

DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER IN ADAMS COUNTY

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SEVEN CENTS



RESCUED AT SEA—Greek fisherman, huddled in blankets, file off the Canadian destroyer escort Athabaskan at Halifax after being rescued from the wreckage of the Liberian tanker Amphialos. All but two of the 36 crewmen were saved.

Lenten Meditation

(By Rev. Dolar Ritchey, pastor, Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren)

O come, let us sing to the Lord. Psa. 95:1.

O come, let us worship and bow down. Psa. 95:6.

To worship God is a great privilege. We need only to look about us to see the work of his hands. The beauties of nature, the beauty of the sky, the marvelous sunrises and sunsets all bespeak of God's preparation for our joy.

The gift of His Son, Jesus, and Jesus' gift of His life on the cross all speak of His great love for us. It is fitting that we sing unto Him. To sing when things are well with us helps us to pray more effectively when our path is beset with troubles. To worship God helps us to realize that we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." His love and care for us is beyond our comprehension.

Let us turn our hearts in praise and thanksgiving for our manifold blessings. Silent meditation will help us hear the still small voice as it speaks peace to our souls. O what a joy to know that He loves each of us more than He loves His own life. During this Lenten season we can bring Him joy by expressing our gratitude through song and worship. We, too, will be so much happier and stronger.

Ruby's Trial Judge Is Ill

DALLAS (UPI)—Judge J. Frank Wilson took over as substitute for ailing Judge Joe B. Brown at the Jack Ruby trial today and promptly cracked down on the talkative defense.

When Brown went home with what appeared to be a heavy cold just before the session started, Wilson took over despite protests from flamboyant chief defense attorney Melvin Belli.

"Take your seat, Mr. Belli," Wilson said from the bench.

Belli started talking again.

"When the court tells you to take your seat," Wilson snapped, "you'd better do it."

Belli did it.

Shortly afterward, Mrs. Aileen B. Shields, a telephone company employee, was seated as the 11th and next-to-last juror.

The 55-year-old Brown broke into a cold sweat and went home on the advice of his physician just before the session was to begin.

Brown's physician prescribed medicine and told him to go home. First reports said he had a cold and fever and that he might be out only a day.

Belli protested that Wilson lacked background knowledge of the defense's continuing motion for a change of venue to transfer the trial out of Dallas.

Furthermore, said Belli, with Wilson on the bench, he will be missing evidence.

"If he is gone a day, he will be called on to act on something that has happened in his absence."

Wilson had been on vacation. Brown was using Wilson's district criminal courtroom for the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald's slayer because it is larger than his own.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said there was no reason Wilson could not take over.

Wilson took the bench at 10:50 a.m. EST and produced an order from Judge Dallas A. Blanckenship, presiding judge of the 5th Judicial District, appointing Wilson as substitute judge.

A distinguished-looking man with a balding head and a gray mustache, Wilson said, "I'm interested in giving everybody a fair trial."

When Belli protested about the change of venue, Wilson told him:

"I get your point, Mr. Belli. You can get it into the record. I want you to have it. But don't keep repeating it."

The judge was intent on moving jury selection along to fill the box—two more jurors are needed—so testimony can begin in the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald. The selection pace has jelled since Friday, when the 10th juror was sworn. Saturday's and Monday's sessions failed to produce anything except verbal fireworks by opposing attorneys. Sixteen panels fell by the wayside Monday.

The state gave the impression (Continued on Page Two)

Defendant Waives Jury Trial Right

David Lee Beery, 19, of 510 Grant St., faced charges of rape and assault and battery with intent to commit a felony as his trial opened this morning in the Adams circuit court — without a jury.

In a late development Monday afternoon, Beery, through his attorney Lewis L. Smith, requested the case be heard by circuit court Judge Myles F. Parrish, without intervention of a jury, thus waiving his right to a trial by jury.

A total of 22 persons drawn some time ago for petit court jury had been notified last week to appear at 9 a.m. today for impaneling of a jury to hear the case.

Jurors Contacted

With the request filed by Beery's attorney Monday, however, all 22 had to be notified not to appear this morning.

Beery is alleged to have assaulted Mrs. Norma Bixler, 17-year-old resident of 13th street, who signed an affidavit charging him with rape on December 14, 1963.

The trial the second rape case to be heard in the local court in less than a year, began around 9 o'clock this morning with two witnesses testifying.

Mrs. Bixler First

Mrs. Bixler was called to the witness stand first by prosecutor Saverin H. Schurter, and related her story concerning the occurrences early the morning of December 14.

After her testimony and cross-examination by defense attorney Smith, her husband, Roger Bixler, was called to the stand. Bixler was still testifying when the court recessed at noon, and was to return to the stand when the trial resumed this afternoon.

Decatur Lions Hear Exchange Student

At Monday evening's meeting of the Decatur Lions club, members' attention were directed to the following coming events: the Lions district convention at Albion, April 5, the Lions state convention at Evansville, May 2 and 3, the joint meeting with other Decatur service clubs, March 19, and the club's sausage and pancake supper next Monday evening at the Community Center.

Serving for the latter event will be from 5 to 8 p.m. with prices \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for children '12 years or under. The club extended a special welcome back to Mel Zoss who has been on the sick list for several weeks.

The featured speaker for the meeting was Leo Gavilli, an exchange student from Florence, Italy, who is attending Decatur Catholic high school. Leo comes from a family whose father is employed by civil service as an accountant and whose mother is an elementary school teacher.

Leo related many interesting (Continued on Page Eight)

Cost Of Living Edges Up Slightly In January To Reach New Record High

Change Plans For Sending Out Mail

Partially due to complaints from Decatur Daily Democrat subscribers in nearby Ohio towns and cities, the Decatur post office has been ordered to change its arrangements for sending out mail, postmaster John Boch announced today.

Rural mail patrons in neighboring Ohio areas complained that half the time it took two days for mail from Decatur to reach them.

Former Method

Formerly, mail from Decatur was separated for eastern points, including small Ohio towns, and then carried by contract truck to the Erie station, where an Erie employee loaded it on the midnight east-bound train for Lima. It arrived at Lima, O., about 1 a.m., and then had to be separated into individual packages for Fort Wayne.

In addition, Decatur will now

separate only the Fort Wayne

area mail, including most of the 70 post offices in the surrounding Allen county, from the other Indiana mail when they send it to Fort Wayne.

Previously, they worked the Indiana mail by sectional centers, which meant that they had to look up numerous small post offices which only occasionally received letters from Decatur.

Postal officials here in Decatur estimate that they will be able to handle 500 more letters an hour.

Change in Effect

Orders came through last week, following numerous complaints, to stop sending the east-bound mail on the Erie at least until the spring schedule change.

Instead, the Decatur post office will package the eastbound mail for Fort Wayne sectional, where it will be separated, and sent to Lima on the Pennsylvania railroad, arriving at 11:21 p.m., giving the Lima people an hour and a half more in which to work the mail, and get it back to Van Wert for next-day delivery.

If Fort Wayne is unable to work the mail in time to get it on the early train, another train and arrives in Lima at 3:49.

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The old index stood at 107.6 in December — a record level.

This meant it cost \$10.76 to buy the same goods and services that were priced at \$10 in the 1957-59 base period.

The base period for the new index remains the same. But the ingredients and methods of computation have been streamlined as a result of a three-year, \$5 million refurbishing job performed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The government conducted many surveys to find out how American families were spending their money. This information on the proportion spent for food, clothing, housing and other items, together with data on what stores were patronized, was used to compile the framework for the new index.

Some items are being priced for the first time, including taxi fares, motel room rates and funeral expenses. The number of cities where price checks are made has been increased from 66 to 50.

The first order of business was the appointment of Seitz to the post of parking meter officer, and the board then voted to return former meter officer Jim Cochran to regular patrolman duties.

Cochran recently requested to be returned to a patrolman's rank, and Seitz had applied for the meter job.

Same Hours

After some discussion, the board of works decided to retain the same hours the meters will be used, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week days, with the exception of Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday. The meters will be in operation from 9 a.m. to 12 noon only on Thursday. Since the downtown stores are not open on Thursday afternoon, the time is devoted to any meter repairs or collection of money from the meter.

Load, Unload Zones

The discussion then moved to rules for loading and unloading in the city's downtown area. Some contractors, electricians, etc., have asked for free parking spaces for their trucks, loaded with equipment, while working in a store.

The board decided to have this matter handled by the police de-

Begin Recovering Air Crash Bodies

TAHOE VALLEY, Calif.

(UPI)—Authorities today began the task of recovering the frozen bodies of 85 Californians whose "fun flight" to Lake Tahoe ended just 30 feet below the summit of a snow-swept Nevada mountain.

"It will be at least noon before we start working with the bodies," Byers said. He added that they would be taken to Minden and Carson City, where the FBI will aid in identification.

The CAB announced in Washington that an investigation team would attempt to determine the cause of the crash.

In the last full radio report from the ill-fated aircraft, Capt. Henry Norris, 43, Alameda, Calif., said he was over the western edge of the High Sierra Lake making a visual approach to the airport, which does not have instrument landings.

As the blizzard worsened and visibility decreased, Norris apparently turned to take his plane load of weekend gamblers and skiers over the mountain to the Reno Airport.

His last radio transmission consisted of only two words: "Flight 901"

Discuss Rules On Parking In Decatur

The city board of works and safety met with the head of the local retail division and the city's parking meter officer Monday afternoon to discuss and establish rules and regulations on parking in Decatur.

Attending were Mayor Carl D. Gerber, and councilmen Ralph E. Allison and Charmer DeBolt, who make up the board of works, city parking meter officer Raymond Seitz, chief of police Grover Odle, clerk-treasurer Mrs. Laura Bosse, city attorney John L. DeVos, and retail division chairman Mrs. Kay Boch.

The meeting was called to discuss any parking problems in downtown Decatur, and to establish any rules and regulations that were needed.

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Mrs. Ernest Isch Dies At Bluffton

Mrs. Elise Isch, 90, widow of Ernest A. Isch, died at 4:40 p.m. Monday at her home, 211 North Main street, Bluffton. She had been in failing health three years and seriously ill for one week.

Born in Alsace-Lorraine April 18, 1873, she was a daughter of John A. and Marguerite Roehm-Meiss, and was married to Ernest A. Isch March 17, 1897. Her husband preceded her in death Jan. 5, 1920.

Mrs. Isch was a member of the Apostolic Christian church.

Surviving are six daughters, Mrs. Joe Gerber of Bluffton, Mrs. John Vergler of Bluffton route 3, Mrs. Bertha Moser of Craigville, Miss. Clara Isch and Mrs. Amelia Baine of Bluffton; and Mrs. John Frank of Liberty Center route 1; three sons, Joe L. and Elmer J. Isch of Bluffton route 4, and Harold Isch of Bluffton route 3; 22 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren, and two brothers, Gustav Meiss of Illinois, and Ezra Meiss of LaCrosse. Four brothers and five sisters are deceased.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Apostolic Christian church, the Rev. Sam Aeschliman officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Friends may call at the Goodwin funeral home in Bluffton after 7 p.m. today. The body will lie in state at the church from 10 a.m. Thursday.

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The board decided to have this matter handled by the police de-