

DAILY DEMOCRAT

Published Every Evening Except Sunday by

The Decatur Democrat Company

JOHN H. HELLER.....President

ARTHUR R. HOLTHOUSE, Secretary

Subscription Rates.

Per Week, by carrier.....10 cents

Per Year, by carrier.....\$5.00

Per Month, by mail.....25 cents

Per Year, by mail.....\$3.00

Single Copies.....2 cents

Advertising rates made known on application.

Entered at the Postoffice in Decatur, Indiana, as second-class matter.

Talking about parks, the old fair grounds could be converted into one of the beauty spots of Indiana and at a small expense. Let's do it in this good year of our Lord, 1917.

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE HOPE YOUR PROSPERITY STARTS TODAY AND CONTINUES THE NEXT 365 DAYS AND THEN BUBBLES OVER FOR A DECADE OR TWO.

An old-fashioned indoor fair in the early spring would prove a winner and produce a fund that could be used for factory purposes and to improve this city. The business men can make money and create a feeling that will make this the greatest trading point within a territory of forty miles. If they keep on hustling as they have the past month.

The allies have formally turned down the proposal for a peace conference as offered by Germany on the grounds that they first want some idea as to what the Entente expect. The slaughter will go on and it looks now as though the next year will see the worst campaign of the world conflict which long ago went beyond all comprehension for destruction of men and wasting of nations.

Early tomorrow morning you should drop into one of the local banks and start a Christmas saving card. You will thus make a thrifit resolution that will bring you much satisfaction and happiness during the next year and perhaps many years. It's a habit worth forming, that of saving, a guard against the rainy day, the time when comes to all of us when the earning power is gone. Do it tomorrow!

We would say that Saturday was a successful business day in Decatur. We have talked to numerous merchants and they seem greatly pleased. We also talked to hundreds of farmers and townspeople and they all agreed that Auto Day was a big event. It is hoped that they will be continued, for they liven up the people of the community and this means a lot to everybody.

As we start the New Year we are promised the Alfo Products company, have a partial promise of at least one other good manufacturing concern, rumors of two or three, hints that the Clover Leaf division may come here in the spring, a new high school building, a couple of business blocks, plans for many new dwellings, proposed street and road improvements and other dreams that ought to make that a busy, profitable and happy year. We

can help make it better. Let's get off right.

The general assembly of Indiana will soon be on, Thursday, the opening day. With a republican governor and control of both houses we may now expect quick remedies in the way of taxation, liquor regulation, operation of state institutions, the abolition of at least half the commissions and offices in the state and a saving to the taxpayers of many hundred thousand dollars. At least these are among the promises as made during the recent campaign and to which they should be held by the people of the state. Let's have it, all of it right away quick.

Today is the time to make resolutions and convince yourself that you ought to keep them. Hang onto them like a bull pup to a piece of porter house beef steak. We can make Decatur the best town on earth and Adams county the finest spot in all the world. It's not far from that right now. Visit any other city of 5,000 or county of the proportions of this one and you will return convinced that everything considered the inhabitants here have a lot to be thankful for. Let's go forward in 1917 and not backward. We can do it if we all boost and push.

DOINGS IN SOCIETY

WEEK'S SOCIAL CALENDAR.

Tuesday.

Tri Kappas—Postponed.

Pythian Sisters—K of P. Home.

Thursday.

Christian Pastoral Helpers—Mrs. G. C. Steele's section—Mrs. Lawrence Schlegel.

Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Forbing and children of Fort Recovery, Ohio, are New Year's guests of his father, Peter Forbing, and family.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson, Miss Marie Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart, with Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman saw the old year pass out and ushered in the new year at the Hoffman home on Winchester street Sunday night. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Hoffman serving a most excellent buffet luncheon at the midnight hour. To make the entertainment complete, at two o'clock this morning, joined by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lankenau and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hubbard, they serenaded Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pumphrey, and their guests, a bride and groom, who are visiting at their home on their honeymoon. Mr. Pumphrey admitted the early morning visitors, and passed the cigars, but the bride and groom refused to surrender. It was pronounced the most enjoyable New Year's eve that the members of the party had ever passed.

The Tri Kappas have postponed their meeting until Tuesday evening of next week, when Miss Marie Patterson will be hostess. Miss Helen Niblick will have the program.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson gave a dinner party yesterday for Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson and children, of Marmaduke, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sprang and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Patterson and daughter, Marie.

One of the merry watch parties, awaiting the advent of the new year was given at the D. H. Hower home last evening by the Misses Mabel Hower and Irene Butler for sixteen and one-half Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Zezula, son, Glen, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth; Mr. and Mrs. Will Trim, sons, Virgil, Warren and Joe, and daughter, Lucie. All departed, wishing Grandpa Trim many more happy birthdays.

The Pythian Sisters will meet Tuesday evening when the election of officers will take place. The meeting night was changed from tonight on account of New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman entertained at watch party last evening in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson of Marmaduke, Ark. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Miss Marie Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs. At one o'clock they went to the Pumphrey home where they serenaded the family and their guests, which included a bride and groom.

Miss LeeAnna Vance was hostess at a lovely holiday party at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heuer yesterday afternoon. The Heuer home was a veritable "Kris Kringle's headquarters" and the party of thirteen young folks enjoyed every minute of the affair. The large Christmas tree in the bay window was brilliant with its trimmings, topped with a bright star, around which cherubim poised in flight. A carpet of snow was spread under the tree, over which miniature Santa Clauses and reindeer, and shepherds' flocks roamed. The deeper spiritual significance of the Christmas time was exemplified in the representation of the Christ-child in the manger and in another setting where angels guarded the lowly

home of the child. The lighting effect was particularly beautiful. Under a large white Christmas bell, Mr. Heuer, with the Victrola, furnished Christmas music and also stories of which highly pleased the children. Southern smilax, Santa Claus posters or the arches, and Christmas wreaths and holly made the home rather attractive. Miss Vance met her guests at the door, and party being brought by Miss Eleanor Reppert. The festivities began at once and were never ceasing until the time of departure, the Heuer automobile conveying them to their homes. Songs and recitations were given by the little folks and Miss Dellie Sellemyer told them lovely stories. For the supper march, music was played, and lead by LeeAnna, they wound through the rooms, finally ending in the dining room, where places were designated by Santa Claus napkins, and red candles, made the table and its appointments pretty. Wafers, cocoa, candies and nuts were served. The little folks who enjoyed the event with the hostess were Naomi Stolte, Margaret and Robert Frisinger, Gretchen Schaefer, Betty Erwin, Eleose Lewton, Helen Haubold, Virginia Hite, Nedra Gladney, Margaret Atz, Martha Sellemyer.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Forbing and children of Fort Recovery, Ohio, are New Year's guests of his father, Peter Forbing, and family.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson, Miss Marie Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart, with Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman saw the old year pass out and ushered in the new year at the Hoffman home on Winchester street Sunday night. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Hoffman serving a most excellent buffet luncheon at the midnight hour. To make the entertainment complete, at two o'clock this morning, joined by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lankenau and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hubbard, they serenaded Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pumphrey, and their guests, a bride and groom, who are visiting at their home on their honeymoon. Mr. Pumphrey admitted the early morning visitors, and passed the cigars, but the bride and groom refused to surrender. It was pronounced the most enjoyable New Year's eve that the members of the party had ever passed.

The Tri Kappas have postponed their meeting until Tuesday evening of next week, when Miss Marie Patterson will be hostess. Miss Helen Niblick will have the program.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson gave a dinner party yesterday for Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson and children, of Marmaduke, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sprang and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Patterson and daughter, Marie.

One of the merry watch parties, awaiting the advent of the new year was given at the D. H. Hower home last evening by the Misses Mabel Hower and Irene Butler for sixteen and one-half Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Zezula, son, Glen, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth; Mr. and Mrs. Will Trim, sons, Virgil, Warren and Joe, and daughter, Lucie. All departed, wishing Grandpa Trim many more happy birthdays.

The Pythian Sisters will meet Tuesday evening when the election of officers will take place. The meeting night was changed from tonight on account of New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman entertained at watch party last evening in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson of Marmaduke, Ark. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Miss Marie Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs. At one o'clock they went to the Pumphrey home where they serenaded the family and their guests, which included a bride and groom.

Miss LeeAnna Vance was hostess at a lovely holiday party at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heuer yesterday afternoon. The Heuer home was a veritable "Kris Kringle's headquarters" and the party of thirteen young folks enjoyed every minute of the affair. The large Christmas tree in the bay window was brilliant with its trimmings, topped with a bright star, around which cherubim poised in flight. A carpet of snow was spread under the tree, over which miniature Santa Clauses and reindeer, and shepherds' flocks roamed. The deeper spiritual significance of the Christmas time was exemplified in the representation of the Christ-child in the manger and in another setting where angels guarded the lowly

Mrs. G. C. Steele's section of the Christian Pastoral Helpers will be entertained Friday afternoon by Mrs. Lawrence Schlegel.

One of the prettiest of the holiday festivities was the supper dance Saturday evening given by Miss Dorothy Dugan for thirty-six guests. The smooth waxed floors polished to their brightest, the beautiful Christmas tree and the Christmas greens retaining all their evergreen beauty, made the setting especially attractive. A three-course supper was provided at seven o'clock and following the musicians, who were John Wemhoff, pianists, of Fort Wayne, and Elmo Smith, drummer, sounded the notes for the dances. There were sixteen numbers, and the program, with their water color illustrations, were pretty features. There were many out of town guests, among them being Miss Grace Gray, New York City; Florence Goodrich, Juanita Hardman, Pierre Goodrich, Hal Ruby, Don Kenyon, Bob Moser, Winchester; Marjory and Will Rohan, Fort Wayne; Kenneth Fulton, Ed McGriff, Portland; Hilard Walmer, George Swisher, Elfrid Bluffton; Verne Mitchell, Monroeville; Paul Sauer, Markle. The Winchester party remained for the weekend house party at the Dugan home, returning to Winchester last evening. Miss Gray and Miss Goodrich, who are Wellesley students, and Pierre Goodrich, a Harvard student, will remain in Indiana until after the inauguration of Governor Goodrich in Indianapolis, when they are anticipating the round of festivity incident to the inauguration.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Forbing and children of Fort Recovery, Ohio, are New Year's guests of his father, Peter Forbing, and family.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson, Miss Marie Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart, with Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman saw the old year pass out and ushered in the new year at the Hoffman home on Winchester street Sunday night. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Hoffman serving a most excellent buffet luncheon at the midnight hour. To make the entertainment complete, at two o'clock this morning, joined by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lankenau and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hubbard, they serenaded Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pumphrey, and their guests, a bride and groom, who are visiting at their home on their honeymoon. Mr. Pumphrey admitted the early morning visitors, and passed the cigars, but the bride and groom refused to surrender. It was pronounced the most enjoyable New Year's eve that the members of the party had ever passed.

The Tri Kappas have postponed their meeting until Tuesday evening of next week, when Miss Marie Patterson will be hostess. Miss Helen Niblick will have the program.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson gave a dinner party yesterday for Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson and children, of Marmaduke, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sprang and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Patterson and daughter, Marie.

One of the merry watch parties, awaiting the advent of the new year was given at the D. H. Hower home last evening by the Misses Mabel Hower and Irene Butler for sixteen and one-half Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Zezula, son, Glen, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth; Mr. and Mrs. Will Trim, sons, Virgil, Warren and Joe, and daughter, Lucie. All departed, wishing Grandpa Trim many more happy birthdays.

The Pythian Sisters will meet Tuesday evening when the election of officers will take place. The meeting night was changed from tonight on account of New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman entertained at watch party last evening in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson of Marmaduke, Ark. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Miss Marie Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs. At one o'clock they went to the Pumphrey home where they serenaded the family and their guests, which included a bride and groom.

Miss LeeAnna Vance was hostess at a lovely holiday party at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heuer yesterday afternoon. The Heuer home was a veritable "Kris Kringle's headquarters" and the party of thirteen young folks enjoyed every minute of the affair. The large Christmas tree in the bay window was brilliant with its trimmings, topped with a bright star, around which cherubim poised in flight. A carpet of snow was spread under the tree, over which miniature Santa Clauses and reindeer, and shepherds' flocks roamed. The deeper spiritual significance of the Christmas time was exemplified in the representation of the Christ-child in the manger and in another setting where angels guarded the lowly

home of the child. The lighting effect was particularly beautiful. Under a large white Christmas bell, Mr. Heuer, with the Victrola, furnished Christmas music and also stories of which highly pleased the children. Southern smilax, Santa Claus posters or the arches, and Christmas wreaths and holly made the home rather attractive. Miss Vance met her guests at the door, and party being brought by Miss Eleanor Reppert. The festivities began at once and were never ceasing until the time of departure, the Heuer automobile conveying them to their homes. Songs and recitations were given by the little folks and Miss Dellie Sellemyer told them lovely stories. For the supper march, music was played, and lead by LeeAnna, they wound through the rooms, finally ending in the dining room, where places were designated by Santa Claus napkins, and red candles, made the table and its appointments pretty. Wafers, cocoa, candies and nuts were served. The little folks who enjoyed the event with the hostess were Naomi Stolte, Margaret and Robert Frisinger, Gretchen Schaefer, Betty Erwin, Eleose Lewton, Helen Haubold, Virginia Hite, Nedra Gladney, Margaret Atz, Martha Sellemyer.

One of the prettiest of the holiday festivities was the supper dance Saturday evening given by Miss Dorothy Dugan for thirty-six guests. The smooth waxed floors polished to their brightest, the beautiful Christmas tree and the Christmas greens retaining all their evergreen beauty, made the setting especially attractive. A three-course supper was provided at seven o'clock and following the musicians, who were John Wemhoff, pianists, of Fort Wayne, and Elmo Smith, drummer, sounded the notes for the dances. There were sixteen numbers, and the program, with their water color illustrations, were pretty features. There were many out of town guests, among them being Miss Grace Gray, New York City; Florence Goodrich, Juanita Hardman, Pierre Goodrich, Hal Ruby, Don Kenyon, Bob Moser, Winchester; Marjory and Will Rohan, Fort Wayne; Kenneth Fulton, Ed McGriff, Portland; Hilard Walmer, George Swisher, Elfrid Bluffton; Verne Mitchell, Monroeville; Paul Sauer, Markle. The Winchester party remained for the weekend house party at the Dugan home, returning to Winchester last evening. Miss Gray and Miss Goodrich, who are Wellesley students, and Pierre Goodrich, a Harvard student, will remain in Indiana until after the inauguration of Governor Goodrich in Indianapolis, when they are anticipating the round of festivity incident to the inauguration.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Forbing and children of Fort Recovery, Ohio, are New Year's guests of his father, Peter Forbing, and family.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson, Miss Marie Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart, with Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman saw the old year pass out and ushered in the new year at the Hoffman home on Winchester street Sunday night. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Hoffman serving a most excellent buffet luncheon at the midnight hour. To make the entertainment complete, at two o'clock this morning, joined by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lankenau and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hubbard, they serenaded Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pumphrey, and their guests, a bride and groom, who are visiting at their home on their honeymoon. Mr. Pumphrey admitted the early morning visitors, and passed the cigars, but the bride and groom refused to surrender. It was pronounced the most enjoyable New Year's eve that the members of the party had ever passed.

The Tri Kappas have postponed their meeting until Tuesday evening of next week, when Miss Marie Patterson will be hostess. Miss Helen Niblick will have the program.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson gave a dinner party yesterday for Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patterson and children, of Marmaduke, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sprang and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Patterson and daughter, Marie.

One of the merry watch parties, awaiting the advent of the new year was given at the D. H. Hower home last evening by the Misses Mabel Hower and Irene Butler for sixteen and one-half Decatur. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Zezula, son, Glen, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth; Mr. and Mrs. Will Trim, sons, Virgil, Warren and Joe, and daughter, Lucie. All departed, wishing Grandpa Trim many more happy birthdays.

The Pythian Sisters will meet Tuesday evening when the election of officers will take place. The meeting night was changed from tonight on account of New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hoffman entertained at watch party last evening in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson of Marmaduke, Ark. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Miss Marie Patterson, Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Burroughs. At one o'clock they went to the Pumphrey home where they serenaded the family and their guests, which included a bride and groom.

Miss LeeAnna Vance was hostess at a lovely holiday party at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Heuer yesterday afternoon. The Heuer home was a veritable "Kris Kringle's headquarters" and the party of thirteen young folks enjoyed every minute of the affair. The large Christmas tree in the bay window was brilliant with its trimmings, topped with a bright star, around which cherubim poised in flight. A carpet of snow was spread under the tree, over which miniature Santa Clauses and reindeer, and shepherds' flocks roamed. The deeper spiritual significance of the Christmas time was exemplified in the representation of the Christ-child in the manger and in another setting where angels guarded the lowly

VILLA IN POWER

Mexican Bandit Regains

Much Lost Power in De-

feat of Defacto Troops.

MANY MEN ENGAGED

Government Reports Says

Bandit Administered De-

cisive Defeat at La Cruz.

(United Press Service)

(By Webb Miller.)

El Paso, Jan. 1—(Special to Daily Democrat)—In the biggest battle in point of numbers of men engaged since Villa regained power in northern Mexico, Villistas have decisively defeated a column of government troops sent out to halt the northward progress of the bandit forces. The battle occurred at La Cruz, according to reports obtained by United States authorities today.

(By Robert J. Bender)

Washington, Jan. 1—(Special to the Daily Democrat)—The life or death of the present peace movement rests wholly in the hands of Germany.