

## Three Accidents Are Reported In City

Three accidents occurred in Decatur during the past 24 hours, one happening at 9 o'clock this morning.

Roger DeRoo, 16, Decatur, was traveling west on Nuttman Ave. this morning, and applied the brakes of the pick-up truck he was driving to turn onto 16th street. The brakes grabbed, and pulled the vehicle into the other lane of traffic.

Lola Strahm, Craigville, swerved to avoid a head-on collision with the truck, but was struck on the left rear. The impact sent the Strahm car into a spin and into the ditch.

Damages were estimated at \$300 to the car and \$5 to the pick-up truck.

At 8 p.m. Wednesday, a car driv-

en by Eleanor Louise Miller, 20, 104 N. Ninth St., turned left off Jefferson street and onto Second, and struck a car on the left rear. The other vehicle was owned by Charles Herbert Magley, and operated by Gerald Alan Feasel, 17, 1116 Madison St.

Damages were listed at \$25 to the Magley car and \$5 to the Miller auto.

A parked car owned by Robert Riegel, route 3, Decatur, suffered approximately \$100 damages when struck while parked at 221 N. Third street at 5:08 p.m. Wednesday.

The Riegel car was parked on the west side, facing south, and struck in the rear by a vehicle operated by Theodore W. Fyles, 26, route 6, Decatur. Fyles stated his brakes grabbed when applied and threw his vehicle into the Riegel auto. The Fyles car suffered approximately \$300 damages.

## Favor Discontinuing Wells Co. Schools

Six of the eight Wells county high schools should be closed, according to recommendations of the state board of education, made public through the state examiner reports by the Wells county superintendent of schools.

The recommendations were for Union, Rockcreek, Liberty, Jackson, Chester, and Petroleum—only Ossian and Lancaster Central were granted first class commissions.

**Certified Commissions**  
The six disapproved schools were downgraded from continuous to certified commissions.

It was recommended that high schools in the southern four townships be discontinued because of low enrollments. The program of instruction in each case was described as fair for a school of small size.

The reports for Union and Rockcreek did not specify high school, but recommended that the schools be discontinued. However, Bluffton school officials are reported to believe that the reports were aimed primarily at the high schools.

**Ossian First Class**  
Ossian is the only county school outside of Bluffton with a first class commission for its grades 1-12. Lancaster Central has a first class commission for 7-12, but a continuous commission for grades 1-6.

The facilities and programs at both Ossian and Lancaster were praised, although a strengthening of guidance counseling at Lancaster was urged.

The merger of the four southern townships into a single administrative unit was voted down by seven votes a year ago. It is planned to put the plan back on the ballot next fall.

Experts from the Wells county reports were given to the Bluffton News-Banner for printing, as was done by Adams Central, Decatur, and Berne in Adams county. A report on what was contained in the Adams county township schools

was given by Gerald Vizard, county superintendent, without access to the actual reports. Pleasant Mills, Jefferson, and Hartford were listed in the report as being awarded certified commissions, but no recommendation for discontinuing the high schools was made public.

## George Auer Speaks To Portland Rotary

George W. Auer, a veteran of 37 years with General Electric and manager of the Decatur plant, told the Portland Rotary Tuesday how Decatur had made 2,500 different models of fractional horsepower motors, from 1/20th to 1/4 horsepower. He also touched briefly on the power and light situation in Decatur, where the city-owned system was sold to Indiana-Michigan Electric Co. two years ago. "After three elections, a lot of hard feeling and a lot of personal opinion, we finally got the situation settled," Auer was quoted in the Portland Commercial-Review. "Barring a few die-hards, I think the people of Decatur are quite happy," he concluded.

## Fallout Reading Is In Safe Area

The "fall-out" reading in Adams county remained at a very safe .05 milliroentgens, Milton Spence, U. S. CSC work unit conservationist, reported today.

Spence stated that the report is the same as last week, and anyone who was frightened by the idea that there would be a heavy radiological fallout this spring can now discount it as far as the Adams county area is concerned. The average was never above .06, with "spurts" to .12, still far below the level of 1,000 milliroentgens, when official reports must be made. And this, of course, is well below the real danger level of 100,000 milliroentgens.

## End Hearing On Proposed Rail Merger

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Interstate Commerce Commission hearing on the proposed Norfolk and Western-Nickel Plate merger ended Wednesday, but the justice department won the right to back up its dismissal motion by filing late evidence.

ICC hearing Examiner Lester R. Conley closed the lengthy hearing after attorneys for the Justice Department and the railroad hammered out an agreement designed to permit the department to submit a late exhibit.

Conley formally closed the hearing record, but gave the Justice Department 20 days to file evidence regarding its claim that the merger application should be dismissed.

Justice asked earlier for dismissal of the merger proceeding on grounds that the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pennsylvania Co., were not applicants. Justice claimed Pennsylvania controlled N&W through its ownership of about one third of the railroad's stock, and therefore was a necessary party.

Pennsylvania and N&W denied the control contention but Pennsylvania filed an application seeking entry as an applicant in an attempt to satisfy the department's objection.

The last minute hassle developed when Justice filed a new motion charging that Pennsylvania's application was incomplete and did not justify admission as an applicant. Justice called on commission either to compel Pennsylvania to complete its application or to discuss the application.

The ICC has not yet ruled on either justice department motion, or on whether to allow Pennsylvania to become an applicant along with N&W and the Nickel Plate, New York, St. Louis and Chicago Railroad.

Conley announced that he would allow Justice to submit the late exhibit "with the understanding that there will be no further hearing." He specified, however, that the commission could reopen the hearing to receive new evidence after receiving a formal petition from any party to the case.

He set June 25 as the deadline for filing briefs.

Spokesmen for Indiana and Illinois communities Wednesday opposed the proposed consolidation of the N&W and the Nickel Plate, and subsequent purchase by the merged line of the Wabash Railroad. They said the proposed merger would cause irreparable losses in earnings, wages and taxes.

The group included Walter F. Corns, Frankfort, Ind., vice president of the Four Cities Citizens Committee; Charles C. Harper, managing secretary of the Charleston, Ill., Chamber of Commerce and a director of the committee; and Mayor Leonard R. Davis of Granite City, Ill.

The committee, Corns testified, was formed by Nickel Plate employees and residents of the four cities to resist any diversion of the railroad's traffic at Charleston, Granite City, and Madison, Ill., and Frankfort.

He, Harper and Davis contended that the Wabash's gain of six to eight trains, forecast as result of the proposed merger, would be Nickel Plate's loss, Wabash President Herman H. Pevier made that prediction, Corns said, together with the statement that the merger would double the size and work force of his line's shops at Decatur, Ill.

"Little or nothing is said about the Nickel Plate's St. Louis division which it seems certain will quickly become an orphan if the merger is approved," he said.

This would cost Frankfort \$64 railroad jobs, Corns said. He estimated the loss in taxes and consumer spending at more than \$3.5 million.

Harper forecast a loss of 150 railroad jobs at Charleston, and the financial blow at more than \$800,000 annually.

Corns was questioned only by his attorney.

Harper, under questioning by Conley, conceded the estimate of jobs losses was based on supposition, not fact. He also said he had heard of, but had not seen, a labor agreement reached earlier this week by N&W and 20 railway labor organizations to assure job protection for present employees. Adequate protection would "help" satisfy the communities' needs, he said.

## Favor Palmer In Tournament Of Champions

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI)—The first round of the \$50,000 Tournament of Champions, golf's most exclusive event, gets under way today with the one and only Arnold Palmer listed as the favorite—a normal procedure in golfing circles these days.

But defending champion Sam Snead has been so spectacular in practice rounds that the odds on him dropped to 8-1, which placed him in the same category with three-time former champion Gene Littler, Doug Sanders and Billy Casper.

Palmer is listed at 5-1 in this gambling capital where they even post odds on whether tourists will make it across the street on "The Strip."

Snead had practice rounds of 66 and 69 without a bogey. Then Wednesday he wound up his warm-ups by shooting another 69 for the Amos Alonzo Stagg Foundation. In this one, however, he had five birdies and a pair of bogies.

**Wind A Factor**  
"The rough out there this time is real tough," said Snead after his round. "If the wind comes up, as it usually does for a day or two, it is going to be a hard course."

"Somebody probably can win it with 273 or 274, depending upon the weather. The greens seem to be better this year than usual."

That was an unusual statement from the Slammer, who has been complaining that he is having his usual putting troubles.

In his round for the Stagg Foundation, which the nation's golfers will shoot against, he had one three-putt green and missed a couple from about six feet.

**On Winning Streak**  
Palmer, who won the Texas Open last week and has been hot all winter with big wins in the Masters, Palm Springs and Phoenix events, has not been brilliant in practice.

However, he is noted for always being tougher when the chips are down.

Big Mike Souhak, a 15-1 shot, claims he is playing "real good, for me." He had a final tuneup of 69.

Young Phil Rodgers, who has been slightly off his stick, has a

## Rain Hampers Race Activity At Speedway

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI)—With only nine days of practice remaining before the May 12 start of time trials for the 500-mile Memorial Day auto race, drivers at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway were getting "itchy" today.

Rain has hampered activity at the track since practice for the race began last Saturday and only two really good days have been available for practice. One of those was Sunday when racing commitments had most of the

been listed at 12-1, but others at 15-1, include Doug Ford and Jay Hebert.

Play in this event doesn't start until 1 p.m. PDT (4 p.m., EDT) during the first three days.

However, tee-off time on Sunday will be 10 a.m., due to national television commitments.

racers tied up elsewhere and unable to practice here.

The drivers got in less than 30 minutes of practice Wednesday before rain again halted activities. And there was no chance for performances to match the 147 mph-plus laps turned in Tuesday by Don Eranson, Champaign, Ill., and Farnell Jones, Torrance, Calif.

Jim (Hercules) Hurtubise, Lennox, Calif., driving the same car in which he set the qualifying speed record two years ago, took his first practice runs Tuesday but did not attempt to get up to full speed. Only five other cars made practice runs, none at high speeds.

Four new arrivals raised the number of cars on hand in "Gasoline Alley" to 51 of the 72 roadsters entered in the race. Still among the missing were the three powerful Novis and Mickey Thompson's three rear-engined creations.

During the day, veteran Johnny Boyd, Fresno, Calif., was signed to drive the car which Chuck Stevenson drove to sixth place last year. It will be Boyd's eighth appearance in the "500," in which he finished third in 1958 and sixth in 1957.

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