

Lacking the guidance of the founder and his son, the plant gradually ceased to operate. The aircraft end was disposed of and finally the entire physical property was sold to Deere and Company.

That marked the end of one of Moline's most successful manufacturing plants and one which, for a time, promised to center the manufacture of automobiles and aircraft in Moline.

(From the *Moline Daily Dispatch*, Centennial Edition, June 10, 1948.)

PREHISTORIC CLEAR LAKE VILLAGE

By ELAINE MORTIER

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In looking through "The Living Museum," the little magazine published by the Illinois State Museum, I became greatly interested in the article on "The Schoenbeck Collection" and hope it will be of interest to some of the readers of the Illinois Junior Historian.

I learned there are many non-professional students throughout Illinois who specialize in learning about our local areas and contribute to our knowledge of the state.

As Ethel and George Schoenbeck tramped the hills of Illinois they gathered a vast amount of data about various sites once used by the early American Indians. Most of their life the Schoenbecks lived in Peoria. With other neighboring counties that area was made their special field of study. They collected many thousands of potsherds, arrowheads, stone and copper axes, beads, pipes, and all sorts of prehistoric tools which were carefully recorded as to the place where they were found.

The site now known archaeologically as the Clear Lake Village, on the Illinois River near the western point of Tazewell County, was most frequently visited by the Schoenbecks. They got most of their material from this Clear Lake Village. Their findings represent many of the known prehistoric Indian cultures of Illinois. The Hopewellian and Maples Mills groups are two of the most important. Their Maples Mills pottery is one of the most extensive collections of its kind. Little would be known of this aboriginal Indian village of Clear Lake if it hadn't been for the perseverance of the Schoenbecks.

Some of the other sites explored by the Schoenbecks are Steuben Village near Peoria and the Sisters Creek site in Fulton County.

The Schoenbeck Collection is of great value to us because it throws a light on the aboriginal history of the general Peoria region. The collection is now a part of the Illinois State Museum.

(From "The Schoenbeck Collection," by M. L. Fowler in *The Living Museum* for August, 1950.)

THE CHARLESTON RIOT

By NANCY FUNKHOUSER

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During the Civil War the Charleston area of Coles County was pretty evenly divided between those who agreed with Lincoln's administration and those who opposed it. Many Democrats supported the war effort and Coles County furnished more than her quota of volunteers for the Union Army. But there were also many Southern sympathizers. They were known as "peace Democrats" or "Copperheads."

There had been assaults by Union soldiers of the 54th Illinois Infantry upon Copperheads, killing two and making all swear to this promise: "I do solemnly swear to support the administration, Abraham Lincoln, all proclamations now issued and all that may hereafter be issued, so help me God." Naturally the Copperheads were eager to get revenge upon the soldiers, and you can imagine feeling ran pretty high.

March 28, 1864, was going to be a jubilee day for the Democrats. The judge, Charles H. Constable, and sheriff, John H. O'Hair both were Democrats. Court was to be held and Democratic Congressman John R. Eden was scheduled to speak at a Democratic rally. Plenty of soldiers were present and plenty of angry Copperheads. To top it all off, there was plenty of corn whiskey for all. Most of the soldiers who were in the Charleston riot were from Companies C and G of the 54th Illinois Infantry, Colonel Greenville M. Mitchell commanding.

Thinking that many soldiers would be in town the Copperheads put shotguns under the straw in their farm wagons and many men carried pistols in their pockets. The sheriff had kept out of town to avoid trouble but now he came in, with a bodyguard of five men, because he felt the rally would need him.

At 11:00 A.M. a party of soldiers en route to Mattoon where their regiment was to assemble, got off the train and, stacking their muskets at the depot, walked south to the courthouse square where they joined a large group of soldiers from Charleston and vicinity already gathered.

The crowd had been drinking freely and when their ugly temper began to show, Eden cancelled his speech. The crowd was advised to go home. Eden left Charleston, and Judge Constable opened court. By 3:00 P.M. two-thirds of the people who came to hear Eden had left.

Trouble started between 3:00 and 3:30. Whether Nelson Wells, a Copperhead, or Private Oliver Sallee started the riot is not known. Sources disagree. Wells and Sallee are supposed to have shot at the same time. Sallee collapsed, but raised up to fire another shot at Wells, who zigzagged down the street, fell into a door of a store, and died. After that the shooting became general. Dr. Shubal York, surgeon of the 54th Illinois was killed

right in the courthouse. The pistol was so close that the powder burned his coat. Colonel Mitchell was fired upon and the bullet would have been fatal but it struck his watch and glanced off.

At news of the trouble, Sheriff O'Hair went out and encouraged the Copperheads. The sheriff was said by some to have wounded several soldiers and killed two. John Cooper, a Copperhead who was captured by the soldiers, broke away but they killed him as he was running down the street. John Jenkins, who was standing in front of his store, and taking no part in the fight, was hit and killed by a stray bullet.

In all the soldiers' losses were six killed, four wounded. The Copperheads must have been better armed or better marksmen or both, for they had only two killed, five wounded. Also, many of the soldiers had left their guns at the depot.

Colonel Mitchell reported that though the riot, which was mostly in the courthouse yard, lasted only a few minutes at one time he estimated that one hundred bullets were flying back and forth.

Afterward fifteen men were held prisoners at Fort Delaware on an island in the Delaware River. The families and friends of the men raised \$1,000 to bail them out. They gave this to Congressman Orlando B. Ficklin, who knew Lincoln. They wanted him to go to Washington and talk with the President about getting the men released. Ficklin went to Washington, but failed to see the President. Next they tried Dennis Hanks, a second cousin of Lincoln. Hanks went to Washington and saw Lincoln. They talked for awhile and Lincoln presented Hanks with a silver watch (for Hanks had lost his on the trip to Washington) and ordered the prisoners released.

(The writer wishes to thank Mr. Charles H. Coleman, head of the Department of Social Science, Eastern Illinois State College, for the use of his booklet, "The Charleston Riot," from which much of this material was summarized.)

ROLLING MILL ON THE PRAIRIE

By STEPHEN LUSTER

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There were many thrills in peaceful Decatur in the 1870's when, for a few years, it was the location of the Decatur Rolling Mill. Approximately 400 men were employed during the height of the mill's prosperity.

It was the busiest place in town and a favorite stop for sight-seers. The operation of the mill at night was a thrilling sight with the handling of the hot metal, the roaring furnaces, and the grinding of machinery. It made a scene never to be forgotten.

Sometimes small particles of hot metal would get thrown around and set fire to the men's clothing or to the building.

Before 1870 the city ended at Jasper Street, but during the period of the mill's operation several additions were laid out. They were known as the first, second, and third rolling mill addi-

tions. Now we have the reminder of these additions in the street names of Stone and Witt. East Avenue used to be called Chisholm Street. These were names of the rolling mill's promoters. An Episcopalian mission on East Eldorado Street began as the Rolling Mill Chapel.

Franklin Priest was mayor of Decatur at that time and it is thought that through his influence the mill came to Decatur. The city donated the site for the buildings. Probably the greatest permanent result was the beginning of the waterworks. In order to provide water for the mill the first waterworks was built.

There was no lack of excitement and thrills in those days. No wonder Decatur suffered its biggest blow industrially when the mill moved from Decatur to Missouri in 1875. There was a great deal of railroad construction then going on in Kansas, and presumably the mill moved to be nearer a market for its products.

(From Mabel E. Richmond, *Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County*, pp. 292--94.)

THE CIRCUS VOTE VICTORY

By MELVIN JAGER

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In the year 1837, in the valley of the Des Plaines River was Juliet (now Joliet) where the citizens were trying to set up a village government. The law called for the election of five trustees, two from the East Ward, two from the West Ward, and the fifth from both wards together. There was a great rivalry over who this fifth trustee would be. Joel A. Matteson was the candidate from the East Side and Uri Osgood was the candidate from the West Side. The East Side was the business district and if the West Side won the election it might have the power and influence to move the business district across the river to the west.

In order to vote in this election a man had to own land within the city limits. It happened that the West Side had more men eligible to vote. In fact, they outnumbered those on the East Side by some nineteen votes. The East Side was not altogether discouraged, but Joel Matteson knew he was defeated if he didn't do something. He paid a visit to Charley Sayer, the village tailor, for his advice.

Now there was a circus in town, on the East Side. Charley suggested that he have a talk with Natoni, his maid, because she was in love with the circus owner and could talk to him more easily. Natoni talked to the circus owner and he was willing to help in any way he could. Charley Sayer then gave or sold a few lots to the circus people and this made the whole circus eligible to vote. With thirty-six more votes Joel Matteson was victorious in the election.

This election started the political career of Joel A. Matteson which didn't stop until he became governor of the state of Illinois.

(From George H. Woodruff, *Forty Years Ago!*, p. 83.)