

1931 In Indiana

By United Press
January
George L. Saunders, state representative of Bluffton dies suddenly of heart disease on the eve of his selection as majority leader of the 77th Indiana general assembly.
Seventy-seventh Indiana general assembly convenes.
H. O. "Pat" Page resigns as head football coach at Indiana University at request of athletic board.
Earl C. Hayes is chosen head football coach at Indiana university to succeed H. O. "Pat" Page. Hayes was assistant coach.
Twenty-nine miners killed in explosion in "Little Betty" coal mine near Linton.

February
Grant county circuit court jury acquits Charles Lennon, second defendant tried on a charge of complicity in lynching of two negroes on the courthouse lawn, August 7, 1930.
March
Governor Leslie vetoes Old Age Pension bill, appearing personally before the senate to explain action.
State budget of \$75,000,000 adopted by both houses of legislature. Only \$92,000 below original figure.
Governor Leslie signs bill creating state boxing commission. Re-apportionment bill reducing districts from 13 to 12, adopted.
Legislature adjourns 1:15 p.m. after turning back official clocks for 13 hours.
Virgil Kirkland, Gary, convicted in Valparaiso on a charge of murdering Arlene Draves, his sweetheart, at a Gary gin party. Sentenced to life imprisonment.
Harold Herbert Schroeder, Mobile, Ala., convicted on manslaughter charge at Indianapolis, for "torch slaying" of unidentified man whose charred body was found in Schroeder's auto May 31, 1930. Sentenced two to 21 years.
Affidavits against six Marion men charged with implication in lynching of two negroes on Grant county court house lawn in August, 1930, dismissed because of acquittal of two defendants in separate trials.
Muncie Racetrack wins 1931 Indiana high school basketball championship, defeating Greencastle, 31 to 23.

April
Body of Knute Rockne, famous Notre Dame football coach who was killed in air crash near Bazaar, Kansas, received at South Bend.
Knute Rockne buried.
Virgil Kirkland, who was convicted on a first degree murder charge for the gin party slaying of his sweetheart, Arlene Draves, an sweethearted to life imprisonment, is granted a new trial by Judge Grant Crumpacker in Porter circuit court, Valparaiso.

Cities of Muncie and Indianapolis file suits in Marion circuit court charging fraud and corruption in passage of House Bill 6, motor transportation regulatory measure. Seek injunction to prevent its publication.
Harry E. Rowbottom, Evansville, republican congressman from Indiana's old first district, is found guilty by federal court jury in Evansville on a charge of selling post office appointments, and sentenced to a year and a day in Leavenworth, Kans., federal prison.

May
Joe Caccia, 31, and his mechanic, Clarence Grove, 28, killed when their racing auto goes through wall at Indianapolis speedway during practice for Memorial day race.
Virgil Kirkland, 20, accused of slaying Arlene Draves, 18-year-old sweetheart in a Gary gin party, convicted on assault and battery charge at second trial in Porter circuit court, Valparaiso, and sentenced to one to 10 years imprisonment.
Louis Schneider, Indianapolis, wins annual Indianapolis speedway 500-mile auto race after Billy Arnold, 1930 winner, crashes and is injured seriously, while in lead at 400-mile mark.

June
President Herbert Hoover speaks to the Indiana Republican Editorial Association in Indianapolis at annual dinner.
Alice Jean, 10, and Virginia, 14, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Simmons, of near Greencastle, die of strychnine poison placed in pressed chicken sandwiches eaten at Simmons-Pollard family reunion in Lebanon. Three others ill of poisoning.
July
Mrs. Carrie Simmons indicted by Boone county grand jury charged with first degree murder of her daughters, Alice Jean, 10, and Virginia, 10, who died of strychnine in sandwiches eaten at a family reunion picnic in Lebanon, June 21.
Skeleton of Parlie Hogg, 16,

found at bottom of air shaft in Central high school, Muncie, where he apparently fell to mysterious death in 1922.
Two federal prohibition agents, John Wilson, 46, Indianapolis, and Walter Gilbert, 33, Cincinnati, shot to death by George Adams, 35, bootlegger, near Fort Wayne. Adams captured.
Elizabeth Dunn, Indianapolis, wins state women's golf title, one up, over Alice Belle English, Lafayette.

August
Neil McIntyre, Indianapolis, wins state open golf title in third play-off with Ralph Stonehouse, Indianapolis.
Bill Heinlein, Indianapolis, wins state amateur golf title.
Point on Charles Elkins farm, 2.7 miles from Linton, Ind., is designated by U. S. census bureau as nation's new population center.

September
Trial of Mrs. Carrie Simmons, Hancock county farm mother, on first degree murder charge, for the strychnine poisoning of her daughter, Alice Jean, 10, at a Lebanon family reunion picnic, opens in Boone circuit court, Lebanon.
November
Charles A. Greathouse, 62, democratic national committeeman from Indiana, died in Indianapolis hospital.
Boone circuit court jury in Lebanon fails to agree in first degree murder trial of Mrs. Carrie Simmons, and is discharged by Judge John W. Hornaday.
Mrs. Carrie Barrett Simmons released on \$10,000 bond.
Grant county grand jury in Marion virtually discredits Attorney General James Ogden's charges that the city is "seething in corruption" by adjourning without returning indictments against county officers.
George Adams is sentenced in Allen circuit court to two to 21 years in state prison on manslaughter conviction for slaying of John Wilson, federal

prohibition agent, near Fort Wayne, July 22.
Southern California breaks Notre Dame's three-year winning streak in football with "game of the century", 16-14 victory at South Bend after trailing 14-0 at start of fourth period.
Thomas Taggart, French Lick, elected democratic national committeeman from Indiana to succeed Charles Greathouse.
Purdue beats Northwestern in sensational upset to gain triple tie with Northwestern and Michigan for Big Ten football championship. Notre Dame loses to Army, 12-0, in equally unexpected reverse.

1931 REVIEW
OF EVENTS IN
ADAMS COUNTY
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)
wages.
Mar. 9—Yellow Jacket basketball team wins sectional meet.
Reapportionment bill places Adams county in Fourth district.
Apr. 7—Dr. Homer P. Rainey, president Franklin College, to be high school commencement speaker, May 20.
Apr. 10—Adams county conference on Child Health and Protection opens for two-day session.
Apr. 11—50 students to be graduated from Decatur high school.
Apr. 13—April term of Adams Circuit court opens.
Apr. 15—Civic Section of Women's Club to sponsor flower contest.
Apr. 16—Decatur Catholic High school becomes accredited school by state board of education.
Apr. 17—Decatur Independent baseball team joins Wabash Valley league.
Apr. 22—Engineers to be employed to prepare plans for Decatur's new electrical distribution lines.
Apr. 28—Twenty-one students to be graduated from Decatur Catholic high school.
May 6—Arthur Clark appointed

city night policeman.
May 8—Henry Kister of Princeton, appointed special judge in Wabash River dredge case.
May 9—Peoples State Bank of Berne to open May 16. D. J. Harkless, Decatur, cashier.
May 13—Daily Vacation Bible school to open June 1, with Mrs. Cora Downs, principal.
May 14—Herman F. Ehinger elected president of Decatur Country Club.
May 16—Juniors entertain Seniors of Decatur High school with reception.
Jury awards Lawrence Hendri \$1,200 damages in suit against Blanche Bildertack and Fred Young.
May 18—Rev. M. W. Sunderman addresses Senior class members at baccalaureate service.
May 19—Dates for Decatur's third Free Street Fair set for September 15 to 19.
May 20—A will contest case of Aaron Lautzenheiser and Bell Young vs. G. Clinton Lautzenheiser and others, opens.
May 21—Dr. Rainey addresses seniors at annual commencement.
May 29—Married women teachers in Decatur public schools to lose jobs, in accordance with new ruling.

June 1—Charles O. Miller, wife and three children killed Memorial Day at Pennsylvania railroad crossing at Berne.
Program held in observance of 25th anniversary of Decatur Knights of Columbus.
June 4—Adams County Eighth grade schools to graduate 259.
June 6—\$25,000 bond sale ordered for building of Scheimann bridge.
June 8—P. B. Putman, Port Wayne, bid bidder on new Scheimann bridge.
June 16—Adams County farmers petition health board against milk house ruling.
June 22—Elmer Magley, jail breaker, sought 15 months, captured in Michigan.
Rural letter carriers hold annual eighth district meeting in Berne.

June 23—Vost Brothers to open pool, "Green Waters", north of Decatur.
June 29—Everett & Hite Wholesale company sold to A. C. Duguid, Coldwater, Mich.
Doras Werling fatally shot by Joseph Everett in dispute over swimming and fishing rights in St. Marys river.
July 1—New telephone directory with 2,700 listings issued.
July 2—41 teachers employed for Decatur schools. 269 were enrolled in Daily Vacation Bible schools.
July 3—Harl Hollingsworth named state motorcycle officer.
A. D. Suttles installed as president of Rotary club.
July 6—Married nurses not to be employed on regular basis at hospital.
More than 50 horses died in county last week.
Miss Pearl Ray awarded T. I. Kappe scholarship.
July 7—O. W. P. Macklin awarded contract for second street improvement. Bid \$27,872.00.
Papers charging Joseph Everett with murder filed by Squire A. C. Butcher in Circuit court.
July 8—New purifier in operation at city swimming pool.
City to place new tables in Legion Memorial park.
Sult to recover \$60,000 from stockholders of old Peoples Loan and Trust company filed by the Schafer Co.
July 9—Chinch bugs invade Adams County.
D. Fred Patterson named member of State board of education and hygiene.
July 10—Council postpones remodeling of city hall building.
34 men employed on post office building.
Bernard Clark resigns as manager of Decatur Country club.
July 11—No Saturday afternoon mail delivery in city.
Teachers institute to be one day affair.
July 13—Everett and Hite wholesale business liquidated.
Mrs. Mabelle Myers reappointed county attendance officer.
Township trustees not to aid persons owning automobiles.

July 14—Taxpayers of Union township to meet July 20.
Odd Fellows to hold picnic July 19.
July 17—Temperature 103 degrees above.
Sheriff Johnson makes raid on Frank Staub residence.
July 18—Adams county credited with 2,140 farms.
July 20—Raids made on Adam Diehl and Sam Bailer homes.
July 22—Two men captured while trying to break in McConnell and Son wholesale house.
July 23—Junior league baseball tournament gets under way.
July 25—Portland wins junior league championship.
July 28—Work started on new Scheimann bridge.
City of Decatur wins suit filed by Insull Utility interests.
July 29—Members of Lions junior league team go to Cincinnati to see game.
July 30—Remonstrances filed against Hocker and Reusser road improvements.
August 1—Dr. Bart Mangold re-elected president of school board.
Premium lists for Decatur street fair issued.
Summer term of Reppert Auction school opens.
August 3—Judge Erwin announces plan to sentence child and wife deserters to work on roads at \$1 a day.
Aug. 4—Edgar Mutschler named new director at Old Adams County Bank.
Aug. 5—Small depositors in local banks to be charged monthly service fee.
Phil Sauters awarded contract for building Myers road in St. Mary's township.
Aug. 7—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Broddy and daughter of Dayton, O., killed in crash with Pennsylvania passenger train at Monmouth.
Aug. 10—Spanish American war veterans meet at Ossian.
Window peeper stabs Virgil "Pete" Krick three times.
Aug. 12—Annual M. E. excursion to Toledo, O., attended by 476

picnickers.
Aug. 17—Clifton Hart and Willard McConnehey arrested in liquor raids.
Grace Debolt suffers fractured skull in auto accident at Berne.
Leah Griffiths and Betty Frislinger win trips to state fair school.
Twenty-fifth term of Reppert Auction school closes, diplomas presented to 29 graduates.
Aug. 22—Road bond levies in all townships to be lower.
Aug. 28—Weather gauge to be located here, in the charge of Mary Yost.
Aug. 31—Grand and petit juries for September term of court drawn.
Sept. 2—City council adopts budget and fixes tax rate at 71c.
Annual Adams County Teachers' Institute held here.
Citizens ask that macadam streets be oiled.
Miss Florence Gerke killed in auto accident in Chicago.
Sept. 8—Decatur public and parochial schools open for fall term with 1,359 enrollment.
September term of court opens.
Sept. 9—Wabash river dredge case opens.
Sept. 10—Issuing of bonds for improvements of Reusser and Hocker road disapproved.
Sept. 11—Judgments totalling \$10,850 sought against bank of Linn Grove.
Sept. 12—Washington township poor levy increased three cents on \$100, because of \$1,280.70 deficit in fund.
Sept. 15—Decatur Free Street fair opens with parade of 1,000 children.
Sept. 16—Old Settlers Day program given. Horse and cattle parade feature of fair.
Sept. 17—Evidence heard in Wabash river drain case.
Flower show awards made.
Automobile parade held.
Sept. 18—Henry Foreman, rural mail carrier, to retire Nov. 30.
Sept. 19—1931 Street fair closes.
Sept. 21—Thieves loot local drug stores.
Sept. 22—Elmer Magley, who

escaped jail and was captured, to face grand jury.
Bootleg ring with portable still uncovered in raid. Harry Hiseley arrested.
Sept. 23—Thirty-one local merchants to close stores at 5:30 o'clock.
Sept. 24—Farm of Jesse Stoneburner heirs destroyed by fire.
Sept. 26—Receive formal approval to issue bonds for Second street improvement.
Sept. 28—Bandit robs Standard Oil Service station and gets \$201.
Sept. 29—Rev. H. H. Fernthall succeeds Leo Elinger as commander of Legion Post.
Sept. 30—William Dixon charged with entering McConnell building, found guilty by jury.
Oct. 1—Mrs. C. E. Hocker elected president of County W.C.T.U.
Oct. 5—Pearl Hogston sentenced one to 19 years at reformatory. Dixon seeks new trial.
Oct. 6—The case of State vs. Dr. Elizabeth Burns of Ft. Wayne opens.
Oct. 7—Unimproved streets of city to be oiled.
Charles Robinson awarded contract for remodeling city hall. Bonds sold for building of McGuffigan road.
Oct. 8—Resurfacing of Second street in progress.
Oct. 9—Dr. Elizabeth Burns is found "not guilty."
Oct. 10—Pearl Hogston taken to Pendleton for one to 10 years.
Oct. 12—Work completed on Dairy Day. Gov. H. G. Leslie to attend.
Tax rates for 1932 in Adams County to be reduced from 73 to 58 cents on hundred dollars.
Oct. 13—Bandits use H. D. Schmitt car to rob a Mishawaka bank of \$12,000.
Oct. 14—Thousands take part in Dairy Day. J. L. Kraft, president of cheese manufacturing concern here.
Oct. 15—Joseph Everett indicted for first degree murder.
15,000 attended Dairy Day.
Oct. 16—Fred Schafer, veteran merchant, injured in auto mishap.
Oct. 17—Harry Sipe replaces J. M. Breiner as janitor of court house.
Oct. 21—Methodist to have jubilee on fiftieth anniversary of the present church.
Oct. 22—Joseph Everett to face first degree murder charge Nov. 23.
Oct. 23—Bonds for improvement of Myers and Sheets macadam roads sold to Old Adams County Bank.
Oct. 27—Beet plan explained to local farmers at joint meeting here.
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Oct. 31—George Massonnee, 79, fatally injured when struck by automobile.
Nov. 3—Arthur Daniels and Austin Krick charged with stealing chickens.
Arthur Sipe, 27, ends life with shotgun.
Nov. 6—1932 tax bills reduced \$150,000.
Nov. 9—Three women drawn on special venire for murder jury to try Joseph Everett.
United Charities to conduct money drive to aid charity here.
Nov. 11—Armistice Day observed here.
Nov. 14—Civic section fruit drive for hospital is completed.
Nov. 16—American Red Cross drive started here.
Nov. 19—Elmer Magley, jail breaker, sentenced by court.
Clifton E. Striker, re-elected president of Adams County Sunday School Association.
Nov. 20—Adams County Economics Clubs present Achievement Day program.
Nov. 23—Joseph Everett murder case opens.
Nov. 26—Thanksgiving Day observed.
Nov. 30—State completes evidence in Everett murder case.
Dec. 1—Postoffice building dedicated.
Dec. 3—Deel Electric Engineering and Construction Co. awarded contract for electric distribution system.
Dec. 4—Grave diggers attempt to rob grave of Milo Black.
Dec. 5—Santa Claus, guide and musher, visit Decatur.
Scheimann bridge open to public.
Dec. 7—Joseph Everett found guilty by jury of first degree murder.
Dec. 9—Wabash river dredge case re-opened.
Road building credits total \$267,637.26 for 12 townships.
Annual corn show held in Court House.
Dec. 14—Adams county agriculture agent, L. E. Archbold, establishes office in federal building.
Dec. 19—J. H. Heller named trustee of Ball State Teachers and Terre Haute State Normal colleges.
Dec. 23—General Electric club entertains 1,000 children and adults at Christmas party.
Dec. 24—Christmas to be observed throughout Decatur and Adams county.
Dec. 29—Mid-winter class of Reppert School of Autoengineering opens.
Dec. 30—Schafer Company conference held here.

« Pictorial Review of March of Events of 1931 »



One day when Old Father Time is in a reminiscent mood he will, no doubt, look back over his brood of 'ear children and rumble in his beard, "I remember when—" As he skims over the life of child 1931 some of the principal events of that period that will occur to him are pictured above. (1) Depicts a tragedy that shook the nation when Knute Rockne, famous football coach of Notre Dame, was dashed to death in a plane on March 31, near Bazaar, Kansas. (2) Wiley Post and Harold Gatty accomplished "the impossible" by flying around the world in eight days and 15 hours, starting and finishing the epic flight at Roosevelt Field, New York. (3) The largest dirigible in the world, the U. S. S. Akron, was successfully launched and made her maiden trip at Akron, Ohio, on September 23. (4) August Piccard and an assistant flew to 50,000 feet into the stratosphere in a sealed ball, on May 27, landing in the Austrian Tyrol eighteen hours after their take-off from Augsburg, Germany. (5) On August 27 the huge German flying boat DO-X came to rest on New York Harbor after completing a flight of 12,000 miles which started in Germany on November 5, 1930. (6) The most impenetrable mystery of 1931 was the death of Starr Faithfull, beautiful New York society girl, whose body was found on a deserted beach on Long Island. Whether she was the victim of murder, suicide or accident has never been established. (7) The year was remarkable for the number of foreign diplomats who came here to confer with the President. Mr. Hoover is shown in composite with Premier Laval of France and Foreign Minister Dino Grandi of Italy, who discussed international affairs with the Chief Executive at Washington, D. C. (8) The world lost its most brilliant inventive genius in the death of Thomas A. Edison at his home in Orange, N. J., on October 18, at the age of 84. (9) Depicts an event of great importance to the Catholic Church. Pope Pius XI is shown as he delivered the first radio address from the new station built in Vatican City, February 12. (10) Spain became a Republic with the abdication of King Alfonso on April 14. His queen, Victoria, who fled with him, is shown bidding farewell to her courtiers on the French border where she found refuge. (11) A new field of exploration was opened up by Sir Hubert Wilkins, who left Provincetown, Mass., on June 4, on the first leg of the voyage under the Arctic ice in the submarine Nautilus. (12) The world was stirred when Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Nationalist leader, arrived in London on September 12 to attend the Round Table Conference, seeking freedom for India. Gandhi visited the King in Buckingham Palace wearing a loin cloth. (13) The dove of peace was again put to flight when Japanese forces invaded Manchuria. (14) On March 31, a catastrophe overwhelmed Managua, Nicaragua, when an earthquake shook the city to its foundations, killing approximately 2,000 persons and causing property damage estimated at \$30,000,000, as well as injuring 10,000 of the population.

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