

THE DECATUR DAILY DEMOCRAT

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The County Coroner

An attempt is being made this week to embarrass our present county coroner, Elmer Winterberg, Jr., for partisan political reasons — we predict it will fall flat on its face, as such partisan shenanigans should, regardless of party.

First, let us explain the duties of coroner, who serves a 4-year term, and may serve eight years out of any 12. His office is determined by the constitution and by custom and law. The chief responsibility of the coroner is to determine if a person has died accidentally, by murder or by suicide, if he is found dead in unexplained circumstances.

When the coroner considers an autopsy necessary to determine which of these three things, he is required to employ a qualified physician under whose direction the autopsy must be made.

Locally, an autopsy ordered by the coroner costs the county \$210. The number of autopsies must be determined in advance, and must be included in the budget. Eight years ago, Winterberg made a concerted attempt to get a larger allowance for autopsies — the county commissioners cut him back to enough for just two. They have not allowed money for more than two since that time.

One autopsy has already been held — in the case of a shooting this year. That means there is enough money in the budget to conduct one more autopsy, without a special appropriation.

This week a well-known man was found dying at the foot of a ladder on which he had been working. There was no question but that the death was accidental, rather than murder or suicide. There was a question as to whether the death was from a heart attack, electrocution, or injuries from the fall. The coroner determined that the man was alive and bleeding when found. There was no indication that the death was foul play or suicide, obviously, and an autopsy would only determine the exact cause for purposes of insurance.

Therefore, the coroner, and we feel rightly, determined that for county purposes, at county expense, no autopsy was necessary. Of course the man's family desired one, and have held one.

Anyone who feels that the Constitution of 1851 is outmoded, and that the office of coroner, as it now exists, should be abolished, is at perfect liberty to ask his state legislators to propose an amendment to the Constitution. But this would definitely change the character of the office from one in which a public servant determines to the best of his ability whether murder, suicide, or accidental death is involved, to one of determining the exact cause of death in every case — a rather expensive provision, when proposed at county cost.

Twenty-eight men have served in Adams county as coroner — four of these have been physicians. We know of no verified instance where they have performed better, or had more autopsies, to any advantage of the public, over the other 24.

Editorial written by **Dick Heller**

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Smoke From Grating
Brings Out Firemen

Local firemen were called to the 200 block of S. Second St., around 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

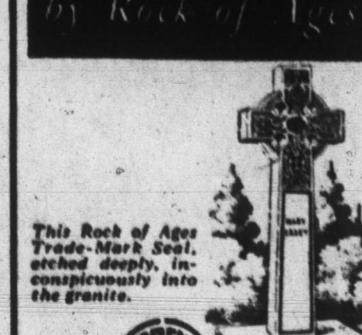
Smoke was observed coming from a grating in the sidewalk in front of The Haircut Center, and firemen doused the grate with water. No fire could be found in the basement of the barbershop or the Commercial Print Shop.

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Two Truck Drivers
Hurt in Accident

Two Fort Wayne truck drivers were transferred to Parkview memorial hospital this morning following a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 27, a mile south of Berne.

Albert Kea, 32, of Jackson, Miss., and Earl Hart, 25, also of Jackson, were treated by a local physician after the 4:45 a.m. mishap, and then taken to Parkview.

Kea was suffering from a badly-injured right ear, and a laceration over the right eye. Hart, less seriously injured, received several lacerations.

Kea was operating a North American Van Lines truck from Fort Wayne north on 27, with Hart as a passenger, when the accident occurred. He was passing another truck when a southbound motorcycle appeared.

Kea wheeled the truck toward the ditch to avoid colliding head-on with the motorcycle, and the semi-trailer truck jackknifed along the left side of the road.

The truck's tractor was considered a total loss, while the trailer was only slightly damaged. Sheriff Roger Singleton, state trooper Gene Rash and deputy sheriff Warren Kneusel investigated.

Dorwin Chairman Of
Panel At Meetings

Deane T. Dorwin, director of guidance in the North Adams

Governor Matthew E. Welsh will as chairman of a panel at three meeting in Indiana next week on college admissions problems.

Some 200 high school principals and guidance counselors from the northern third of the state will meet at Goshen College Monday. The meeting for central Indiana high schools will be held Tuesday at Indiana Central College, Indianapolis, and for southern Indiana at Evansville Wednesday.

Serving with Dorwin on the panel, "The uniform transcript: its potentialities as a guidance and admissions instrument," at all three meetings will be Miss Elizabeth Good, guidance director at Frank Central high school at Action, and Harland White, director of admissions, Purdue University.

The keynote address for all three meetings will be delivered by Dr. John J. Wittich, executive director of the Western Personnel Institute, Claremont, Calif. The theme of this year's fourth annual meeting is "Reflections on admissions problems in the state of Indiana." These meetings are sponsored by private and public Indiana colleges.

Other panels to be presented are "Counseling the student denied admission," and "Admissions decisions." Members of these panels are chosen from high school principals and guidance counselors in each area.

Stephen Markley Is
Reported Improved

Stephen Markley, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Markley, 428 Gage avenue, is reported considerably improved at the Adams county memorial hospital, where he has been a patient several days following injuries sustained at the Lincoln school, where he is an eighth grade student.

Markle Coin Club
Show On Sunday

The third annual coin show of the Markle Coin club will be held at the armory in Huntington Sunday, with the show open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. No admission will be charged.

Outstanding coin displays will be on exhibit, and dealers will be present to buy and sell coins. Awards will be presented to top exhibits.

Annual Meeting Is
Held By Dairymen

Fifty Adams county dairymen and their wives attended the Adams county dairy herd improvement association annual meeting Thursday evening at the Dutch Mill in Bluffton.

The invocation was given by Ivan Steury route 1, Berne. Jerry A. Sprunger, of Berne, presided at the business meeting. Everett Rice of Route 1, Monroe, DHIA supervisor, explained the recent changes on award standards for herd recognition. Ernest J. Lesiuk, county extension agent, discussed the changes taking place in the dairy enterprise, this included the production per cow, building and feeding practices carried out in Adams county.

Arnold Gerke, route 3, Decatur, showed color slides of his trip to Europe.

Election of officers was held with the following being elected: president, Ivan Steury; vice president, Arnold Gerke; secretary-treasurer, Norman Becher; directors, Eugene Caffe of route 2, Geneva and Arnold Scheumann of route 1, Hoosierland. The nominating committee consisted of two members, Martin Habegger of route 1, Monroe, and Carl Amstutz, route 2, Berne.

Arnold Gerke, route 3, Decatur, showed color slides of his trip to Europe.

Afternoon services 1:30 Speaker Rev. Donald Ritchey, pastor of the Mexico Church of the Brethren. No evening services.

Bible study and prayer meeting Wednesday evening 7:30.

Union Chapel Evangelical United Brethren
"The Chapel at the Crossroads."
Kenneth P. Angle, Pastor

Leroy Walters, S. S. Supt. Devotions for all 9:00 a.m. Bible Lesson 9:15 a.m. Lesson Theme — "The People Demand a King." Scriptures — 1 Samuel 10:17-25.

Text — "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." Psalms 33:12.

Divine Worship 10:00 a.m. Organ Prelude Mrs. Earl Chase

Authem — "He Died For Me." By John Newton.

A Chat with the Kiddies — Pastor Angle

Song by the Ladies Trio — Mes-Mesdames Don Hirsch, Niles Williamson, and Theron Stults.

Sermon — "Speech Difficult; Hearing Dull." Scriptures — Hebrew 5:5-14. Evening Service 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

7:30 p.m. Prayer time, sing

and a timely Bible study. Bring the family.

Thursday, Friday Saturday, Leaders and youth go to Camp Lakewood for outing, fellowship and some planning for the coming season.

Sunday — September 27, is our Great Rally Day, at our church school and at worship. A Musical program in the morning. In the evening some will go to the International Missionary Rally at Oakwood Park and some will go to the initial meeting of the Ford Philpot Crusade in Fort Wayne. Pray for both.

Thought for the week: "If you find life empty try putting something into it."

Salem United Church of Christ

H. E. Settage, Minister
9:00 Sunday school. Classes for all age groups.

10:00 Worship Service
2:30 Men's Congress Meeting in Cross Church Berne.

Saturday 9:00 and 10:00 Confirmation Classes meet for instruction.

MONROE METHODIST

Joseph Gibson, Pastor

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Divine Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Evangeline Gibson, missionary in Oklahoma, will speak at this service. Sandra Rice, her partner, will tell the story to the children and perhaps speak a few minutes of the work in Oklahoma.

Prayer meeting and Bible study Thursday at 8 p.m.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY

CHURCH
(2 mi. East and 2 mi. North of Monroe)

Robert R. Welch, Pastor

9:15 Morning Worship

10:15 Sunday School

7:00 Evening Service

8:00 Choir Practice.

Wednesday

7:00 Prayer and Bible Study

7:00 M. Y. F. and Children's Bible Hour.

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