

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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Price 2 Cents

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN DECATUR

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 3 AND 4--PRINCIPAL CLINE IS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THIS AFTERNOON--A BIG EVENT.

SEVERAL ROADS ARE COMPLETED

Forty Roads Were Completed or Begun in Adams County During Year

ABOUT FIFTY MILES

Added to Total, Which Now Reaches 650 Miles--Past Year Was a Busy One.

J. D. L. Cline, principal of the Decatur high school, received official notice this afternoon that Decatur had been selected as the place for holding one of the district basketball tournaments on Friday and Saturday, March 3rd and 4th.

The information was received from Arthur L. Chester, permanent secretary of the state organization, LaPorte, Indiana, and was splendid news for the school officials, basketball fans and players of this county. Professor Cline was also designated in the order to be central principal of the board of control for the tournament and will be in charge.

The information does not include the exact territory to be included in the tournament to be held here but formerly this included three counties and it is expected that not less than a dozen or fifteen teams with their "rooters" will be here for the big event. Mr. Cline will have charge of the entertainment of the visitors who will be taken care of in private homes while here.

The district tournaments are always important events attracting attention all over the state as the winners here will go to the sectional and state tournaments. This is the first tournament of its kind ever held here, the local fans having to content themselves heretofore with the county contest while this will give the followers of quintets the opportunity to see all the teams of the district. It is probable that among those who will engage here will be Monroe, Berne, Geneva, Kirkland, Hartford, Decatur, Bluffton, Portland, Bryant, Portland and others.

The winner here will take part in the state tournament either at Purdue or Indianapolis, it is expected. Details will be given in a few days. Mr. Worthman and Mr. Cline have been after the tournament for several weeks and are greatly elated over their success. Former tournaments for this district have been at Huntington and Bluffton.

TO SELL PARSONAGE

The trustees of the Baptist church are offering their property on Jefferson street for sale. This residence was purchased for a parsonage a year or so ago, the property being one of the Parrish residences, and will make a fine home for some one, or will probably prove a good investment. The home has been improved in many ways since it became the property of the church.

TO OPEN NEW SHOP.

Vaughn Murray and Franklin Franz automobile repair men, are opening a shop in the Erwin & Michaud room on Second street, where they will do vulcanizing, electrical work, handle accessories, etc., but because of the equipment not being here, the boys do not care to make further announcement until they are ready to take care of the business.

NEW PLANT AT GARY.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—(Special to Daily Democrat).—The Jones and Laughlin Co., of Pittsburgh, have negotiated a deal to purchase 1,000 acres of land in the Calumet region in which Gary and other steel towns are located, it was reported in financial circles here today.

According to reported plans, the Pittsburgh company will build the largest steel plant in the country.

Albert DeWolfe Erskine, consulting engineer, said he negotiated the deal for the land, said to have cost \$2,000,000 but would not state whom he represented.

It was stated unofficially that the new plant will employ from 7,000 to 10,000 men.

Officials of the Jones and Laughlin Co., spent some time in the Calumet district recently, it was said.

BANDITS MURDER BANK PRESIDENT

And Wound Two Other Citizens--Maywood Bank in Chicago Robbed

OCCURRED IN DAY LIGHT

Bold Highwaymen Battle for Payroll and Escape With \$12,000 in Cash.

United Press Staff Correspondent Chicago, Jan. 5.—(Special to Daily Democrat)—James Stoeffel, president of the Maywood State bank, was murdered today, and two others wounded by five bank robbers who escaped with a \$12,000 pay roll.

Stoeffel, James Venson, cashier of the bank, James Sweeney, police chief of Maywood and Ralph Hunt, an agent for the American Can company had just left the bank with the payroll for the can company, when the bandits opened fire from an auto. Stoeffel was killed instantly and Sweeney and Venson seriously wounded.

The bandits grabbed bags containing the money and sped toward Chicago. Maywood is a suburb.

Sweeney obtained the auto license number as the bandits fled with the loot. It was the number of an auto which had been stolen.

The bandits grabbed bags containing the money and sped toward Chicago. Maywood is a suburb.

"After many recent payroll robberies, President Stoeffel was anxious to be especially careful with the payroll today. We were all well armed and prepared.

"We left the bank about 8:30 a. m. and had gone only two blocks on the St. Charles road, when a big black touring car drew up alongside of our machine.

"The bandits opened fire without warning, the first few bullets going wild. As Stoeffel reached for his revolver, two bullets struck his body and he fell back dead. I fired several times at the bandits. Venson resisted one of the men who left the bandits' auto to get the money, and he was shot at close range. The bandit shot him down putting two bullets into his body as he fell.

"All of the forty highways have been completed, with the exception of three which the report to follow will show. The county now has about 650 miles of improved highway, which are directly under the supervision of the highway superintendent including the new cement roads, the M. R. E. at Berne, and the Bellmont at Decatur. The roads completed and the three reported not completed during the year are:

Seth D. Beavers, Washington; Michael Miller, contractor; one mile; cost \$8,898.00.

James D. Huffman, St. Marys; Warren Striker, contractor; cost, \$8,500.

Jacob Bevington, Blue Creek; John Buckmaster, contractor; cost \$6,055.

J. A. Laisure, Monroe; C. W. Merriman, contractor; cost \$10,300.

Salem Reformed Church road, Preble; Parr & Habegger, contractors; cost, \$19,548.

O. N. Tyndall, Blue Creek; Glen Workinger, contractor; cost, \$17,125.

John M. Frisinger, Washington; Chas. C. Arnold, contractor; cost, \$7,494.

George Christ, Washington; J. G. Crum, contractor; cost, \$6,250.

Ferdinand Stauffer, Monroe; C. W. Merriman, contractor; cost, \$6,443.

Reuben Meyers, Jefferson; Finley Striker, contractor; cost, \$20,972.

Martin L. Smith, Wabash; C. E. Stauffer, contractor; cost, \$9,667.

N. H. McClain, Monroe; Rufus Huser, contractor; cost, \$9,394.

Henry I. Teeple, Blue Creek; Amos K. Stoneburner, contractor; cost, \$9,680.

Fred Bildnerback, Blue Creek; John F. Parrish, contractor; cost, \$4,486.80.

D. E. Bollinger, St. Marys; John F. Parrish, contractor; cost \$4,276.36.

Peter Stuckey, Wabash and Hartford; J. G. Crum, contractor; cost, \$9,230.

Fred Gallmeyer, Preble; Crum & Stoneburner, contractors; cost, \$22,290.

Nathan Ehrman, Kirkland; J. G. Crum, contractor; cost, \$8,505.

Henry Kreuckberg, Union; Phillip Sauer, contractor; cost, \$16,852.60.

Enos W. Lehman, Berne; Finley Striker, contractor; cost, \$26,473.

John C. Cowan, St. Marys; A. K. Stoneburner, contractor; cost, \$15,790.

Catherine Elting, Washington; Finley Striker, contractor; cost, \$14,145.

Tickets for the entertainment may be purchased from any member of the Woman's Club.

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HOSPITAL NEWS.

Mrs. Wayne Debout, living near Geneva, was operated upon Monday at the Magley hospital in this city, and is improving nicely.

Mrs. Elmer Radcliffe, of Craigville, underwent an operation at the Bluffton hospital, this morning, Decatur physicians being in charge.

Mrs. John Stauffer of Monroe, is very ill, being a sufferer from peritonitis.

THE SMITH FUNERAL.

Funeral services for the late Elmer Smith will be held Friday afternoon, leaving the home at 1:30 o'clock, and from the Evangelical church at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. C. L. Haney will officiate and burial will be at the Decatur cemetery.

A COMPLETE LIST

Of Students of Reppert Auction School and Their Place of Residence

A FINE BODY OF MEN

Some of Them Came Hundreds of Miles to Enter Jan. Term of School.

We are giving today a complete list of the students who are here attending the January term of the Reppert auction school. They come from several states, and one of them all the way from Canada. They are an enthusiastic bunch of men, are already hard at work, and it is predicted every one of them will make an ideal auctioneer within a few months, with the excellent foundation gained in the Reppert school. They are:

Warren Walker, Durand, Wis., R. R. 4.

John S. Laidlaw, Prince Albert, Sask., Canada.

Chester Ellison, Elgin, Neb.

Lawrence Heck, Lewisville, Ind., R. R. 1.

Carl W. Mallicoat, Bixby, South Dakota.

Claude E. Willford, Malinta, O.

Otto Slates, Elmore, O., R. R. 1.

Gibson R. Hollingsworth, Council Bluffs, Ia., 409 Oakland avenue.

Alva Ellis, Richmond, Ind.

T. J. Matheny, Mt. Sterling, O.

Furl H. Smith, Auburn, Ind.

Walter J. Rierden, Montezuma, Ind.

R. F. Kivett, Onward, Ind.

Harry F. Chrisman, Middletown, Ind.

Charles B. Loug, Kirkland, Ind. R. 1.

Henry D. Frey, Peoria, Ill., R. R. 5.

L. E. Thistleton, Britt, Ia., R. R. 3.

J. I. Crawford, Earham, Ia., R. R. 4.

Noel Cottingham, Howe, Indiana.

Harold T. Gillie, Fort Wayne, Ind., R. R. 11.

Bernard A. Siebenaler, Edon, Ohio, R. R. 1.

Forest R. Steininger, Rochester, Ind., R. R. 8.

Cecil W. Slater, Oconee, Ill.

Russell R. Fletcher, Crawfordsville, Ind.

McKinley R. Murdock, Waynetown, Ind., Box 176.

A. W. Merkle, Ohio City, Ohio, R. 3.

Pearl C. Keisling, Bucyrus, O., R. 6.

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AT MASONIC HALL

Music and Reading Will Feature Entertainment On January 12th by

ZANDORFF COMPANY

Redpath Number Will Be Given Here Under Direction of Woman's Club.

Pleasing harp music will be one of the features of the entertainment to be given here on the Lyceum course by the Zandorff Entertainers, January 12th at the Masonic hall, under the auspices of the Woman's club.

The harp has always held a deep place in the hearts of the people. It is among the earliest known of all musical instruments. But the harp of today is much different from that of early times. The modern harp possesses three thousand separate pieces of mechanism and there are few who master it in all its complexity.

Miss Lucille Brogan is the harpist of the company, and she is fast becoming known as one of America's most talented artists on this instrument. Throughout the country she is heralded as a most successful entertainer.

Miss Gladys Anderson, reader and impersonator, appears with Miss Brogan. She has had a successful Lyceum and Chautauqua experience and her readings and impersonations never fail to entertain.

The program of these two gifted entertainers is noted for its verve and variety and the Zandorff Entertainers will please their audience, thoroughly.

The minister was here the first week of the simultaneous revival meetings and conducted the services at the Baptist church, during which time there were twelve accessions. He is a fine young man, unmarried.

Tickets for the entertainment may be purchased from any member of the Woman's Club.

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RUSSIA IS DYING FROM STARVATION

Edwin Hullinger, Correspondent for United Press Tells a Sad Story

OF CONDITIONS THERE

Returns From Land of Frozen Death Where Inhabitants Live on Grass.

By Edwin W. Hullinger.

United Press Staff Correspondent Kazon, Russia, Dec. 15.—(Delayed).—A republic is dying of starvation. The prophecy of death to come, made last fall, is being fulfilled today on the lonely frozen steps of eastern Russia.

Fifty percent of the babies in the Kazan republic already have died.

Forty-five percent of the population of the villages in this region are dead or missing.

Not six percent of the population of the republic will be left to greet the spring. Kazan contained a population of over two million.

I have just returned from a trip through a land of frozen death, in company with J. R. Childs of the American relief administration. We completed the first personal investigation since the rigors of winter set in, of the fate of the villagers in the heart of the stricken region.

In one little settlement the last four inhabitants died the day before we arrived—a village of 200 inhabitants had reverted to primeval nothingness with no one to bury the last four bodies.

On the first stretch of our long journey into the frozen heart of the snow-bound interior from Svirsk we traveled without finding a single village where any food, save grass, could be bought at any price.

Eighty percent of the people left alive in this district are maintaining life solely on a diet of grass. Some of the peasants grind grass and roots into "flour" which they sell at 130,000 rubles a pound. Throughout this vast district, once one of Europe's grain growing centers, there grows today only the cold lush of death.

A bleak northern sun squints down for a few hours each day on endless snowfields where the only thing is life, swirling snow, lifted by the biting winds and dropped in a lavender mist upon the silent white plains.

Our sleigh caravan jingled into an almost deserted village. An old peasant woman with a face like that of a skeleton, hobbled forward. In her bony hands she clutched stalks of

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SURPRISE FRIENDS

Mrs. Bonnie Mount and Mr. H. B. Albright Quietly