

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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Confusing The Issue

A group of Decatur citizens mailed Saturday a two-page unsigned letter asking Decatur Citizens to vote against the sale of the light plant.

We feel that every individual should make up his own mind on the question on the basis of the most exact and detailed information he can find. And we believe sincerely that every voter of Decatur should turn out tomorrow and vote on the question.

Every question raised by the unsigned letter has been fully answered during the past two years, but so much has been said that most has been forgotten.

What can the city do with the light plant if they keep it? It owes a debt of nearly \$600,000 on the diesel plant. New industry will avoid Decatur like a plague if adequate power at a low rate cannot be furnished. The rural lines are ten years behind the times, and so is the rural schedule of charges, which is 40% greater than they will pay as I&M subscribers. Rural people are not at all satisfied with either power or rates — ask them. Remember the meeting which filled your community center a year ago?

The letter charges that there are no skilled or semi-skilled laborers available in the Decatur area.

A large plant in Decatur would draw workers from cities 40 miles away, and would make Decatur grow, increasing business opportunities, raising wages.

Decatur cannot buy more power from I&M without building an adequate sub-station. At the same time the lines would have to be modernized. The total cost would exceed \$1 million in ten years, just to bring the lines up to present requirements.

To borrow that much, the debt on the diesel plant would have to be re-financed, at present high interest rates. Decatur would have a huge debt, and any profit from the light plant would have to be used to pay off the bonds. By the time they were paid off, more and more repairs would be necessary. A substantial rate increase would be needed.

Meanwhile, the steam and diesel plants would have fallen into disuse, and have to be sold as junk. Decatur would have little left to sell but worn-out lines in 30 years, with no profit shown in the meanwhile.

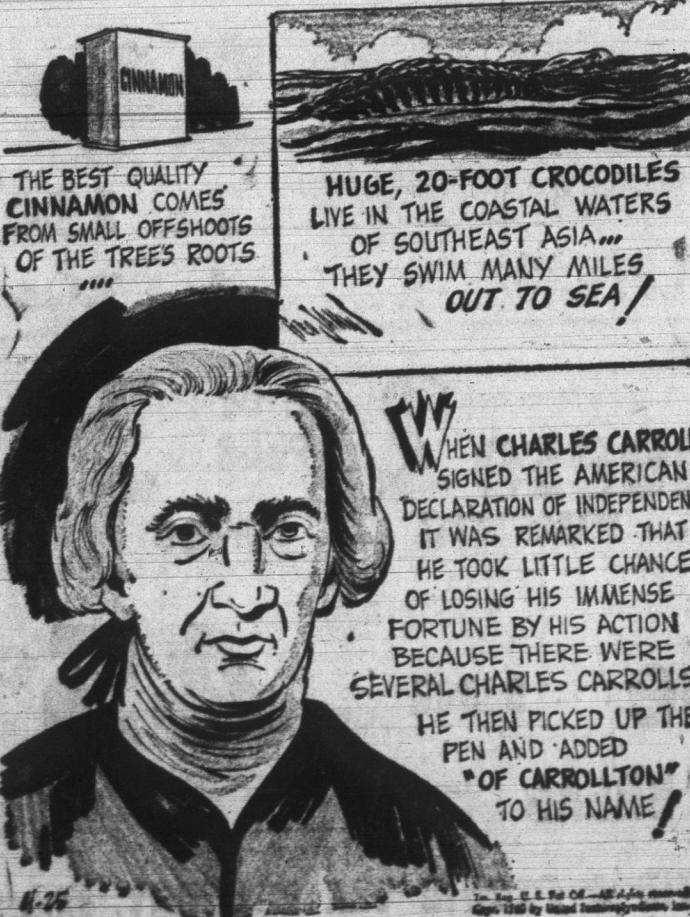
A substation will cost nearly half a million dollars to build—the estimate of \$200,000 is for material alone on a substation which would only handle industry—not the type of station needed.

I&M paid \$39,000 last year in Kendallville as taxes, and Decatur would receive slightly more. Remember, we have received nothing from the light plant for eight years, and never has that much been taken from the light fund in one year.

And I&M couldn't have sold the steam plant for \$1 million—they are only buying the steam generators and boilers! The land and building will remain the property of the city.

Every citizen who reads the Decatur Daily Democrat read everything that the last group of appraisers said to the city council, and this editor checked that statement with city attorney Robert S. Anderson, who was also present.

If you have any question, call your city councilman and ask him. The councilmen have been active through this entire discussion, and are familiar with what has happened.



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.

Kendallville Happy

Dr. O. A. Spiegel, of this city, has received a letter from Charles R. Hosler, executive secretary of the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce, in answer to inquiries concerning that city's situation since sale of its electric utility to Indiana and Michigan Electric Co.

Dr. Spiegel notes the progress made in Kendallville in two years, and says, "if we do not sell we won't be able to make enough profit to pay the interest on the debt—this will mean an increase in rates—Vote Yes."

The text of the letter follows:

I received a letter from you recently asking several questions concerning the possible sale of your light plant to Indiana & Michigan Electric Company. I will be happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

No. 1. Has the sale of the Kendallville plant to I & M been a progressive move?

Let me say that the town had an awakening which dates from the sale. The general feeling in the town is that of wanting to do things to make Kendallville a bigger and better place to live. Even the people who were against the move now admit the wisdom of the move we made, or just keep quiet.

No. 2. How many former employees were kept or hired by I&M?

First of all, I & M went back and picked up service records of employees. Several retired then. All but two were offered jobs either in Kendallville or some other of their territories. Several stayed with the city water department.

No. 3. Average wage increase?

Average wage increase at the time was 39 per cent. As of today it is 50 per cent. They pay time and a half and double time for over time. The company pays 2% of the premium for life insurance and sick benefits. After ten years (including city employ) they get 3 weeks vacation. They have a safety program and pay for employee's tools.

No. 4. Has I & M helped the Chamber of Commerce to gain industry?

Through their officers they have taught us how to prepare for new industry. I would say that they can reach the prospects better than any one organization I know. Their officers are respected by the prospects. From our experience we feel it would be an accident for you to secure an industry without their facilities. They have brought in one new industry and several prospects are hot at this time. They have brought approximately forty industries into Kendallville to inspect the town. The people in the town definitely have a job to do and a part to play in securing an industry after I & M bring them in to your town.

No. 5. Has there been a reduction in rate?

Yes, the end of the first year the savings amounted to \$80,000. They encourage their employees to take part in Civic affairs.

They trimmed the trees, and donate use of equipment and labor in parks, etc.

TV PROGRAMS

Central Daylight Time

WANE-TV

Channel 15
MONDAY

Evening
6:00—Ames & Andy
6:15—Tom Calenberg News
6:20—Doug Edwards-News
7:00—Shotgun Slade
7:30—Kate Smith Show
8:00—The Tex Willer
8:15—The Other News Root
9:00—Danny Thomas Show
9:30—Ann Southern
10:00—John Allison
11:00—Phil Wilson News
11:15—Crackup

TUESDAY

7:30—Peppermint Theatre
7:45—Willy Wonderful
8:00—Bill New
8:15—Coco the Kangaroo
9:00—Coffee Cup Theater
10:00—Red Rows Show
10:30—On The Go
11:00—Love Lucy
11:30—December Bride

Wednesday

7:30—Gateway to Sports
8:15—News
9:00—The Weatherman
9:30—Truth Or Consequences
10:00—Queen For A Day
10:30—Loretta Young Theatre
11:00—Young Dr. Malone
11:30—Root Beer Roots
12:00—The Thin Man

Thursday

7:30—Hobo Show

Friday

7:30—Gateway to Sports

Saturday

6:15—News

Sunday

6:30—The Weatherman

6:45—Yesterday's Wives

7:00—Brave Stallion

7:30—Laramie

8:30—Murray Show

10:00—Jack Parr Presents

11:00—News and Weather

11:15—Sports Today

11:30—Jack Parr Show

WPTA-TV

Channel 21
MONDAY

Evening
6:00—Popeye and Rascals Club
6:30—Quick Draw McGraw
7:00—Popeye and Rascals Club

7:15—Tom Atkins Reporting

8:00—Bourbon Street Beat

9:30—Adventures in Paradise

10:30—Scotland Yard Dragnet

TUESDAY

Morning

11:00—Russia

Afternoon

12:00—Ruthless Gun

12:30—Love That Bob

1:00—About Faces

1:30—Mr. D.A.

2:00—Law Court

2:30—Gale Storm

3:00—Beat the Clock

3:30—What Do You Trust

4:00—American Bandstand

4:30—Rocky and His Friends

Evening

6:00—Popeye and Rascals

6:30—Woody Woodpecker and Rascal Club

7:15—Tom Atkins Reporting

7:30—Bronco

8:30—Wyatt Earp

9:00—Kilowatt Man

9:30—Coronado 9

10:00—Alcoa Presents

10:30—Promenade 21

11:30—Jubiles U.S.A.

Movies

6:30—Samson & Delilah Mon. at 7

& 9:20 p.m.

WKJG-TV

Channel 33
MONDAY

Evening
6:00—Gateway to Sports
6:30—Jack Gray
6:45—The Weatherman
6:50—Yesterday's Newsreel
6:45—Huntington Bank Report

7:00—All Star Wrestling

7:00—U.S. Border Patrol

8:00—Wells Fargo

9:00—Peter Gunn

9:30—Madam Theatre

10:00—Steve Allen Show

10:30—News and Weather

11:15—Sports Today

11:30—Jack Parr Show

TUESDAY

Morning

6:30—Continental Classroom

ADAMS

"Samson & Delilah" Mon. at 7

& 9:20 p.m.

They give wonderful service to local industry needing engineering service. They have engineers available for many problems in the electrical field.

With unlimited power and the services of I & M we hope to keep local industry happy and our present industries have shown a decided expansion mood. More than 500 more people are employed locally over the figures two years ago and several industries have expansion plans for the near future.

They buy their vehicles, gas, insurance locally.

They have rebuilt the major portion of the distribution system and have periodic check up of voltage. Their service is 24 hours a day. They have leased wires. They can pull in personnel in unlimited numbers from other places in time of emergency. A year ago we had a severe sleet storm thru this area during the night. By morning the town was swarming with repair men. Lines were down all over town but by night every one in town and suburban areas had power again. This was a real test.

In other words we are happy in Kendallville that we made the change and recommend it highly to you.

Charles R. Hosler



An Open Letter
To
Decatur Daily
Democrat
Readers.

I am a candidate in the Democratic primary May 3 for Recorder of Adams County. I have never before been a candidate for public office nor have I ever been employed in a County office.

For the past 12 years I have been employed as an abstractor in the Adams County Court House by G. Reilly Bierly, Inc.

The office of County Recorder is quite important to you. It is there that all of your real estate deeds, mortgages, liens, and leases are recorded. I have had 12 years experience in handling the records of the recorder's office, through my abstracting work.

I have been an active member of the Adams County Jefferson Club, Democratic Women's Club and Young Democrats of Adams County.

Live in Kirkland Township, daughter of Mrs. Mary C. and the late Peter J. Spangler.

If nominated and elected to office, I promise to devote my full time to the office of recorder. I further promise to give courteous attention to every person visiting the office.

I will appreciate your vote and influence on my behalf in the Democratic Primary May 3, 1960. Thank you.

Miss Rosemary Spangler
CANDIDATE FOR
COUNTY RECORDER
Democratic Primary, May 3, 1960

Paid Political Advt. Rosemary Spangler, R. R. 2, Decatur, Ind.

20 Years Ago

Today