

On The Electric Issue

A number of developments have taken place this past week on the issue which is probably upper-most in the minds of the residents of the Decatur area, the electric issue.

First, Judge Parrish promptly appointed three appraisers, and both sides seem to be pleased with the appointments, at least for the time being.

Second, city attorney Anderson made public his reply to Judge Parrish's letter asking for advice on some technical points. This, presumably, made possible the appointments in such quick fashion.

Third, 138 people in Decatur petitioned for a third election on the question of the sale.

Now a fourth question has been raised. Since the petition asks for a "special election," can the election be held on the regular primary election day? Actually, it seems that both sides hope that it can. Since the election law defines a "special election" as one to replace an official who has died in office, and that light plant elections are actually "city elections," it seems quite likely that it will be held that this election is special in the sense intended; that is, not an election for regular officials, but on a special subject—even if it is held during the primary election. Otherwise, city attorney Anderson estimated it will cost the city \$5,000 to hold it. We hope that the petitioners did not plan it that way.

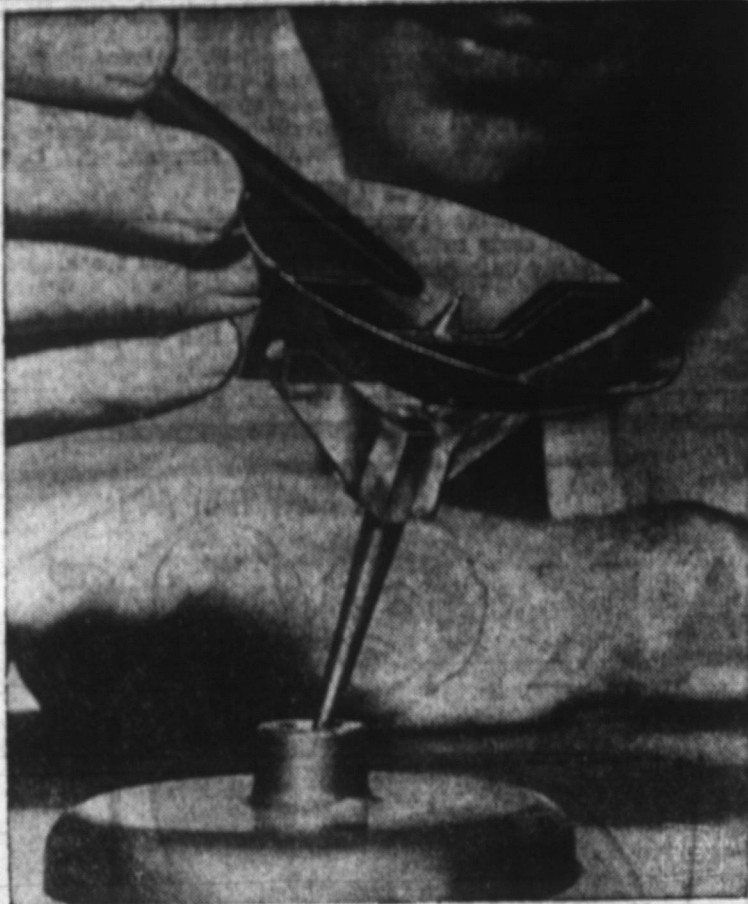
We also heard this week that Mayor Gage spent three days at Columbia City, Bluffton, and Portland, examining their city-owned utilities. It is understood that he now hopes to propose that the sale of the plant be defeated, and that a sub-station be constructed for \$180,000 (engineer estimates have run from \$250,000 to \$350,000), and that \$100,000 be used to repair rural lines.

It is unlikely that this would be possible. In the first place, the rural and industrial users would not receive the relief that they desire most—rate relief. They, together with the other users in the Decatur area, pay \$100,000 a year more for electricity when buying from the city than they would for the same amount from I&M. They don't like that, for obvious reasons. Even if service, within a couple of years, is raised to standard, it would not alter the rate problem.

It is quite likely that the rural group would place an injunction against the city to prevent any further expenditures on the lines and plant until it is determined if they can withdraw from the system.

And the withdrawal of the industrial and rural users would be a disastrous blow to the city utility. It would cut the gross income by 50%.

Furthermore, it would make impossible the lowering of Decatur's tax rates. Only the sale of the plant will do that, by: adding the value of the substation and lines that I&M would own to the local assessment; paying off the outstanding debts; building up interest while the remainder is placed in U.S. bonds; and lowering the cost of electricity to the other city departments, including the schools.



SPACE DISH—The search for a lightweight source of power for space craft has led to the development of a Lilliputian solar generator, shown above. It is a small dish with a highly polished surface. A shaft in the center is capped with a tiny ball. Placed at the proper angle, the sun's rays are focused on the ball, creating a blinding spot of light and temperatures of thousands of degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists at Hamilton Standard Division of United Aircraft Corp. developed the unit.

The People's Voice

This column is for the use of our readers who wish to make suggestions for the general good or discuss questions of interest. No articles will be published without signature of the author.

From Russia

The following is from the North Newsletter, Sept. 1959. Russia, from the standpoint of anti-tobacco education, is apparently a few sputniks ahead of us. An official medical mission from the U. S. Public Health Service reports that Russian progress in medicine since 1917 is as impressive as the appearance of sputnik. There is no commercial advertising of tobacco and smoking in the U. S. S. R.; and the ministry of health warns: "It is fully clear that smoking is more than a mere anti-hygienic habit—it is a dangerous form of chronic poisoning of the system which can lead to serious illness!"

It is not only with regard to smoking that Russia is getting ahead of us as far as health is concerned. Recently, due to a government campaign, the consumption of vodka was greatly reduced. In 1958 the Russian people bought 29,832,000 fewer gallons than in 1957. Drunkenness has become by legislation a crime against the state. "The liquidation of such a survival of the past as drunkenness will facilitate the improvement of the health of the people, strengthen family life, and improve public manners."

All of this is showing up in an improvement in longevity of the Russian people. A 960 page book of statistics has just been published in Russia, called "The Economy of the U.S.S.R. in 1958." It shows that the number of deaths per thousand of population in 1958 was 7.2. In the United States, for the year 1958 it was 9.5. We are dying at a rate 32% higher than the Russians. Without our being aware of it, they have overtaken us.

Of course, you can say that the Russians are lying, but might it not be like the boy who cried "wolf?" However, instead of a wolf it's a bear. The bear is there all right. Let's not shut our eyes to him and keep crying "wolf."

Mrs. Lawrence Michel
504 N. 14th St.
Decatur, Ind.

Floodwaters Roll Over Dixie Today

United Press International

Floodwaters rolled across Dixie today and the Weather Bureau said another round of thunderstorms could make matters worse. Rivers from Alabama to the Carolinas, swollen by a week of heavy rains, broke from their banks Tuesday and swept across thousands of acres of bottomland. No towns were affected, but officials at Columbia, S.C., said the Congaree River there rose to the top of its banks.

In the lowlands below Columbia, the Congaree flood was described as the worst in years. In addition, the Cape Fear and Neuse rivers went out in eastern North Carolina and the Wateree flooded near Camden, S.C.

Swamp flooding was reported on the Santee in South Carolina and the Tombigbee, Warrior and Chattahoochee rivers, were on the rise in the Tennessee Valley, eastern Mississippi, north Alabama and Georgia.

More thunderstorms were forecast for the Southeast today. The Weather Bureau said a heavy snow storm predicted for Kansas and Nebraska failed to materialize.

The storm swept across the Rockies from New Mexico to southwest Wyoming Tuesday and dumped 10 inches of snow at Durango, Colo., but petered out just as the weathermen warned Plains states residents to brace for four inches or more.

Instead, the storm was expected to drop light snow on Kansas, the Oklahoma Panhandle and northeastern New Mexico.

Snow mixed with freezing drizzle was forecast for the Dakotas into the western Great Lakes, with rain from Iowa across Illinois and the Tennessee Valley into the Appalachians.

INDIANAPOLIS LIVESTOCK

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Livestock:

Hogs 6,700; weak to 35 lower; 180-240 lb 13.00-13.50, top 14.00; 240-270 lb 12.50-13.00, top 13.10; 270-300 lb 12.00-12.50; 3-33 lb 11.50-12.50; 160-180 lb 11.75-13.00; Cattle 900; calves 100; steady; good steers 23.00-25.50; good and choice 25.50-26.50; choice 26.50-28.00; good and choice heifers 23.00-25.00; choice 26.00; vealers steady, good and choice 33.00-37.00. Sheep 1,300; steady; good and choice woolled lambs 18.00-21.00.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK

CHICAGO (UPI) — Livestock:

Hogs 7,500; steady; mixed No. 2-3200-230 lb 13.00-13.35; most later and closing sales 200-230 lb at low end of range; mixed No. 1-2-3 190-220 lb 13.25-13.65; several lots No. 1-2 sorted 13.65-14.00; 60 head lot No. 1-2 225 lb 14.10; mixed No. 2-3 230-260 lb 12.65-13.10; few lots No. 2 230-250 lb 13.00-13.35; Cattle 13,000; calves 100; slaughter steers steady to 25 higher, good and below weighing over 1100 lb and choice and prime over 1350 lb still slow; choice and prime heifers steady to 25 higher, lower grades steady; vealers steady; 4 loads prime 1250-1300 lb fed steers 28.75-29.00; dozen loads mostly prime 1050-1350 lb 28.50; bulk high choice and mixed choice and prime 1150-1350 lb 27.00-28.25; low high choice and prime 1481 lb 26.50; load mixed choice and prime 1850 lb 24.00; few loads choice 1100 lb down up to 27.00; bulk choice 13.50 lb down 25.00-27.50; most good 22.50-25.50; load good 1050 lbs 26.00; few loads high choice and prime heifers 27.25-27.75; most choice 24.75-27.00; good 21.50-24.50; vealers 31.00 down.

Sheep 3,000; trade not established, few early sales; shorn lambs about steady; 2 double decks good and choice 110 lb No. 1 pelt shorn slaughter lambs 19.00.

Five Of Family Die In Fiery Traffic Crash

FRANKLIN, Ind. (UPI) — An Indianapolis man who borrowed \$5 to take his family to Kentucky for a visit with relatives, lost his wife and all four of his young children in a fiery traffic accident Tuesday.

The family's panel truck was hit by a car entering U.S. 31 from a side road a half mile south of here. It flipped over on its side and burst into flames.

Francis Howard Rogers, 41, was burned seriously in frantic attempts to free his wife and children from the burning wreckage. He was taken to Johnson County Hospital here with burns over the upper part of his body.

Hospital officials said he was in fair condition.

Those who perished in the fire were Rogers' wife, Edith, 33; three daughters, Sherry Gail, 4, Donna Marie, 1, and Linda Laverne, 2 months, and a son, Leonard Lee, 2.

State Police said the truck was hit by a car driven by Mrs. Bettie Lou Petro, 33, Nineveh.

Mrs. Petro entered U.S. 31 from Nineveh Rd. and failed to yield the right of way, officers said. She was not hurt.

When authorities arrived, Rogers still was trying to rescue his family.

"We couldn't get him away from the wreckage," Franklin Patrolman Kenneth Rund said.

Rogers said his wife was holding Linda in her lap in the front seat and the other three children were sleeping on a couch in the rear of the truck.

"Every time I tried to get them out, the door would shut," Rogers said.

Relatives at Indianapolis said Rogers and his family moved to the Hoosier capital from Louisville about three years ago. Mrs. Rogers borrowed \$5 from a sister-in-law to make the trip to Louisville, they said.

It was the worst highway crash of the year in Indiana. Four persons were killed last Friday when a car crashed into a tree at Indianapolis. Four were killed last Wednesday in a car-bus crash near Eminence. Four were killed Jan. 2 near Indianapolis.

The five deaths Tuesday boosted the Indiana 1959 highway death toll to at least 87.

Mrs. Petro told State Police she saw the Rogers car before she entered the southbound lane.

"I thought I had time to make it," Trooper Jack Means quoted her as saying.

Modern Etiquette

By ROBERTA LEE

Q. Is it proper to abbreviate the name of the month on the date line of a business letter?

A. No. Neither the month nor the name of the state of the addressee is abbreviated—even if the states of Mississippi or Pennsylvania. It is considered more polite to write them out.

Q. When a guest in my house persists in telling off-color jokes, what can I do about it?

A. If the absence of any laughter from you is not enough to stop him, then you have a perfect right to take him aside and tell him pointblank that his kind of stories are not acceptable in your household.

Q. When one is eating a steak or roast, or something similar, isn't it all right and more convenient to cut the meat up into several mouthfuls at a time before eating it?

A. It may seem more convenient to get your "cutting-up" all done at the same time—but it certainly is not considered in good form. One should cut off a single bite at a time.

Q. Is it proper for the bridegroom to give his bride something for their home as his special wedding gift to her?

A. This is not customary. His special gift to her should be something for her own personal adornment—usually jewelry of some kind.

Q. Isn't it the girl's privilege to select the table when entering a restaurant with a male escort?

A. No; she should allow her escort to do this.

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Hearings Opened On Wheat Surplus

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Senate Agriculture Committee opened hearings today on one of the most troublesome farm problems—the mounting wheat surplus.

Chairman Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) scheduled Asst. Secretary of Agriculture Marvin L. McLain as the first witness for what was billed as two or three days of hearings.

Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.) asked in advance that the hearings be extended and that the committee consider more than just a wheat bill proposed by Ellender.

Mundt wrote Ellender that problems confronting wheat farmers are "so complex and serious" that it would be impossible to get all the basic facts in a hearing lasting only two or three days.

Ellender's measure would trim wheat acreage by 25 per cent in two years beginning in 1961 and gradually reduce wheat price supports from 80 per cent of parity in 1961 to 65 per cent in 1964 and subsequent years.

20 Years Ago Today

Feb. 3, 1940—John L. DeVoss, Decatur attorney, today announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination as prosecuting attorney.

"The Sheltered," prize-winning play written by Robert Johnson, Decatur student at Indiana University, will be presented by the Indianapolis Civic Theater Feb. 9-14.

The February term of the Adams circuit court will open Monday, Feb. 5.

Sands of the Decatur public and Catholic schools will present a concert at the Decatur high school auditorium Sunday afternoon.

High school basketball results: Leo 49, Yellow Jackets 28; Lima St. Rose 26, Commodores 24 (overtime); Berne 26, Bluffton 25; Kirkland 36, Monmouth 25; Pleasant Mills 41, Hartford 26; Geneva 27, Albion 22.

Household Scrapbook

By ROBERTA LEE

Airplane Cement
For airplane cement stains, use acetone on all fabrics except acetate rayon or vinyl, which it dissolves. Amyl acetate (banana oil) can be used on rayon. Fingernail polish remover contains acetone and can be used on linen and cotton materials to remove airplane cement.

Home-Made Syrup
You can prevent home-made

House Is Likely To Kill Poll Tax Bill

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Three reasons were advanced today why the House is likely to bury a Senate-approved constitutional amendment to outlaw poll taxes as a requirement for voting in federal elections.

The package amendment also would give District of Columbia residents the right to vote in presidential elections and let governors temporarily fill House vacancies in emergencies.

The Senate approved the measure Tuesday night by a vote of 70-18, or 11 more than the required two-thirds majority. But chances are that the House will not even act on it.

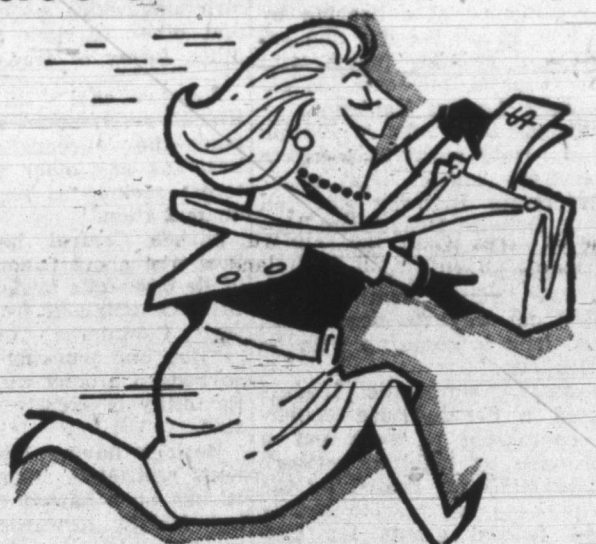
The three House obstacles are: Time, the package treatment for the three different proposals, and traditional House resentment against the Senate initiating legislation to fill House vacancies.

Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) of the House Judiciary Committee said he would try to hold hearings on the proposed amendment. But he said he did not know whether there would be enough time in this year's short session.

Celler said he wanted to get his civil rights bill passed before considering the constitutional amendment. The bill is pending in the House Rules Committee.

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TV Programs

WANE-TV Channel 15 WEDNESDAY

6:00—Amos & Andy
6:30—Tom Cat
6:45—Doug Edwards-News
7:00—San Francisco Beat
7:30—Be Our Guest
8:00—Men Into Space
8:30—The Millionaire
9:00—I've Got A Secret
10:00—Circle Theater
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:30—The Street
THURSDAY

WANE-TV Channel 15 THURSDAY

7:30—Peppermint Theater
7:45—Willy Wonderful
8:00—CBS News
8:15—Captain Kangaroo
8:30—Coffee Cup Theater
9:00—Red Rover Show
10:30—On The Go
11:00—I Love Lucy
11:30—December Bride
Afternoon
12:00—Love of Life
12:30—Search For Tomorrow
12:45—Guiding Light
1:00—Ann Colone Show
1:15—News
1:30—As The World Turns
2:00—For Better or Worse
2:30—Houseparty
3:00—The Millionaire
3:30—Vendetta Is Yours
4:00—Brighter Day
4:15—Secret Storm
4:30—Edge Of Night
5:00—Dance Date
Evening
6:00—Amos & Andy
6:30—Tom Cat
6:45—Doug Edwards-News
7:00—Sea Hunt
7:30—To Tell The Truth
8:00—Betty Hutton
8:30—Johnny Ringo
9:00—Zane Gray Theater
9:30—Markham
10:00—Revelation Variety Hour
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:30—The American

WKJG-TV Channel 33 WEDNESDAY

6:00—Gateway to Sports
6:15—News Jack Gray
6:30—The Weatherman
6:45—Yesterday's Newsreels
7:00—Huntley-Brinkley Report
7:30—Tombstone Territory
8:00—Hallmark Hall of Fame
8:30—Perry Como
9:00—This Is Your Life
9:30—Wichita Town
10:00—News and Weather
10:30—Sports Today
11:00—Jack Parr Show
THURSDAY

WKJG-TV Channel 33 THURSDAY

6:00—Continental Classroom
6:30—Today
6:45—Ding Dong School
7:00—Amos & Andy
7:30—Tom Cat
7:45—Doug Edwards-News
8:00—Sea Hunt
8:30—To Tell The Truth
9:00—Betty Hutton
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10:30—Markham
11:00—Revelation Variety Hour
11:30—Phil Wilson News
12:00—The American

Central Daylight Time

6:00—Amos & Andy
6:30—Tom Cat
6:45—Doug Edwards-News
7:00—San Francisco Beat
7:30—Be Our Guest
8:00—Men Into Space
8:30—The Millionaire
9:00—I've Got A Secret
10:00—Circle Theater
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:30—The Street
THURSDAY

WPTA-TV Channel 21 WEDNESDAY

6:00—Amos & Andy
6:30—Tom Cat
6:45—Doug Edwards-News
7:00—Sea Hunt
7:30—To Tell The Truth
8:00—Betty Hutton
8:30—Johnny Ringo
9:00—Zane Gray Theater
9:30—Markham
10:00—Revelation Variety Hour
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:30—The American

WPTA-TV Channel 21 THURSDAY

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