

# DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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Six Cents

## Four Persons Killed As Passenger Train Brushes Signal Tower, Derailed

WELLINGTON, Ohio (UPI) — A New York Central passenger train brushed a signal tower and derailed Sunday night, killing four persons and injuring 41.

A baggage car burst into flame, but the fire did not spread.

Seven cars of the 10-car Southwestern Limited apparently were pulled off the track after a diesel engine unit and a baggage car scraped and knocked over the 40-foot wooden tower. The train was slowing down for a message pickup.

Most of the cars remained standing at a 45-degree angle, a New York Central spokesman said. But a baggage car slammed into a combined passenger and baggage car and fell on top of it.

"Everyone was thrown from their seats," said M. E. Sebeneler, 51, of Sandusky, Ohio, who was in the passenger-baggage car. "A woman and her two children were in front of me. I don't know how they did it, but they escaped without a scratch."

**Crash Hospitalizes 26**

Sebeneler, a postal clerk, was hospitalized with possible internal injuries. Twenty-six persons were admitted to hospitals, in Oberlin, Lodi, Medina and Elyria, but only one was listed in critical condition.

The New York Central spokesman in Indianapolis said the wrecked cars still were being searched for additional victims, but he said he believed all had been found.

The death included the train's fireman, Phillip J. Lehman, 46, of Cleveland; two Pennsylvania Railroad conductors, Kenneth V. Hale, 42, of Rosedale, Ind., and George

P. Rummel, of Indianapolis, who were en route to a union convention in Cleveland, and Mrs. Audrey Cox, 64, of St. Paris, Ohio, a passenger.

The St. Louis-Cleveland train carried about 418 passengers.

"Glass blew all over the place," said M. Sgt. Arthur W. Cyphers, 43, stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base, Rome, N.Y. "All the seats came loose and the luggage rained down."

**Tower Attendant Escapes**

Cyphers, who also was in the passenger-baggage car said "we were all trapped until someone got the door open with a sledge hammer."

A railroad employee stationed in the wooden tower escaped just before the train struck.

Ambulance driver Arthur Salo, 51, of Oberlin, said the woman had been "squeezed to death."

"She was buried under seats and we had to pull two living passengers from atop her body," he said.

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GOING-AWAY PRESENT—Roger Thompson, 7, presents Lisa Harsh, also 7, with a going-away present of flowers and a doll, in Seattle, Wash. Lisa is the daughter of a family which are joining others in colonizing the Galapagos Islands.

### One Of Sturgill Brothers Escapes

The three-state search for the two young southerners, who walked out of the Wells county jail Sunday, continues with added vigor today.

One of the escapees, Billy James Sturgill, 21, of Pennington Gap, Va., formerly resided with his still confined brother in a Decatur apartment house. Donnie DeWayne Sturgill, the 24-year-old brother of the escapee, did not join the pair in the break.

**Walk Out Unmolested**

Sheriff Ray Durr of Wells county said that Sturgill and William Ray Chadwick, 22, of Wallins Creek, Ky., apparently pried open a dumb waiter, and inched their way up to the third floor, where they walked down the three flights of stairs and out the front door.

Two other prisoners also did not join the escape.

The Sturgills, who had been apprehended by F.B.I. agents and their Virginia state police near their home, were scheduled to appear on the auto-bond charge Feb. 1 before Judge Homer E. Byrd in connection with the Nov. 4, shooting of Howard Vaughn, 26, formerly of route 4, Bluffton.

Vaughn was slightly wounded by the shotgun blast, and since his recovery has moved to Peru. He was shot outside a Bluffton teenage hangout. Sheriff Durr said that he believed Vaughn had been mistaken for another Bluffton resident, a cousin of the Sturgills.

No statement has been made by the Sturgills, since their return to Indiana by state police detective Walter Schindler, of Berne.

**Sturgill Reports Break**

The break was reported by the elder Sturgill youth to sheriff Durr when he returned from covering an accident report.

Chadwick has been in jail since Dec. 28 on charges of public intoxication and driving a car without a license. He told sheriff Durr that he was wanted in Kentucky on a shooting investigation. No word has been received from Harlan county, Ky., however.

**Heart Massage Fails To Save Girl's Life**

WABASH, Ind. (UPI) — Miss Patricia Ann Duncan, 17, R.R. 5, Wabash, died in Wabash County Hospital here Saturday after surgeons had restored her heart beat by massage during an emergency appendectomy operation. She died less than an hour after her condition was reported improving.

**Two Fishermen Are Drowned Saturday**

FRANKFORT, Ind. (UPI) — The bodies of two Kokomo fishermen were recovered Sunday from a gravel pit near Forest, about 15 miles northeast of here.

The victims were identified as Porter A. Metzger, 50, and Albert Ladlow, 40.

Officials said the two were last seen ice fishing in the pit Saturday, and that they probably drowned when soft ice broke beneath them.

### Joseph N. Metzger Is Taken By Death

Word has been received here of the death of Joseph N. Metzger, 60, a native of Adams county, who died at General Hospital in Pontiac, Mich. He had been ill for three years but death was unexpected.

He was born in Adams county, a son of Joseph and Catherine Metzger. He was formerly a member of St. Mary's Catholic church and attended the Catholic schools here.

Mr. Metzger moved 38 years ago to Pontiac, where he was general foreman of the Fisher Body Works.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel; three children, Joseph, Philip, and Juanita, all of Pontiac; three sisters, Sr. M. Virgine, of the St. Agnes order, Beloit, Wis., and Mrs. Marie Anderson and Mrs. William J. Kruse, both of Decatur.

Funeral services were held in St. Michael's Catholic church at Pontiac, with burial in the Mt. Hope Catholic cemetery.

**Fort Wayne Firemen Overcome By Smoke**

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (UPI) — At least nine Fort Wayne firemen were overcome by smoke Sunday while fighting a fire in a downtown radio-television store.

Two of the men, Walter Schweitzer and Howard Esterling, were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation. They were reported not to be in serious condition, however.

**Joseph Malle Dies At Toledo Hospital**

Gerhardt Sprunger, 34, a native of Adams county, was killed shortly before noon Saturday in a freak accident at the Central Dairy, Inc. plant in Fort Wayne. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Lutheran hospital at 11:27 a.m.

Sprunger was asphyxiated when a plug in a steam boiler gave way and spewed scalding steam into his face. The accident victim, a boiler engineer for the company for the past 19 years, suffered first, second and third degree burns about the face, chest and hands when the 4½-inch plug blew out shortly after 11 o'clock.

The boiler had been shut down for several months and was being overhauled and readied for service by Sprunger.

The accident victim is survived by his wife, Alta; a daughter, Cheryl, at home; four brothers, Philomen Sprunger of Chicago, Martin Sprunger of Decatur, Simon Sprunger of Walkerton, and Albert Sprunger of Monticello; and four sisters, Misses Emma and Selma Sprunger, both of Hunting Park, Calif., Miss Elvina Sprunger and Mrs. Herman Hirsch, both of Berne.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the First Mennonite church in Berne, the Rev. Cornelius Vlot of officiating. Burial will be in the MRE cemetery. Friends may call at the Klaehn funeral home in Fort Wayne until 10 o'clock tonight.

**Red Cross Unit At All Tourney Games**

A doctor or nurse, plus two aides, trained in first aid, and an ambulance will be on hand at each session of the county tourney Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Mrs. Wanda Oelberg, executive secretary of the Red Cross, announced this morning.

Each year the doctors, ambulances, and helpers are rotated so that no one group gets to be present for the final game each year.

This year the schedule is set as follows:

January 14: Dr. Harold F. Zwick, Gillig & Doan ambulance, aides, Mrs. Burl Hunt and Leo King, Jr.

January 15: Dr. J. V. Schetgen, of Geneva; Zwick's ambulance, aides, Mrs. David Robinson and Robert Hall.

January 16, afternoon: Mrs. Amzie Miller, R. N., Black's ambulance, aides, Mrs. N. Lobsiger and Mrs. Leonard Schwaller.

Evening: Dr. Robert L. Boze, of Berne, Yager's ambulance, aides Iris Lehman, Roy Gilliom, and Gerald Durkin.

**Mrs. James Rhoads Dies At Wapakoneta**

Mrs. James Rhoads, 85, former resident of Adams county, died Sunday at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Bessie Acheson, at Wapakoneta, O. Also surviving is another daughter, Mrs. Frank Riff, also of Wapakoneta.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Wapakoneta. The body will then be brought to the Mt. Hope cemetery for graveside services at 3 p.m.

### Annual Report Made By County Recorder

The annual report from the Adams county recorder's office from Mrs. Mabel Striker showed that 3,024 instruments were recorded during 1959 at her office with \$5,025.90 being collected.

Over a ten-year period, the 1959 figure is the second low in number of instruments filed, but third high for total amount of money collected for the county. Mrs. Striker gave the reason for the low amount as the insurance on chattel mortgages. By insuring these mortgages at almost the same price as a recording, the same amount of protection is given. She cited as an example the 1952 figure of chattel mortgages filed at her office as 1,467 and the 1959 figure was 853.

#### Instrument Breakdown

A breakdown of the year's total recordings shows marginal releases topping the list with 923 and chattel mortgages second. Others are deeds, 679; mortgages, 497; leases, 390; releases, 317; reports of separation, 41; articles of incorporation, 23; plats, 21; mechanics liens, 21; old age assistances, 15; assignments, 14; honorable discharges, 12; official bonds since July 1, 8; and powers of attorney, 4.

In the statistical report, an estimated amount of money involved in the manipulation of instruments shows city deeds, 355, were valued at \$197,038, while 324 farm deeds were valued at \$421,211, and the 679 total and \$628,249.

Of this total 318 city deeds were one-dollar considerations, and 276 of the farm total were likewise.

#### City Mortgages Lead

Of the mortgages filed, 233, which were valued at \$2,220,515 were of farm land. City mortgages totalled 262 for an estimated \$2,077,920. Two school fund mortgages totalled \$4,200. The 21 liens amounted to \$12,661, while the 853 chattel mortgages were totalled at \$8,068,466.

A total of 1,134 satisfactions, those mortgages, and liens that are paid off, resulted in \$3,412,084. The total mortgages and liens amounted to 1,371 for \$12,383,762.

A ten-year comparison of instruments filed shows an increased tendency for less to be filed for a larger amount of money. In 1958, which was generally regarded by most economical observers as a recession, the trend, of course, was broken. But this is not a true indicator of the general trend.

#### Year Instruments Amount

Year	Instruments	Amount
1952	4,755	\$3,276.55
1953	4,537	3,235.40
1954	3,854	2,967.75
1955	4,606	5,098.10
1956	4,178	5,267.93
1957	4,197	4,952.40
1958	3,597	4,523.70
1959	3,824	5,025.90

Likewise, chattel mortgages are in more pronounced decline at the recorder's office. The listing from 1952 to last year are: 1,467, 1,381, 1,082, 1,144, 1,068, 1,074, 870, and 853. The release of these mortgages from 1952 to 1959 are: 1,325, 1,244, 915, 1,055, 916, 943, 797, and 740, denoting a strong trend from 1955 to last year.

**Town of Monroe**

Howard Habegger, Elmo Stucky, Gene Hike, Martin Steiner, Enos Schrock, Richard Everett, Gerald Tullis, Homer Winterberg, Harry Crownover, Orval Neuenschwander.

#### Town of Monroe

Leslie B. Lehman, Edward Stucky, Dr. D. W. Firewood, Sherman Stucky, Warren Habegger, Vaughn Leichty, Eli Gruber, Max Schindler, Ervin Feilzer, Mrs. E. Gordon Liechey, Mrs. Howard Baumgartner, Carl Luginbill, Dr. Rufus Von Gunten, Gaylord Stucky.

Raymond Beer, Albert Stahly, Fred Von Gunten, Kenyon Nussbaum, Lawrence Blum, Karl Hill.

#### Washington Township

Clement Decker, Myron Hart, Earl Harmon, Glen Rupert, Chalmers Barkley, Dr. Norvel Rich, Harry Kershner, Gerald Strickler, Floyd Mitchell, Paul Ulrich, Weldon Sodner, George Thomas, Warren W. Lehman, Ted Hill.

#### Wabash Township

Martin F. Gallmeyer, Ervin Buck, Mrs. Harvey Caston, Vern Linker, Glen Girod, Edwin Reinhart, Victor Bieberich, Milton Hoffman, Elbert Fuhrman, Mrs. Robert Meyers.

#### Root Township

Derwood Marker, Warren Nidlinger, Otto Boerger, Clarence Oetting, Lena Fleming, Marie Weidler, Richard Harkless, Wm. Schnepp, Norval Fuhrman, Mrs. Robert Teeple, George Auer.

#### Wabash Township

Mrs. Wayne Aspy, Mrs. Melvin Meyers, Mrs. Robert Hanni, Mrs. LeRoy Biberstein, Mrs. Virgil Haines, Mrs. Harold Long, Mrs. Robert Whistler.

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#### Ike Receives Nikita Note