

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

Volume XVIII. Number 10

Decatur, Indiana, Monday Evening, January 12, 1920.

Price Two Cents

DEAD TWO WEEKS BODY IS FOUND

J. F. Spuhler, Missing Since Christmas, Found Dead in His Home Sunday

DIED OF SUFFOCATION

Caused While Fighting Fire—Face and Body Mutilated by Rats and Mice

Because he had not seen his neighbor for over two weeks and prompted by a desire to learn of his whereabouts, fearing that he might be sick and in need of medical attention and that he could be of some assistance to him, Ed Augenbaugh went to the home of John Fred Spuhler on South Fifth street yesterday afternoon, looked in the window and seeing that things were "topsy-turvy," went back home and called Sheriff Seph Melchi who responded immediately. They, with Mrs. Augenbaugh forced an entrance into the Spuhler home, there to find the body lying on the floor, dead, frozen and partly eaten by the rats and mice. The sight was shocking. The face was terribly disfigured and chewed by the four-legged pests, the ears, nose and cheeks being eaten away as well as other parts of the body. The body was in a fairly good state of preservation, the frozen condition preserving it.

Coroner D. D. Clark was called to the scene and then the Black & Oetting ambulance was called and the body removed to the morgue.

The supposition of Sheriff Melchi and Mr. Augenbaugh is, that Mr. Spuhler died from suffocation, there being evidence of a small fire in the house. It is supposed that upon going home one night, he proceeded to start a fire in the large laundry stove in the middle room, which in some manner exploded, throwing the flames over the bed and floor, the bedding being burned in several places and showed that Mr. Spuhler had put up an earnest fight to extinguish the flames, while the walls of the little house were black from smoke and soot was scattered over the floor. It is thought Mr. Spuhler attempted to start the fire in the stove with some coal oil, which exploded when it hit the flames, there being oil spots on the walls and ceiling and a small can lid on top of the stove which showed that it had contained oil. In his effort to put out the fire, he more than likely was suffocated and tried to reach the back door but was overcome and there fell to the floor, his head lighting on a mop bucket.

With the exception of one shoe and the shirt, the body was clothed, which fact leads to the belief that Mr. Spuhler was in the act of retiring for the night when the stove exploded.

The last that any one saw of Mr. Spuhler was just before Christmas. Nathan Beckner stated to Seph Melchi that he talked with him the day before Christmas and on this night it is believed that Mr. Spuhler died.

After the body was taken to the Black & Oetting morgue and embalmed it was found that his face was burned in several places.

Coroner Clark has not as yet given his finding in the case but said that he was convinced that he died from suffocation.

Mr. Spuhler was well known in this city and county, having lived here the greater part of his life. He was born in Switzerland on July 10, 1844, coming to this country when a small boy. In 1878 he was married. Besides the wife, three children survive, Charles Spuhler of Branch, Mich., Aaron Spuhler of Detroit and Clara Spuhler of Pleasant Mills.

The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon from the Reformed church, Rev. Stolte officiating and burial will be made in the Maplewood cemetery.

CHICAGO MARKET CLOSE

(United Press Service)
Chicago, Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Corn: \$1.39 1/4; \$1.34 1/4; \$1.33. Oats: May, \$3; July 76 1/2.

INDIANAPOLIS MARKET

(United Press Service)
Hog receipts, 18,000; market 50 lower; best heavies, \$14.75; medium mixed, \$14.75@14.80; common choice \$14.75; bulk sales, \$14.75; cattle receipts, 15,000; steers \$13@13.50; cows and heifers, \$7@14; sheep receipts, 200. Tops, \$9@10.

MILWAUKEE CLUB SOLD.

(United Press Service)
Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The Milwaukee base ball club of the American association today was sold by Clarence Rowland, former manager of the Chicago White Sox, to a company of local men, consisting of Joseph O'Brien, secretary of the New York Giants, Otto Borchert, prominent in sporting circles as fight promoter, and W. H. Parks, former publisher of the Milwaukee News. Rowland owned 60 percent of the club's stock, which he purchased from the Timme interest.

WILL PROBATED

Ernest Isch Leaves Large Estate, Real and Personal to Wife, Elise Isch

FARM IS INCLUDED

Real Estate is Valued at \$53,200—Mrs. Isch Named as the Sole Executor

The will of the late Ernest Isch, who died last week leaves the entire property to his widow Mrs. Elise Isch. His real estate amounted to \$53,200 besides personal property of great value. The following items are set out in his will:

Item 1. Provided that all just debt and expenses of his late illness and funeral expenses are to be allowed out of the estate.

Item 2. Leaves all of his estate, both real and personal to his wife, Elise Isch, to have use of and control of this deemed just. She is given all this to enable her to properly rear and educate their children, viz. Sophie, Ella, Bertha, Joseph, Clara, Elmer, Amelia, Harold and Dorothy and to provide for them and herself a comfortable home and living from the 25 acres in French township.

Item 3. He nominates his wife, Elise Isch, sole executor of his last will authorizing her to settle all claim owing him, and all just indebtedness owed by him at time of his death.

CALL FOR MEETING

(United Press Service)
Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—President Wilson's call for the first meeting of the league of nations, in Paris next Friday, is expected to be issued at the white house today or tomorrow.

It is understood the president has prepared the call which is very brief and will make it public as soon as he gets the official word from Ambassador Wallace that plans are complete to have the league meet Friday. The United States will not participate in the session.

Wilson is to issue the call, despite the fact that this country is not a member of the league, because it was agreed when the peace treaty was being drafted, that he should perform that duty.

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE

(United Press Service)
Mexico City, Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—A new earthquake in Vera Cruz today was reported to have killed more than 100 persons.

A message from the governor of Puebla declared refugees had reached here reporting that six villages on the slopes of one mountain disappeared in the earthquake.

The minister of war has sent an ultimatum to rebel bands in the devastated areas that unless they cease harassing relief parties and cooperate with workers seeking to aid the suffering population he will order a concentration of federal troops against them.

TO DEMAND KAISER

Paris, Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The supreme council was scheduled to send a note to Holland early this week demanding surrender of the former kaiser for trial by the allies, it was understood today. The "big three," which was to resume its conferences over unfinished matters, was expected to arrive at a definite agreement for disposition of Pius before Wednesday. De Marcilly has been appointed French charge d'affaires in Berlin and will leave Saturday for Germany to resume diplomatic relations.

FAVOR INCREASE

County Council Appropriates \$600.00 to Increase Salary of County

SUPT. OF SCHOOLS

Reduce Bond Issue—Every Member of the Council Present at Session

The county council, composed of V. Kirsch, A. G. Briggs, Wm. Baumgartner, Ernest Conrad, Henry Eiting, Frank C. Wechter and John O. Kramer, in special session this morning, went on record as being in favor of raising the salary of the county school superintendent, they appropriating \$600.00 for that purpose.

Mr. Christen, the present superintendent is now receiving only \$1408.00 per year, out of which he must pay his expenses including the keeping of an automobile and traveling expenses. With the increase, it will give him a salary of \$2,008.50, out of which he will pay his expenses.

The council's action is the first to be taken by the several parties needed to authorize the increase, a petition signed by at least two hundred property owners, the consent and petition of the township trustees and then the board of commissioners to pay it being necessary before the increase can be granted.

Bond Issue Reduced
An ordinance was passed repealing a former ordinance to issue \$20,000 worth of bonds and changing the amount of the issue from \$20,000 to \$10,000. This former issue was authorized several months ago but the bonds were never issued.

The council appropriated the sum of \$2,134.50 to pay outstanding warrants, the funds for which had been transferred to the general fund the first of the year.

FACTORY DOPE

Steel Workers Arrive and Work Begins—Will Lay Brick Before Saturday

MR. MUELLER IS HERE

Looking Over Proposed Sites for Foundry—Industrial Board Tonight

Twenty-five steel workers reported on duty this morning and began the work of stringing the girders at the new factory plant under construction by the Ferguson company. The snow has been cleared away and the work will go on steadily. It is expected the bricklaying will start within the week. The south half of the Alto plant has been partitioned off and machinery is being stored there, preparatory to testing it. The switch is being constructed and will be ready for use within a short time.

Mr. F. G. Mueller, architect and consulting engineer for a large foundry company was here today, looking over the ground and taking data for his company. It is expected they will soon determine on a site for the location of a large foundry here.

The Industrial Association will meet this evening at 7:30 at the city hall at which time reports will be heard from the committees named at the meeting last Monday—night, on lights, rooms and board, permanent organization. It is said that rooms for 300 have been secured and that necessary this can be in creased to 500, showing that there is so far no alarming congestion in Decatur.

A committee of city officials and business men will go to Indianapolis tomorrow morning where they will appear at the hearing to be held before the state tax board at 1:30 and the public service commission at 2:30, concerning the granting of permission to build a new power plant in this city, and to issue bonds in the sum of \$75,000.

THE WEATHER FORECAST

Generally cloudy tonight and Tuesday and probably rain or snow extreme north portion, warmer.

OLD FASHIONED REVIVAL

The revival now in progress at the Church of God on Cleveland street is still growing. Rev. W. C. Gray of Huntington has arrived to assist the Rev. Mercer. Last night Rev. Gray preached to a house full of eager listeners. After the sermon four came to the altar of prayer and obtained a genuine experience of salvation. Meeting will continue all the week if you are interested in your soul, come and hear the pure gospel, if you are a christian, come and enjoy a feast to your soul.

POLITICS IS HOT

In Old Louisiana Where Democrats Have it All Their Way as Usual

SAYS JOHN FRISINGER

Former Decatur Man is Deeply Interested in Race for Governor Now on.

John M. Frisinger, former prominent business man and politician here, a leader in republican state politics and now a resident of Louisiana, where he is engaged in operating his ranch, writes us from that southern state and encloses some interesting information on the democratic primary now on there. He writes as follows:

Fairview, La., Jan. 6.

My Dear John:—As you are aware, there is but little politics down in my section but democracy, but it is quite interesting and at times amusing to the voter, especially the writer.

As you will note by the enclosures we have John M. Parker and a Mr. Stubbs, a soldier of the late war, on the democratic primary ticket for governor. Mr. Parker was our state fuel commissioner during the war, and quite a business man, but I think the young colonel will win the nomination on the 20th. There are four votes in my ward this year—just sufficient to hold the election.

We are having fine winter weather to date, only four or five frosts thus far; beginning to plow for crops, etc. With kindest regards to you and all the boys, I am

Yours truly,

J. M. FRISINGER.

DIED IN SEATTLE

Mrs. Flo Spencer Gardner Died Saturday Afternoon After 3 Months' Illness

WAS REARED HERE

Daughter of Late William Spencer—Funeral Service at Seattle Tomorrow

Mrs. W. L. Gardner, sister of William and Charles Spencer of this city, died Saturday afternoon at her home at Seattle, Wash., the sad news being received here in a message Sunday morning. She had been ill for three months past with inflammatory rheumatism and it is believed that death was due to that trouble. She was known here as Mrs. Flo Spencer Gardner, was born in the old Spencer homestead on north Second street in 1852. As a girl she was very popular here and will be remembered by all the older citizens. She was 67 years, 5 months and 25 days of age at the time of her death. Her last visit to Decatur was in 1901 when she attended the funeral of her father, William Spencer.

Mrs. Gardner was educated in the schools of this city and took a musical course in the Fort Wayne Conservatory. She was married to Mr. Gardner in 1886 and they lived at Rapid City South Dakota until 1901 when they moved to Seattle where they have since made their home. She is survived by the husband and two brothers, Will and Charles of this city.

The funeral services will be held from the home in Seattle Tuesday afternoon and interment at that city.

Miss Etta Maloney and Ruby Sheets went to Fort Wayne yesterday to visit Miss Helen Sheets at the Hope Methodist hospital.

A SUDDEN DEATH

Mrs. J. O. Manley, of Kirkland Township Expires as She Attempted to Arise

AFTER WEEK'S ILLNESS

Had Suffered from Neuritis but was Improving and Planned to Sit up Today

The sudden death of Mrs. J. O. Manley, well known and beloved woman of Kirkland township, occurred at 11:20 this morning, causing a terrible shock to the family and many friends.

Dr. D. D. Clark was summoned and will return a verdict of "death due to heart lesion, following neuritis." Mrs. Manley had been suffering more or less for some weeks with neuritis, inflammation of the nerves of the leg and for a week past had been confined to her bed. She had planned to sit up today and was just rising on the edge of the bed when she fell back dead.

She was forty-nine years old and is survived by the bereaved husband and three sons and two daughters. The family came here from Wren, Ohio, about seven years ago. Her maiden name was Hurlless. Funeral arrangements had not been announced this afternoon. Mrs. Manley was well known and had many friends in this city and in the surrounding country who will be shocked to hear of her sudden death.

BIRTHS.

Paul George is the name of an eleven pound boy born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Krick of Washington township yesterday. This is the eleventh child.

WILL MAKE PLANS

For Mid-Winter Editorial Meeting to be Held at Indianapolis Next Month

MR. PALMER COMING

Governor Cox of Ohio and Others of National Fame will be on the Program

Officers and members of the executive board of the Indiana Democratic Editorial association will meet at Indianapolis Thursday to complete plans for the annual mid-winter meeting of the association to be held in that city February 5 and 6.

Invitations have been forwarded to a number of national men and women, and the program will be an excellent one. Attorney General Palmer, of Washington; Governor Cox of Ohio and a woman of national reputation as a speaker and worker will, it is believed, be on the program. Arrangements for taking care of several hundred guests will be made and this year's event promises to be a most interesting one.

George L. Saunders of Bluffton is president of the association and J. H. Heller of this city is secretary. The association is recognized as one of the strong editorial organizations of the middle west.

TO BUSINESS MEN.

The Industrial association will meet at 7:30 this evening at the city hall to proceed with plans for a greater Decatur and every one interested should be present. Reports of committees will be heard and a discussion of matters of interest. Please be present.

J. H. HELLER,
Temporary Chairman.

A LIST OF RESERVATIONS

(United Press Service)
Washington, Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Coal operators today submitted to President Wilson's coal commission a list of reservations which they asked be passed upon before they will agree to accept the commission's award. Miners agreed to accept the commission wage award without reservation. The statement of both miners and operators were presented to the commission appointed to bring about settlement of the coal controversy as the inquiry opened.

TO NAME A SECRETARY

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Secretary of the Treasury Glass will confer with President Wilson late today in regard to his resignation and the naming of his successor. It was said at the white house that the secretaryship would be settled today.

R. C. Leffingwell, assistant secretary under both McAdoo and Glass, is looked upon as the favorite candidate of the post. Glass is to take his seat as senator from Virginia January 15.

NEW GRADE ORDER

Public Service Commission will Permit an Overhead Crossing Over

THE ERIE TRACKS

At Bobo—Former Order Modified—Commissioners in Session Today

The public service commission has made a new ruling relative to the building of the Erie crossing at Bobo, which change will save the county several thousand dollars and a triple amount to the Erie railroad company. The commission has sent a copy of its order to the board of county commissioners, which ruling was spread in the docket at its special session today. The case dates back as far as 1914 when a petition was made by Fred Hilpert and others to have the Erie change its crossing at Bobo by putting it overhead. The public service commission approved this change and since that time the matter has been opposed by the county and the Erie railroad company, who would have to pay the costs of the elevation. Under the old order it would have cost at least \$100,000 to build the crossing, while under the new order he cost will be about twenty-five thousand dollars, Adams county paying a one-fourth share. The service commission rules that the highway crossing be routed in a different way and that the course of the road be suit above the Erie tracks. The Erie will not raise or move its tracks, but will pay for three-fourths of the improvement. The present crossing is now considered a very dangerous one and under the new order it will be suit to a better advantage.

The commissioners authorized County Superintendent Christen to employ an assistant not to exceed 120 days in the year. The auditor was authorized to advertise for bids for the furnishing of a new truck to be used by the county highway superintendent.

ON THE NEWBERRY CASE.

W. H. Eichhorn arrived home Saturday to spend the weekend with his family and incidentally meet his many friends. He states that he has been busily engaged in his new work, that of assisting Frank C. Dailey in the prosecution of the alleged Michigan election frauds. Mr. Eichhorn states that an opinion of the presiding judge will be returned the first of the coming week, that there is little doubt that the indictments will be sustained, and in this event the case will be called Monday, January 26, at which time Senator Newberry and more than a hundred other politicians will be tried for election frauds. The case has attracted nationwide attention and the two Bluffton attorneys are confident of victory in spite of the fact that they will battle the foremost legal minds of the country—Bluffton Banner.

MUNCIE MAN KILLED.

(United Press Service)
Muncie, Ind., Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—George C. Driscoll, of Parker, was instantly killed today when he was run down by a Muncie-Winchester interurban car which he was about to board to return to his home. He walked directly in front of the car. He had been employed since Saturday as night watchman at a local packing plant.

A combination oil motor and steam turbine power plant has been patented for ships by a Swiss engineer, permitting the vessel to use the cheapest obtainable at the port it happens to be trading.

IT LOOKS BETTER FOR THE TREATY

The Treaty Situation Looks Better Today than it has for Many Months

RENEWED EFFORTS

To Bring About Ratification—Senator Owen Held a Meeting

(United Press Service)
Washington, Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Senator Lodge's demand for a democratic "show down" on treaty compromise was answered today when word was sent him through republican mild reservationists that "a substantial number of democrats more than twenty in all" will support reasonable reservations that do not "scuttle" the treaty. Lodge on Saturday demanded that before any further consideration be given democratic compromise proposals some definite assurance must be given him concerning the number of democratic votes behind the proposal.

Washington Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Renewed efforts to bring about a treaty compromise with interpretative reservations that President Wilson will accept were foreseen today when it became known that 20 democratic senators met at midnight at the residence of Senator Owen, Oklahoma, and resolved to do every thing possible to bring about a quick ratification.

Senators present, according to Senator Owen, included Hitchcock, administration leader in the treaty fight; Underwood, candidate for the democratic leadership; Hoke Smith, Georgia, and McKellar and Kendrick, who recently drew up a set of democratic reservations as a basis of compromise.

The meeting was called a few hours after Senator Lodge, republican leader, made a move to ascertain how many democrats would follow the advice of William J. Bryan and accept any kind of a compromise. In the maneuver, Lodge demanded that democratic leaders inform him how many democrats would vote for the McKellar-Kendrick reservations which were based on the Lodge reservation which the president refused to accept. Senator Owen then invited the democrats to his house to "talk it over." The result was that those present, including the administration's spokesmen on the floor of the senate, agreed to make every effort to obtain a compromise on the basis of "interpretative reservations" which Wilson would accept.

No program of reservations was drafted at the meeting it was stated, but the senators determined to go ahead and try to get a compromise on the basis of "interpretative reservations" acceptable to the president. "The treaty situation looks better than it has for months," it was stated today at the white house. There was no disposition to be concerned at the meeting of senators last night at Senator Owen's residence. That meeting was not considered a break-away from the president's leadership.

DODGE IS RECOVERING.

(United Press Service)
New York, N. Y., Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Horace Dodge, millionaire automobile manufacturer, ill with pneumonia at the Ritz Carlton hotel, was reported out of danger today. His brother, John Dodge, suffering from grippe at the same hotel, was said to be in a serious condition but confidence was expressed in his recovery. The brothers came here from Detroit a week ago to attend the automobile show. Both were taken ill Wednesday. They are under the care of Dr. Ira L. Hill, formerly of Detroit. Dr. Hill said today that Horace had safely passed the crisis and that he believed John would do so within a day or two.

OREGON RATIFIES SUFFRAGE

(United Press Service)
Salem, Ore., Jan. 12.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The Oregon senate today unanimously passed a joint resolution ratifying the federal suffrage amendment less than thirty minutes after the convening of the special session of the legislature.