

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT.

Volume VIII. Number 166.

Decatur, Indiana. Saturday Evening, July 16, 1910.

Price Two Cents

BRUTAL MURDER

Moses E. Richer of Allen County Guilty of Sicken-ing Crime.

MADE CONFESSION

Charlie Coats Brutally Murred by His Foster Father.

Fort Wayne, Ind., July 16—Moses E. Richer, aged thirty-four years, a well-to-do farmer of Cedar Creek township, is prisoner at the county jail charged with first-degree murder. His victim is Charles Coats, a twelve-year-old lad taken from an orphans' asylum at Cleveland, Ohio, by Richer, in February of this year, with the understanding that he was to be furnished a good home. Richer has made a signed statement, now in possession of the state, in which he admits inflicting the wounds with which the boy's body was literally covered and which the authorities declare are directly responsible for the boy's death.

According to the evidence in the hands of the officers, the child died from the effects of a blow clout on the brain, resulting from a blow on the skull, when Richer threw him violently against the side of their house and when the breath left the bruised and mutilated body, the inhuman foster parent had the child face downward on the floor and was beating him with his hand. Prosecuting Attorney A. E. Thomas, who spent all of yesterday at the Richer farm conducting an examination, declared to representative of the Journal-Gazette last night that never in all his experience as an attorney or of crimes brought to his knowledge during his life time, had he ever found a case in which such atrocious brutality was in evidence as in this case. When the body of the little victim was exposed yesterday for a postmortem examination, it was found covered with wounds from head to foot and the physicians and officials, hardened as they are to revolting spectacles, were inexpressibly shocked upon finding that the child's flesh had been bitten off in great chunks by human teeth. It was stated last night that it was impossible to find a space six inches square on the body that did not show the effects of a wound, the abrasions and scars varying in age from twenty-four hours to six weeks. From each finger and toe the skin and flesh was torn and bitten, while all over the body the marks of teeth wounds and blows were to be seen. On the boy's back was a raw and inflamed sore as large as a man's hand, which proved to be the result of a burn inflicted when Richer backed the boy against a hot stove six weeks ago. No physician had been called to attend the injury, but Richer stated that he had been treating it with a mixture of turtle oil and turpentine. The face and ears were scratched and cut and Richer finally admitted that these marks were inflicted when he had ground the lad's face in the dirt on punishing him Tuesday. A raw abrasion around the neck at first indicated that an attempt had been made to hang the boy or that he had tried to end his own misery, but Richer stated that this mark was caused when he caught the boy by the collar of his waist and twisted the garments in his muscular grip. Certain organs of the body were mutilated in an indescribable manner and the wife of the alleged murderer declared that this was the method taken by Richer to punish the boy when he objected to having his hurts treated with the mixture of turtle oil and turpentine.

While an attempt was made yesterday morning by Richer and his wife to account for the death of the boy on the theory that he had been found trampled unconscious by an unruly cow in the barn, a little adroit questioning soon disproved this tale utterly and the true facts were obtained. Mrs. Richer's story, which is said to agree in detail with the story told by Richer and signed by him in his confession, is as follows:

"Richer drove to Fort Wayne Thursday with a load of produce, leaving the boy with instructions to attend to

the work about the stables, and upon his return at 3 o'clock found that none of the work had been attended to. The wife told Richer that she had tried to persuade the boy to carry out the orders but that she had been unable to make him mind. About 5 o'clock Richer and the boy went to the field to drive up the cows. While Richer was milking the boy was again told to care for the stables, but neglected to do so. Richer then attacked him in the barnyard and pummeled him with his fists.

"From the barnyard Richer took the child to the house, where he began to beat him again, throwing him with great violence against the side of the house a number of times. Suddenly the boy fell unconscious and was picked up by Richer and his wife, who gave whisky and water and finally revived him. He complained then of intense pain in his head and said that he hurt all over. His clothing was removed and the child was sent upstairs to bed, going up by himself, and was allowed to remain for an hour. Then he was called downstairs again, it being necessary to call him half a dozen times. He came down (Continued on page 4.)

THE NEW OFFICERS

The Pocahontas Lodge Installed and Enter Upon Their Duty

FOR NEXT HALF YEAR

Mrs. Anna Yahne Elected Pocahontas—Two Hold Office For Year.

The Pocahontas lodge held its semi-annual installation of officers, at which time the following entered into service for the next half year:

Pocahontas—Mrs. Anna Yahne. Enonah—Mrs. Stella Crist. Prophefess—Mrs. Mary Hunt. Powahontan—W. M. Darwechter. First Scout—Mrs. Irene Steele. Second Scout—Mrs. Mary Garard. First Counsellor—Mrs. Bessie Weis. Second Counsellor—Mrs. Leota Eno.

First Runner—Mrs. Hildebrand. Second Runner—Mrs. Alive Brokaw. Guard of Forest—Mrs. Rebecca Eady.

Guard of the Tepee—Mrs. Catherine Christen.

First Warrior—Mrs. Rosa Lord. Second Warrior—Mrs. Sadie Cowley.

Third Warrior—Mrs. Rena Hoffmann.

Fourth Warrior—Mrs. Jessie Burd. Mrs. Flo Patton, keeper of wampum, and Mrs. Flo Bain, keeper of records, for the last half year, will keep their offices for the next half year also.

PICNIC AT NEW CORYDON.

The Modern Woodmen lodge of New Corydon is holding a picnic today in the Kranner grove in Jefferson township. The Hon. James J. Moran of Portland, brother of Attorney J. C. Moran and son of Thomas Moran, of this city is the orator of the day.

PETITION FOR DRAIN.

Peterson & Moran have filed with the auditor a petition by David Barber et al., for a drain, affecting land in Jefferson township, this county, and Mercer county, Ohio.

Miss Lottie King, who has been visiting with her aunt, Mrs. David Stoler, left today for her home at Greenfield, Ohio.

A two year-old babe, who, with its mother from Portland, had been visiting with the latter's sister, Mrs. F. Addison, on Sixth street, became quite sick about noon today and went into one spasm after another. At times it was feared the babe was dying. Doctors attribute the spasms to indigestion.

Twenty-five were in attendance at the Christian Ladies' Aid at the home of Mrs. E. H. Shoemaker on Fifth street Friday afternoon. The devotional and social, with music and refreshments, constituted the order of the afternoon's program. Mrs. Dawson, wife of the pastor, with their daughter, Miss Mildred, were present, this being their introduction to the membership here, who extend to the

the membership here, who extend to the a cordial greeting.

HORRIBLE INJURY

Sustained in Runaway by Three and a Half Year Old Boy.

SON OF J. H. FORBISH

Skin Peeled From Left Arm Length of Ten Inches—Elbow Broken.

Paul, three-and-a-half-year-old son of John H. Forbush, who recently purchased the Martin Miller farm, two miles south of this city, where he as since resided, met with a severe accident late Friday evening, about 7:30 o'clock. The little lad had crawled upon the wagon, to which were hitched two horses—quite old farm horses, that had never been known to scare or run away. Mr. Forbush had gone several yards away from the wagon to attend to some matters, when the horses, from some unknown cause, took fright and turned short in the yard at the Forbush home, then out into the road, ran to the Henry Barkley home about an eight of a mile. The little boy was thrown from the wagon and in some way the skin was peeled from the arm and forearm to a length of ten inches, laying bare the blood vessels. The arm was also broken at the elbow, and to add to these frightful injuries the horses stepped on the boy's left foot, badly injuring that member. Added to the painful injuries was the weakness from great loss of blood. Dr. Boyers was hastily called and gave the little fellow the required medical attention, and a call on him again this morning by the doctor found him doing very well, in spite of the seriousness of the injury. The case was a very pitiful one. The little babe, who was accustomed to going quite early to sleep, losing all his childhood sorrows in dreamland, and not understanding why he could not do so Friday night in his pain, cried pitifully that he allowed to go to sleep.

TO BUILD A BLOCK

Henry Althoen to Give Willshire a New Brick Business Block.

IS COMING BACK

Fred Tague Reported to be Entering Insurance Business Here.

What will indeed be good news to this town and community is the fact that Henry Althoen has purchased the Banta lot on the corner of State and Decatur streets, and will as soon as possible start the erection of a new business block to cover the entire three lots in that half block. There will be five business rooms downstairs, three on State and two on Decatur, while the upstairs will probably be fitted up for lodges rooms. Part of the material has been contracted for already and the balance is to be secured.

Fred Tague, who for several years conducted a shoe store in Decatur, selling out about half a year ago, and going to Greenville, Ohio, has sold out there and will move back to Decatur, where he will engage in the insurance business.—Willshire Herald.

FROM MT. CLEMENS.

Dan Beery and James Harkless of Paulding, Ohio, and Ervin Hower of Anderson came home from Mt. Clemens, where they have been for some few days past. While there they took the benefit of the healthful treatment and report that they are feeling very much improved.

HE WILL REPORT AT ONCE.

Tom Railing Goes to Buffalo as Announced Some Time Ago.

Tom Railing, the lad after whom Decatur was named, has been bought from the Flint team in the Michigan league by Buffalo and will report at once. Railing was formerly with the Shamrocks and is a tall, rangy, right-hand pitcher, that worked at various times with almost uncaring success at a half dozen of the smaller towns about Fort Wayne. While he worked for Cleary's nine, the pitcher threw several good games and gave promise of going up, not alone through his pitching, but also his hitting. He has been in the Michigan league for the past two years. Goodie Henderson, who puts in his winters instilling the three R's into the Woodburn young hopefuls, is also said to have been sold to an eastern league club, but the deal has not been officially announced as yet. Henderson was in the New York state earlier in the season and didn't do anything out of the ordinary. He is with the Battle Creek club at present.—Fort Wayne News.

WATER POLLUTED

Family Drank From Well in Which Dead Toad and Chicken Were Found.

CAUSED SICKNESS

And Examination of Well Revealed the Cause—An Unusual Case.

Mrs. Emerson Elzey of west of the city has been suffering for some time with stomach trouble. Last week it was decided to examine the well, which is an old-fashioned, walled-in, dug well, in which the water had become almost undrinkable—in fact the family had found it necessary to use it with lemons to make it palatable. A dead toad was found in the well and later a little dead chicken, which no doubt had been in the well for a long time, tainting the water during this time. Since the discovery of the illness of Mrs. Elzey has been attributed to this. She is recovering, however, and was able to come to town today. A sample of the water will be sent by Dr. Grandstaff to the state chemist for examination. Dug wells are the source of much illness at this time, especially typhoid fever, and nearly all have been abandoned for the most healthful and pure drilled-in-the-rock wells.

WILL LECTURE.

Portland Priest, Well Known Here, Will Go on Tour.

Rev. Father Travers, pastor of the St. Mary's church at Portland, well known to a number of people of this city, who is at present making an European tour, writes his friends that on his return he will go on a speaking tour under the auspices of the Chicago Lyceum company. At present he is visiting in Berlin and says it is the most interesting place so far visited by him. His subjects will be based mostly on his travels, although he will speak on other points if so desired. He is an able speaker and has been heard here upon several occasions.

FILES A BIG DAMAGE SUIT.

The A. & C. Stone Company at Ridgeville Are Defendants.

One of the biggest damage suits in years has just been filed in the Randolph circuit court in which Raymond Walker of Ridgeville is the plaintiff and the A. & C. Stone company of the same place is the defendant. Walker had his eyes blown out in an explosion at the quarry last fall and he is seeking to recover damages in the sum of \$25,000.

FROM MT. CLEMENS.

The Decatur Elks have all returned from Detroit, where they spent the week and were highly entertained, and where they attended the sessions of the Elks' meeting held there. Detroit made ample preparation for the entertainment of the thousands of Elks that were there from all over the country and every one had a good time.

INSURANCE ADJUSTED MONDAY.

Insurance in the sum of \$475 in the French township Insurance company was carried on the Joel Falk barn, which burned Thursday night, and the matter will be adjusted Monday. Charles Muhma of Union township is the agent. It is quite likely that the barn will be rebuilt.

ON MACADAM ROAD

Cal Guffey, a Pennsylvania Multi-Millionaire, a Little Short.

Martin Laughlin Adjusting Settlement of Monroe Township Number 5.

NOT MUCH BUILDING

Macadam Road Building is Not as Brisk as in the Palmy Days.

Martin Laughlin, commissioner for Adams county, representing the southern district, has been spending most of the week in going over the Monroe extension five macadam road, otherwise known as the Mercer and Adams street, and while settlement with the board will not likely be concluded before the August term of the commissioners' court, yet it is believed that the difficulties existing between the contractor and the people along the line of the improvement will be adjusted and that satisfactory to all concerned. The road or street has been completed for some time, but a remonstrance was filed against its acceptance by some interested parties. Since that time the matter has been hanging fire and this manner of settlement was finally agreed to by all interested. Mr. Laughlin is known by every one in the county as a strictly conscientious man and whatever he suggests in the way of settlement will likely be agreed to.

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And Examination of Well Revealed the Cause—An Unusual Case.

Macadam road building in Adams county is not as brisk as in the palmy days, but nevertheless several roads will be constructed, and several others begun last year will be completed. Bonds for a few roads will soon be in the hands of the lithographer and others sold will turn into the county treasury and then work upon the improvements will begin.

John Yager, who attended the Elks' convention at Detroit for several days, returned home last evening.

HE WAS BOUND OVER

Dan Straub Guilty of Bootlegging and Bound Over to the Circuit Court.

HE IS NOW IN JAIL

Esq. Stone Fixed His Bond at Two Hundred Dollars—Jail is Lonesome.

Dan Straub was in Esquire Stone's court long enough this morning to be given a preliminary hearing, in which he drew a finding of guilty and was bound over for further action by the Adams circuit court, his bond being fixed in the sum of two hundred dollars. The charge upon which he was found guilty was that of bootlegging, he having sold two bottles of Centreville beer for the sum of twenty cents a bottle. The evidence was clear and now Dan will likely have to spend the summer months in the county jail as it is not probable that he will be able to secure bond and his liberty pending the action of the circuit court, which will not meet now until the first of September.

Other news in police and the justice of the peace offices is rather scarce and a mighty good evidence that the most of the Decatur citizenship is at peace with the world. At present writing Mr. Straub is the only inmate of the Adams county jail, indicating that that institution is a lonesome place on these hot days.

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A LITTLE FINANCIAL TROUBLE.

Cal Guffey, a Pennsylvania Multi-Millionaire, a Little Short.

Pittsburg, Pa., July 16—Col. James M. Guffey, national democratic committeeman for Pennsylvania, and multimillionaire oil man, who figured prominently as an object of attack by the Bryan adherents at the national democratic convention at Denver, has gone into the hands of a receiver, appointed by Judge Joseph M. Swearingen in the common please court of this county. The action was taken upon a bill in equity filed by J. H. Galey. John S. Willard was named as receiver. The bill alleges that Colonel Guffey's indebtedness is about \$6,700,000, of which about \$350,000 is unsecured; that the defendant has no ready money with which to meet the payments due, and that certain creditors are threatening to sell his collaterals and enter suit.

Mr. and Mrs. Els Tyndall and children left today noon for Van Wert, Ohio, to be the guests of relatives for a few days.

COURT HOUSE NEWS

A. H. Sellemyer Has Been Appointed as Guardian For Three Minors.

ON HIS VACATION

Judge Merryman Will Leave in a Few Days For Lake Hamilton.

A. H. Sellemyer has been appointed by the Adams circuit court as guardian of Florence L. McLain, Daniel and John R. Small, and has filed his bond and otherwise qualified as such an officer of the court.

A. H. Sellemyer as administrator of the Matilda Reed estate has made his final report.

Judge Merryman and his family expect to leave within the next week for their summer outing and vacation, and will spend some time at Lake Hamilton, located near the Michigan state line. They expect to have a delightful time while gone.

Many of the township trustees appeared at the auditor's office today and drew their semi-annual draw, and which will be used by them in their various funds for the transactions of the business of their township. Within the next few days all will likely have taken out their allotment of cash.

HE FLIMMED THE JEWELER.

James Welsh is Now in Jail and Will Thus Pay the Fiddler.

James Welsh flimmed E. E. Mosiman, a Bluffton jeweler, out of a gold watch and is now in jail in that city. He told the authorities that he is a Greek and that he is employed in a Marion glass factory. Sheriff Carlisle of Wells county was in the city yesterday making inquiries, but could find no one who had ever heard of such a man. He worked his trick on Mosiman by pretending to want to purchase a watch and when the jeweler's attention was attracted to another customer, "lifted" one of the watches, which had been displayed, and substituted a cheap article in its place. He was located in a pawn shop, where he was making an effort to dispose of the stolen timepiece.—Marion Tribune.