

I think probably that my 60 years of active connection with the newspaper business of Lawrence has meant something to the city and state, and I am happy that I have had a part in helping to develop men like yourself and Mr. Frazier.

I don't get down to Kansas City often. I am getting too darn old. But I did go to Topeka to attend the funeral of my long-time friend, Arthur Capper.

Phil Ernst, Julius Marks and Ed Parsons are about the only businessmen in Lawrence who were here when I began business. Arthur Weaver, whose grandfather was Lathrop Bullene, was one of the early and most successful of Lawrence merchants, although Art was not identified with the business for some years.

I frequently recall a few lines of the poem which started out, "If I should live to be the last leaf upon the tree", and it comes fairly near to fitting me now. I have had a very pleasant and enjoyable life in Lawrence and am happy that the business which I named and had an early part in founding will be ably handled by my son and probably my grandsons.

You may recall that Charlie Finch used to write a good deal in laying claim to improvements in which perhaps he had had but a very small part. While I had more to do with bringing natural gas and good water to Lawrence than any other man, I have never called attention to such service in the Journal-World.

But I am happy that the paper through the years has turned out a number of men who have left their impress upon the state and nation.

With best wishes to you and your splendid family, I remain,

As ever,

W. C. Simons

WCS:en