

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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October Coming Up

The month of October is just a week away, and the autumn season officially started Wednesday afternoon about 2:16 p.m. Decatur is heralding the fall opening with a celebration of their own—the merchants are giving the customers a break, and Friday and Saturday have been set aside for a Fall opening sale.

As you're walking along looking for bargains this weekend, take a look at the numerous improvements. Ferris Bower tells us that his whole north end of town has been painted up for the occasion—this may be an exaggeration, but just count the stores who have made improvements since last spring.

The new bank building is almost completed, and it will revolutionize the corner of Second and Monroe with its modern, clean look.

Local Revenue Problems

When Indiana approved its second constitution in 1851, property was the principal sign of wealth. Barter was still a common means of exchange, and no one had faith in paper money, or in banks, or the like. But every one thought a lot of property. Therefore, since incomes were ridiculously low—even as late as 1890 workers averaged \$400 a year, school teachers even less—it was necessary to tax property.

But the last 20 years have seen a great change. The wealth of the country is represented in large investments, investments that pay off in cash. Wages are high; property ownership is no longer the main sign of income. A man who lives in an apartment may earn \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year, and his wife and older children another \$3,000 to \$5,000 each in addition.

Or manufacturers and businessmen may make large earnings in a community, and live outside of town. There is no implication that this is wrong—it isn't—it is just different from the way things were done when the tax system was set up here.

Today, an income tax makes much better sense than a property tax, for most groups. It is far more equitable than a sales tax; it holds up better during depressed times. It does not work a hardship on those who do not earn money as the property tax often has.

As to whether a gross income surtax would be better than a net income surtax, it will take some study to work this out. A net income can sometimes be manipulated better than a gross income to avoid taxes; at the same time, some groups can get exemptions from the gross income tax that would tend to favor their tax structures.

The mayors of the state have attacked the problem with vigor, and it can be certain that the next state legislature will have a good deal to say on it.

TV PROGRAMS

WANE-TV
Channel 15
THURSDAY

Evening
6:00—Amos and Andy
6:30—Tom Calsberg News
6:45—Doug Edwards News
7:00—Highway Patrol
7:30—Eye Witness to History
8:00—December Bride
8:30—Yancy Derringer
9:00—Zane Gray Theatre
9:30—Playhouse 90
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:15—In Society

Morning
7:30—Peppermint Theatre
8:45—Willy Wonderful
9:00—CBS News
9:15—Captain Kangaroo
9:40—Peppermint Theatre
9:55—Captain Kangaroo
10:00—Our Miss Brooks
10:30—Breakfast in Ft. Wayne
10:40—Sam Levenson
11:00—Love Lucy
11:30—Top Dollar

Afternoon
12:00—Love of Life
12:30—Search for Tomorrow
12:45—Guiding Light
1:00—Ann Colone
1:25—News
1:30—As the World Turns
2:00—For Better or Worse
2:30—Houseparty
3:00—Big Pay-Off
3:30—Verdict in Yours
4:00—Brighter Day
4:15—Secret Storm
4:30—Edge of Night
5:00—Dance Date

Evening
6:00—Amos and Andy
6:30—Tom Calsberg News
6:45—Doug Edwards News
7:00—Death Valley Days
7:30—Rawhide
8:30—New York Confidential
9:00—Lucy and Desi
10:00—Line Up
10:30—Bold Venture
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:15—Here to Hold
11:45—To the Shores of Tripoli
12:30—Blind Spot

WKJG-TV
Channel 33
THURSDAY

Evening
6:00—Gateway to Sports
6:15—News, Jack Gray
6:30—The Weatherman
6:45—Roy Rogers
7:00—Who Pays
7:30—Johnny Staccato
8:00—Bachelor Father
8:30—21 Beacon Street
9:00—You Bet Your Life
9:30—Mansueta Party
10:00—MacKenzie's Raiders
10:30—News and Weather
10:45—Sports Today
11:00—The Jack Paar Show

Morning
7:00—Today
8:00—Ding Dong School

Central Daylight Time

9:30—Treasure Hunt
10:00—The Price is Right
10:30—Concentration
11:00—Tic Tac Dough
11:30—It Could Be You
Afternoon
12:00—News & Weather
12:15—Farm and Farming
12:30—Yesterday's News
12:45—Editor's Desk
1:00—Faith to Live By
1:30—Queen for a Day
2:00—The Thin Man
2:30—Young Dr. Malone
2:45—From These Roots
3:00—Truth or Consequences
3:30—County Fair
4:00—Burns and Allen
4:30—Bozo
4:45—NBC News

Evening
6:00—Gateway to Sports
6:15—News, Jack Gray
6:30—The Weatherman
6:45—People Are Funny
7:00—Trouble Shooters
7:30—The Best of Dourante
8:30—M-Squad
8:45—NBC Western Theatre
9:00—Boxing
9:45—Jackpot Bowling
10:00—City Detective
10:30—News and Weather
10:45—Sports Today
10:50—The Best of Paar

WPTA-TV
Channel 21
THURSDAY

Evening
6:00—Fun 'N' Stuff
7:15—Tom Atkins Reporting
7:30—Documentary Film
8:00—Zorro
8:30—The Real McCoy
9:00—Leave It to Beaver
9:30—Rough Riders
10:00—Lawrence
11:00—Confidential File

Morning
10:00—Mom's Morning Movie
11:30—Susie
Afternoon
12:00—Across the Board
12:30—Pantomime Quiz
1:00—Music Bingo
1:30—Get Happy
2:00—Day in Court
2:30—Cala Storm
3:00—Beat the Clock
3:30—Who Do You Trust
4:00—American Bandstand
5:00—Superman
6:30—Mickey Mouse

Evening
6:00—Fun 'N' Stuff
7:15—Tom Atkins Reporting
7:30—Disney Presents
8:00—Tomatoe Territory
8:30—Sunset Strip
10:30—Decoy
11:00—Black Cat

MOVIES

— DRIVE-IN —
"Gunfight at Dodge City" Fri. and Sat. at 7:10 and 10:30 "Northwest Mounted Police" at 8:45

Intense Hunt
On Today For
Girl's Slayer

MARION, Ind. (UPI)—An intense manhunt was on today for the step-uncle and suspected slayer of a dark-haired nine year old girl who authorities said was raped, strangled and tossed into the muddy Mississinewa river.

A far-flung alarm for the apprehension of Henry Sprong, 42, was issued after the FBI filed a complaint in Federal District Court in Fort Wayne Wednesday night charging unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

A few hours earlier, Grant County authorities filed preliminary first-degree murder charges against Sprong, who fled after the bizarre slaying of Belynda Elitzroth.

Sprong, who once served time on an embezzlement charge, vanished before the child's body, clad only in a blood-covered T-shirt, was found in the river, about 2½ miles from her home. He told the dead girl's stepbrother, Michael Sprong, 14, that he was going to St. Louis.

The FBI said the search for Sprong was concentrated primarily "in the Midwest."

Coroner Henry Alderfer said evidence showed the girl was raped on the wooded river bank, strangled and dumped in the river. Her body was found early Wednesday, several hours after her parents returned home and reported her missing.

The child apparently was waylaid while returning from a grocery store near her home. She was riding a bicycle, which was recovered later from the river, near the spot where her body was found by two city detectives.

The shorts the little girl was wearing were found hidden in a truck which Sprong had borrowed from Henry Sprong, Elwood, another of the girl's step-uncles. Also found in the truck were two bags of potato chips Belynda had bought at the store.

Belynda's teacher, Mrs. Thelma Retz, said the youngster was "a happy little girl" and did "exceptionally well" in her fourth grade schoolwork.

"She always had something to

talk to you about and she was so friendly," Mrs. Retz said.

Sprong, described as 6 feet tall and weighing 168 pounds, had been living at the girl's home for about six weeks helping her stepfather, Ernest Sprong, in his trucking business. He sometimes used the alias, "Bob Canady."

He had been married five times and had two daughters at Kokomo. He was arrested last June 26 for non-support of his Kokomo family.

Police said Sprong served a six-month term at the State Farm in 1943 for embezzlement. He had no previous record of sex offenses, officers said.

The suspect had light brown hair, a crew haircut and was graying at the temples. His right forearm was tattooed with the word, "Bud," and there was another tattoo on his upper left arm.

Harold M. Sommer To
Study In Germany

TIFFIN, O. — Harold M. Sommer, 440 Gage Avenue, Decatur, Ind., is one of six Wabash College junior students who will participate in the junior year at Old Heidelberg program, sponsored by Heidelberg College, Tiffin.

Exceptional students, interested in German, are permitted through the program to spend their entire junior year in Germany, studying at Heidelberg University. Sommer will leave Montreal October 4 along with 14 other students, representing five colleges in all, for sightseeing activities prior to the opening of the first semester November 1.

Siamese Twins To
Chicago Hospital

CHICAGO (UPI) — The face-to-face Siamese twins were transferred to Children's Hospital here where doctors will decide if it is possible to save them through surgery.

The infants, born Sunday in Valparaiso, Ind. were taken to Chicago in incubators. Their condition was reported as good.

20 Years Ago
Today

Sept. 24, 1939 was Sunday and no paper was published.

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