

The D. M. Hensley household is happy today, and Dave is prancing about like a boy. However, they have one cause for joy for a real, live, active, healthy, crying, healthy baby boy has joined their happy circle. The event occurred Friday morning.

The Bachelor maid met Wednesday night with Miss Mame Conter and indulged in progressive euchre. First prizes were allotted to the Misses Mame and Anna Terveer and boobies to Miss Ada Deininger and Mrs. James Haefling. Refreshments were served and the storm without did not in the least bother the assembled guests.

Miss Olive Dailey who formerly had charge of the Latin department in the Decatur high school graduated from the state university at Bloomington. She has successfully completed a four year course in three years and a half, having obtained credit for Greek work done last winter under Dr. C. G. Hudson. Miss Dailey will remain at home until next September, when she will take up higher branches in an eastern college. She certainly has the good wishes of all who have been connected with her in the high school work.

Thirty-eight Decatur members of the Masonic lodge spent Wednesday afternoon and that night in Van Wert where they were guests at a Masonic doings of no mean proportions. The visitors were composed of the lodges from this city and Paulding, Ohio, the secret work of the Master Mason's degree being conferred upon three candidates. This lodge had the honor of winning deserved applause for the excellent presentation of the unwritten work, and we must confess that the boys outdid themselves and justly earned the praise bestowed. Van Wert is one of the handsomest cities on the map and her Masons fully up to the standard as entertainers. Fully 300 people feasted at a six o'clock dinner, the same being served in the Presbyterian church at that city, and by the ladies of that congregation, and about the midnight hour ice cream and cake was served in the banquet rooms of the lodge. It was a gala time in Masonic circles and one long to be remembered by the Decatur colony who attended.

The inspectors for the St. Marys macadam road election canvassed the vote at the auditor's office Thursday. The total vote cast in favor of the south road was one hundred and twenty-five, to sixty-five against it, making a majority of sixty in favor of the road. The north road records one hundred and eighteen for the road, and sixty-six against it, making a majority of fifty-two for the road. The boys worked hard and are now entitled to the reward that is rightly theirs.

Frank Richards, who for a year past has been manager of the dry goods department of the Big Store, will leave for Chicago one week from last Tuesday, where he will go to work in the cloak and ready-made suit department of a large store of that city. Mr. Richards has signed a contract with Kern, Beeler & Company and will return to this city about a month before they will be ready to open for business. The work in the Chicago store will be valuable experience for him and he takes it for the education that it will afford in his line of business.

Messrs Butler and Wolf of Indianapolis, the former representing the British American and Aachen and Munich fire insurance companies and the latter the Royal were in the city Friday to adjust their loss on the Allison & Studabaker block destroyed by fire Sunday morning. The building was insured for only \$8,000 and as the loss was twice that amount there was but little chance for salvage. The adjusters and their assistants Messrs C. S. Niblick and D. F. Quinn met the owners, Messrs R. B. Allison and David Studabaker at the Burt House and in a very few minutes prepared proofs of loss for their share of the \$8,000 in full. The Aachen and Munich paid \$500, the British American \$2,000 and the Royal \$1,000. This means that the owners will receive their insurance in full as they certainly should. The other companies involved are the Agricultural \$2,000, J. S. Peterson, agent and North Western National \$2,500, Lenhart & Lenhart agents. The promptness of the companies in settling the loss, a total one, within four days speaks well for them and shows they are first class as represented.

The first appeals in the allotment for cleaning the Meyers ditch in Blue Creek township were filed at the county clerk's office Friday noon. The cases are entitled George McKean, surveyor vs Davidson Mattox and William Mattox respectively. A peculiar part of these cases is that while the appeals are made by Davidson and William Mattox, they are really the defendants and the burden of proof is on them. The law gives every property owner along a ditch which is ordered cleaned the right to appeal to circuit court if he thinks his allotment is more than should be and these gentlemen have taken that step. The case will be watched with great interest by many farmers as it is a test case on the new ditch law passed by the recent legislature. It is said another property holder along the ditch has also signified his intention of filing objections. The suits were filed by D. D. Heller and Son.

One of the best oil wells in the Adams county field came in on the David Swartz farm, four miles north of Berne, making it but six or seven miles from this city. The well is owned by the Cherry Oil, Gas & Mining company of Toledo, an enterprising, lucky and hustling association, in which several Berne business men are interested. This territory is practically new and is the closest paying field to Decatur. The Cherry company own fifteen hundred acres of leases in the immediate neighborhood and expect to drill a number of more wells. The Swartz well, number one, was shot yesterday and filled up five hundred feet with oil which indicates almost to a certainty that it will be a fifty or sixty barrel well.

The members of the company are elated and will proceed at once. Their next well is to be located on the Joseph Rich farm in the same territory. The Cherry company are incorporated at \$100,000, and mean business and their earnest efforts means much for the citizens between Berne and Monroe. While the field is practically new it looks as though it would be the best territory in the county. While this gusher means much for the stock holders and farmers whose lands are leased, it likewise means much for Decatur, as it proves the rich mineral is nearer here than heretofore shown.

Wednesday was the hottest day of the year, so far, and wound up with the most severe thunder storm seen here for some time. The thermometer registered ninety three in the shade yesterday and the big storm was predicted by many. About six o'clock the big black clouds began to roll up in the northwest and an hour afterwards the elements were reigning all their fury. For six hours the air was filled with lightning and the roll of thunder was continuous. In every direction bright lights could be discerned on the sky, showing that the lightning was doing damaging work. The heavy rain began about ten o'clock and for several hours came down in sheets, bringing joy to the hearts of the farmers, who say the corn was being burned up in the fields. Numerous losses have been reported today: A large barn owned by Mr. Perkins, and located a mile and a half north of Magley, and two miles from a German church in Wells county, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. All the contents, including nine loads of new hay, was destroyed, making a loss of about \$1,000. A barn on Michael Miller's farm, near Monroe, was also struck but luckily did not take fire. The rafters were torn loose, roof damaged, with a loss of about seventy-five dollars, insured in the Continental company. Charles Poling lost two valuable horses which were struck while in the pasture. He lives on the Joshua Parrish farm, near the Washington church. Frank Breiner who also lives near Washington church, is minus a calf which got in the way of a bolt of electric fluid. A big barn on the John Hoblett farm, east of Steele, was struck during the storm and is reported a complete loss with all contents. The barn was the largest in that section of the country and if the loss was total, as our informant says, the loss will reach \$2,500, with an insurance of \$900. A traveling man who came in today says a hotel at Willsbire was destroyed last night, the result of being struck by lightning. There were several other fires of more or less consequence over the country but it has been impossible to get accounts of them.

If there be such a one, a view of the patriotic display at the Hill home Thursday might do him good. The hostess, Mrs. Victoria Hill, arranged the most novel event of the season in honor of her daughter, Mrs. C. G. Reynolds and children, of Joliet, Illinois. Unfurling its folds to the breeze, the veteran and bullet-pierced flag of Col. Miller waved high above the incoming guests. Within, the house was tastefully decorated with flags, bunting, palms and an abundance of beautiful flowers. The guests were being entertained with various progressive patriotic games, such as "Martha Washington acrostic," writing original poems, or the first verses of national hymns, guessing the names of generals, etc. Appropriate prizes were awarded to the successful contestants in the different games. At four thirty a two-course luncheon was served at the home of Mrs. Fred Mills. The walls here were also covered with diminutive flags cunningly set, and the dining table was covered with an abundance of roses and carnations, while towering palms stood at either end of the room. Misses Marie Patterson, Hattie Niblick, Dolly Simcocke, Carrie Thomas, Irene Schirmeyer and Margaret Mills served the guests, while Frank Mills, costumed as Uncle Sam, presided at the punch bowl. The entertainment ended with a regular Fourth of July celebration, including a potato race and May-pole dance. The event was quite a treat to Decatur's society.

A French chemist and his wife have recently made a discovery which seems not only incredible to the uneducated, but even startled scientists of widest repute, until their own investigations have but corroborated the fact, and now all are deeply interested, not excluding Lord Kelvin, who has himself developed many surprising details. The discovery is that of a new element radium, which in the infancy of its importance, bids fair to upset many established scientific theories of the past century. Nor is this improbable as chemical knowledge has already passed through three widely differing stages. Radium, the rarest of metals is found only in a mineral called, in mining language, "pitchblende." This is of a phosphorescent appearance and is found only at a few places upon the earth's surface. Even in pitchblende radium is but a minute element, for it would require 5,000 tons of ore to obtain one pound of radium. Hence it is quoted at an enormous price per pound, \$3,720,000. In the ore it exists as radium chloride and is not known to combine in any other manner. But what are far more striking than the price are the wonderful phenomena that it exhibits, and great possibilities in view for it in practical way. Indeed the most observable quality it has is that of giving off energy, light and heat, without perceptible exhaustion or chemical change. This is a flat contradiction of the law of conservation of energy, which modern science has so clearly demonstrated. It gives off light at the rate of 120,000 mile per second, thus radiating thousands of millions of molecules, and yet its volume and weight in no way diminish. Many months of careful experimenting has shown that from a gram of radium but one grain would disappear in a billion years. Heat, too, is voided without the least increase or diminution of temperature. Radium will melt its own volume of ice in an hour. Treated with liquid air, its activity is lowered a half. With such a power under control, men could utilize it to do his work without frequent replenishing. Radium will destroy all germs placed near it, so may be useful as a disinfectant. Carried upon the person it creates sores very much resembling burns or scalds, as a scientist learned to his sorrow. With the eyes closed and radium placed upon the forehead, the light it yields is visible. One man has been successfully operated upon with the metal for blindness. With no other light than that of radium comparatively good photographs have been taken, and it may be partially used to perform the function of an X-ray. Many claim to see relation between the question of perpetual motion and the inexhaustible energy of radium. Again some regard it as a final proof of the unity of matter, that all the known elements are composed of primary substance, whose ions are of similar nature to the atom. Meanwhile the price is \$3,720,000 a pound.

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INDIANA.

Hartford City has voted favorably on a proposition to bond the city to the extend of a very handsome school building, and the same will immediately be erected.

After a brief lull of contagious diseases Portland is doubly unfortunate. A case of scarlet fever and a case of diphtheria were reported to Health Officer Stanton late Monday evening and although it was getting dark when the word reached him the cautious officer went at once to the house where the disease exist and put up the yellow flags. The case of diphtheria is Clara Chamberlain, the one-and-a-half year old child of William Chamberlain living on Race street and the scarlet fever case is Leona Spohn, the eight year old child of Thomas Spohn on Shanks street, South Portland. — Portland Commercial Review.

Mrs. Sarah Ripley McKee died Wednesday morning at ten o'clock. She was about thirty seven years old, and her death was the result of dissipation, he having been a heavy drinker. The theory is that during a period of intoxication he wandered into the lumber yard, became unconscious and passed away without a struggle. On account of the telephone line affording unsatisfactory service it was impossible to learn further details except that no disposition would be made of the body until parties at Springfield, O., could be heard from. Coroner Morgan was called to Andrews to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death. He left here at Spring in company with a fellow known here as "Churn Bill," whose avocation was to drive over the country and sell patent churning to the farmers. Bill was a bright fellow and when sober was as clever a man as could be found. His parents who are wealthy, live at Springfield, O., and a telegram from them today said that the body had arrived there and was buried to day. His wife and two little sons live here. He was about thirty eight years old. A brother, Charles Jeffries, well known here and who worked at the Burt House several years ago, is now employed at the Burris House, Marion. Bill was employed as a clerk at the Murray House several months last fall.

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