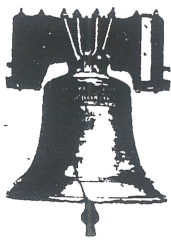


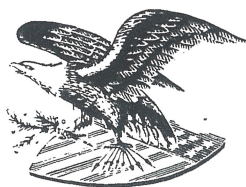
MADRID

AREA



# BICENTENNIAL

## 1776-1976



"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

## Madrid Newspapers Date Back to 1881

When the Madrid Register-News changed the volume number to 95 on July 1, 1976 this showed that the newspaper had completed 94 consecutive years of service to this community. The Madrid Register-News is a consolidation of four newspapers, The Madrid Register, the Madrid News, The Sheldahl News and the Polk City News.

The first newspaper in Madrid was called the Madrid Pilot published in August 1881. Edward Lunt was the editor and manager. The paper was published for about 3 months and suspended publication due to the lack of financial support and insufficient patronage.

In 1882 M. N. Tomblin of Chicago came to Madrid with about \$300 worth of machinery including a printing press and in the fall started publishing the Madrid Register. He continued the publication until 1887 when he sold the paper to D. B. Davidson. In September of that same year Davidson was nominated for State Senator and in the month sold to Clint Scoonover, but January 1, 1889 Mr. Davidson bought the paper again. He sold the paper to J. W. Lucas and R. M. Keigley and in about a year Keigley sold his interest to Lucas and Company who continued to publish it until March 1894 when they sold to C. S. Lawbaugh.

Just a few months before the sale D. V. Smith started the publication of the Madrid News. The two papers were consolidated under the name Madrid Register-News and the firm of Smith and Lawbaugh. Mr. Smith, editor until February 1897, died soon after. The paper was sold to G. B. Heath and transferred to C. A. Silford in September 1899. Silford published the local paper for about 5 years and in December, 1904 he sold it to J. G. Lucas.

Mr. Lucas paid \$2,500 for the newspaper. He had \$250 cash and the old Madrid State Bank had the mortgage. Lucas had worked in the backroom for his brother, John at Pratt, Mo. and as a cub reporter for the Kansas City Star and Leavenworth Times while stationed in the Army at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. His family was against him buying a Republican newspaper as they had always been Southern Democrats.

The paper had less than 350 subscribers at the time. Mr. Lucas wrote "Not enough money was taken in the first month to pay expenses and since I had no Capitol I was forced to borrow \$50.00 to pay obligations from a personal friend, Gus Geisler, a hardware clerk" and he started his second month of publishing the newspaper.

His wife, Maude ran the backroom until Lillian, now Mrs. Jack White, was born. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas had four children, 2 daughter, Kathryn, Mrs. A. K. Johnson; and Mrs. White and 2 sons, Robert and Max.

The Madrid State Bank gave the firm orders for printing and since it had been Lucas' dream to do specialized printing he decided this was the appropriate time to experiment. He felt the name of the newspaper was not satisfactory for the bank supply printing business so he decided to call the new commercial printing firm Western Printing Co. and it was

an auxiliary to the Madrid Register-News.

Mr. Lucas wrote in 1944, "The Madrid Register-News was always the writer's first thought. It is a better paper because of the Western Printing Co. It has not always paid its way, but in good times and bad, it has been kept alive."

On Nov. 1, 1957 the Madrid Register-News once again changed owners. Clarence W. Wilcox of Adel bought the newspaper and the local job printing business. The new owners agreed to move the newspaper to a new location and the Western Printing Co. would be maintained as a specialized printing business.

In February, 1958, the new building was completed at 102 South Main and on a very cold wintery day the newspaper press was moved through the business area of Madrid to its new home. Since the Western Printing Co. was to remain in the printing business this meant most all the necessary equipment for the operation of the business had to be purchased, installed and not miss an issue of the paper.

Mr. Wilcox, his wife, Irene and their three young children moved to Madrid at about that same time.

It was the new owner's boyhood dream to some day own a weekly newspaper. He started as sweep-out boy at the Dallas County News at Adel. He was a "printer's devil" under the critical eye of the late Scott Snyder where he was employed for nearly 20 years. He was business manager of that paper at the time he had the opportunity to fulfill his lifetime desire to own his own newspaper.

He has always maintained that in order to keep abreast with progress it is necessary to invest in equipment, attend seminars and continue to learn new

tricks to the trade. In 1968 this newspaper was one of the first weekly papers in the state of Iowa to switch to computer type setting. The Madrid Register-News today has a well equipped job printing shop and as Mr. Lucas wrote in 1944, it still is true today, "The Register-News is a better newspaper because of our job printing." He also wrote "In the first 25 of the 40 years we worked on an average of 15 hours daily." Today the Wilcox family makes up the entire full time staff and we find nearly every week it takes 2 or 3 fifteen hour days to meet the deadlines.

On May 1, 1976 Wilcox purchased the Big Creek News at Polk City from Duane Kibby. This newspaper is published at the Register-News office. The name of the Madrid Shopper, which was started in 1962, was changed to the Saylorville Lake Shopper and now serves the Madrid, Big Creek and Saylorville Lake area.

Bill is the editor and publisher of both newspapers and his wife, Irene, works fulltime at their offices. Their three married children are also fulltime employees. Dennis is advertising manager, Thomas is advertising layout and camera man and Trish, Mrs. William M. Johnson, is the computer operator and bookkeeper. Jeff, who is a junior in high school, also works at the office. It is difficult to name each members duties but when there is work to be done they all pitch in.

## MADRID REGISTER-NEWS.

VOL. XXIV, NO. 92 MADRID, BOONE COUNTY, IOWA, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1966  
CITIZENS WELL PRO. REED DISTRICT COURT RE-  
TOMORROW EVENING BATH INJURED CONVENED MONDAY

Store News---Pleasing as

## MADRID REGISTER-NEWS

VOL. XXIV, NO. 1 MADRID, BOONE COUNTY, IOWA, JANUARY 1, 1965  
EXCELLENT ADDRESS CAPTURED GUNS DISPLAYED IN BERLIN NEW OFFICIALS IN  
Practical Help is Given

## MADRID REGISTER-NEWS

VOL. XL, NO. 12 MADRID, BOONE COUNTY, IOWA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1952  
CALL COMES QUICKLY TO WELL KNOWN MAN HEALTH CAMPAIGN TO FUNERAL OF HATTIE PRIZES COSTING OVER  
COVER ENTIRE WEEK JOHNSON HELD FIDELITY SCOTLAND REORGANIZED

FIRST SECTION The Madrid Register-News FIRST SECTION  
MID-SUMMER'S DAY EDITION  
RELICS ON DISPLAY SATURDAY AND THROUGH THURSDAY  
COUNTY BUREAU

EXHIBITS SHOWN  
IN STORE WINDOWS

Display is Based on 200 Years  
of American History, and the  
most Recent, Thursday

Every Detail of the Mid-  
Summer's Day Edition

Program of Events  
Mid-Summer  
Festival  
June 23 and 24

ANNUAL REUNION  
OF ALBIN CLAN

Group Reunions at the McManis  
Park in Boone County  
Afternoon

C. A. Allen of Madrid, Was  
Elected Vice President  
of the Boone County

Boone County's First  
Settler

Secretary Open From Chicago  
Was the President of the  
Boone County

Boone County's First  
Settler

COUNTY BUREAU  
PICNIC TUESDAY

Secretary Open From Chicago  
Was the President of the  
Boone County

Boone County's First  
Settler

DEDICATE NEW  
CHURCH ANNEX

New Church Annex is Now Ready  
at the First Methodist Church  
at 10:00 A.M.

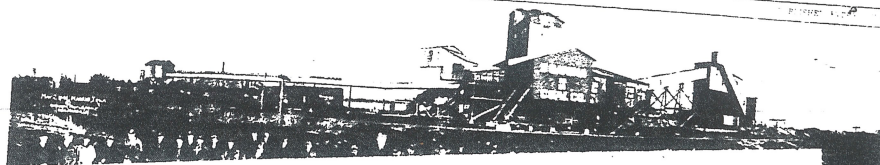
Indication: Service Will Take  
Place at 10:00 A.M.

The main service at the new  
church annex will be at 10:00 A.M.

## The Madrid Register-News

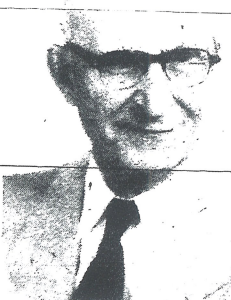
Very Light Vote Here for One-Ticket Election

## The Madrid Register-News



THE MADRID  
Register-News  
A MODERN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

State Appeal Board  
Approves City  
1976-77 Budget



J. G. LUCAS  
Editor from 1904-1957



C. W. (BILL) WILCOX  
Editor since Nov. 1, 1957