

## HOLIDAY ACCIDENTS TAKE HEAVY TOLL

### CHRISTMAS DAY IS HAPPY ONE IN DECATUR HOMES

Needy Families Made Happy By Charitable Organizations; No Accidents

### FAMILY DINNERS FEATURE OF DAY

Decatur's white Christmas was greatly enjoyed by everybody, according to reports flooding the Daily Democrat office. Christmas day dawned white and cold and a flurry of snow made the day ideal. Two local organizations, Delta Theta Tau sorority and the B. P. O. Elks, made it possible for many of the needy families to celebrate the day.

About a hundred kiddies were taken care of through the kindness of the Delta Theta Taus, and the Elks gave out more than 60 chicken dinner baskets to persons in this city. The Tri Kappas made their annual visit to the county infirmary. Churches toys to many children. No deaths were reported by local undertakers and no serious accidents occurred.

The day was quiet in a business way. All local stores were closed at noon until evening and many remained closed during the entire day. Family dinners held sway and many Christmas reunions were observed.

**Church Services Held**  
Churches held services either Thursday evening or Friday morning. Homes were beautifully decorated for the happy occasions and the real Christmas spirit ruled.

Yesterday afternoon, a dance was held by the college students at the Elks home, and several couples enjoyed the afternoon at that function. Shows were crowded. Other people chose to stay at home and enjoy the reunions.

No robberies were reported and the day was quiet for the local police force, no arrests of any sort being made. Cold weather set in late yesterday and last night the thermometer registered zero and lower.

Business was light in most stores today, after the holiday, and Decatur was recovering from one of the most joyous Christmas days ever had.

The joyful feast of Christmas was celebrated with appropriate services at the St. Marys-Catholic church yesterday. Nine masses were said during the morning, the first Christmas high mass being held at 5 o'clock. The Rev. J. A. Seimetz, pastor, acted as celebrant of the mass, assisted by the Rev. Otto A. Peters, and the Rev. James Tekath, of Carthage, Ohio. The last high mass was held at 9:45 a. m. During the early morning masses, members of the congregation received Holy Communion, it being an annual custom for the entire congregation to partake of Communion on Christmas day. The altars in the church were beautifully decorated with vigil lights and candles and at the south altar a manger containing an image of the infant Jesus was erected.

### ZERO WEATHER STRIKES COUNTY

Weather Ideal On Christmas Day But Mercury Takes Plunge In Evening

Contrary to pre-Christmas reports, northern Indiana had a white Christmas. Snow fell yesterday morning and added a freshness to that already ready on the ground. The entire county was covered yesterday with several inches of snow and the temperature until late yesterday afternoon was ideal.

Zero weather set in last night and today dawned the coldest day of the present winter. The weather, however, was about 16 degrees warmer than a year ago, when the temperature fell to 17 degrees below zero. The coldest weather recorded in Decatur was on January 12, 1914, when the thermometer registered 24 below zero.

### 16-Months-Old Lad Is A "Charleston Dancing Master"

Columbus, Ind., Dec. 26. — (United Press.) — Columbus boasts of the youngest "Charleston dancing master" in the state and possibly in the entire country.

The youngster is Donald, (Buddy) Stillabower, 16-month-old son of Mrs. Ruth Stillabower. People who have seen the youngster dance the intricate steps of the newest fad declare he is a master of the dance. A "school" of youngsters, all older, gather at Buddy's home everyday to pick up the fine points of the dance from the youngster.

### ADVANTAGES OF MEETINGS CITED

Benefits to be Derived From Simultaneous Evangelistic Meetings Stated

The ministers and churches of Decatur, through the Decatur Ministerial Association, have arranged for a simultaneous evangelistic campaign. Seven churches will hold services each night, except Saturday, for a period of at least two weeks, commencing January 10. The churches co-operating are: Baptist, Christian, Evangelical, Methodist, Presbyterian, Reformed and United Brethren. Several churches will hold special services for the young people during the preceding week. Each pastor will conduct his own services or secure other pastoral assistance. Some will engage special song leaders. It is hoped and believed every member of the churches, including all the young people, will co-operate with their own church program not only by regular attendance at each service but by personally "talking up" the services among neighbors and friends and by such other personal help as they are fitted to perform and may be asked to do. To help achieve this end, the Ministerial Association has requested the schools, clubs, lodges, and other social organizations, so far as possible, to recognize the hours of the church services and so avoid conflicts.

It is pointed out that the following advantages will be secured from:

### ROADHOUSE IS SCENE OF FIGHT

One Man Is Shot At The Tavern, Located On Decatur-Fort Wayne Road

Arthur Alexander, 23, a roomer at the Y. M. C. A., in Fort Wayne, was seriously wounded by a bullet during a fight at the Tavern, a roadhouse four miles south of Fort Wayne on the Decatur-Fort Wayne road, Thursday night. Alexander is said to have been accidentally struck by a bullet fired from a gun in the hands of Clarence Goss, of Fort Wayne, proprietor of the Tavern.

Joss appeared at police headquarters early Friday morning and volunteered to report the shooting episode and he was released after being questioned by police officers. Goss said that he and Alexander were in the roadhouse talking when three men came in and attempted to start a "rough house." After heated arguments, in which threats are said to have been made by the three men, Goss reached under the counter and took out an automatic pistol. A scuffle followed and Alexander is said to have gone to the assistance of Goss. The gun was discharged and the three men fled. One of the men starting the trouble, according to Goss, was William Chalkman, a roomer at the Mack hotel, Fort Wayne.

After the men had escaped, it was discovered that Alexander had been shot. He was rushed to the Methodist hospital, where he was operated on and the bullet removed. The bullet entered his chest, but did not reach the vital organs. Although his condition is regarded as serious, it is thought he will recover.

### 200 U. S. MARINES ARE ORDERED TO SAIL FOR CHINA

Detachment At Manila, P. I., Receives Orders To Sail This Evening

### DESTINATION LIKELY WILL BE TIEN TSIN

Manila, P. I., Dec. 26.—Two hundred American marines received orders here today to call on the transport Chaumont at midnight for China.

It was believed here that the destination of the marines is Tien Tsin China.

Radio reports received here today indicate increasing chaos in conditions there.

The Chaumont sailing date originally was Sunday, but the time was advanced presumably on receipt of urgent messages from China.

Peking, China, Dec. 26.—Communication with Peking has been restored following General Feng Cui Siang's decision occupation of the Tien Tsin area and his defeat of the forces of Li Ching Lin after a fortnight of varying fortune.

Warfare in northern China is also apparently ended unless Feng decides to reinforce the Kuo Sung Lin troops against Chang Tso Lin.

Tien Tsin, Dec. 26.—Foreign guards and volunteers have been withdrawn from the city following the battle for its possession between Peng Yuh Siang and Lin Ching Lin. National (Peng) troops are now in full possession and Feng has captured great quantities of munitions and several thousand persons.

London, Dec. 26.—A Central News Tien Tsin message Christmas Eve (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

### RUM FLEET TO BE INSPECTED

Assistant Secretary Andrews To Make 8-Day Cruise Of Southern Front

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 26. — (United Press.)—Assistant Secretary of the treasury Andrews arrived here from Washington today and will embark this afternoon on the United States coast guard cutter Modoc for an eight day inspection cruise of the Southern rum front which will take him as far as Havana.

The cruise, which will also combine the features of a diplomatic mission, will proceed by leisurely stages down the coast and back with stops at Charleston, S. C., Savannah, Ga., and Key West, Fla., on the outgoing trip and Miami and Jacksonville, Fla., on the return trip which is due to end at Savannah on January 4.

The dry czar will spend about 48 hours in Havana over New Year's Day, and with William R. Vallence, assistant solicitor of the state department who accompanied him, will discuss with American and Cuban officials, the proposed smuggling treaty with the island republic.

At the various stops along the coast, Andrews will inspect customs and prohibition activities and get a real close up on the liquor problem along the southern shores. This has assumed large proportions with the advent of the winter season and the movement of rum smuggling to warmer climes and smoother waters.

### Business Is Dull Today Following Christmas Rush

One of the quietest Saturdays of the year marked the day after Christmas in Decatur. Stores were practically deserted after ten days of heavy business. Only a few persons who got the wrong size shirt or gloves came to the stores today. Most local stores reported the heaviest pre-Christmas trading in recent years.

### Favors Spanking



MRS. MARY HAMILTON

Girls from fourteen to twenty are blamed for "appalling vice" conditions in New York, according to Mrs. Mary Hamilton, head of the police-women's squad. Vicious practices learned at schools and colleges are back of it all, she charges. Spanking would cure the evils, she holds.

### TO HOLD JOINT INSTALLATION

Masons And Eastern Stars To Install New Officers Next Tuesday Night

Public installation exercises of Decatur Masonic and Eastern Star organizations will be held at the Masonic hall next Tuesday night, December 30, it was announced today. The Blue lodge, Chapter and Eastern Star officers for 1926 will be installed at that time.

All Masons, Eastern Stars, members of the local Chapter and their families are cordially invited to attend the installation. Following the installation, a general social will be held, during which time dancing, cards and refreshments will be enjoyed.

The three organizations have been holding joint installations the last several years and they are always largely attended. The installation will start promptly at 7:30 o'clock and the social will follow immediately.

### GRAIN PRICES ADVANCE AGAIN

Wheat Leads Other Grains In Rise; New Top For Wheat At Kansas City

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Grain prices registered advances of from 3/4 to 1 1/4 cents a bushel on the Chicago board of trade today with wheat leading the advance.

Reports of unfavorable crop conditions in the Argentine were the principal factors in the rise.

December wheat closed at \$1.84 1/2 compared with Thursday's close of \$1.77.

Corn and oats registered gains of as much as 2 cents a bushel.

Kansas City, Dec. 26.—A new top price for the wheat crop was established on the board of trade here today when December wheat reached \$1.78 1/4, five cents higher than Thursday's close.

### Weather

Generally fair tonight and Sunday except somewhat unsettled in south portion. Colder tonight. Continued cold Sunday.

### REPORTS FROM STRIKE REGION ARE OPTIMISTIC

Hope For End Of Anthracite Strike Early In New Year Increases

### WARING FACTION MEET NEXT WEEK

New York, Dec. 26.—(United Press)

—Reports from the anthracite coal mining districts today told of increased hope that the coal mine strike which has been in progress since September 1, would end early in the new year as a result of plans for renewal of the wage conferences between the miners and mine owners.

The committees representing the two sides of the controversy will meet in New York Tuesday, probably at the Union League club. Plans for the meeting have been completed and the negotiators are expected here some time Monday.

It was understood that the mine owners would advance the plan originally proposed by the members of the Pennsylvania legislature from Luzerne county and the miners would present the so-called Pinchot plan of settlement, as the first proposals for the meeting to discuss.

Christmas in the coal fields was described in reports from various mining centers. Charitable organizations were active in distributing food and clothing to the families of miners who are on strike and who have been unable to secure other employment and whose savings have run low. In many instances suffering was reported.

### Former Mayor Dies

Wabash, Ind., Dec. 26. — (United Press.)—Joseph Murphy, a former mayor of Wabash, died suddenly at his home here today. Heart trouble was believed to be the cause of his death.

### SIX LOSE LIVES IN STATE FRIDAY

Trains Kill Five Persons; Autos Responsible For One Death; Many Hurt

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 26.—Christmas accidents took its lives in Indiana, reports showed today. Fourteen others were seriously hurt in holiday mishaps, seven so seriously they may die.

Three hunters were killed when their auto was hit by an interurban car near Scottsburg. Two persons died in traffic accidents in Indianapolis and a motorist was killed at Bloomington when his auto skidded and overturned.

The victims of the accident at Scottsburg were John McWilliams, 21, Edward Burch, 20, and Earl Burch, 12.

McWilliams was killed outright and the two Burch brothers died a short time later.

A Christmas visit with relatives in (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

### Screen Version Of Mrs. Porter's Last Book To Be Shown In This City

Van Grant, manager of the Adams theater of this city, announced today that he had contracted with the Film Booking offices to present the screen version of Gene Stratton Porter's last book, "The Keeper of the Bees," at his theater next Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Mrs. Porter's book, bearing the same name, was completed just before she met with accidental death a year ago. The moving picture comes to this city highly recommended.

### D. H. S. ALUMNI ARE RETURNING

Old Grads From Many States Coming Back For Reunion Next Monday

From many states, east and west, north and south, they are coming home Monday to attend the first big reunion of alumni members of the Decatur high school and the event promises to be one of the most enjoyable ever held here. More than three hundred acceptances have come in and a number of others have signified intentions of attending. Many from a distance have made their reservations and almost every class since 1881 will be represented.

W. F. Britton, of Dallas, Texas, former superintendent of the Decatur schools, arrived in Decatur this morning and will be present at the alumni banquet. Mr. Britton, who was superintendent of the schools from 1897 to 1899, will have a part in the program starting at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon, of which C. A. Dugan, also a former superintendent, will be in charge. Other former superintendents, including H. A. Hartman, of Sidney, Ohio, and William Beachler, of Union City, will be present.

The Rev. Edgar Jones, of New Haven, a graduate of Decatur high school, has sent word that he will be here for the home-coming and banquet. Rev. Jones will have charge of the invocations.

**Decorations Being Placed**  
The decoration committee started work this morning. The school building is being trimmed with evergreens.

### POST OFFICE HAS RECORD BUSINESS

Speed, Accuracy And Largest Business In History Is Record Made Here

Speed, accuracy and the largest business in the history of the local post office, was the record made during the Christmas rush in this city this year, according to figures compiled by Postmaster Harry Fritzinger, today. The big rush started December 21, according to the report. A new record was made in the sale of 2-cent stamps in (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

### EIGHTY LIVES ARE LOST IN 27 AMERICAN CITIES

Fatalities May Reach 100 Mark; Automobile Blamed For Major Portion

### GUN IS SECOND HEAVIEST OFFENDER

(United Press)

Celebration of Christmas, the day of peace and good will, cost a total of eighty lives in 27 American cities, a survey made today by the United Press revealed.

Fatalities in cities and towns not included in the survey will probably bring the figure over the 100 mark.

The automobile was responsible for the major portion of the toll, 53 persons having lost their lives in traffic accidents.

The gun was the second heaviest offender — 13 persons having been shot to death.

Liquor ranked third, only seven deaths due to liquor poisoning being reported, although many cities told of hospitals having numerous cases of persons suffering from the effects of the bad alcohol.

"Physicians have had a chance to gain much experience in handling poison liquor cases in the last year," a physician in charge of a New York hospital said. "This has resulted in development of better methods of treatment and accounts for the fact that deaths and serious illness from such cases have been reduced."

Outstanding in the results of the survey was the reduction of serious accidents from burning Christmas trees—due largely to the substitution of the electric light for the old-fashioned candle. Only two major accidents of this kind were reported, while in past years there have been many. New York City went through Christmas Day for the first time in history without a fire due to a burning Christmas tree.

Chicago and environs head the list of cities in number of casualties, ten being killed in that territory, all in traffic accidents.

The deaths from poison liquor were scattered over the country and none occurred in New York where warnings had been issued and reiterated against impure alcohol. Many were treated at hospitals in New York for alcoholism, however.

New York charged up to the gun the total of its Christmas deaths. In a dance hall in Brooklyn a Christmas party ended with the murder of three men. Two other persons were shot to death in brawls over the holidays.

So serious traffic accidents were reported.

St. Louis, Indianapolis, Boston and vicinity and Omaha, Neb., and vicinity all reported five or more persons killed in traffic accidents of various kinds.

### HOG CALLERS TO HOLD ELIMINATION

To Hold Tryouts At Banquet Here To Pick Entrants For State Contest

As a means of determining who shall represent Adams county in the state hog calling contest, to be staged at Lafayette during Agricultural Conference week, an elimination contest will be conducted in connection with the Five Acre-Ton Litter Banquet which occurs the evening of January 4. Those who wish to demonstrate their prowess in the "gentle art" of calling hogs are hereby notified of the event, in order that they may take any desired steps toward the strengthening of their vocal chords or any other necessary apparatus they may require. The porkers from the far end of a twenty-

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### First Commencement Exercises Held In Adams County During Year Of 1865

Several Well-known Decatur Residents Included In Class Of About Twelve Who Completed Course In Advanced Training; The Late Rev. W. J. Myers Was In Charge Of School; Exercises Were Held In Old Frame School Building.

Perhaps the first commencement exercise ever held in Adams county, was that of 1865, sixty years ago, in this city, and one of the class members told about it today. Of course, Decatur did not have a commissioned high school, but a special course in advanced training was arranged and was in charge of the late Rev. William J. Myers. The class included a number of well-known local people and about a dozen completed the course and graduated in the special exercises arranged by Mr. Myers.

In the class were Fannie Kunkle, later Mrs. Robert S. Peterson; Jennie Hunter, later Mrs. W. J. Myers; Mary McLain, later Mrs. Barney Weimhoff; and it could not be found.