

HERE LAST NIGHT

Vast Audience Listened to One of the Most Delightful Events Given Here.

Never before in the history of Decatur have such logical thoughts and plausible arguments been presented by the youths of our city upon a subject of equal importance to the question whether or not the world owes more to the press than to the pulpit than was heard Monday night, when in the lecture room of the Methodist church the boys of the Holy Grail of the Decatur and Monroe castles discussed the merits of each side of the question. It was, in fact, difficult to contemplate that such wise and convincing arguments were forthcoming from youths who were not far in their teens, but nevertheless it was true not only of the Decatur boys but the Monroe debaters as well. The lecture room of the church had been artistically decorated in the colors peculiar to this organization, which were red, white and blue with a beautiful chandelier and streamers of paper in the different colors extending from various parts of the room all joining in the center which presented a magnificent appearance. The Monroe boys and admirers arrived on the 7:52 G. R. and train and hastened to the church time to start the program at eight o'clock. In the meantime the lecture room, gallery and classrooms had been crowded with people eager to hear the boys make their initial debut before the Decatur public. The program opened with a paper by Rev. Edgar Jones, of Monroe, after which Don Burk rendered excellent violin solo with Tony Holte playing the accompaniment on the piano. Such a decided hit did it make that encore after encore was up until another selection was needed. Following this, Miss Carrie Adams favored the vast audience by beautiful instrumental solo which drew applause from all. She also vied to respond to the encore another selection. The next was a solo by Mrs. Dr. Wilcox, who completely captivated the audience in her ability in singing but in resonating as well and she was warmly cheered until she responded. Wilcox then stated that the debate feature of the occasion, was about to ensue and he took the opportunity to announce that no unkind demolition would be allowed on either side as it was a friendly combat. Messrs. Charles Hocker, Jonas Trim, this city and Professor Johnson Monroe, were selected as judges, being informed that points, day and general expression were taken into consideration in making grades. Just as the debate was to ensue, the Decatur boys gave a yell which greatly enthused the admirers and the discussion was opened by O. V. Graham of Monroe who we must admit, did exceed well in his argument. Among most conspicuous points of his session on the negative was that in the absence of the press would have no means of knowledge as did our ancestors consequently we could not profit by knowledge of their follies, nor did we have means of recording, but we would go back into history as did our forefathers of his ago. It was also brought out that the first printing which was ever invented was from clay by a Chinese blacksmith, thus was a striking step toward civilization. Mr. Graham was led by Howard Wiselaupt for affirmative and he acquitted himself, advancing an argument this hard to meet. He illustrated points and made an excellent delivery for which he is deserving credit. "The world owes more to the pulpit than to the press," Mr. Wiselaupt, "for it owes the pulpit for its existence." While the pulpit, what would become of it. Our country would go back to barbarism and what usefulness there was, would be destroyed. Presses in the world could not then, he continued. What would then do with a press? What they do with it, if they had closed by saying "Earthly and systems of philosophy their day, human institutions dealings of this world bloom and away as the lilies of the field, the Christian religion, the pulpit the dew

of perennial youth, survives all changes, makes steady progress from age to age and directs the course of civilization and lives forever.

This was followed by an argument by B. F. Shirk, of Monroe, who demonstrated his ability in debating by scoring many points. Would any of you wish to be deprived of your education, said the speaker? No, you would not, and what do you owe your education to? Why to the press. In the absence of the printing press we would have no public libraries which afford the poor a chance to obtain an education as well as the rich. Were it not for the press, said he, we would not have such great papers as the Youths Companion and the Epworth Herald. The debaters who followed, Mr. Wilcox of this city and Mr. Duer of Monroe pursued practically the same lines of arguments and their talks were most convincing. The judges retired to a separate room, where they figured the percentage of the debaters which resulted Decatur 84 and Monroe 83 2-3. Immediately after the debate a supper consisting of chicken patties, butter rolls, cake pickles and coffee was served much to the delight of all and thus closed the second debate between the castles of the Holy Grail of Monroe and Decatur.

HAS BEEN DRAFTED

By Washington American League—Some Incidents Showing His Nerve.

Last Sunday's Dallas, Texas, News had the following concerning an Adams county boy:

Clarence Biersdofer, who was drafted by the Washington Americans, made his professional debut at the beginning of the 1907 season with the Dallas team, and many of his local friends think he is going to fast company entirely too early. Biersdofer has the stuff, however, and is a much better pitcher than some of the other youngsters who will contest for a trial on Cantillon's staff. If he fails to stick he will probably go either to the American Association or the Western league, in both of which organizations Cantillon owns franchises. Biersdofer last season proved himself to be one of the grizzliest pitchers that ever performed in Texas. After Garrett injured his arm in the Philadelphia game and Ables hurt his shoulder, Biersdofer was about all there was left to the pitching staff, as Burnett had not then recovered his propensity for losing games in the ninth inning. Biersdofer then showed what his metal was. He won consistently, and was pronounced in every city of the league as the best southpaw in Texas. It was his first season south and the dread malice overtook him. Biersdofer knew he was needed, and he concealed his condition from Manager Maloney and his teammates. When it came his turn to work he went in and did his best. He was weakened, however, and in one game the Fort Worth Panthers romped on him for four runs in the ninth inning. Maloney and Gardner couldn't understand it and they stuck him back in the box the next day with the same result. This kind of thing kept up for about two weeks, during which time Biersdofer lost nearly all the games he lost during the season. Finally his condition was discovered and he was ordered to the hospital. He cried because he couldn't stay in the game. A man with such tenacity will make good anywhere if he has the curves and control that Biersdofer has shown himself to have.

James Dailey and T. Sawyer arrived this morning from Bluffton and will assist in the orchestra this evening at the Elks minstrels. A full orchestra will be used on this occasion and this will materially assist in the choruses and songs.

Special services were conducted this morning at the St. Marys Catholic church, it being known as a holiday, the services being the same as those had on Sunday. Father Wilken officiated being ably assisted by Father George, and the services were attended by large crowds.

The man with one eye and the same number of legs who was placed in jail some time ago for begging, and being drunk, was released this morning. Sheriff Meyer wishes for us to request the people of Decatur not to sympathize with this man and help him, as he is not deserving of any assistance whatever.

MAKE FAST RUNS

Limited Will Make the Trip to Fort Wayne in Fifty-Five Minutes.

Commencing Wednesday morning, January first, the Ft. Wayne and Springfield railway company will start their every hour schedule, which will continue until further notice is given. This fact was agreed upon Monday by President Fiedlerjohann and he at once ordered everything put in readiness so that the first car could start out on its regular running time and from what is reported the cars are being given a general overhauling and will be in excellent shape for the service. The first car will leave Decatur Wednesday morning promptly at five o'clock and will run every hour a car leaving Decatur and Fort Wayne at the same time and passing at the meeting point, which will be the nine mile house. This new schedule is going to force the cars to put on a little more speed and means much quicker and better service for the traveling public between this city and Fort Wayne. There is some talk of putting on a limited car which will only have one stop in twenty-one miles and if this service is inaugurated the limited car will be the one that leaves here at five o'clock and every two hours after that during the day. This matter, however, has not as yet been fully determined upon and will not be until it is ascertained how the every hour schedule pans out. The new time cards will be out in the course of two or three days and the public will thus be enlightened to a much further degree.

OBITUARY.

Nancy Ellen Mumma Kline was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 23, 1840. In 1853 the family moved to Adams county, Indiana, where she grew to womanhood. She was united in marriage with Wm. Kline August 5, 1860. They then moved on the farm where they have resided ever since with the exception of from September 22, 1864 until June 27, 1865, while her husband enlisted in the civil war.

To this union five children were born: Mrs. J. D. Nidlinger, Mrs. Elijah Nidlinger, Franklin E., Elmer A. and Mrs. Curtis Miller, all of Adams county, except Elmer A., who resides at Bluffton, Ind. She was converted December 25, 1860, and united with the church of the United Brethren in Christ at Pleasant Valley, where she remained a faithful member until 1903 that class having disbanded, she with her husband moved their membership to East Liberty class, where they still remain.

The class where she holds membership and the community where she has lived so long ascribe to her praise for having lived a quiet, peaceable and influential Christian life. May the life she has lived in kindness in Christian affection in earnest entreaty for right doing give all of us an inspiration to live more like our Blessed Master.

She ceased to lament for those she loved and committed herself fully to the hands of her Maker. Kind, loving and brave above all things she endured her suffering without a murmur. Always cheerful and glad to see her friends.

God has been very good to Brother Kline and family all are here, alive today but this good wife, this good mother. On the 19th day of December, 1907, after the sun had passed the meridian and was gently sinking toward the western hills, God called her spirit home. Our hearts are sad, but while through the night of despair let us remember that "Every cloud has a silver lining."

Besides those already mentioned she leaves 16 grandchildren, five great grandchildren, two sisters, and a host of friends to mourn her departure.

She departed this life December 19, 1907, aged 67 years, 6 mo., 26 days. The obsequies were conducted at East Liberty church, Sunday, December 22, 1907, by Rev. J. L. Powers. The remains were interred in I. O. O. F. cemetery, Monroeville.

Mrs. Ed Gilliland, of Bluffton, attempted to commit suicide by inhaling chloroform, but was discovered and prevented before she had gotten under the influence of the drug.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Government Will Soon Issue a Paper—Legislation.

Washington, December 31.—The interest that Governor Hanly and the state of Indiana in general is showing in the national movement for the improving of waterways and the conservation of the country's natural resources, is bringing out much favorable comment from those in charge of the movement over here. Governor Hanly has written the president that he will be present with three representative citizens of Indiana at the forthcoming conference of governors at the white house, May 13 to 15, and he says in his letter that he is in full sympathy with the purpose of the conference and that he stands ready to help in the movement in any way he can.

Washington, December 31.—An official journal, to be published weekly by the government, and often if necessary, and which probably will contain brief notices of the work executed in the departments and independent bureaus of the departments, of the supreme court of the United States, and of the proceedings of congress so far as they may be of general public interest, is provided for in a bill which Congressman Richard P. Hobson, of the Sixth Alabama district, proposes to introduce after the holidays. The sum of \$75,000 is appropriated for equipment and \$275,000 for the expenses of issuing the publication.

Washington, December 31.—It is altogether possible, not to say probable, that congress yielding to the pressure of the memorials and petitions now coming in upon it from every section of the country, will pass legislation for the restoration to the gold and silver coins the motto "In God We Trust," which was stricken from them by order of President Roosevelt.

MARKET IS POOR

And Eastern Buyers Refuse to Attend—Date to be Announced Later.

The Decatur Horse Sale company have decided to postpone their first big sale which had been announced to occur January 10th. This was decided upon by the managers, Messrs. Beery and Boch, after receiving word from their eastern buyers, that they would not attend a sale at this time as there is positively no market for horses at the prices asked at present. The local horsemen not caring to deceive the people of this community and realizing that it is useless to try to hold a sale without buyers have therefore decided to postpone the first sale. They will keep an eye on the markets and just as soon as it looks good, will announce a date for a sale. The Decatur firm is one of the best in Indiana in the sale and last season did nearly a million dollar business. The farmers and stock men of this locality are lucky to have such men in charge, and may rest assured that they are more anxious than any one to begin the sales and will do so as soon as possible.

Tonight is the opening night of the Elks minstrel and every indication points to a more than well filled house for the opening night, and it is now up to the Elks to put on a show that will please. That they will entertain you is without question, as they have that reputation and expect to fill the same. Remember the same performance will be given on Thursday evening.

Ed Wingfield, one of Bluffton's heavy weights who has often struck terror to the hearts of adversaries simply by his might met his Waterloo Monday night in a most decided manner and the victor in the short but fierce battle in which Ed was put down and out was John Gelsner, a small German, hailing from the vicinity of Vera Cruz, described as being hardly up to medium size. He gave a demonstration, however, with Wingfield as the victim which went to show that the superior article is sometimes done up in small packages. —Bluffton News.

DINNERS TOMORROW

K. of C. Dance Last Evening—The Historical Club—Other Society News.

Monday evening the members of the Pythian Sisters held their regular business meeting and during the period they elected the following officers: Mrs. Anna Vance, M. E. C.; Mrs. Bess Vaughn, P. C.; Mrs. O. O. France, E. S.; Mrs. Neva Hower, E. J.; Mrs. Orpha Erwin, N. of R. C.; Mrs. Ella Erwin, M. of F.; Miss Myrtle Beachler, M.; Mrs. Clara Beachler, P. F.; Mrs. Elizabeth Sellemeyer, O. G.; Mrs. J. W. Nicky, of Buffalo, N. Y., was a guest and a social time was enjoyed.

With the happy greetings of the season which came from the royal entertainers, the K. of C. boys, was what each guest received as he entered the spacious club rooms in response to call invitations to spend the evening dancing. Many pretty and dainty gowns were worn by the young ladies. Exceptionally fine music was rendered by True Fristoe, John Wemhoff and Med Miller. The dance continued until the wee hour of the morning, and it must be said it proved to be one of the most enjoyable features of this season's calendar. Many out of town guests were present.

"Rise of the Roman Power, or The Early History of Rome" was the interesting subject of the Historical club meeting Monday night at home of Mrs. Marie Holloway. Each member read an excellent paper on a subject to the subject after discussing the subject. Mrs. S. A. Miller took charge of the entertainment. A splendid reading was rendered by Mrs. Miller during the short period. A social hour followed. The next meeting will be held on January 14th, at the home of Mrs. Orpha Erwin. The club will meet the week of prayer.

Mrs. L. Hughes of the north part of the city entertained about fifteen people at twelve o'clock dinner Monday and a grand social time was enjoyed. Beside a number of people from here who were present were Mrs. William Daugherty, of Big Rapids, Michigan, John Roubush and wife of Allen county, and Miss Bohr, of Hartford City.

The Euterpean society will meet on January 9th, with Mrs. Eli Meyers instead of this week.

A party that proved a complete surprise was the one held at the home of A. Elzey Monday night in honor of their daughter Mae's eighteenth birthday and Chas. Knodle's twenty-fourth birthday. About eight o'clock a crowd of young people gathered at the Elzey home and proceeded to have a good time. During the evening music and games were indulged in. At a late hour a delicious three course luncheon was served by the hostess' mother. In the early hours of morning the crowd departed for their homes, wishing the host and hostess many more delightful birthdays. Those who enjoyed the occasion were the Misses Laura Tublesome, Mary Andrews, Lulu Paschok, of Huntington; Edith and Annetta Dean and Ethel Ruckman and Mr. Chas. Cook, Will Ruckman, Wilda Dean, Lave Swagart, John Bauserman, Lawrence Elzey, Ed Burk, Russel Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown and Chas. Knodle.

Geo. Ulmer, of Bluffton, was a business caller to our city today.

Benjamin A. Woods, a former Osian man well known in the northern part of the county, filed a petition in bankruptcy in the federal court at Fort Wayne Monday through his attorney, W. H. Shambaugh. In his schedule he places his liabilities at \$5,312, and his assets at only \$600.

This morning Judge Cook issued the order for the vacation of the old court house. The order stated that whereas the new court house had been adjudged ready for occupancy and whereas the county commissioners had ordered it occupied by the court, it was made the order that the place of holding court be transferred from the Clayton hall to the new court house. The order further specified that all writs, summonses, recognizances, publications, rules, orders and processes that had been issued should hold as regards the new court house. —Huntington News-Democrat.

THE HEATING PLANT

Special Meeting of the County Council—Invoice at Infirmary

Among the closing business of the year the board of commissioners contracted with W. D. Burford for supplying the stationery for Adams county the coming year. The contract for next year is practically the same as that which has been in vogue for several years past. Mr. Burford has one of the largest and best printing plants in the west, and his records, books and supplies are the best that is manufactured.

The board accepted the heating plant at the jail and adjusted settlement in accordance with the contract made some time ago. The plant is well built and up to this time has given the best of satisfaction. Sheriff Meyer is delighted with the improvement, which successfully heats the jail building from cellar to garret.

Treasurer Lachot has arrangements complete with the banks of the county, and beginning Thursday morning the county depository law will be complied with in every way. Daily balances will be carried in each of the five banks of the county, and the interest derived therefrom will revert to the county.

Auditor Lewton has called the county council into special session next Monday for the purpose of making the necessary appropriations incident to settling and closing all funds of the past year.

The commissioners go to the infirmary tomorrow where they will make the annual New Year invoice. An unusual good showing for the management of Superintendent Graber will likely result when the earnings and expense have been footed.

Bids were opened for supplies at the county infirmary. Schaefer Hardware company was given the hardware, T. R. Moore, gasoline and oil, Myers, Dailey and Co., clothing, Niblick and Co., dry goods and groceries, and J. D. Hale mill feed.

A NEW DEPOT

Statement that the Work Will Really Begin With Arrival of Blue Birds.

After being contented for many years with the very inconvenient depot at the Clover Leaf railroad, we are authorized to announce to the public today that work will positively begin next spring on the construction of a new one which will be built on the order of the Bluffton depot, only finer, of course. The plans and specifications have already been made and the contract will soon be let. The people of Decatur have long been looking for this time to come, and although having been promised several times that the same would be done, the officials never have gone so far as to have plans drawn until recently and we are, upon reliable authority, requested to make notice of the fact that Decatur will have an up to date Clover Leaf depot ere a few months have passed. As it has been planned the old depot will be moved a short distance west of its present location and the new structure will be built where the old one now stands. The new building is to have equipments of the most modern style and when completed, all Decatur will have something to be proud of. We hope so, anyway.

The council will meet in regular session next Tuesday evening for the first time during the new year, and will dispose of whatever business may come before them. The opening session promises to be an interesting one.

Rufus Suckey, of Berne, came to the city this morning to be the guest of friends for the day.

The postoffice, banks and numerous other business places were closed a part or the whole day to observe the New Year. This is getting a start in the right direction and the clerks should appreciate this part of the program more than any one else.