

TAX FERRET IS DEAD AS DODO NOW, IS CLAIM

Time Was When He Did Very Well, but Law Changes Things.

BY CARL THORBAHN

Progress has exterminated, at least in Marion County, a disagreeable form of the ferret, John J. Broden, county intangibles tax appraiser, said today.

Unfortunate citizens who failed to list their intangibles on the tax duplicate before 1933 were fugitives from the tax ferrets.

The tax ferrets were gentlemen who lined their pockets rather well from percentages of collections of evaded intangible taxes.

Rate Reduced Drastically

Before 1933, when the new intangibles tax law went into effect, this form of property was listed on the regular tax form and taxed at the same rate as household goods, personal property and real estate. This rate was \$2.50 last year in Center Township, and is \$2.78 this year.

Intangibles are composed of stocks, bonds and commercial papers.

"Under the 1933 law, the intangible tax rate was established at 25 cents a \$100 of valuation. This is about 1-11 of the former rate.

Practice Proved Profitable

Tax ferrets received one-half of all taxes and many of them on sequestered property finally brought to light became somewhat wealthy out of the proceeds.

Mr. Broden said that only about 4 per cent of the taxpayers listed their intangibles on the duplicates before the new law.

Due to low rates and co-operation of financial institutions, intangibles taxes are rarely evaded now, Mr. Broden said.

Evasions are discovered when safe deposit boxes are opened by the administrator of an estate under the supervision of the inheritance tax appraiser.

Schools Share Receipts

Intangible tax collections have increased every year since 1933, with \$205,000 collected last year in the county. This is an increase of \$12,000 over 1934. Mr. Broden said.

The figures are exclusive of taxes paid by banks, brokerage firms and several large businesses which deal in commercial paper, directory to the state and their records are not entered on county books.

The tax is collected through sale of intangible stamps, and 90 per cent of the funds realized are returned to the county school fund. The remaining 10 per cent goes to the state general fund.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS TO GIVE DANCE TONIGHT

Social Event to Precede Convention Scheduled for Feb. 28-29.

Preconvention dance of the Young Democrats of Marion County is to be held tonight at the Hoosier Athletic Club with an attendance of nearly 1000 in prospect. The Young Democrats' convention is scheduled for Feb. 28 and 29 in Tomlinson Hall.

Patrons and patronesses for tonight's dance include:

Messrs. and Mesdames Cecil McConahay, Albert H. Losche, Porter Seldensicker, Charles Burkline, William McDermott, Thomas Haeffling, William E. Clauer, Joseph P. McNamara, William Brown, Mark Gray, James P. Scott, Carter Leap, Adolph Schreiber, Edward Borcher, Herman Backemeyer, Bert Yeager, E. L. Alexander, David Lewis, Greble McFarland, Joseph C. Gold, Robert Hoffman and Harry Hohit, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Myers, Dr. and Mrs. Frank T. Dowd, Fred Eisenhut, Hendricks Kenworthy, Joseph Wallace, Blythe Q. Hendricks, Wyatt Farrington, James A. Watson, Harry Toner and George A. Miller.

SEEKS ASSEMBLY SEAT

William C. Erbecker Announces His Candidacy as Democrat.

William C. Erbecker, attorney, is seeking the Democratic nomination for state representative on a platform advocating completion of South Side track elevation, an adequate old age pension, retention of the township form of government and a limited exemption of household furniture from taxation, he said today.

The candidate was graduated from Cathedral High School and attended Butler University. He is unmarried and resides at 717 E. Morris-st.

ALUMNAE PARLEY SET

University Women to Meet in Milwaukee May 8 and 9.

By United Press

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 18.—A regional convention of the American Association of University Women will be held here May 8 and 9. The region comprises Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

The candidate was graduated from Cathedral High School and attended Butler University. He is unmarried and resides at 717 E. Morris-st.

'MAKING PROGRESS,' SAYS LEIBOWITZ



"We are making progress," Samuel Leibowitz (right), noted criminal lawyer, said after a death-cell interview with Bruno Hauptmann. Leibowitz is pictured coming down the steps of New Jersey Penitentiary at Trenton accompanied by Robert Hicks, private investigator.

Hauptmann's Story Not Changed, Pastor Asserts

Bruno Clings to Trial Tale in Interview With Leibowitz, Minister Declares.

BY ROBERT MUSEL

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TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 18.—Bruno Richard Hauptmann did not change his story "one single bit" in his dramatic death-house interview with his new counsel, Samuel Leibowitz, nor is he likely to change it, the third party to the interview said today.

Despite hints from Mr. Leibowitz, criminal lawyer who associated himself tentatively with the Hauptmann defense on condition that Hauptmann stop telling "cock-and-bull" stories, the stoic German carpenter clung to his Flemington trial story.

The Rev. John Matthiesen, Lutheran minister and Hauptmann's spiritual counselor for six months, was present at Mr. Leibowitz' three-hour conference with his client Sunday and today cleared up mysterious circumstances which had inspired reports that Hauptmann changed his story.

Confers With Hoffman

After Mr. Leibowitz left the death-house Sunday, he went to the home of Gov. Harold G. Hoffman, who gave Hauptmann the 30-day reprieve that expired Saturday, and conferred with him.

"Mr. Leibowitz has not succeeded in changing Hauptmann's story one single bit," Mr. Matthiesen said. "And I don't think it will be changed."

Then despite the verdict of the Flemington jury, you are certain he has told the truth?" Mr. Matthiesen was asked.

"I am absolutely convinced of his innocence, and I am sure he told the truth."

"Leibowitz apparently is holding something back and that by repeated visits he will be induced to tell it," Mr. Matthiesen said. "I do not feel that this is the case, nor do I believe that Hauptmann is shielding any one. I think he has told the truth and will stick to it."

Meanwhile, Assistant Attorney General Joseph Lanigan indicated he would forward to Justice Thomas W. Trenchard today or tomorrow the new death warrant necessitated by the reprieve. Justice Trenchard is expected to set a new date for the execution, which under the law can take place any time between March 22 and April 26.

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