

Cigarette leads to craps, craps leads to playing the horse race, leads to larceny, larceny leads to burglary and burglary leads to state prison. These are the words of a New York magistrate and there is more truth than poetry in them.

The residents of Delphos are considerably wrought up over the likelihood of losing the Clover Leaf railroad shops. Decatur, Ind., is fighting with the new management of the road and it is said that place will be made the division headquarters.—St. Marys Argus.

Walter Johnson, of this city, went to Toosin Monday, being called there by the serious condition of his mother, who fell late yesterday afternoon and broke her right leg just below the knee. Mrs. Johnson is past fifty years old, which fact alone makes the injury quite serious.

Charles Smith, the horse dealer has disposed of his team of roans at a good figure. Friday Beery and Rice, horse buyers from Decatur, were in the city and while here they bought the team. They paid for them the sum of \$440. This team, has frequently worked on the streets and it always attracted much favorable comment wherever it was seen.—Bluffton Banner.

The Wabash Valley Nursery of Bluffton, Ind., will this spring have all kind of nursery for sale at Beavers & Cress Marble shop on northwest corner of Jefferson and Second streets consisting of apples, peaches, cherries, plums, peaches, strawberries, all kinds of shade trees. This stock is young thrifit and all true to name. You can't miss it by buying largely. Call and see us and get prices. Beavers & Cress. Decatur Ind.

James Lacey, bound over to the Court of Common Pleas, on a charge of criminal assault, has not been able to find anyone who is willing to risk a thousand dollars in the way of a bond for his appearance when the Grand Jury sits next month. The case against Lacey is so conclusive that it is not likely that he will be able to procure a bondsman. Another bit of striking evidence against the prisoner has been introduced when the case is considered in the higher court. Lacey and his wife spent Sunday at the Fish home and while there Lacey slipped a note to the little girl. It proposed that they run away and be married, and, also, contained some very endearing expressions.—Van Wert Bulletin.

W. M. Flaharty, agent of the Pennsylvania railroad at Van Wert committed suicide in the freight house at 10 o'clock Friday night by shooting himself. The body was found a short time afterward. Flaharty was one of the old men in the employ of the Pennsylvania company, having been in the service twenty seven years. More than fifteen years ago he was made the agent there. Aside from his railroad interest he was prominent in business circles, as was director in the bank recently established, and a member of the city school board. He had recently tendered his resignation as agent of the railroad and was preparing to go into other business. Friends can not assign any reason for the rash act. He was quite well known by a number of Decatur people.

#### GOOD SPIRITS.

George Worden who lives a few miles east of the city, had a very narrow escape from drowning Saturday while coming to town on horse back. Everything had gone smooth with George up until the time he reached the water, which was backed up over and across the road leading up to the river bridge, and it was while riding through this space of water that his horse became frightened and lunged sideways, throwing George from its back into the water. At this place there was a very swift current and the minute he hit the water he was swiftly carried north to the fence which guards the road. He managed after a short struggle to regain his feet and carefully pick his way to high and dry land. Those who witnessed this accident stood breathless and in a way helpless to assist him and had he been wept over this levee into the deep water along the side he would undoubtedly have been drowned before the eyes of numerous people, the water at this point is nearly fifteen feet deep. George was certainly fortunate that he escaped with a mere ducking.

Agents Wanted.—For the thrilling sensational book and wonderful seller 'The Chicago Theatre Disaster,' 400 pages, memorial volume full of startling illustrations, stories of marvelous escapes, heroic rescues, list of 600 dead, etc. Price \$1.50. Only book Tremendous seller for agents. \$7.00 a day average, country or town. Send 12 cents postage for fine outfit, terms and instructions and make money fast. C. W. Stanton Co., 325 Dearborn street Chicago, Ill.

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Job Warren, who drives for an Ohio City firm, came down Saturday, on his way to Decatur with several horses. Before leaving Willshire he got Johnny Rolston to accompany, which latter proved a fortunate thing for him. When they reached the flooded district west of town, near Grant Strickler's home, it became a question of "sink or swim." The horse Job was riding began to swim for solid ground, but Job, afraid of that sea sick motion while in the saddle, sought refuge in the branches of a tree. Later he tried to reach terra firma, but it is reported that he "went under" three times and but for the heroic efforts of his youthful companion who finally induced him to catch hold of the tail of one of the horses, Job would have ended his career in a watery grave. As it is he was thoroughly saturated, nearly frozen and badly frightened. It was a close call, sure.—Willshire Herald.

The commissioners opened their April session by hearing evidence for a liquor licence, the applicant being L. G. Botkin of Geneva. A. N. Steele was given the contract for a driven well on the court house corner, the same to have three and one half inch casing, one and a quarter inch tubing, a galvanized pump and in all things to be acceptable to the custodian of the court house, T. H. Ernst. The contract price was \$1.20 a foot. It has been agreed between the authorities of the city and county that each is to bear a one half interest in the expense of this improvement. The viewers reports were approved on the two extensions to the Pleasant Valley & Oak Grove, the Geneva, Ceylon & Wabash Township, Monroe township Central, East Washington, and the Decatur & Monroe roads. May 2 has been decided upon as a day to receive bids for their construction. J. W. Merriman was appointed a justice of the peace for Blue Creek township, a vacancy occurring, caused by the resignation of Joseph Sims.

Relatives of Harry Hatfield, whose death as well as that of his wife occurred last week, Friday met at the old home and made a search for buried money. Mr. Hatfield was always a man of a rather peculiar temperament and it was suspected that he had during his long residence at that place, concealed money at various times and in various amounts. Under the house was found a fruit jar containing \$286. There were thirty-five \$5 gold pieces, eleven \$10 gold pieces and one silver dollar. This money had been placed in a self sealer fruit jar and the lid securely fastened. The fruit jar had been wrapped in old rags and then placed in a one gallon stone jar after which it had been buried under the house. During the search for the money the son, who was with the searching party told his grandmother that his father had buried some money in the garden at one time. The search was renewed and the ground systematically spaded over. The search was finally rewarded by finding \$30 in gold buried in a similar manner to that which had been found under the house. Before her marriage Mrs. Hatfield had been presented with \$30 in gold which she had kept hidden in the house. This money was also brought to light.—Bluffton Banner.

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#### Farmers Take Notice.

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#### Grand Rapids & Indiana.

In effect Feb. 1, 1904

##### TRAINS NORTH.

No. 5—Leaves Decatur ..... 1:15 a m  
" Fort Wayne ..... 1:10 p m  
" Kalamazoo ..... 5:15 a m  
Arrives Grand Rapids ..... 6:45 a m  
" Petoskey ..... 2:50 p m  
" Mackinaw City ..... 4:15 p m

No. 7—Leaves Decatur ..... 8:00 a m  
" Fort Wayne ..... 8:50 a m  
" Kalamazoo ..... 12:15 p m  
Arrives Grand Rapids ..... 1:50 p m  
" Petoskey ..... 11:00 p m  
" Mackinaw City ..... 1:20 p m

No. 3—Leaves Decatur ..... 3:13 p m  
" Fort Wayne ..... 4:20 p m  
" Kalamazoo ..... 8:06 p m  
Arrives Grand Rapids ..... 10:00 p m

##### TRAINS SOUTHE.

No. 6—Leaves Decatur ..... 2:00 a m  
" Portland ..... 3:02 a m  
Arrives Richmond ..... 4:35 a m  
" Cincinnati ..... 7:15 a m  
" Indianapolis ..... 8:35 a m  
" St. Louis ..... 1:42 p m  
" Louisville ..... 10:05 p m

No. 12—Leaves Decatur ..... 7:14 a m  
" Portland ..... 8:15 a m  
Arrives Richmond ..... 9:42 a m  
" Cincinnati ..... 12:20 p m  
" Indianapolis ..... 12:10 p m  
" St. Louis ..... 7:00 p m

No. 2—Leaves Decatur ..... 1:15 p m  
" Portland ..... 2:15 p m  
Arrives Richmond ..... 3:40 p m  
" Cincinnati ..... 3:55 p m

No. 30—Leaves Decatur ..... 7:51 p m  
Arrives Portland ..... 9:03 p m

No. 16—Leaves Decatur ..... 7:15 p m  
" Portland ..... 8:15 p m  
Arrives Richmond ..... 9:45 p m  
" Indianapolis ..... 11:59 p m

No. 5—Daily. Sleeping car to Mackinaw City.

No. 7—Daily to Fort Wayne, Mackinaw City.

No. 8—Daily except Sunday. Parlor car to Mackinaw City.

No. 3—Daily except Sunday. Parlor car to Grand Rapids.

No. 6—Daily. Sleeping car to Cincinnati.

No. 2—Daily except Sunday. Parlor car to Cincinnati.

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