

G.O.P. REPEATS CHARGE AGAINST WPA IN INDIANA

Bloomington City Engineer Coerced Into Denial, Party Charge.

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—The Republican National Committee today made public affidavit by John Stapleton, Bloomington, Ind., city engineer, in which he reaffirmed his previous charges of excessive WPA costs.

Two days after Mr. Stapleton last week charged excessive WPA expenditures "he was given the third degree by WPA representatives, and coerced into signing a denial which had been written by some other person," the committee said.

Mr. Stapleton was quoted today as reaffirming his original charges that WPA costs are 300 per cent above private contracts and that the costs of laying bricks on one project was \$32.5 a brick. The original charges were publicized by the G.O.P. committee on Aug. 18.

On Aug. 20, WPA headquarters in Washington announced that investigators would be sent to Monroe County to determine accuracy of the charges. The next day a statement signed by Mr. Stapleton repudiated the charges.

Mr. Stapleton was quoted today as saying he was asked by "a representative of Wayne Coy to deny the story in regard to WPA costs . . . to save the projects which are now under way, and which are being planned for Bloomington."

The committee quoted Mr. Stapleton as saying he believed the denial of the story, "which was written out for me, would go into the files of Mr. Coy and I had no idea it would be broadcast and published as a political document."

"Before I signed the letter I went through two hours as bad as any third degree in a murder case," he said. "Before I signed the letter it was agreed that Bloomington WPA projects were to go on as stated and planned."

"The facts of the original story in the newspapers are true. The purported 'denial' I signed was as wrong that I am ashamed of it and the whole transaction and want my friends and the public to know the truth."

The affidavit was sworn to before Donald E. Bowen, notary public at Bloomington, and Republican county chairman.

No Threats Made, Asserts Coy

Wayne Coy, Indiana WPA director today said he would do nothing further in connection with charges of WPA extravagance in Bloomington.

"There was no threat made to withdraw Bloomington WPA projects unless John Stapleton stated his charges were untrue," Mr. Coy said. "There was no third degree. The charges are unfounded, all of them."

"I sought a statement from Mr. Stapleton because I was surprised at the original charges. Other city and county officials always have expressed themselves as pleased and satisfied with WPA."

Efforts to Contact Stapleton Fail

Times Special
BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Aug. 25.—John Stapleton, Republican city en-

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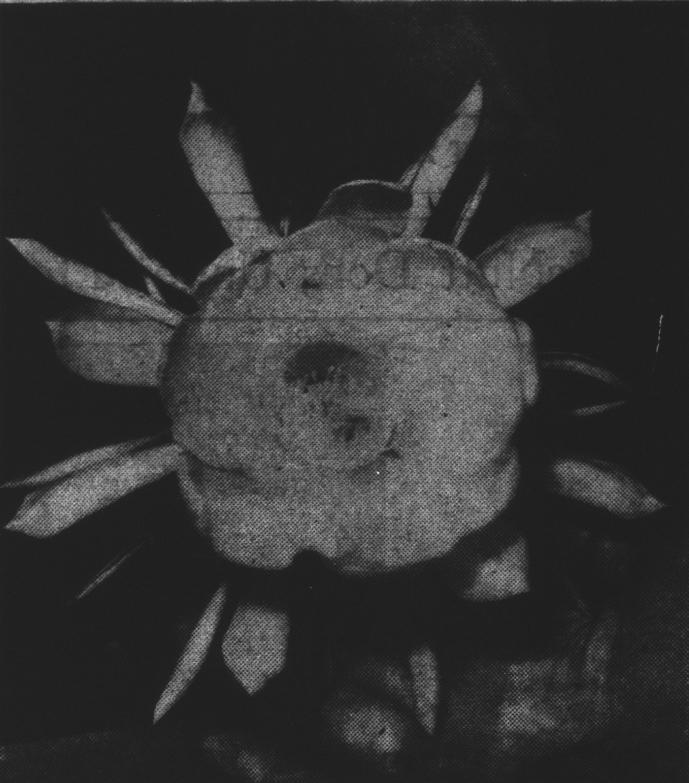
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Camera Captures Rare Beauty of Short Living Bloom



—Times Photo by Wheeler.

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VANDALS AGAIN WORK AT PARK

Police Protection May Be Sought, Supt. Sallee Threatens.

City Park Supt. A. C. Sallee said today that he will make a plea for police supervision of parks in the near future following a recurrence of vandalism last night.

Mr. Sallee said that he had, on several past occasions, asked the police department for assistance, but the method seemed unsatisfactory.

He indicated that plans were being made for a separate park police force of eight men.

He said that in view of the thousands of dollars damage that is being done by vandals the expense of a separate force would be justified.

No item for expenditure for a separate park police force is included in the 1937 city budget.

Chief Morrissey said that a lack of sufficient police has handicapped him in supervising the parks but that general orders to patrol parks have been issued to all squad cars.

The outbreak of vandalism to which Mr. Sallee referred was at Hawthorne Park wading pool. Vandals there are reported to have broken a lock on the mechanism that controls the flow of water into the pool.

Engineer, key figure in WPA charges and counter-charges, could not be reached here today.

No one answered the phone at his home; his office said he had gone out of the city without telling his destination, and Mayor A. H. Berndt said: "I haven't seen him for two or three days."

Pigeons in Statehouse Chamber Get Cool Welcome From Staff

What to Do! State's Best Legal Counsel Is Stumped.

The House of Representatives chambers in the Statehouse has pigeons. There are at least two of them, and they hang out in the upper reaches of the two-story room.

The gross income tax legal department, which occupies the chamber when the Legislature is not in session, filed a brief against them four days ago.

The brief said they had been in the room for a week or more, that the legal mind had no idea how they got in and would Mr. Clarence Jackson, department head, see what could be done.

A number of Senators have been interviewed about the matter and didn't seem much surprised.

Nobody at the Statehouse knows what's going to be done about it.

\$500,000 ESTATE LEFT BY HERMIT

By United Press
CHICAGO, Aug. 25.—Nine heirs of Albert Welge, 68, hermit of N. Clark-st., were elated today over prospect of dividing \$500,000 cached by the shabby eccentric.

Welge died on June 16 in the four-story building in which he lived alone amid stacks of old newspapers, bottles of 30-year-old whisky and a large supply of good cigars.

The janitor of the building where he lived and eight first cousins divide the estate under terms of his will.

400 DIE IN KOREAN FLOODS

By United Press

SHOUL (KALO) KOREA, Aug. 25.—Floods ravaging Korea during

the last two weeks have taken a toll of 412 lives, injured 963 persons, sunk five ships and destroyed thousands of homes, it was announced today. More than 150 persons are missing, probable victims of the disaster.

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