

# DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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## MAN'S BODY IS FOUND IN TILE KILN

### PYTHIANS PLAN FOR DISTRICT MEETING HERE

Lodges From Five Counties Planning To Be Here February 5

### STATE HOME PLANS

Grand Chancellor Erwin Explains Steps Taken For New Home

A very interesting meeting was held at the Knights of Pythias lodge on last evening, all the officers being present and a large attendance of the members.

The principal business transacted was the arrangement for the sub-district meeting to be held in this city on next Thursday, in which the lodges of Blackford, Wells, Grant, Wabash, Huntington and Adams counties will participate. District Deputy F. H. Roberts, of LaFontaine, will preside at the meeting.

To Initiate Candidates

A class of candidates from Blackford, Wells and Adams counties will be initiated. The ritualistic work will be given by the Grand Lodge officers, after which the Lesson of Friendship will be exemplified by the local dramatic team, recently organized in this city. This team is composed of about twenty members, all of whom are proficient in their work and make a good showing. The Pythian Male Quartet will render several selections. A detailed program will be published on next Monday.

Harry Wade, chairman of the Pythian Home Fund Committee, will be present and give an address, and Carl R. Mitchell, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, will give a stereopticon exhibit of Pythian Homes in other states.

At the meeting last night an executive committee was appointed to have charge of the campaign for the collection of donations for the Pythian Home to be built in Indiana next year. The committee will meet tonight at the Pythian Home and the names of the members will be divided among the solicitors and every member who has not already made his donation will be called upon in the next week to make his donation.

Much Interest Shown

Grand Chancellor Dore B. Erwin, of this city, was present at last evening's meeting and gave a talk on the success of the district meetings held throughout the state, the last one of which was held at Franklin. He reported much interest manifested in

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### UNION TOWNSHIP INSTITUTE FEB. 3

Basket Dinner Planned For Noon Hour; Sessions At Kohr School

C. D. Spuller, chairman of the Union township farmers institute, has announced that a basket dinner is being planned for the noon hour when farmers and their families can enjoy an old-fashioned dinner, where everybody gathers 'round the table and eats to the heart's content of all the good things the farm women prepare. The sessions of the institute will be held in the Kohr school building, about six miles north-east of Decatur, on next Tuesday, February 3.

Mrs. Morton Fordice, of Russellville, and Mr. V. V. Clarke, of Bristol, will deliver the addresses during the day sessions and subjects have been selected which will be of interest to all farmers and their families who attend. Other numbers will be furnished by local people, making the program interesting as well as instructive.

An evening program has been prepared at which time motion pictures on agricultural subjects will be shown. It is also planned to have a special speaker. School children will assist in the evening program.

### Sorority To Give Bed Spread Away Saturday

The hand embroidered bed spread set, which was on display in the Beavers & Fryback Furniture store window several days ago, will be given away by the Psi Iota Xi Sorority Saturday, Auto Day, at 1:15 o'clock. The drawing will take place just before the Merchants' drawing, and will be given from the platform at Monroe and Second streets.

### G. E. LECTURER TO SPEAK HERE

### Charles M. Ripley To Give Lecture In This City February 4

Charles M. Ripley, of Schenectady, New York, consulting engineer and widely known lecturer of the General Electric company, will give a lecture at the high school auditorium in this city next Wednesday evening, Feb. 4. The subject of Mr. Ripley's lecture will be "A 25,000-Mile Trip Over Europe in an Airplane."

Mr. Ripley is an interesting speaker. He has appeared in this city before, under the auspices of the General Electric company, and those who heard him enjoyed his talks immensely. The lecture will be free and the public is invited to attend.

### BULLETIN

UNITED PRESS SERVICE  
Washington, Jan. 30.—The postal bill, granting a \$68,000.00 wage increase to postal service employees and re-adjusting postal rates to meet the added expense was passed by the Senate this afternoon by a vote of 70 to 8. The bill now goes to the house.

### Jury Holds Fate Of Col. Charles R. Forbes

Chicago, Jan. 30.—(United Press)—Contesting against the testimony of Elias H. Mortimer, star government witness, because Mortimer is "an admitted crook," Federal Judge Carpenter today placed the fate of Colonel Charles R. Forbes, former head of the veterans bureau, and John W. Thompson, St. Louis, contractor, charged with conspiring to defraud the government, in the hands of the jury.

Judge Carpenter warned the jurors, however, that if they were satisfied that Mortimer was telling the truth, they should accept his testimony.

### Relative Of Local People Hurt In Wreck

Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly, of Johns street, and their daughter, Mrs. A. Boyd and family of Lansing, Michigan, and Mr. Robert Chronister, of south of the city, returned last night from Van Wert, Ohio, where they were called on account of an injury to Mrs. Charles Riggen. Mrs. Riggen, who is a sister of Mr. Kelly, was seriously hurt in an automobile accident last Monday while enroute to this city to attend the funeral of Mrs. Robert Chronister, who died of injuries sustained in the railroad crash at the Adams street crossing here on January 11. Mrs. Riggen was thrown against the steering wheel, splintering the pelvic bone and causing internal injuries.

### Two "Lifers" Paroled By Gov. Jackson Today

Indianapolis, Jan. 30—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Governor Ed Jackson today approved all recommendations of the state pardon board in the first report submitted to him since he became governor.

Eight persons were paroled including Robert Griffith, Knox county and Otto Auman, Parke county, both sentenced for life.

Thirty-five petitions for clemency were refused by the governor on recommendations of the pardon board.

Petitions refused included that of Lawrence Vardaman sentenced from Wells county for forgery.

### MEANS AND CO. FELDER FOUND GUILTY TODAY

### Former Department Of Justice Agent Convicted Of Conspiracy

### SENT TO PENITENTIARY

Means Sentenced To Serve Two Years; Felder Fined \$10,000

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE)

New York, Jan. 30—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Found guilty of a conspiracy to defeat justice, Gaston B. Means, former agent of the department of justice, was sentenced today to two years in Atlanta penitentiary and fined \$10,000.

Colonel Thomas B. Felder, a New York lawyer, who was found guilty together with Means, was fined \$10,000.

Both Means and Colonel Felder were affected at the verdict, although after Elmer Jarnecke, the former's secretary, had turned state's evidence, there was little doubt as to what the jury, which reirred late, yesterday after a charge by Federal Judge Walter Lindley would decide.

Means is under \$25,000 bail pending appeal from his conviction for violation of the Volstead act and an additional \$15,000 bail covering another indictment. His bail of \$10,000 in the present case, furnished by Frank A. Vanderlip, was cancelled.

Both defendants claimed to be in poor health. Colonel Felder is 70 years old. He was represented at the trial which ended yesterday by Frank P. Walsh.

### CHICAGO GRAIN CLOSE

Wheat—May, \$2.03%; July, \$1.71%; Sept. \$1.57%. Corn—May, \$1.35%; July \$1.36 1/2%. Oats—May 63 1/2%; July 64%; Sept. 60%.

### DEMOCRATS WILL NAME CHAIRMAN

### Precinct Committeemen To Elect City Chairman February 7

Daniel H. Tyndall, democratic county chairman, issued a call today for a meeting of the precinct committeemen in Decatur, to meet at Democratic headquarters, above the Decatur Daily Democrat office, on Saturday afternoon, February 7, at 1:30 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a city chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and treasurer of the city Democratic committee. According to the rules of the Democratic state central committee, the county chairman shall call the meeting and preside as temporary chairman at the meeting, in the event that there is no city chairman. J. O. Sellemeyer was city chairman in the last city election, but about two years ago he moved to Los Angeles and a successor has not been appointed.

At the meet on February 7, the six precinct committeemen in Decatur will elect a new city chairman and other officers of the city committee. Mr. Tyndall, being county chairman of the Democratic party, has issued the formal call for the meeting, in compliance with a notice sent to him by Walter S. Chambers, state Democratic chairman.

The six Democratic committeemen in Decatur are: Fred Mills, Charles Yager, Daniel H. Tyndall, Joe Hunter, R. J. Harting and Tillman Gerber.

Although no active candidate is working for the place, it was stated that several receptive candidates were casting their eyes towards the appointment. The city chairman will have charge of the coming city election next May.

### Miss Esther Sellemeyer Leaves For California

Miss Esther Sellemeyer, who has been visiting with relatives here for the past year or more, left Wednesday night for Berkley, California, where she will enter the University there. Miss Sellemeyer spent six years as a missionary to China from the local Zion Reformed church, and is now enjoying a two-year furlough in this country. She intends to return to China next year, her health permitting. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Sellemeyer, who accompanied her here in October, 1923, returned to their home in Los Angeles, after the holidays. Esther was accompanied by Miss Bertha Graber, of Robertsville, Ohio, who was a classmate at Heidelberg university.

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BILL DEFEATED TODAY

### State Senate Refuses To Give More Power To Commission

### HOT DEBATES HELD

Bill Introduced To Increase Tax On Gasoline To Three Cents

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE)

Indianapolis, Jan. 30—(Special to Daily Democrat)—A second bill to strengthen the hand of the state public service commission in regulating public utilities went down to defeat in the senate today.

The bill introduced by Senator Barker of Thorntown to require utilities to fight out rate cases in the state courts before going into federal court failed of the necessary votes for passage when it was taken up today.

Lines were drawn in discussion of the bill practically the same as when the senate earlier in the week killed the bill to permit the public service commission to regulate utility holding companies.

The members of the cast did remarkably well again last night and showed improvement over their first night acting, they having become more accustomed to their makeups and having cast off all stage fright. The specialties were well received again last night. Miss Mildred Butler, who entertained the audience between acts Wednesday with a number of piano solos, again furnished music last night.

The members of the senior class and those having to do with the training of the cast and management of the play are well pleased with the support accorded by the public.

### Wheat Takes A Small Drop This Afternoon

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE)

Chicago, Jan. 30—(Special to Daily Democrat)—Selling orders pilled into the Chicago board of trade today in such volume that May wheat which today shot up to \$2.05 1/2 a bushel fell off to \$2.03 1/2 at the close.

Profit taking was held responsible.

### THREE OVERCOME BY COAL FUMES

### Mrs. Anna Laman And Daughters Narrowly Escape Asphyxiation

Mrs. Anna Laman and her two daughters, Misses Neva and Naomi, were nearly asphyxiated a few nights ago at their home at Battle Creek, Michigan. The pipe which leads from the furnace to the chimney came apart, filling the basement with coal gas which permeated the house and only the timely arrival of the man who looks after the furnace saved their lives. Mrs. Laman was just recovering from a four week illness with pneumonia and consequently her condition was the worst. A physician and a trained nurse, who were called immediately by a neighbor who found Mrs. Laman and both of the girls unconscious, feared that Mrs. Laman, because of the bad condition of her heart and the gas-filled lungs, could not possibly recover.

Word today, however, was that all three of the patients are practically out of danger, but are weak and will require a few days to recuperate. They had a very narrow escape and are thanking the furnace man for his appearance so early in the morning.

### Weather

Fair tonight and Saturday. Somewhat warmer Saturday in extreme south portion.

### Night School Classes Will Meet This Evening

The night school in commercial subjects will meet at the high school building tonight. Entries in the classes may be made at that time, but none will be received after tonight. The night school was reorganized for the second semester last Tuesday night and several signed up to take the work. Work is offered in beginning and advanced typewriting, bookkeeping and short hand.

### YEOMAN LODGE TO HAVE GUESTS

(UNITED PRESS SERVICE)

Indianaapolis, Jan. 30—(Special to Daily Democrat)—The Yeoman Lodge on next Monday evening, February 2. An interesting program is being planned for the meeting. Plans will be made for conducting a membership campaign during February and March and an effort will be made to secure at least 28 new members during the campaign, significant of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the lodge. All members of the lodge are urged to attend the meeting and take part in the membership campaign.

After being booted about on the floor of the house in hot debate the chiropractic bill was carried back to the senate committee on state medicine and public health.

With the bill back in committee the chiropractors will seek to restore the bill to its original form which called for establishment of a state board of chiropractic members to license chiropractors.

The senate by unanimous vote passed the English bill providing for more stringent penalties for drunken auto drivers.

Senator Cann of Frankfort introduced a bill to increase the state gasoline tax from two to three cents and providing that the money shall be paid into a "gasoline fund" of the general fund instead of direct to the

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### FRESHMEN LEAD IN SCHOLARSHIP

### Have Highest Average For First Semester In Decatur High School

The Freshmen class led the other classes in Decatur high school in scholarship during the first semester, according to the honor roll for the semester announced today by Principal Walter Krick. The four classes were grouped closely together, however, there being less than two percent difference between the Freshmen average and the average of the Juniors, who were last in the standing. The averages of the different classes were: Freshmen, 84.8; Sophomores, 84.7; Juniors, 83.7; and Juniors, 82.9.

Miss Marilyn Wherry, a senior, and Miss Mary Katherine Schug, a freshman, tied for individual scholarship honors for the semester with an average grade of 95 per cent. Thirty-five pupils were placed on the honor roll for the semester, their average grade being 90 per cent or higher. Those on the honor roll are:

Wherry, Marilyn, 95.  
Schug, Mary Katherine, 95.  
Haley, Margaret, 94.5-6.  
Akey, Mildred, 94.4-5.  
Mills, Margaret, 94.1-5.  
Fisher, Ireta, 93.2-5.  
Elizey, Harretta, 93.2-3.  
Schroll, Helen, 93.  
Thomas, Vivian, 92.4-5.  
Thomas, Vivian, 92.4-5.  
Macy, Mary, 92.1-2.  
Dixson, Katherine, 92.1-5.  
Haugk, Molle, 92.1-5.  
Kaufman, Katherine, 92.1-5.  
Castle, Richard, 92.1-6.  
Steele, Jeanette, 92.  
Wilder, Edwina, 92.  
Nelson, Marcella, 91.2-3.

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### UNIDENTIFIED MAN KILLED BY EXCESSIVE HEAT

Believed To Be A Tramp; Crawled Into Kiln To Spend Night

### FLESH IS COOKED

Man Seen About Tile Mill Early This Week; Companion Missing

The body of an unidentified man, about 45 years of age, was found on top of the tile in a kiln at the Krick-Tyndall Tile mill about 8:30 o'clock this morning. The man, said to be a tramp, is supposed to have suffocated from the heat in the kiln. His flesh was partially cooked and decomposition had begun.

The discovery of the dead man was made when employees of the tile mill went to the kiln to remove the newly made tile this morning. When the kiln was opened a strong stench permeated the air. Further investigation disclosed the man's body on top of the tile.

Probably Died Wednesday Night

The fire was removed from the kiln last Wednesday morning. A ventilating fan, used to cool the tile, was turned on and left operating until 11 o'clock Wednesday night, when it was turned off. It is thought that the man crawled into the kiln while the fan was operating Wednesday evening and went to sleep on top of the warm tile. When the fan was turned off, the heat in the kiln rapidly mounted to as high as 600 degrees and the man was probably suffocated to death before he awakened or had time to crawl out of the kiln. The tile kilns hold heat for many hours after the fire is removed, and the intense heat in the kiln during the remainder of Wednesday night after the fan was turned off and yesterday and last night cooked the man's flesh until it had a brownish color this morning.

Coroner Investigates.

The body was removed from the kiln and taken to the Gay, Zwick & Myers morgue this morning. As the county has no coroner since the death of Dr. L. L. Mattax, A. C. Butcher, justice of the peace in Washington township, was called to act as coroner. Mr. Butcher tabulated a description of the man and made notes of the articles found on his person. He stated he would make a report