

COMMISSIONERS CLAIMS	
ALLOWED JANUARY 6, 1941	
Miscellaneous	
Citizens Telephone Co. phone	62.85
City of Decatur, L. P. and W. 249.54	
Decatur Democrat Co. exp. A3	60.00
Decatur Electric Shop, jail inf.	3.18
Henry H. H. off. bond	37.50
John H. H. off. bond	13.50
Moses Augsburger Com. m.	2.12
Frank Liniger off. bond	10.00
Isa B. Fuhrman off. bond	2.50
G. C. Moser do	2.50
The Schaefer Store Cl. House	25.00
Home Witness Co. Loyal Ad.	12.76
Kirk T. D. Ditch exp.	31.00
A. D. B. off. bond	21.40
O. O. H. off. bond	25.79
Clyde G. Trostner postage	30.70
H. K. and Son Cl. exp.	11.20
Frank Evanson ditch	2.00
Vance Baxter do	6.30
Edna Mattox do	
Co. Infirmity	
Schaefer Store op. exp.	1.85
Lewis W. do	1.00
Joe G. do	3.00
Hon. E. K. B. B. Co. do	34.50
Dr. S. M. Friedley do	7.20
Geneva H. do	
Highway Repair	
The Souther Co. op. exp.	26.08
Mettler & Baumgartner do	22.66
Kirk T. D. Ditch exp.	31.00
J. L. Case Co. do	1032.95
Mettler & Baumgartner Cl. 249.90	
Welfare Fund	
Citizens Tel. Co. phone	7.65
Certified this 5th day of January 1941.	
Victor H. Eicher	
Auditor Adams County	Jan. 10

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ADAMS COUNTY, 1940				
	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance	Overdraft
County Revenue	1,041,904.37	1,041,904.37	3,572.14	
Gravel Road Repairs	144,314.01	114,238.71	30,075.30	
County Welfare Fund	332.82	471.73	138.91	
County Welfare Trust Fund	21,812.21	21,812.21	10,257.28	
Taxation Twp. Ind. B. & C.	92,250.21	77,935.16	14,315.05	
County Poor Fund	244.27	192.81	51.46	
Tax Sale Redemption	330.00	260.00	70.00	
Zion Cemetery Perpetual T. F.	15,252.57	15,252.57		
Principal Common	3,708.30	3,708.30		
Principal Per. Endowment	1,589.39	1,274.39	315.00	
Interest Common	1,007.80	13,203.71	1,396.10	
Interest Constitutional	1,007.80	2,573.12	222.55	
Interest Per. Endowment	1,007.80	1,231.04		
Fines and Forfeitures	183.09	183.09	78.08	
Surplus School Fund	200.00		200.00	
School Fund Improvement	516.82	516.82		
State Tax	12,580.93	12,580.93		
Common School Relief F.	19,515.28	19,515.28		
Teachers Retirement Fund	2,080.82	2,080.82		
Board of Agriculture	872.20	872.20		
State Forestry	498.38	498.38		
New Harmony Memorial	234.89	234.89		
Ind. Wolf Lake Park	439.17	439.17		
Educational Improvement F.	294.33	294.33		
Intangible Distribution	7,678.14	7,678.14		
Docket Fees	132.50	132.50		
Shaw Licensure	16,166.31	16,166.31		
Tuition Tax	59,461.00	59,461.00		
Special School Tax	104,582.37	104,582.37		
Special School Bond Tax	21,812.21	21,812.21		
Common School Revenue	6,600.21	6,600.21		
Surplus Do Fund	902.15	874.15	28.00	
Library Fund	4,005.65	4,005.65		
Corporation Tax	27,280.82	27,280.82		
Fencing Drain-Construction	135.05	135.05	134.05	
Emergency L. Shirk Drain do	2,413.12	2,413.12	71.88	
Floyd Aker St. Imp.	17,706.12	17,706.12		
Closed Banks	2,139.28	2,139.28		
Inheritance Tax	645.31	645.31		
John Hiseb Drain Const.	439.17	439.17		
John Hiseb D. B. & Interest	1,519.64	1,519.64		
North Johnson D. B. Interest	601.49	601.49		
Unpaid, Thistles	12.00	4,011.50	12.00	
Intangible Stamps	4,011.50	4,011.50		
Total	\$1,012,231.87	\$1,012,231.87	\$1,179.38	\$ 7,324.58
Certified this 9th day of January 1941.				
Victor H. Eicher				
Auditor Adams County				Jan. 10

## SPRAGUE OFFERS

Furniture and Rugs  
During Pre-Inventory Sale  
Far Below Actual Market Price.

LIVING ROOM SUITES as low as	\$35.00
MODERN DINING ROOM SUITES as low as	65.00
MODERN BEDROOM SUITES as low as	38.50
STUDIO COUCHES as low as	24.50
INNERSPRING MATTRESSES as low as	15.00
COIL SPRINGS	4.98 up
KITCHEN CABINETS	12.50 up
BREAKFAST SETS	8.50 up
9x12 AXMINSTER RUGS	23.85 up
9x12 GOLD SEAL RUGS	5.50 up
9x12 RUG PADS	2.90

Watch our Windows for the latest styles.

**Sprague Furniture Store**  
PHONE 199.

## Test Your Knowledge

Can you answer seven of these ten questions? Turn to page Four for the answers.

1. What body of water encircles the North Pole?
2. Do Confederate veterans receive pensions from the Federal Government?
3. Which President first occupied the White House?
4. With what economic philosophy is the name of Henry George associated?
5. Which well-known English dramatist is a vegetarian?
6. Will a body weigh more or less at the equator than at the poles of the earth?
7. Is United States citizenship a requirement for eligibility to retirement benefits under the old-age and survivors insurance provision of the Social Security Act?
8. Who painted "A Reading from Homer"?
9. The length of the Panama Ca-

## BERNE NEWS

By S. M. SCHWARTZ

The poultry school held at the Berne auditorium all-day Thursday was very well attended, several hundred poultry breeders of Berne and community attending the two sessions. The school was sponsored by Purdue University in cooperation with county agent L. E. Archbold and the Berne Chamber of Commerce.

The January banquet and meeting of the Berne Chamber of Commerce will be held Monday evening, Jan. 20, above the Swiss Cafe.

## "TRIAL WITHOUT JURY"

By JAMES RONALD

### CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

The desk telephone rang sharply. Sheriff Black lifted the receiver.

"Hello... Who?... What does he want?... Oh, all right, send him in."

Black replaced the receiver and frowned at the Inspector.

"Simon Osborne," he said. "Now what can he want?"

In a few moments Simon entered the room. For once in his life his bearing was far from jaunty. All the bounce, the braggadocio, the unabashed swagger that usually distinguished him were missing. His unhappy face lengthened when he saw that Stephen and Ann were present.

"I—I am ashamed to face you, Stephen," he stammered. "This—this ghastly affair is all my fault. I could have prevented it. Until the end of my life I shall blame myself for not preventing it. Oh, I'm a worthless old scamp, Stephen, but, believe me, if I'd only foreseen what would happen, I should have spoken out long ago. Tell me, will Edith live?"

Stephen nodded dully.

"Thank God! If she'd died, it would have been my fault."

"What on earth are you talking about?" Sheriff Black demanded.

"The editor of the Sunday World told me of Edith's visit to him. He told me what he said to her. When I read in last night's paper that she had been found dying from poison, I realized instantly what had happened. She left a note, I suppose, confessing to Octavia's murder?"

"I have it here," said the Sheriff, "but—"

"Yes, that is what she would do. That was Edith. The editor told her that there would never be any peace for her family as long as the murder remained unsolved. Edith loved her children. For them, no sacrifice was too great. So she wrote her supposed confession and tried to end her life. If I had only foreseen that this would happen—"

"Yes?" said the Sheriff, his voice growing suddenly cold. "If you had foreseen it, what would you have done?"

"I should have revealed the identity of the person who really murdered Octavia."

"Ah!"

"Yes. Almost as soon as I heard the details of the case I knew who did it. It was so obvious. There was only one person who could have done it. Edith? Stephen? Never! Neither of those two loving parents would have murdered Octavia and left their daughter in the room with the body. They would never have submitted her to the ordeal of looking up and seeing a murdered corpse a few feet from where she sat. Nor would Hannah Gale. Oh, Hannah could kill, but not like that. She loves the children almost as dearly as Edith does."

"Ann? No, not Ann. She would not have committed the murder with Dorothy's scarf. Ann's too loyal for that. And her whole temperament would be opposed to murder by strangulation. Dorothy? She's too gentle for murder; in her, the capacity to hurt is wholly lacking."

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Officers for 1941 will be elected at this meeting. About 30 railroad men, including several officials of the Pennsylvania railroad will attend the banquet and motion picture portraying the growth of the railroad industry will be shown.

The annual union evangelistic services and Bible studies which are now in progress at the Menomonee church, will come to a close next Sunday evening. The speaker is the Rev. Wilbur Smith of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. The services have been well attended.

A new record of \$28,497.43 was established at the Berne postoffice during 1940, according to Rena Zehr, postmaster. This is the largest in the history of the office which was established here in 1872. The receipts exceeded the previous high mark set in 1935 by \$746.42. The local office is a second class postoffice.

Miss Betty Schindler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vilas Schindler, has been placed on the fall term honor roll of Manchester College. Miss Schindler is a senior and is majoring in music and home economics. She has taken a very active part in campus life at Manchester.

Leonard Whitehurst shot and killed a large red fox on the Charles Hawbaker farm south of Berne, recently. The fox was one of the biggest seen here in some time. This was the fifth fox Whitehurst has killed in the last several years.

Berne's annual independent basketball tournament will be held at the Berne auditorium Thursday and Friday evenings, Jan. 16 and 17 and on Saturday afternoon and evening, Jan. 18, according to

with a malevolent smirk on her face, positively gloating over my suffering.

"She was a terrible woman. Hard. Bitter. Wicked. I might have forgiven all that. But this final ghastly joke at my expense I could not forgive."

"Five thousand a year for life—and she knew that I was dying on my feet! When I was told, her appalling brutality made me faint and Hannah took me upstairs and made me lie down. I lay there for a long time, thinking... thinking... At half past three Hannah called me and I went downstairs."

"I noticed a beautiful silk scarf lying on a chair in the hall. I love beautiful things, although I have possessed very few. I took it down and fondled it. There were only emerald on the delicate fabric. That was a wicked shame. I wondered whether I could get the stains out with a little bottle of stuff I always carried. I was still holding the scarf in my hand when I looked through the open living-room door and saw my employer sitting there."

"There she sat. Full of her own importance. Puffed up with pride. Cruel. Her head fiercely erect, her back as stiff as a poker. I did not notice Miss Ann. Had a hundred people been in the room, I should have had eyes only for Miss Octavia."

"Then and there I decided. I crept to the back of her chair and looped the scarf about her neck. I crossed the ends and pulled them tight with a strength I never knew I had. I expected her to struggle; I was bracing myself to hang on, but she did not struggle. She gave one little jump, that was all. Before I knew it, she was dead."

"You wouldn't have thought she'd die as easily as that, would you? So strong, so fierce, yet she died without a struggle."

"Then in a flash I realized what an awful thing I had done. I screamed; I could not help it. Miss Ann started up and I noticed her for the first time. I thought she must know I had done it, but she didn't. The others came running in, but no one seemed to think for a moment that it might have been me."

"At first I thought I'd give myself up, but I could not bring myself to do it. I had only a few months at most to live. No, I could not give myself up. I decided to do that only if one of the Osbornes was arrested for the murder. Then it would be my duty to confess. I see now—she sighed—"that it was my duty to confess at the beginning. I am sorry, bitterly sorry."

After Miss Mimms had finished speaking there was a long silence. The others stared in stunned bewilderment at this meek little woman in a drab grey, who sat so submissively with her gloved hands folded on her lap. Miss Mimms smiled faintly.

"Please do not look so concerned, all of you," she said apologetically. "I am not going to hang."

THE END

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Young 'Mike' could have done it, but not with a scarf—not with Dorothy's scarf. Peter? Marjory? Not they! Why should they kill Octavia? For her money? Rubbish! They don't know what money is. To them five dollars is as much as a million. Oh, the identity of the murderer was obvious!

"Why didn't you reveal it immediately?"

"I thought I was being clever," said Simon pathetically. "You see, I'm writing a book about the case, and will call it 'Murder in The Family.' I wanted to keep the identity of the murderer to myself until the book was finished. I thought that to publicly announce my solution—simultaneously with the publication of the book—would be a magnificent publicity stunt."

Simon paused, crossed the room, and opened the door.

"Come in," he said.

Miss Mimms came in. During the past months she had aged almost out of recognition. The lined, sallow face was now pitifully emaciated and yellow. She was still dressed in her usual drab clothing. Timidly she blinked about her. When she saw Stephen and Ann her eyes filled with tears. She made an uncertain move toward them, but changed her mind and wearily seated herself on the edge of a chair which Simon brought forward for her.

"You!" cried Sheriff Black, aghast. "You killed Octavia Osborne?"

"I did," she said firmly; although it was only by a supreme effort that she kept her voice from trembling.

"But why? What possible motive had you?"

"I killed her because in this new will she was going to leave me five thousand dollars a year for life."

"But the will had not been made. By killing her when you did, you prevented her from making it. You robbed yourself of the legacy."

"The legacy..." Miss Mimms smiled, ever so faintly. "That was only a joke on Miss Osborne's part. A very cruel joke. You see, I have a growth. It cannot be cured. In July my doctor warned me that I had not longer than six months to live. Miss Osborne knew that. It must have amused her to tease me with a legacy I could not possibly live to enjoy."

"Good grief!" breathed the Sheriff.

"It was cruel of her, wasn't it? But she was like that, you know. I missed you when you questioned me immediately after the murder. I said she was kind to me. She never was. She was cruel, terribly cruel. But I didn't dare let you see how much I hated her. Making other people suffer was the only real enjoyment she got out of life. She used to treat me like a slave