Was suppose to jump the next day but balloon was severely damaged. Several horse races, purse for each was \$500 [\$11,627.90].

1893

- No fair this year, plans were made but not realized, horse racing in October.

1895

- Finlay & Brewer display mummy that E.C. Little brought from Egypt.
- Band concert – band re-organized by C.R. Pleiser, have not had band for several years.
- Miss Eva Gleissner gave a Halloween party at Mrs. W.E. Gleissner home.
- Duplicate Whist Club was formed.
- Dogs chasing rabbits in coursing meet in Herington. 15 entries. Wilbite's "Short Order" of Emporia was 2nd. L.J. Hilty's "Skip" of Enterprise was 1st.

1896

- Bicycle club race – Elmer Forney won the time prize = \$20 plus gold medal. Rode 12 ½ miles in 41 ½ minutes.

1898

- Baseball association dissolves, no money, uniforms sold to Topeka.
- Fireman had a Thanksgiving Ball.

1900

- New Year Party at the Olympic Club – once again lasted until 4 in the morning. Cotillion led by Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Litts, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hurd, Oscar Sterl & Miss Mary Giles, F.A. Wilcox & Miss Lulu Hallam.
- Bruce Gleissner broke arm while ice skating.
- 20 gentlemen play duplicate whist once a week.
- Cereno's Dog and Company Show at the Opera House to raise money for Tom Smith Monument.
- Walter McDonald's Circus wagons are being painted in the Opera House rooms. Tent is erected on West 1st near Mulberry for the acrobats to practice in, a menagerie is being collected, will leave Abilene after performance on April 21.
- McDonald's Circus performed at Abilene, on April 21, will tour Kansas & Nebraska. It is a mud show, horse drawn, played in Glasco on May 3rd.
- Many evening lawn parties, danced on the grass.
- Confetti and Serpentine battle will be held along with the Carnival.
- Walter McDonald's Circus is back in Abilene, Sept. 27.
- 2 balloon ascensions on Carnival Day on Oct. 3. 1st one was no good but 2nd one was a success. Cost \$50.00 [\$1282.05 today]. Over 1000 contributed to Carnival, not corn this year. No queen, decorations were not very unique, mostly bunting. Circus, two merry go rounds, street dances, fireworks at night, very large parade. Prizes again given.

1902

- Band Stand being erected on 2nd St.
- Ball park to be constructed on old Fair Grounds, south of town.
- August 14, 1902 – Parker displayed his new \$8000 [] Jumping Horse Carousal. Horses are full sized and cost \$100 [] each. Miniature railway will circle Kirby Park, engine will pull five cars with 3 passengers in each car.
- Buckskin Bill's Show was very poor and only gave one show. Many had pocket's picked.
- Parker changed name of Carousal to "Carry-us-All."
- Hiram Brooks won 1st prize at Litts, his pumpkin weighed 115 ½ lbs.
- T.C. Henry will speak at Old Settler's Picnic at Enterprise.

1903

- Pres. Roosevelt stopped in Abilene on May 2, 1903 – Parker's Cowboy Band played, was here for 15 minutes – G.C. Sterl introduced Sen. Burton and he introduced Roosevelt – large 20 wise arch erected West of UP depot, facing South – Had Roosevelt's picture in center of it, made of red, white & blue bunting.
- Parker Carnival planned to open June 10 – 13. Will have a captive balloon and an airship – Now has 20 railroad cars in all.
- Parker Carnival adv. Lists: Electric Fountain (Nina's Fire Dance in the Middle of it) – High Dive act with fire at night – 100' slide – Balloon Ascension – High wire act –all the above were free shows – Other's listed were: Merry-go-round; ferris wheel; miniature train; Old Plantation (20 actors); A Day in the Alps; Mirror Maze, Lot's Wife (an artistic reproduction, suitable for ladies); Colibri's Midgets.

1904

- April 14, paper – C.W. Parker orders 50 wild animals from Carl Hagenback of Germany – Already has cinnamon bear from the Rocky Mtns.
- April 21, Parker announces that he will carry full time moving picture photographer with his show. To make pictures of various scenes in the cities he pays in.

1905

- Raver & Darnaby will open their new carnival in Abilene in June.
- Damona's Act (loop the loop) will be called the "Girl from Abilene". The dancing act will be dropped.

1906

- Radium and Liquid Air show at Seelye on Jan. 18.
- C.W. Parker announced that he will build skating rink in 2nd floor of building one block east of factory. Distance around rink will be 377'.

1908

- Jan. 30 paper – Dwight Eisenhower gave toast at Football Team banquet: "Offside Play" – Miss Lucy Dickinson gave toast: "Reddy Remarks" Miss Nan Lucier gave "Respondez s'il vous plait" Banquet did not start until 10:30 in the evening at the Central Hotel, games were played before – Purpose was for the team to make fun of the teachers.
- Feb. 8 – Paderewski played in Salina, only place he played in Kansas this season, charge \$2500 [\$58,139.53 today] for 90 minute concert.
- February 20 paper – Clio Woodward won the gentlemen's prizes for the best costume at Parker's Valentine skating party.
- School yell for Abilene High School:
"Orange and Black
Orange and Black
We are the class that nothing lack
We're no bait, we're up to date
The grand old class of 1908."

- Aug. 13 – Bessie Coulson, daughter of E.E. Coulson, will drive a large Buick touring car around the track at the fairgrounds during the fair by herself, she is six years old.
- Aug. 27 – Lowsy Lou Camp #2 (boys camping out) on Lyon's Creek – D. Eisenhower, Ames Rogers, Edward Crawford, John Gleissner, Bruce Hurd, etc.
- Edison theater run by Kubach, Miss Lucier sings, show had 1000 feet of hand colored film, was war drama.
- Dec. 31 – Bernie and Imogene Tolliver received a foot-powered Cadillac for Christmas. Paul Brown got a foot-powered Rambler.

1909

- Parker Annex (Freak Show) run by Col. I.C. Shipley.
- May 27 – Paul Royer gave the Senior Class prophecy, Edgar Eisenhower had the lead in the Senior play, satirical Merchant of Venice. Dwight was also in play. Bruce Hurd had second lead.

1910

- Parker show to open in Abilene April 12, 13, 14 – Main attraction is company of 18 Japanese acrobats. Pictures.
- Fair starts on Sept. 29 through Oct. 1. Diving horses every afternoon.
- Baby show at Fair, each winner got a \$5.00 [\$111 today] gold piece. 25 entered. White boy, Mrs. Ralph Cooley. White girl, Mrs. D.G. Young. Colored boy, Thomas Easy. Colored girl, Mrs. Marcelle Tyler.
- New Year Party at Woodman's Hall lasts until 3. Springer's 5 piece Band from Salina, 35 couples.