

RAY OF HOPE SEEN IN MINE PARLEY

FINAL SESSION OF PRESENT CITY COUNCIL IS HELD

Mayor DeVoss Presides As City Dads Close Up Year's Business

NEW OFFICIALS TAKE OFFICE NEXT MONDAY

The final session of the present city council was held last evening at the city hall, all members being present and Mayor H. M. DeVoss presiding.

Mayor DeVoss filed his quarterly reports for the year, showing that 23 fines, totalling \$140.00 had been collected during the year. The fines were \$5.00 and costs and included cases of public intoxication, violation of speed laws and other offenses.

Several resolutions appropriating funds to pay over-drawn accounts in the different appropriations were passed and adopted by the council.

All bills on file were allowed by the council and the city begins the new year out of debt as far as current bills are concerned.

The present council and Mayor DeVoss, who retire from office next Monday, January 4, have managed the city's affairs in a very progressive and businesslike manner and the financial standing of the city never was better.

City Engineer Orval Harruff in his final report to the council complimented the administration of its record. His report follows: "To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council of the City of Decatur, Indiana: Comes now the city engineer and submits for your consideration the following final report:

"All reports of committees having been approved and spread of record, all resolutions having been passed and adopted and the time of your final adjournment as executives of the City of Decatur, having arrived I take this means of congratulating you upon your successful administration as Mayor and Councilmen of our city.

"Even the visible results of your labors are enough to convince a majority of our citizens that your upmost thoughts and acts have always been for their welfare and the advancement of our city.

"It has truly been a pleasure for me to have labored with you as one of your employees and I wish to thank you for the pleasant associations I have enjoyed and the courtesy extended to me and now, wishing you and each of you a prosperous New Year, I am

Very truly yours,
ORVAL HARRUFF."

Rotary Meeting To Be Held This Evening

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary club will be held at 6:15 o'clock this evening, at the Industrial rooms. A short program will be given and C. N. Christen, Wilson Lee and A. R. Ashbacher will be in charge.

REPORT ON SEAL SALE NOT READY

Many Salesmen Have Not Reported On Number Of Seals Sold Recently

Owing to the fact that many people who acted as salesmen during the Tuberculosis Seal campaign have been busy with Christmas week festivities, a complete report has not been compiled by W. Guy Brown, who was in charge of the seal distribution in Adams county. Several of the county salesmen have not yet reported their sales and Mr. Brown stated today that he would not be able to compile his report until these were in.

Those in charge of the seals are well pleased with the hearty cooperation extended them in all parts of the county and feel sure that a record sale has been made. It is probable that a complete report will be forthcoming in the next two weeks, Mr. Brown said.

New Jersey Congressman Visits Decatur Tuesday

CONGRESSMAN Eaton of the fourth district of New Jersey, former editor of Leslie's Magazine, a business man with many intervisits here yesterday in company with Mr. E. A. Barnes and Mr. Mat. of the Fort Wayne General Electric plant. Mr. Eaton is interested in company and expressed himself as pleased with the conditions here, noting the Decatur factory was in ways the most wonderful of any other plants. He predicts that 1926 be a splendid year for this country and her good people.

CHRIS STAUFER DIES SUDDENLY

Prominent Man Residing Near Berne Died Of Apoplexy; Worked Yesterday

Chris Stauffer, 52, prominent man residing near Berne, died suddenly of apoplexy at 12:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Stauffer had been helping Martin Oranger harvest ice all forenoon, yesterday, and had just returned to his home after eating his dinner with family two miles east of Berne, when he fell dead.

Mr. Stauffer had no complaint of feeling badly yesterday forenoon and apparently was in good health. He was standing in doorway at the tile mill talking to Clarence Befersdorfer and Kent Baumgartner when, suddenly, he sank to his knees and fell over backwards. He died in less than three minutes. The body was taken to a farmhouse near the ice pond until (toner Harold Mattax, of Geneva, cared.

Chris Stauffer was born in November, 1873. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. David Stauffer, who preceded him in death several years ago. His step parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham M. Hagegger, survive. Other surviving relatives are his widow, Mrs. Edna Stauffer; six children, Mrs. C. H. Stewart, of Fort Wayne; Orlando, Waldo, LeRoy, Harold and Marian, all at home; one brother, Dan; and six half-brothers, Albin, Markle, Peter and Noah of Fort Wayne, Menno, Amos and Dal of Berne. Sisters that live to men his death are Mrs. C. G. Flaig of Fort Wayne, Mrs. Sam Hagegger of Mrs. William Nussbaum of Berne.

Nine Children Made Homeless By Suicide

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—Nine children we made fatherless today by the suicide of Henry Kraus, 57, who shot himself because of despondency over ill health.

NO ACTION ON MC GRAY'S PLEA

Attorney General Denies That Physician Will Go To Examine McCray

Washington, Dec. 3.—(United Press)—Application for pardon of Warren T. McCray, former governor of Indiana, has not yet been acted on by Attorney General Sargent, he announced today.

Sargent said that reports stating the department of justice would send a physician to Atlanta to determine the status of McCray's health were erroneous and that any medical attention needed by the prisoner would be furnished there.

Denton's Attorneys File An Amended Complaint

Vincennes, Ind., Dec. 3.—(United Press)—Attorneys for George Denton, Evansville democrat, today filed an amended complaint in the Knox county circuit in their suit to oust Benjamin Willoughby, republican of Vincennes, as supreme court justice. The demurrer of Attorney General Gilliom to the original complaint was sustained by Judge Emison, sometime ago.

Heavy Casualties in Chinese Civil War



Casualties are heavier in the present civil war in China than in any previous fighting. A group of poorly shod guerrillas is shown carrying a wounded officer to the hospital.

STORES TAKING ANNUAL INVOICE

None Of The Business Houses Close For Check-up; Prepare For Sales

Several Decatur stores have been busy this week with their annual invoice of stock. None of the stores closed for the invoice, but counted their wares between visits of customers. Other stores will begin early next week with their check-up of goods on hand.

The invoice is always made between the Christmas rush and the mid-winter sale period. The system is used in order that the various business houses may know how much of their goods has been sold during the holiday season.

INDICT SMITH FOR MISUSING FUNDS

Former Adjutant General Of National Guard Faces Serious Charge

Indianapolis, Dec. 31.—An indictment charging Harry B. Smith, former adjutant general of the Indiana national guard, with misappropriation of large sums of public money was returned today by the Marion county grand jury.

The indictment is based on a report of examiners from the state board of accounts, charging Smith with cash discrepancies of \$14,954, and a claim of \$15,735 against him by the audit bureau of the war department.

Smith served for eight years as adjutant general of the Indiana guard under Governors Goodrich and McCray.

The grand jury voted its indictment after spending several weeks checking the report of the accounts board.

Buried Under Tons Of Coal: Returns To Work 30 Minutes After Rescue

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—Thirty minutes after he had been rescued alive, after being buried beneath several tons of coal in the bunkers of a local factory, Emile DeVoss, returned to work today, fearing that should he go to his home, he would be docked for lost time.

DeVoss was buried beneath the coal while trying to clear a jam in the chute. For more than two hours, city firemen and police worked to free the man.

Habit Of Smoking Costs Life Of An Aged Woman In Soldiers' Home

Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—The habit of smoking a pipe cost the life of Mrs. Lucinda Bowman, 86, an inmate of the State Soldiers' Home here.

A blanket she had thrown about her shoulders caught fire from her pipe and she was fatally burned before two nurses could beat out the flames.

TO SEND MAIL SOUTH ON BUS

Post-Office Department Issues Order For New Mail Service Here

Mail, which was sent from Fort Wayne and Decatur south on the Pennsylvania railroad in the mornings, prior to the discontinuance of the morning train in September, will again leave in the mornings through an arrangement by the government with the automobile bus lines operating between Fort Wayne and Portland, it was announced today, in a special order from the government postal department.

The order is: "The Postmaster at Fort Wayne is authorized to employ temporary star route service under section 1396, Postal Laws and Regulations, from Fort Wayne by Decatur, Monroe, Berne, Geneva, and Portland, six times a week, one way only, at the rate of \$3.00 a trip, effective January 4."

The order will be of great advantage to Berne, Monroe, and Geneva since there was no way of mail reaching those towns until afternoon. Newspapers, especially, received a blow when the G. R. & L. division moved the trains last fall, but the new arrangement will alleviate the situation to a great extent.

No exact schedule has been arranged other than that the bus will leave Fort Wayne at 7 o'clock a. m., and will arrive at Portland at 9:15. This order does not call for a Sunday schedule.

Alleged Bandit Held

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—Frank Mears, 22, who local police say has a long prison record, is in jail here today pending further identification as one of the bandits who robbed a grocery store in Richmond.

Chester Long, of Richmond, manager of the store, identified Mears as one of the bandits.

Weather

Fair tonight and Friday; slightly warmer.

W. W. LOCHNER DIES IN ILLINOIS

Former Employee Of Oil Station At Preble And Local K. of P. Is Dead

W. A. Lower, of this city, received a letter today telling of the death of W. W. Lochner, of Galesburg, Ill., formerly of Preble. Mr. Lochner was connected with the oil station at Preble for many years and had many friends in this city. He died December 21, but the letter containing the sad news did not arrive here until this morning.

Mr. Lochner was a member of the local Knight of Pythias lodge. He moved from this county to Galesburg several years ago, where he has lived until his death. The funeral was held December 24, and burial was held at Galesburg.

FIRST AND LAST FIRE THIS YEAR

Residence Which Had First Blaze Of Year Is Scene Of Fire Today

The William Smith residence, on Thirteenth street, has the distinction of having the first fire this year and in all probability the last fire.

Firemen were called to the Smith residence at 3:30 o'clock this morning to extinguish a small roof blaze, which did damage estimated at about \$15. Early in January, 1925, the firemen were called to the same residence to extinguish a similar fire, which did about the same amount of damage.

Mrs. Smith awakened this morning and heard a peculiar sound on the roof of the house. She investigated and found the roof was on fire. A hurried answer by the fire department saved the house. It is not known how the fire started, but it is thought that the cause was from sparks from the chimney or a defective flue.

State Farm Bureau Is Backing Highway Board

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—The Indiana farm bureau is reiterating its confidence in the state highway commission, today prepared to push its demand that the cases against the commissioners be brought to trial at once.

The officials of the bureau branded the indictments against John Williams, director, and Earl Crawford, commissioner, as a move of "greedy politicians," and declared the charges should either be proved or disproved and dropped entirely.

Ex-Soldier On Trial For Murder At Greenfield

Greenfield, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—Trial of John Dorsey, former soldier charged with murdering his wife, Fay Dorsey, progressed rapidly today.

Defense and state attorneys hoped to complete the case by January 1, so that Fred McAllister, one of the defense attorneys, may assume his position of city judge in Indianapolis.

Timothy Glenn, Indianapolis policeman, told of threats Dorsey was said to have made against his wife before the shooting.

CLASS ROLL IS ANNOUNCED

Many States Represented In Student Body Of Reppert Auction School

A complete list of winter term students in the Reppert Auction School has been compiled by Colonel Fred Reppert. The students all say that they like Decatur and it is needless to repeat the sentiment of this city, that it is always glad to entertain them as long as they remain here.

The school at present is in its first week of the mid-winter term and the students say that one day in the school is worth the entire fee. The class roster is: E. B. Miller, Woodbine, Maryland; Frank Montgomery, Livingston, Montana; Earl L. Severance, Wixom, Michigan; Delmer L. Reed, R. R. 6, Richmond, Ohio; John H. McClain, R. R. 1, Wauseon, Ohio; Wilson Wimberley, Kearney, Nebraska; Scott D. Lewis, R. R. 2, Martinsville, Indiana; Walter Carlson, Monterey, Minnesota; G. M. Playfair, Balduin, Man. Canada; R. G. Nelson, Racine, Wisconsin; Ray Cornell, Lafayette, Indiana; Hugh J. Gorman, Peotone, Illinois; Murray Spencer, Nortonville, Kansas; Wm. H. Kruger, Jr., Tilden, Nebraska; Fleete Cephart, Miamisburg, Ohio; Robert C. (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

Cardinal Mercier Passes Good Night; Still Weak

Brussels, Dec. 31.—Cardinal Mercier, upon whom an operation for ulcer of the stomach was performed this week, passed a good night but was very weak today.

The 74-year-old man slept several hours during the night.

His physicians have prescribed a liquid diet.

The Pope, it is learned, sent the cardinal his benediction previous to the operation and also announced that he was holding a special mass for him.

D. C. H. S. ALUMNI HOLD BANQUET

Graduates Of Catholic High Vote To Hold Annual Banquet At Christmas Time

The alumni of Decatur Catholic high school gathered in the dining room of the new Catholic high school building following the alumni-high school basketball game last night, and held a banquet. It was voted to make the banquet an annual affair, to take place during the Christmas holidays each year.

Eleven graduates, Father J. A. Seimetz, Father Otto Peters, and John Fisher and M. J. Mylott, members of the advisory board, attended the banquet. The meal was prepared by the Eats Restaurant and was served by the Misses Bernadine Christen, Helen Holthouse and Alice Clark.

Earl Christen, a member of the graduating class of 1925, presided as toastmaster. Speeches were made by Father Seimetz, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Mylott. The alumni present were: Margaret Mylott, Irene Holthouse, Charlotte Niblick, Andrew Appleman, Aloysius Schneider, Marie Poos, Robert Vogles, Gerald Mylott, George Laurent, Fred Schulte and Earl Christen.

EXPRESSION OF OPTIMISM HEARD AT CONFERENCE

Both Sides Believe Contract Can And Should Be Negotiated Now

DISCUSS CHECKOFF AND ARBITRATION

(U. P. Staff Correspondent)

New York, Dec. 31.—Unfaltering in their determination to end the anthracite coal strike, operators and mine union leaders again conferred today in the hope that they might reach an amicable adjustment which would send 158,000 miners back to work.

Two days of negotiations behind closed doors on the third floor of the Union League club have failed to furnish a basis for agreement, but a ray of hope was cast in the following joint announcement last midnight:

"Both sides expressed the opinion that a contract can and should be negotiated at this conference."

This utterance was the first expression of optimism to come out of the conference since the discussions began on Tuesday.

Of special significance in the light of the announcement was the further information that the conferences had spent all yesterday afternoon and evening in discussing two of the outstanding differences which have proved a stumbling block in the way of anthracite peace—arbitration and the checkoff.

It is believed that since concessions will have to be made by both sides the operators are willing to grant the checkoff demand of the miners if in return the miners waive their opposition to arbitration.

In this connection, Alvan Markle, neutral chairman of the conference, continues to press consideration of his plan to establish a "fact finding" committee, composed of three operators, three miners and three men to be appointed by the President. Markle holds that the practical work of this committee would not constitute arbitration, but would merely be an extension of the arbitration conciliation board set up under the Roosevelt award, 20 years ago.

Youthful Customer Causes Arrest Of Bootlegger

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 31.—(United Press)—Information accidentally furnished by a 15-year-old customer for bootleg booze resulted today in the arrest of Harlan Gray and seizure of liquor worth \$1,500.

Police had searched Gray's home without results when the boy entered with a bottle and not seeing the officers, asked for liquor.

Renewing their search, the officers found the house cache in an empty house next door.

SIX PER CENT DIVIDEND PAID

Provident Building And Loan Association Closes Year's Business

The directors of the Provident Building and Loan Association met last evening for their annual session as provided under their constitution and by-laws and closed the year's business by declaring a six per cent dividend and setting aside three per cent of the gross profits as a contingent fund to guard against any losses that might accrue.

The secretary read his report, which showed that the company is already becoming an important one for the community. It was organized last July and began business September 1 with more than a hundred stockholders. A half dozen loans have been made, the company has several applications on hand and the indications are that the

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