Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal

Paper Cuts

Elroy Ayer

*Lawrence Daily World*

Council Grove Daily Appeal

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The worth and service of the cowboy is not justly estimated by the people of the East who have generally regarded him as a wild semi-desperado... He is as weather-wise as a mariner and by the position of the Big Dipper from the north star at night can tell very near the correct time.

Elroy Ayer, Lawrence Daily World, (Lawrence, Kansas) 3 June 1908; former Lawrence resident living in Deming, NM.

The pole star is really the most important of the stars in the sky; it marks the north at all times; it alone is fixed in the heavens; all other stars seem to swing around it once in twenty-four hours. But the pole star of Polaris is not a very bright one and it would be hard to identify but for the help of the so-called pointers in the Big Dipper or Great Bear... The Great Bear is also to be remembered as the pointers for another reason. It is the hour hand of the woodman's clock. It goes once around the north star in about twenty-four hours, the reverse way of the hands of a watch; that is, it goes the same way as the sun and for the same reason—that it is the earth that is going and leaving them behind.

Value of the North Star, Council Grove Daily Appeal, (Council Grove, Kansas) 29 December 1904.