

The selection of John Coffee as street commissioner with twelve candidates in the field is certainly an honor that gentleman should feel proud of.

For this week it is Judge Lutz, he acting as special judge in the Jay circuit court, relieving Judge Smith from active duty. Several important cases will be up for judicial adjudication and Judge Lutz will do the thing up brown.

Vince Bell was in town Monday making preparations to leave for Wyandotte county, Ohio, to attend the general council of the Christian Union church of the United States, which meets every six years. He goes as a delegate from the church at Honduras. —Bluffton News.

Judge Erwin yesterday appointed the board of review in the names of John W. Tyndall of this city and L. L. Dunbar of Linn Grove. These two gentlemen with the auditor, treasurer and county assessor will form the board, and will meet at the auditor's office June 16, to organize and proceed with the adjustment of taxes within the county.

Julius Vanderhauf, who has lived here for several years, will leave the latter part of the month for Colorado, where he expects to make his future home. He has not decided just what he will do, but has several offers already and doesn't anticipate any serious trouble in finding some work just to his liking. He is a clever young fellow and will no doubt succeed.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Gregg left Tuesday afternoon for Fort Wayne for a short visit with friends, after which they will go to Chicago and from there after a few days to Minnesota, in which state they will remain an indefinite time, most probably throughout the summer. Mr. Gregg's health is not as good as might be desired, and it is believed the change will be of great benefit to him.

The supreme court has held that when a circuit court has once decided how much of a public ditch an adjoining land owner shall clean and keep in repair its decision in final and an appeal to the supreme court will not stand. The decision was in the dismissal of an appeal taken by the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway company from Kosciusko county. The company was dissatisfied with the length of a ditch along its right-of-way allotted by the county surveyor for cleaning and repairing.

Michael Touhey, father of Frank Touhey, claims to be the oldest aeronaut in this section of the country. He came around to this office this morning to state that if from any reason Frank or Ed Craig backed out on next Saturday he would make the jump himself and prove his claim to be an aeronaut. —Bluffton Banner. While we never heard of Mike making a balloon ascension we feel that during his twenty years residence here he had sufficient practise in "flying his kite" to make successfully any kind of an aerial voyage. He should be careful not to get on too much steam.

An important business change will take place in this city July 1, at which time the stock of boots and shoes owned by John H. Mougey passes into the control of Fred Tague. Mr. Mougey has had charge of the business for the past five years and has built up a good trade, his method and treatment of his patrons being of a quality that makes business and friends. His familiar countenance will be missed in business circles, but every one will wish him the best that happens in whatever line of trade he may seek to follow. Mr. Tague who succeeds to the business, deserves unlimited success. He possesses those qualifications essential to a successful career in business, and as he assumes charge of an old established business, he will no doubt continue same along the lines that have proved successful in the past.

A special meeting of the city council was held Friday evening for the purpose of completing their organization. Every member was present and Mayor Beatty presided. The various committees were read by Mr. Beatty and are as announced in our issue of last week. Bills were then presented and allowed as follows: John Andrews \$46.50, Britton Bros. \$1.20, Al Buhler \$3.50, W. E. Horden \$31.38, Central Electric Co. \$81.52, National Carbon Co. \$32.00, Niblick & Co. \$1.00, Fort Wayne Electric Works \$124.99, D. I. Teeple \$5.21, Sunday Coal Creek Co. \$80.52, L. G. Ellingham \$6.75, National Boiler Co. \$23.10, George Archbold \$1.10, L. C. Helm \$41.75, J. D. Hale \$16.56, L. G. Ellingham \$16.60, George Patterson \$31.50, R. D. Patterson \$34.50, George Kinzie \$31.50, John Lose \$34.85, J. B. Stoneburner \$35.50, John J. Mayer \$33.80, J. J. Gluting \$6.00, Joe Mallonee \$8.00, James K. Niblick \$1.00, Burt Mann \$24.17, H. B. Knoff \$10.55, H. B. Knoff presented specifications for the Schugg sewer which were referred to the proper committee. The report of Street Commissioner Burt Mann for money collected in the sum of \$5.00 was filed and accepted.

Tom Peterson who was quite badly bruised in the smash-up at the Erie railroad crossing last week is improving nicely and will soon be entirely recovered. The worst part of his injuries was the nervous shock and Dr. Bowers who attended him has advised that he must not try to work for several weeks.

The graduating exercises of the Geneva schools were held Friday evening and was the greatest educational ever held in that place. The graduates were Harold Snyder, Vergia Buckmaster, May Murphy, Fred Premer and Roy Butcher. Golden Rule Jones, mayor of Toledo, delivered the class address.

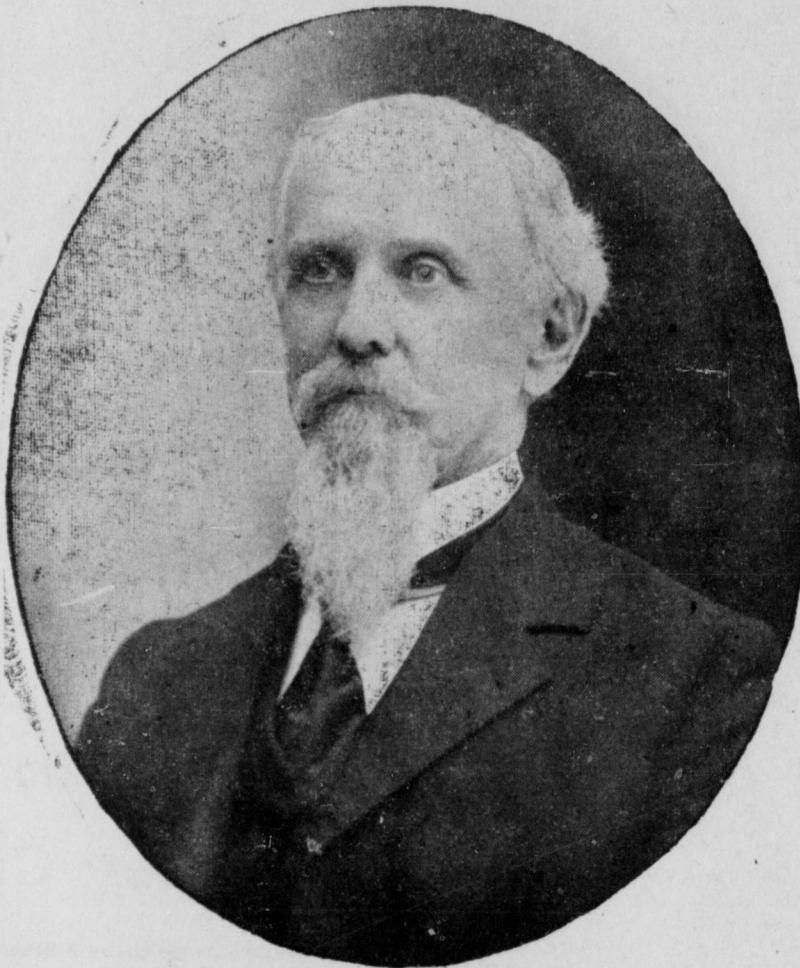
Dr. J. Q. Neptune, C. K. Bell, John Smith and John Heller arrived home Sunday night after a ten days' tour of the lakes in the vicinity of Rome City and their tanned and sun burnt faces tell of a genuine outing. They brought home a nice lot of fish to prove the high sounding tales and no one doubts that the vacation was all that was anticipated. The crowd made their headquarters at the Neptune cottage and drove out each day to one of the numerous lakes in the vicinity. The same crowd have been making the trip each spring for several years.

The case of Frank Marvilius vs The Fort Wayne Traction Co., has been occupying the time in circuit court this week, being brought here from Allen county on change of venue. The suit is one wherein the plaintiff demands the sum of \$750 as payment for injuries received while attempting to alight from a street car on Calhoun street at Fort Wayne on the night of September 21, 1900. The case was tried by jury, the plaintiff being represented by Henry Colerick of Fort Wayne, and D. E. Smith of this city, the defendant by Barrett and Morris of Fort Wayne, and R. S. Peterson of this city.

Lon McDaniels was tried in circuit court Thursday on a charge of larceny. Some two months ago he and Clyde Dougherty stole several bushels of clover seed from J. D. Hale's ware rooms, borrowed a rig from E. Mann and drove to Bluffton, where they tried to sell out. Failing to do so they left the seed and the rig and skipped. After several days the goods were located and recovered but nothing was heard of the boys until last week when McDaniels returned home. He was arrested at once and when taken into court plead not guilty. However the jury found different and he was sentenced to sixty days in jail and disfranchised for two years.

Sunday evening was an important occasion for the Methodist Epworth and Junior Leagues, as at that time their officers were installed. An appropriate program was rendered, including an address by J. T. Merryman. The officers for the coming year are as follows: Epworth League, president, Jonas Tricht; first vice-president, Myrtle Valentine; second vice-president, Dessie Krick; third vice-president, Gertrude Blosser; secretary, J. C. Brock; treasurer, Argo Brushwiller; chorister, Blanche Dible; organist, Iva Simcoe. Junior League, Mrs. Newhall, superintendent; president, Lillian Harris; first vice-president, Opal Rex; second vice-president, Don Burke; third vice-president, Lucile Vail; fourth vice-president, Marguerite Mills; secretary, Frank Mills; treasurer, Pansy Bell and organist, Zella Miller.

All arrangements for the observance of Decoration Day, one week from tomorrow are complete and the occasion will be a most fitting one. Sufficient funds have been subscribed to cover the expenses and the days program has been made public. The G. A. R. veterans will meet at the G. A. R. hall at 9 o'clock a. m., and march to the old cemetery and the Catholic and decorate the graves, and return to the hall and adjourn for refreshments. Form at G. A. R. hall at 1 p. m., and march to the court house where ritual services will be held followed by an address by Rev. Peters. After the services at the court house a line of march will be formed and go to the Decatur cemetery and complete the services. All veterans, school children and societies are invited to participate in the services. The line of march will be as follows: Form on Third street right resting on Jefferson street march east on Jefferson street, north on Second street west on Monroe street to cemetery. Committees for the various cemeteries in the vicinity are as follows: Backstoe, G. W. Gates; Beery, Dan Kitson; Bethel, Fred F. Freck; Catholic, John Colchin, A. J. Teeple; Clark's, Fred Freck; Decatur old, John Barnett and Henry Trim; Fuelling, Henry Franz; Decatur new, D. K. Shackley and David Laman; Martz, Joseph Whistler; Monmouth, L. W. Lewton; Mt. Tabor, J. M. Archbold; Pleasant Mills, James Boyd; Preble, Charles Conrad; Rav, Joseph Whistler; Steele, Jacob Spade; Salem, G. B. Cline; St. Joseph, D. K. Shackley and David Laman; Smith's, Robert E. Smith and Joseph Whistler; Tricker, Emanuel Tricker; Union Chapel, R. A. Drummond; Zion Chapel, Gusta Yager; Shady, Jacob Spade.



JUDGE DANIEL D. HELLER, of this city, who is being urged by many state politicians to consent to be a candidate for Appellate Judge of the fourth district. While such a position has its allurements, yet Mr. Heller will not seek the nomination or consent to be a candidate.

Peter Russell has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Graber at the county farm for a week past and during his stay there came near passing in his checks. He felt himself growing nervous and had enough presence of mind to go where he could be cared for. A day or so after his arrival at the infirmary he became wild and was almost uncontrollable, tearing about his room like a wild animal and cutting himself about the face quite badly. He was finally placed in a cell and after a few days began to grow better. He will be able to navigate in a few days.

Two new suits for divorce have been filed in the circuit court this week one being entitled Zuelia Aumiller vs Samuel Aumiller, and the other Emma Riley vs James Riley. The complaint in the former alleges that they were married in 1886, that four children have been born to them, but that the wife has been the victim of innumerable beatings and other cruel treatment, that she has been called every vile epithet in the English language and accused of adultery. They separated in 1900, and for about two years have not cohabited. Mrs. Aumiller asks the custody of the children and \$500. In the Riley case adultery is alleged against the husband, and the papers show the parties were married in 1897, lived together four years, and two children were born to them. Mrs. Riley asks that the court grant her the custody of the youngest child, \$300 alimony and five dollars a month for support of child.

Civil and criminal business has been transacted in circuit court this week as follows: State vs Clyde Daughtry and Alonzo McDaniels, latter found guilty and sentenced to jail for sixty days and disfranchised two years. Anna Meyers vs D. L. and J. M. Meyers, dismissed and costs paid by plaintiff. State ex rel Noah Mangold vs Perry Robison et al, continued by agreement. Clayton Williams vs Frank Kelley and Reuben Clark, default of plaintiff and cause dismissed. David H. Parker vs John and Hattie Denney, dismissed and costs paid. Peter B. Manley vs Isabelle Williams et al, supplemental complaint filed by plaintiff. Mathias Colchin vs Lucy E. Rout et al, depositions published, reply filed cause submitted and finding against John W. Rout on his answer. Sale confirmed and deed ordered. Frank Marvilius vs The Fort Wayne Traction Co., now on trial by jury. Arthur M. Fisher vs E. Burt Lenhart, motion sustained to make new party a defendant. C. G. Egley vs Catharine Egley, report of sale filed and approved, commissioner discharged. Frank Gilbert vs Peter E. Fugate, answer filed and cause set for May 27. Old Adams County bank vs John B. Rice et al, default finding against J. B. Rice in sum of \$836.16 and on note sued in sum of \$973.03. Louis C. Dunbar et al vs Byron Dunbar et al, demurrer filed by all defendants. Moris Michalovitch et al vs S. A. Stein, finding for \$372.92 and judgment rendered. Jacob Schwabacher et al vs S. A. Stein, finding for \$151.50 and judgment rendered. Robert Blackburn admr. vs Nellie Blackburn, admr. depositions ordered published. Decatur National Bank vs Steve Longenberger and Peter Heath, separate answers filed by defendants. Jacob Colter et al vs Catharine Niblick et al, defendants Tonnelier and Tonnelier file disclaimer.

George W. Woodward was chosen as a delegate from the Eighth district of Indiana to attend the National encampment of the G. A. R. to be held at Washington the latter part of September. The appointment was made at the state meeting last week at Indianapolis and is quite an honor as but two delegates are allowed to each congressional district, the other being M. M. Justice of Bluffton. Mr. Woodward is one of the youngest veterans of the civil war in Indiana.

A letter recently received from Ora France, a member of the Paris, Texas, ball team says he is getting along nicely and living high and dry. He heads his team in batting and base running and is way up with his fielding average. His team stands fourth in percentage but are playing good ball and expect to win out. Ora had the misfortune a few days ago to receive a broken thumb and as a consequence has been transferred to the outfield. He enclosed a clipping from the Waco Times-Herald of last Sunday which tells of the hottest game of the season with the team of that city. The game was called on account of darkness after sixteen innings play with the score five to five. Ora's record in the game shows that he is not sleeping by any means, he having made three hits with six times to bat, a percentage of 500, one run, two put outs, one assist and no errors. His Decatur friends are glad to hear of his success.

Harry C. James, true name unknown, about twenty years old and of rather good appearance is a lodger with Sheriff Dan Erwin. He is charged with forgery and if the claims made against him can be substantiated he may spend the hot summer months and several more to follow in the big resort along the Ohio river, better known as the Jeffersonville Reformatory. He was here a short time ago with the Hall & Long show, with whom he occupied a position as canvasser. He came back last Thursday and claimed to be looking for a valuable dog which had been lost by his company and for which they were offering a large reward. He loafed about the streets all day and tried to pass a check signed by August Brown at a number of places, among them being the Big Store, Fristoe's Smoke House, Noah Loch's and the banks but failed at each place. His queer actions and apparent determination to get the check cashed somewhere finally attracted the attention of Marshall Hart, who arrested him Thursday evening shortly after he tried to work the worthless paper on Mr. Loch. The check called for forty-three dollars and James claims that Brown is a wealthy citizen of Muncie. Shortly after his arrest he tried to swallow the check but was caught in the act and after a dose of wind pipe squeezing administered by Mr. Hart, promptly spit it out. Shortly afterward he confessed and produced a forged check on Hall & Long for thirty-eight dollars. His only excuse is that he didn't mean anything and had only written out the checks for fun. While he claims that his name is James and his home Pittsburg he asked the officers a few days ago to send a telegram to his brother who lived at Sault St. Marie and whose name is D. W. Dyer. The officers did so and yesterday received word that he would be here Monday. No action will be taken with James until his so called brother arrives.

Plans and preparations for the convention of the Christian Endeavor societies of Indiana, to be held in Indianapolis, June 26-29, are well under way. The reports of the committees indicate that the convention will be the biggest thing of the kind ever held. As to the number of delegates who will probably attend the convention, it is estimated that there will be anywhere between 2,000 and 3,000, not counting the army of church workers who will accompany the delegates.

Lima beans, colored and slightly perfumed, sold as "rose bulbs" by a fellow going from house to house in Warsaw, recently, caught a large number of housewives. How many were gulled into paying thirty-five cents a dozen for this fake is not known, but indications are that many dozens were sold to unsuspecting women who desire to beautify their surroundings. However, their eyes will grow tired watching this pink-colored specimen of phaeolus lunatus peep from the ground. The coloring matter used will doubtless preclude even the lima bean from coming up. A Warsaw citizen, who knows the fellow states that he sold about \$800 worth in Fort Wayne.

The Shamrocks and Reds, two local ball teams, crossed bats at Steele's park Sunday afternoon and the game was the best seen this year. Up to the eighth inning it was a fierce fight, the score standing four to three in favor of the Shamrocks. At this stage Huber DeVoss, who was playing first base for the latter team became sick and was forced to retire from the game, weakening his club considerably, and allowing the Reds to run completely away with the score and winning twelve to five. Tom Railing pitched for the Reds and Ned Bobo for the Shamrocks and both put up a good article. The Shamrocks still claim the ability to trounce the mighty Reds and will try it again in the near future.

Mrs. Belle Botkins died at her home at Geneva about nine o'clock Friday night after an illness of several months. More than a year ago Mrs. Botkins was badly injured in a runaway and suffered for many weeks. She then began to improve and her friends believed she would entirely recover, then her lungs became affected and her system already impaired was a ready prey for consumption which soon followed. A month ago she became bedfast and lay ebbed steadily away until Friday night when the angel of death came. She was forty-one years old and was reared in this city being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Flickinger. She was one of the best known ladies in the county and was recognized as a strong business woman. One daughter Miss Marie Fought survives her, together with a number of other relatives and many friends. The funeral services were held from the Methodist church in this city Sunday afternoon in charge of the Women's Relief Corps of Geneva and Decatur and conducted by Rev. Kain of Geneva and Rev. Hudson of this city.

Howard W. Thompson, perhaps as well known as any farmer in the county, died at his home in the south part of Washington township at an early hour yesterday morning. For over a year he has suffered from an aggravated attack of kidney trouble, and during that period his life has often been despaired of. He was confined to his bed during the greater part of the winter, but with the coming of spring he seemed to improve and was able to walk about, even going to Monroe a few times, and his loved ones and friends again became hopeful that he might yet be spared to them for a time at least. A few days ago, however, his illness became more violent than at any time heretofore and life sped away rapidly, death coming about 1:15 Wednesday morning. Mr. Thompson was sixty-five years old, having been born in Carroll county, Ohio, February 4, 1837. His parents were Gabriel and Elizabeth Thompson, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of New York. The mother died in 1863 and the father in 1874. Howard was reared to manhood in his native county and received a good common school education, this in part accounting for his success in whatever he undertook. When sixteen years old he began blacksmithing and followed that trade for five years, the rest of his life having been devoted to farming. April 9, 1865, he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Kirby, also a resident of Carroll county. To them have been born five children, Mrs. James A. Hendricks, Frances E., Cranston A., Ida M., and Ephraim K., all of whom with the helpmate of so many years survive to mourn their sad loss. Mr. Thompson and family, consisting then of the wife and oldest daughter came to this county in 1863, and have ever since resided on the home farm. He has always, while health permitted been an industrious worker and active in whatever principles he believed in. The Odd Fellows' lodge of this city, of which he was a member will have charge of the funeral services which will be held from the home at nine o'clock Friday morning. Interment at Maplewood cemetery.

Passenger train No. 6 on the Clover Leaf, known as "The Commercial Traveler," met with an accident Monday night as the train was leaving Charleston at 11:30. As the train pulled through the east end of the yards, the rear coach and combination car jumped the track and partially toppled over on their sides, causing consternation among the passengers, four or five of whom were slightly injured. A traveling man from St. Louis had his wrist badly hurt. The train reached here four hours late.

Decatur Masons are quite well represented at Geneva today, being in attendance at the corner stone laying of their handsome new school building. It is decidedly a Masonic affair, the Geneva lodge being in charge, as was stated in the Democrat last week. At half past three the line of march will begin, forming on Line street and marching to the northeast corner of the building where Most Worshipful Grand Master Geake will dedicate the building in the name of the fraternity he represents. The only oration of the day will be delivered by Hon. David E. Smith of this city. After the ceremonies incident to the corner stone laying, the Masonic brethren will enjoy the feast of good fellowship that everywhere marks the pathway of that historic order.

Invitations for the twenty-first annual commencement of the Decatur High School have been issued and the event will take place at Bosse's opera house on Friday evening May 30th. The program consists of salutatory and an essay, "Following a mirage," by John Gillig; "Maurice Thompson," Katherine Krick; "The fiddle told," reading by Lola Jackson; "If it were done when 'tis done," Grace Suttles; "The quality of mercy," Bertha Heller; "Our Jury System," Maynard Frisinger; "Day dreams," Mae Gessinger; "The race against time," reading Blanch Dibble; "A hero in lowly life," Edwin Magley; "Poor boys and great eminence," Raleigh Parrish; "The swan song," reading, Faye Smith; "The Edelweis" and valedictory by Adalia Sellemeyer. Presentation of diplomas by Prof. Hartman. Immediately after these exercises the class reception will be given at the I. O. O. F. hall. The Junior class reception will be held tomorrow evening; class day for the 1902 graduates comes next Wednesday and the baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by Rev. C. G. Hudson at the Methodist church next Sunday.

The regular session of the city council was held Tuesday and a large amount of important business was transacted. Mayor Beatty presided and members Peterson, Teeple, Stetler, Fordyce, Weaver and Corbett were present. The Schugg sewer was taken up and the matter of receiving bids postponed, and the plans and specifications referred back to the street and sewer committee for further investigation. Street Commissioner T. Burt Mann tendered his resignation and same was accepted on motion by T. C. Corbett. Mr. Peterson moved that the report of M. J. Mylott, city electrician be approved and spread of record, motion carried. T. B. Mann was allowed \$32.13 amount due him as street commissioner to date. Mr. Corbett moved that they proceed to elect a new street commissioner and the names of Albert Parrish, Dan Shackley, Harry Cooken, George Patterson, James Smith, John Coffee, W. W. Moats, Ezra Cutting, Jacob Mangold, William Teeple, Charles Bottenberg and Jacob Buhler were presented. The votes were greatly divided and it looked for a while as though a dead lock might ensue, but on the thirty-second ballot John Coffee, democrat and James Smith, republican each received three votes. This left the deciding vote to Mayor Beatty who promptly cast his ballot for Mr. Coffee and elected him. City Treasurer Archbold was ordered to notify all delinquent water consumers that unless their rental is paid by July 1, 1902, same will be left for collection. In the matter of the contract for gas for the water plant boilers, same was referred to the water works and electric light committee. A petition for a brick pavement on Fourth street signed by a number of property owners along said route was presented and referred to the street committee. A committee of the city fire company composed of Wall Wemhoff, Thos. Haefling and C. C. Ernst filed a report stating that at a meeting recently held L. C. Helm was unanimously chosen as chief of the company and his name was therefore presented for approvals said report was referred to the fire committee. City attorney James T. Merryman tendered his resignation and same was accepted. The names of Schafer Peterson and L. C. DeVoss were presented to fill the vacancy and the former chosen by a vote of five to one. James T. Merryman was allowed his salary \$50 in full to date. On motion of Mr. Fordyce a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Merryman for courtesies shown while in office. Mr. Teeple moved that the city books be audited to ascertain what the indebtedness is and Godfrey Christen and A. C. Gregory were appointed to do same. Council then adjourned to meet in continued session next Tuesday evening.