

Headlines . . . From the Past!

If you have ever watched *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, you may know that he sometimes has a humorous segment called *Headlines*. A glance back at the past of headlines from county newspapers can also provide a somewhat humorous perspective of what was considered important and interesting while also including the vernacular of the era. With that in mind, the following are examples of some past headlines from county newspapers, including *The Martin County Sentinel*, *The Martin County Independent*, *Fairmont Sentinel*, *The Truman Tribune*, as well as the Pioneer Museum archives.

ED. SMELLIE, BILLIARD HALL PIONEER, PRIDES HIMSELF ON CLEAN ESTABLISHMENT: If there is anything Ed can be called a crank on, it is cleanliness. At his place the Gold Dust twins are constantly on the job and everything is always immaculate. 1920's.

FLYLESS FAIRMONT BUSINESS MAN: Says the absence of flies this year due to use of traps last year. 1914.

FAIRMONT BALDHEADS MAY VANISH IN 1937; MACHINE GROWS HAIR: At least that's what they claim – city barbershop installs outfit with vacuum cap to bring back youthful locks to barren heads. 1937

TOOTHLESS MAN MISSES GRAVY, ONLY COMPLAINT ON FIRST MEATLESS TUESDAY: Fairmont's first meatless day since World War I was observed by Fairmont cafes Tuesday, with but one known exception, an exclusive hamburger shop. The only complaint came from a toothless gentleman who wanted meat gravy for his bread, a gravy sandwich. 1943.

“CANADA PETE” IS IN TROUBLE AGAIN: Last year arrested on a moonshine charge, arrested in Sherburn on suspicion of having liquor in his possession. Judge recommends deportation as an undesirable alien. 1924.

WANTED – 10,000 MUSK RATS: I have a big order on Rats, will pay good prices. Harry Wishnick. 1917

WHOLESALE RAID ON ROUGH-NECKS AT TRIUMPH, MINN: Sheriff Carver and Deputy Roepke appeared in town and laid the legal clutches on five gamblers, one plain drunk, and one saloon keeper. 1916.

HARRY GILBERT HAS SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE: Buys Albert L. Ward's North Avenue lots and will soon break ground for what? What does Alderman Harry Gilbert got in his head? You can never tell? Harry's head's working all the time. 1916.

HOW TO DRESS FOR A SWELL BALL: Fairmont's Beau Brummel lays down the rules for correct toggerel at functions of four hundred by Lenny Burton. Your dress suit,

of course, must, or should be a swallow tail and should, if made in Fairmont, fit you to a T. Your tie must be a white one. Your shoes should be pointed and of patent leather and your socks of cotton or silk. Next thing, keep cool. You are about to enter the ball room. 1917.

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! Stop and look at this house. 318 W. 4th St. Not a fad house – a house that looks good today, and will look good 10 years from now. Now Listen! This house cannot be duplicated at present prices for \$4,500. I will sell it to you for that and throw the lot in. If not sold by August 1st this house will be for rent at \$30.00 a month. 1917

MOONSHINE AT DANCE; 3 PINCHED: Bootlegger breaks up Guckeen party with illegal brew; he gets away, imbibers held. 1921

OLD TIMERS REMEMBER FAIRMONT OWL CLUB: About thirty years ago Fairmont had a social organization – a sort of close corporation - known as the “Owl Club.” 1917

BUMS HANG OUT AT LAKE: Fairmont may not have a tourist camp, but the great American bum lives in luxury just the same. 1923

“POPSICLES” NEW INDUSTRY HERE, AND LICKIN’ GOOD: Packing Company will turn out 7,000 daily soon – New frozen delicacy on a stick. 1931

COPS DESTROY CAMP AND END DRUNKEN RIOT: A cleanup of “jungleland” by city police, under direction of Chief Plenge, had rid the city today of the toughest gang of hoboes, transients and questionable characters that has invaded Fairmont in Years. 1932

BIG RABBIT HUNT AROUSING INTEREST: “Notice to all would-be and has-been Rabbit Hunters: January 21, 22, and 23 are the big days to help do your bit for me, Commander-in-Chief for the Truman Rabbit Army.” 1933

SHOULD CHANGE NAME OF HWY 15 SOUTH TO “Beer Boulevard:” Parched traveler would need extra capacity if he took bottle at every stand along rout, including Fairmont Oases. No thirsty traveler from Iowa need rehearse “How Dry I Am” if he comes into Martin County on highway 43 and 15, travels north to Fairmont and takes a little tour around town. 1933

AS SOON AS BOMBS FALL – RUN LIKE HELL: This advice from an active duty serviceman of that time: “As soon as bombs start falling, run like hell. It doesn’t matter where, just run. Wear track shoes or baseball spikes if possible – if the people in front of you are slow, you won’t have much trouble getting over them.” 1942

Headlines seem to depict the era from which they were derived, whether with colorful expressions, humor, or seriousness, and to, in turn, present the exclusive message each

was intended to convey. The times change, but each period in history has its own unique and interesting manner in which it records the events of the day for the citizens of the time to read, observe, and reflect upon.

Visit the Pioneer Museum in Fairmont to view county newspapers and other publications, as well as artifacts from the past.