

"Well, true enough, there never was a better girl than Jennie and we all know Don is a grand old boy, but God, it was badly managed."

Subscribers Supply the Climax

The people of Lamar have become resigned to this journalistic invasion of their privacy ever since Arthur Aull gave up school-teaching back in 1900. at the age of 27, and bought the *Democrat*. They know it is useless to try to keep a story out of the *Democrat*, but anyone in Lamar who has a grievance is welcome to use the columns of the *Democrat* to air it. In fact, the climax to some of Editor Aull's liveliest stories is often supplied by the letters of annoyed subscribers. Take the example of the Prairie View box-social and Mrs. Wilma Bogart's reply. On April 3, 1944, the *Democrat* printed this story on page 1:

"There was a lively box supper at Prairie View School Friday night. The gross proceeds were \$51.50, which was considered good, but as the ladies will probably have to pay for the plastering that was kicked off the school during the supper it might cut in on their profit.

"Delbert McWilliams was present at the supper. He had brought his sister, Mrs. Wilma Bogart, with him. She was accompanied by a friend, Miss Maine, who is visiting her from Arkansas. The three young folks came in a buggy. The horses which were hitched to the buggy ran off twice on the way, but they didn't tear up the buggy, so Delbert and his party got in all right.

"It wasn't long afterwards that Delbert, who was in a very boisterous mood, began to kick the plaster off the walls of the school-house."

Wilma Gives the Lowdown

Several days later the *Democrat* was happy to print this sequel to its box-social story under the headline: "Wilma gives us the lowdown on the excitement at Prairie View School."

Dear Sir,—

I am writing an answer to the exciting piece you had in the paper about the three boisterous hammerheads who attended the Prairie View box supper. . . . I will acknowledge my brother was slightly intoxicated, but we three seemed to be having a good time, including Miss Maine and myself. (You) mention the horses running away twice. There is one lie. They only ran away once. . . . Well, thank God, none of the three was hurt, but as I was making a mad rush to get out of the buggy I hung the seat of my pants on a nail and they were torn to bits when I landed. I wouldn't have cared for a little thing like that, but it was the last pair I had which had elastic in. . . .

(Signed) Mrs. Wilma Bogart.

"Sometimes It Hurts"

Editor Aull is often bewildered by all the commotion some of his stories create, but he is quite modest about his success. "Any country editor can do what I have done," he says, "But if he wants to keep from being lynched he'd better know his people pretty good before he starts anything. I know and understand these people and I'm giving them what they want. Sometimes it hurts, but they keep on reading the *Democrat*."

Only once has the editor of the *Democrat* been in serious trouble for printing the facts as he found them. This was when his paper announced that a certain Lamar lady was circulating a petition urging two wayward young folk to hurry and get married. The lady promptly assaulted Aull with a club, splitting open his forehead and spattering blood all over his shirt front. Next day the *Democrat* carried a blow-by-blow description with this philosophic comment: "Fortunately, we wore our old straw hat, which was some protection, and we have a rather heavy head of hair, which protected us some. It certainly would have ruined a bald-headed guy with no hat."

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