

Newspapers

In 1884, the first newspaper appeared in Rhodes. This was the "Gazette". How long it was there and who owned it is not known, as it is only mentioned in the early history of Iowa Newspapers.

Early in 1886 another newspaper made its appearance in Rhodes. It was the "Sun," published by Wilbur E. Stone, apparently an itinerate printer who came to town that year.

Stone and the Sun remained in Rhodes about a year, during that time he was known as a deaf mute, though sometime later it was the general belief that he merely posed as such for reasons known only to himself.

The Chronicle

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT

RHODES, - - IA.

....BY....

TOM. P. FRY.

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NOR THE BEST,
BUT VERY GOOD.

Subscription \$1.00 per Year,

Not in advance.

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single column.

Another newspaper made its appearance in Rhodes, about July 1892, "The Rhodes Chronicle," which apparently lasted six or seven years. Tom P. Fry was publisher, but whether he owned it during the papers entire life is unknown.

Around the year 1894 or 1895, marked the founding of another newspaper, "The Rhodes Review." The publisher is not known, but apparently quite a creditable newspaper. It existed for several years, for it was quoted frequently on the editorial pages of the Times-Republican in 1895 and 1896 and was highly regarded by the T.R. editors of that day.

Sometime in 1898 the "Free Lance" was born, but lasted a very short time. It was mentioned in the Collins Newspaper of that time.

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The Rhodes Review.

One of the Newest papers in
Marshall County. Only \$1.00 per
year, try it and you will like it.

Late in 1903 or early 1904, another newspaper, "The Rhodes News," was started in Rhodes and lasted at least four or five years. C.W. Robey was the editor-publisher, but how long he owned it or when the paper was expired is not known.

The Rhodes News

by C. W. Robey

If you want to get results from advertising
in this community, advertise in the News.

Our Job Department

Up-to-date type and best of stock
used. Power equipped.

In about May 1911, the Rhodes Tribune, ancestor of the present community newspaper of that same name was founded. Harry J. Reger was the editor-publisher. The tribune was a locally owned and edited newspaper and lasted approximately sixteen years, longer than any previous paper.

It was around 1917 that J.L. Shearer, editor and proprietor, acquired control of the Rhodes Tribune. Shearer was in the elevator business at Rhodes, during that time, so later in the year he put printer Fred Wollander in charge. Wollander enlisted in the Navy in 1917 or 1918. The following week Shearer engaged another printer, Howard L. Springer, to take over publication. Springer's name came up for the draft in 1918, and after he left, the paper was sold to Cecil Lowther, who published it for the next several years.

The Rhodes Tribune

A LIVE COUNTRY WEEKLY

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In 1925 the Rhodes Tribune was coming to the end of the road as a hometown produced newspaper. Cecil Lowther found the burden too heavy because of advanced age and sold it to Howard Springer who had operated it briefly during World War I. Springer struggled with it for two years and finally in 1927, he suspended the paper and turned the circulation list over to the State Center Enterprise.

In 1938, L.W. and M.C. Burnham received the Rhodes Tribune as a subsidiary of the Baxter New Era, a weekly which these brothers published in Jasper County.

In 1943, the Burnham brothers purchased the Melbourne Record from Harry Morgan, changed the name to the Marshall County Record, and published it and the Rhodes Tribune from Melbourne. After a while there became a shortage of help and the Burnham's were forced to close the Melbourne office and move publication to Baxter.

In 1955, the combination community newspaper was published at Baxter in Jasper County, with special editions for both Melbourne and Rhodes in Marshall County.

The Marshall County Record of Melbourne and the Rhodes Tribune was still published in 1955 by the Burnham's.

In 1956 it was sold to Winton Haskins for a short while and in 1957, Harold Messersmith purchased it.

Later it was sold to Hazel Dunbar and then to Howard Williams Jr.

Currently the Rhodes Area News appears in the Melbourne Record published by the State Center Enterprise.

Olden Days

February 11, 1897

The first issue of the Rhodes "Free-Lance" made its appearance last week. It has not yet reached our desk.

March 11, 1897

The first issue of the Rhodes "Free-Lance" by J.A. Brower and Wisely came out last week and is a very creditable looking sheet. The patronage which the business men extend to the paper is good. Just what it deserves.

November 11, 1897

The Rhodes "Free-Lance" is dead. There will be no sad requiem on its grave. This country is not ripe for anarchy and its people have no use for a paper that expounds even mildly the cause of the red flag.

Olden Days

January 19, 1899

This Chronicle (Rhodes) because his (Tom R. Fry) advertising patronage would not justify the issuance of so large a paper - a seven column folio. He is giving the people of Rhodes the best paper they ever had and as good a local paper as can be found anywhere and its really to bad the business men of the town aren't more appreciative. If they let the Chronicle go to the wall, it will be a long time before they have another paper. It takes more perserverance of which Fry has an abundance to make a newspaper a success. The editor can't be expected to do all the pushing for the town's upbuilding. The business men should help him and help him ungrudgingly and liberally.