

## A BABY SHOW

The following article was transcribed from the "*Boonville Weekly Advertiser*"

May 6, 1910 by Mrs. Dorothy Harlan

Babyland around Boonville has been all in a fluff since last week, when they received invitations from Nelson Leonard, Jr., to come to his party on Monday afternoon. The day proved to be a most inclement one for a May outing, for Jupiter was on his worst behavior, but with the assistance of the old reliable "bus," all the babies and their mama's were on hand.

The Leonard home on south Fifth St., was turned into a veritable baby kingdom for the afternoon. Comfortable cushions were scattered around on the floor of the reception suite, on which some of the toddlers immediately made themselves at home. Pure Jersey milk was also on tap, during the receiving hours, from four until six.

A few privileged guests were allowed to peep in, and it was a sight not soon to be forgotten. The little ones, too young to walk, were held in the arms of their admiring mothers, and all were dressed in their prettiest party clothes. Such an array of filmy white little dresses, hand-embroidered and lace trimmed, all looking like little white robed cherubs. And they were on their good behavior too! No fullfledged society folks would have done better.

Babies are natural in their manners, though, and they usually ask for what they want, when they want it. Of course it wasn't very polite of 'Gene Windsor to ask for his refreshments before luncheon was announced, but as this was his first party, his host excused him, and a "bottle" was forthcoming.

Ben Brewer got awfully hungry too, during the afternoon, but he was too much of a gentleman to say so, so he just stuck his fist in his mouth, and tried to appear satisfied.

Richard Martin, and Julia Kingsbury, were seated very close to each other on the floor, and with his big, beautiful brown eyes, he looked lovingly into coquettish blue ones, when suddenly he leaned over, and snatchd an "animal cracker" out of her hand. It mad Julia angry, and she crawled away, and turned her back on him. Served him right too!

Orrie Van Ravenswaay was the beau of the afternoon, and was exceedingly popular, and was very attentive to Ann Caroline Johnston. They left the crowd on the first floor, and found a cosy little nook, on the stair landing, where they were holding an interesting conversation. She must have said something to wound his feelings, for he left her and walked off to the opposite side. She waited a moment, then softly followed, and looking up into his handsome face, murmured something in silvery tones, which evidently pacified him, for he wheeled around, and catching her hand, they went skipping off together.

When Grandmother Leonard announced that the dining room was open, they acted quickly on her invitation, and mama's and little folks, grouped themselves around the table which was typically a "baby board."

Numerous tiny candleabra, held brightly burning waxen tapers, at which the tiny tots blinked their wondering eyes. Miniature vases were filled with slender stemmed lilies-of-the-valley, and golden hearted daisies. There were plates of "animal crackers," and tiny tubs and hampers of bon-bons. Twined in and about the table decoration were yards of dainty pink ribbon loops and ends, hanging to the floor. In a large circle around the center-piece was a row of North-pole babies in bisque, souvenirs of the occasion.

To those who had reached years of discretion were served, ice cream and strawberries, cake and coffee.

After refreshments, the mothers had a progressive, exchange of babies, exclaiming over the weight of one, the beautiful eyes of another, the dear little slippers of this one, the exquisitely made dress of that one, and so on.

Baby Nelson, by this time, was reclining languidly in his English carriage, but was doing his best to keep awake, while his guests were there. Perceiving this, Arthur Nelson, intimated to his Grandfather, Speed Stephens, he thought it was time to go, so the other guests, acting on his suggestion filed out, one by one, leaving the host, comfortably slumbering. During the afternoon three of the grandfathers, who could not resist the temptation, came up for a peep at the scene. They were, Captain C. E. Leonard, Judge W. M. Williams, and Mr. W. Speed Stephens. They tried their best not to look too proud, but their efforts were a failure, and their faces were simply beaming with pride, over the finest grandchildren, that can be found anywhere.

The honored guests present were, Richard Landsdowne Martin, Julia Kingsbury, Jessie Erard Cosgrove, Orrie VanRavenswaay, T. F. Waltz, Jr., Maximillian Gmelich Schmidt, Charles Johnston Hitch, Benjamin Grinstead Brewer of Charleston, Arthur Nelson, Jr. of Bunceton, Eugene Windsor, Jr., Ann Caroline Johnston, Rebecca Lionberger, William Lionberger Harlan and the host.