

DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER.

TWENTIETH YEAR.

DOWNERS GROVE, DuPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1903.

NUMBER 25

Children Burn to Death

Double Tragedy in Higley Family At West Grossdale.

Big Barn on Dunham Farm Burns—Frank Cronin a Victim of the Electric—Other County News Taken From Exchanges.

Two children of J. P. Higley were burned to death Saturday afternoon in the hay loft of the barn back of their home on Dale avenue in West Grossdale. Norman Higley, the elder of the dead children, was only 6 years old; the other one, Grace, was 4. It is supposed that the little ones must have been playing with matches in the loft as no one else was in the barn and no other explanation can be offered. Mrs. Higley gave the alarm and tried to run into the barn when she found that her children were not in the house or yard. No outcry was heard from the little ones imprisoned in the flaming structure and not until the flames had been subdued and the remains of the children found was hope given up that the little ones were not in the barn. The local fire department arrived too late to save the children as it was well under way before it was seen.

Frank Cronin of Chicago, was fatally injured by the A. E. & C. at the Mont View station, east of Warrenville about 9 o'clock Sunday evening. Cronin was waiting for a car and sat on the platform with his limbs hanging over the edge. Being tired he dozed off and failed to notice an approaching east bound car which came along at the customary rapid rate. Before Cronin could rouse himself and get back from the platform the car struck his leg, squeezing him between the platform and the car and dragging him for a considerable distance, and crushing his leg and arm so badly that they had to be amputated. He was loaded on the car and taken to the Aurora city hospital where he died Monday morning.

Theodore Adams, 24 years old, son of Henry Adams, one of the oldest settlers of Lemont, was killed Saturday night by an electric car half a mile south of Lemont. The motorman, G. F. Cheney declares Adams was lying on the track when he first saw him. He was unable to stop the car before it struck him. Adams intended to leave for St. Louis that night and had been paying farewell visits. It is believed that he hurt himself in some way and fall on the tracks. The motorman expressed the belief that the man was dead when the car struck him.

The largest barn on the Dunham stock farm at Wayne, containing 500 tons of hay and a large amount of grain, was burned to the ground Sunday afternoon. The origin of the fire is supposed to have been spontaneous combustion. Alarms were sent to surrounding towns and farmers for miles around assisted in saving the other buildings in close proximity. The loss is about \$5,000. There were 75 head of horses in the building when the fire broke out but all were safely removed. The barn was No. 6, size 200x80.

The board of supervisors had a meeting on Tuesday and ordered a vegetable cellar 26x40, one story and a basement, to cost \$2,500, to be built at the alms house. They also empowered the chairman to order bronze tablets containing the names of the soldiers of the war of the rebellion, there being about 1,800 enlisted from this county. There will also be one containing the names of the Spanish-American war soldiers enlisted from this county. These tablets will be placed on the corridor walls of the court house.

Otto Meyers, who was sent from York township to the county farm and afterwards sent to Elgin, died at the insane asylum on Sept. 10, of pulmonary hemorrhage, aged 37 years. The remains were brought to the county farm for interment.

Antonio Romano, the self-confessed murderer of Dominick Tomasso at Aurora last February, will be hanged Friday, October 23, in the court yard at Geneva. Provided a new trial is not granted at the coming session of the circuit court.

The report of the Illinois state penitentiary at Joliet credits this county with 13 convicts, S. B. Creek, sent from Glen Ellyn, being the only life timer.

A NEW BOOK ABOUT NEBRASKA.

The best and most comprehensive work on Nebraska ever produced has just been issued by the Burlington Route. It has 48 finely illustrated pages packed full of just the sort of information a prospective settler wants. In addition there is a large sectional map of the state which is accurate in every detail. There is no country under the sun where men of push and energy have a better chance to succeed. It is a paradise for "good reapers," for they will not be compelled to rent land in Nebraska. Send today for a copy of the book. No charge. P. S. Fustis, Passenger traffic manager, 209 Adams street, Chicago.

DOWNERS GROVE SCHOOL NOTES.

Enrollment Greatly Exceeds Last Year's—Students Admitted to University Without Tests.

The enrollment in the public schools during the first week was 560 as against 499 last year. This makes an increase of over 60 in one year. The schools have enrolled practically the same number during the first week for six or eight years and this is the first year that their has been any material gain. Such a showing is certainly a good one for the progress of the town and indicates an encouraging growth during the last year. The school rooms are all filled to their largest capacity except the third grade on the south side. The high school cannot all be seated in the high school room and the senior class, ten in number, are using the laboratory. Of course there is one room on the north side which is not opened at all, and one room is used for a gymnasium. There is, therefore, easily room for 150 more pupils in the buildings. We all hope, of course, that these rooms may fill up in a couple of years.

One of the most valuable features of the school work in the higher grades is the work in current events. The pupils are expected to be familiar with what is going on in their own world and times as well as with what has happened in the past. These classes recite once a week and an effort is made to get an intelligent mastery of the events of the day. The text used in the weekly paper called the "Little Chronicle."

The superintendent recently received a certificate given under the seal of Dr. A. S. Draper, president of the Illinois State university, stating that having duly examined the teaching and course of study of the Downers Grove high school, pupils graduating from it will be admitted without examination to the university. This places the work of the school on a level with work of any high school of the state.

The gymnasium is a very attractive feature to the boys and girls and they are taking great interest in physical training. Miss Parker expects to organize a class of girls in gymnastics and give them regular instruction. It is in mind to give regular instruction to the boys also.

The school expects soon to hold an art exhibit similar to the one held last year which was so popular. This year the pictures are even more beautiful than they were last year and there are more of them. Full announcements will be made later.

It is a matter of interest that almost all the students of the eighth grade returned to continue their work in the high school. The beginning high school class is one of the largest that has ever entered the school.

Paul Stusser is taking his senior year at the LaGrange high school. He changed school in order to get a course in Latin which our school could not give this year.

The new teachers are getting hold of their work most satisfactorily in the main and the schools are to be congratulated in the outlook for the year.

Miss Lillian Dawes, a former student of the high school, expects to attend college at Ripon, Wisconsin, this year.

CASS ITEMS.

Anyone having a nice quiet tuggy horse for sale would do well to notify John Chaplin... The basket social Tuesday night at Frank Gregory's was well attended... C. K. Roe and Jack Taylor of Downers Grove are doing some grading on the orchard road... Farmers insure with the Farmers' Insurance company and get full cash value for your livestock in case of loss... G. B. Hearty was on our streets Tuesday... Merrit Chivers is having some drain tile put in on his farm... Mrs. Thos. Atwood and son, Charles, of Vandalia, came up last Saturday. Chas. returned Sunday. Mrs. Atwood will remain here for a week or two... Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Oldfield and Mrs. Mary Atwood spent Tuesday in Lyonsville... Anyone having the misfortune to have a horse die should get Clinton Cheese to remove the skin. The charge is only 20 cents per hour for doing the work... Earl Cheese is hauling drain tile from Lombard this week... Many Cass people attended the plowing match at Plainfield Saturday... Jackson Littleford and family visited near Plainfield Tuesday.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, holds Sunday services on the top floor of the Oldfield building at 10:45. Subject for September 27th, "Unreality." Sunday school for children at noon. This church holds regular Wednesday evening testimonial meetings at 8 p. m. in Oldfield hall. Reading room for the benefit of the public open every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock at 102 Gilbert avenue. All are cordially invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hallingsworth of Montgomery county, Kansas, have been here the past week visiting with their relatives, the Stusser family. Mr. Hallingsworth reports prosperous conditions in Kansas.

Local and Personal Paragraphs

Watermelons at Gerwig's.

White Rose gasoline, Nash's. Additional local news on fifth page. Mrs. S. J. Cole has returned from her western visit.

Fresh cream puffs every Tuesday and Saturday at Rang's.

Jas. Wallace is critically ill at his home on North Main street.

Levi Merz has been confined to his home for ten days with eyeritis.

The meat markets will close every evening at 7 o'clock after October 1.

J. A. Nash of Hinckley was here Friday visiting his brother, J. W. Nash.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Snyder are spending his vacation in Mendota and vicinity.

The Dicke Tool company will erect a large tank for water storage at its factory.

Mrs. Harriet Winslow and Miss Gertrude Gibbs have gone to the city for the winter.

Deputy Sheriff Gorham was here last week summoning jurors for the October term of court.

Geo. B. Hearty is improving his Maple avenue residence by the addition of a steam heating plant.

General Agent Wetzel of the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York was here Monday from Elgin.

For Sale—A Iowa incubator in first class condition, almost new; also brooder. Apply 102 Gilbert avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Daraley returned Sunday from their wedding trip to Colorado points and Salt Lake City.

John W. Walters died in Chicago Sept. 17. The funeral was held Saturday and burial made at Lemont.

The German Evangelical St. Paul's church will hold its annual church fair in Thompson's hall, Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Nels Anderson of Cook county has purchased the Swanson place on North Foote street and will occupy it about October 1.

Mrs. J. Worley and daughter, Miss Flora, left Monday evening for Denver and Colorado Springs where they will visit relatives.

One sold: want that other stove? Garland hard coal base-burner, surface feed. Best heater on earth. Goes quick for cash. Enquire at this office.

Farm for Sale—Magdalena Helntz's farm, 3 miles south of Downers Grove. Enquire of Geo. Helntz, administrator, 105 N. Foote street, Downers Grove.

Miss Maurine Sayers who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. A. J. Uray, left Monday for Evanston where she is taking a course at Northwestern university.

Telephone service has been installed in Frank Rogers' residence, telephone 594, and the prospect is that it will be extended to many of the farmer residents beyond.

The Knights of Pythias will give a dance for its members and their ladies at Carpenter's hall, Saturday evening, Oct. 3. The ideal orchestra has been engaged to furnish music.

Miss Lulu Tiefert and Miss Mary Fricker of Chicago were the guests of the Misses Hines Monday. They returned to the city Tuesday accompanied by Miss Lulu Hines who left for Denver after spending the summer at her home here.

The Wheatland plowing match attracted a number of Downers Grove people last Saturday. Among those attending were Capt. T. S. Rogers, Guy L. Bush, E. W. Farrar, M. E. Stanger, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Stanley and Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Curtis.

Wm. R. Wells left Saturday for Beaumont, Texas, where he will have a responsible position with the Standard Oil company in their offices there. The change will necessitate the removal of his place of residence to Beaumont and Mrs. Wells will follow him in a few weeks.

A goodly company gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bradbury last Saturday to celebrate the 20th wedding anniversary of this worthy couple. Games, pleasant converse, appropriate gifts and refreshments were the order of the evening and at a late hour the company departed wishing many happy returns.

Sheriff Hiser and other sheriffs in the 102 counties in Illinois will provide themselves with riot guns for protection in emergencies arising from riots and lawlessness of mobs, if they follow the advice of Governor Yates. The executive has sent a communication to each sheriff in the state, urging him to procure the proper protection of this sort, and asking that each sheriff communicate with him in the event that his county board refuses to make the purchases.

National Light oil at Nash's. Cook's Flaked Rice at the Fair. Best oil in town at Curtiss & Hearty's. A. J. Gray left last night for Arkansas on a business trip.

Miss Annis Churchill of Chicago was a visitor here over Sunday.

Strong boy wanted, 18 to 20 years, to learn baker's trade, at Rang's.

Mrs. Woodard of Chicago visited Mrs. M. H. Bates the first of the week.

Mrs. Frank of Naperville spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Frank.

An uncle of M. B. Downer's was visiting him the fore part of the week.

W. H. Colville was here Saturday visiting his father Hugh A. Colville.

Division Christian Endeavor convention at Hinsdale this, Thursday, evening.

F. D. Lindley is having his Warren avenue residence repainted and otherwise improved.

W. H. Shannabrook left Saturday for Washington where he is interested in a large fruit ranch.

Mrs. A. B. Cole and daughter, Miss Alice, of Ottawa, spent Tuesday night with her parents.

For Sale or Trade—Two lots in Downers Grove. Address A. E. Childs, Bridgewater, Iowa.

Miss Mabel Curry of Waukegan is spending this week with her cousins, the Fairweather sisters.

Stanley Hurdle and Miss Buzard of Huntington, Ind., spent Sunday with his uncle, J. W. Morford.

Ladies need not dread jelly making Granular Ascorbic takes the stain off the hands. R. S. Johnson, Sole Agent.

Cream Shampoo Jelly cures dandruff, kills disease germs and makes hair smooth and glossy. Try it. Box 482.

A letter from Dr. E. L. Scofield of Fenton, Mich., states he is in very poor health and cannot sit up but a portion of the time.

Don't forget the date, Friday evening, Oct. 3, Madam Green at the Congregational church. Come and hear the queen of song.

C. F. Davis, accompanied by his brother-in-law, C. A. Iverson of LaGrange, went to New York City Saturday to meet the latter's wife on her return from a foreign trip.

Mrs. H. C. Shaw of Naperville has purchased of D. K. Foote a portion of his property on Highland avenue, between his residence and J. W. Hughes', on which she will erect a dwelling.

John W. Nash has a pumpkin in his window that is a wonder for size. The vegetable weighs 85 pounds and was grown by F. W. Kittering in his garden at 137 South Washington street.

At the entertainment course meeting last Thursday evening, D. G. Graham was elected president, O. M. Seares secretary and V. Simonson treasurer. F. A. Dawes, L. W. Winchester and W. B. Towles constitute the committee on Program.

The Ideal Dance orchestra will give a dance at the Auditorium Friday evening, Oct. 23, for which posters are already out. The orchestra consists of six pieces and novelities, good music and plenty of fun awaits all who attend. Tickets may be secured of any of its members.

John Dean, cutter in Klein's market, received a very severe cut last Friday while grinding a large knife. In some unexplained manner the knife slipped from the grindstone and cut over half way round his left thumb, cutting the muscles through to the bone. Dr. Topp dressed the wound which is healing rapidly, though it will be some time before he can resume his duties in the market.

For many years merchants' associations have talked over plans for making early closing practicable. It is always said that steps should be taken towards educating the public up to early closing. The fact is that the public needs no educating. If all stores close at 6 o'clock the public will have to buy before 6 or go without. No merchant very much fears that people will go without. The person who needs educating is the fool merchant who has an insane idea that the amount of trade a store does is in proportion to the number of hours it remains open. The public is not to blame that the stores keep open till ten o'clock each night and till noon on Sundays. The way to close early is not to educate the public, but simply to close early. A card should be placed on the door telling that the store will close at 6 o'clock. Then at 6 o'clock the merchant should go out and lock the doors behind him. Few customers, if any, will be lost by the change. There is no reason in the world why any dealer should be a slave except that he is unwilling to be anything else.

ORDER SOLDIERS' BRONZE TABLETS.

County Board Perpetuates Names of DuPage's Veterans—New Vegetable Cellar For Farm.

Proceedings of the board of supervisors of DuPage county at an adjourned meeting held at the court house in Wheaton on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Meeting called to order with Supervisor Betts presiding. Roll call noted all present except Supervisor Fischer. Proceedings of the last preceding meeting were read and declared approved. All bills on file with the clerk were read and referred to their respective committees.

Moved that the committee on county farm be instructed and empowered to proceed at once to build a vegetable cellar at the county farm, as per plans and specifications presented by L. M. Mitchell, and if in their discretion they deem it best to substitute oak flooring for the maple flooring mentioned in said specifications, they are at liberty to do so. Declared carried.

Supervisor Churchill, chairman of the county farm committee, made an oral report, and on motion the committee was authorized to make a loan of \$800 from DuPage county for the purchase of stock for said farm, and the clerk was directed to issue county order for said amount.

The following resolution presented and read by Supervisor Fairbank, was on his motion, unanimously adopted: Whereas, on January 20, 1903, the honorable chairman of this board appointed a committee to act with a committee of the Grand Army posts of this county in procuring a list of the names of all persons who enlisted from DuPage county in the war of 1861-65 and whereas, said resolutions provide for suitable bronze tablets, containing such list of names to be placed in the court house of this county. Now therefore, be it resolved that the names of all persons who enlisted from DuPage county and served in the Spanish-American war be placed upon similar tablets. On motion of Supervisor Hammerschmidt the chairman of this board was delegated a committee of one to close the contract for the bronze tablets referred to in the resolution last above mentioned.

The construction of the sheriff's barn was indefinitely postponed.

The following report of committee on claims read and approved:

P. F. Pettibone & Co blanks..... \$17 10
John Chaplin burial of pauper child..... 15 00
T. H. Hood & Co books..... 4 00
F. J. Hagaman livery hire..... 2 75
E. Northrop conveying insurance papers..... 2 45
J. W. Nicholson deputy fees..... 24 25

ENTERTAINMENT COURSE ASSURED.

The program committee of the entertainment course has arranged for a series of seven entertainments for this season commencing with Lulu Tyler Gates & company, Oct. 24. All of the seven will be high class, fully up to the standard of last year. The cost of a season ticket will be only \$1.50, and at that price almost every family in the community can afford one for each member of the household. The program will interest the young, middle-aged and old; versatile, amusing, entertaining and instructive. The low price of the ticket is accounted for in the large number that will be sold and expenses the only actual necessary money outlay as no member of the committee gets pay, not even for going to the city to arrange with the entertainers. It is the object of the committee to furnish a first class course and they have done so. Season tickets will be for sale by members of the general committee in ample time, of which notice will appear in the REPORTER.

PAYING ASSESSMENT CONFIRMED.

The final hearing in the Downers Grove Main street paving matter was held at Wheaton Saturday when Judge Rath confirmed the assessment and entered an order authorizing the spreading of the tax and the issuing of bonds to pay for the improvement. Work will flow be rushed on the improvement at once. The board of local improvement met Monday evening and advertised for bids on the work, to be opened Oct. 5, and the contract will be awarded as soon after that date as possible. The delay in the confirmation of the assessment was due to the failure of Commissioner Ritchie to send notice of the hearing to one of the property owners interested. This was discovered at the hearing and Judge Rath held the matter open until the signature of Mrs. J. C. Austin—the property owner who was not notified—could be secured to an agreement waiving the customary 15 days' notice.

J. P. LEHMAN'S CONDITION CRITICAL.

The condition of J. P. Lehman, of 135 North Main street, who recently suffered the amputation of his leg at a Chicago hospital, is not encouraging. A slight injury to one of his legs resulted in blood poisoning which made amputation necessary. At first the patient made satisfactory progress, but the last few days his condition has been critical.

Wheatland Plow Match

Thousands Attend The Farmers' Annual Field Day Saturday.

Cyrus Stark of Naperville, Champion Plowman of United States—Wins Silver Trophy Twice Which Now Becomes His Property.

Three thousand people attended the Wheatland plowing match at the farm of Daniel Lantz, near Normaltown, in Will county, on Saturday. There were 24 entries and 28 contestants finished their "lands."

Cyrus Stark of Naperville took the silver cup in the prize winners' class and retains it as he took last year. Henry Shoger of Wheatland township, 14 years old, took the first prize in the boys' class under 15, with a score of 87 points out of a possible 100. Arthur Hobert took first prize in men's riding class. Albert Graver, first prize in men's walking class. Otto Miller, first prize in boys' walking class. George Brossman, first prize in boys' riding class, for youths under 17.

This successful plowing match—farmers' outing and school of practical agriculture—is carried on by private enterprise. There are no entry fees, no admission charges, no side shows and no games of chance are allowed. Each succeeding year it is held on a different farm, the only requirement being that there be a sufficient water supply, shade trees, tying room for teams and a field large enough to accommodate the plowmen.

There are three judges for each class and the following suggestions are published for their "guidance": Good plowing consists of turning and setting the soil into nice, even, clean and straight furrows of roundish conformation. The points to be considered are: Evenness of furrows, thirty points; conformation of furrows, thirty points; straightness, twenty-five points; neatness fifteen points, 100 points being perfect.

Following are the rules governing the plowmen and the directions for the judges this year: Each competitor with riding plow must use three horses and ride; gangs four horses. Each plowman with single plow must plow one-half acre within three hours; gangs, three-fourth acre. No person will be entitled to more than one premium. Plowing must be between 5 and 6 inches in depth, and should show a level bottom of each furrow.

Recognizing that plowing is a science and an art and to encourage the boys and young men on their farms to become good plowmen, the farmers in Wheatland township, Will county, 50 years ago conceived the idea of a plowing match, at which prizes would be given for the best work. The prize mowers in the matter were from Scotland and knew the value of good plowing.

A meeting was called in the neighborhood schoolhouse and arrangements made for the match to take place Sept. 23, 1877, in a field near the schoolhouse. On that day at 9 a. m., about 75 farmers gathered in the field, where 15 plowmen contended for the prize.

The first plowing match was such a success that it was decided at once to hold a second the coming year. Each year since the plowing match has come off. The attendance increased until it reached thousands—one year 10,000. The number of contestants increased until there were 27. The result is, it is doubtful if there is a township in the country where so many well plowed fields may be seen. Thrift and neatness are characteristics of Wheatland farms.

The match is looked forward to as the event of the year, and draws its attendance from three or four counties; whole families drive across the country, 20 and even 30 miles to attend; for beginning with the second match the women members of the homes have attended, also the children. It is the great gala day of the region. Family reunions are held and old neighbors and acquaintances visited.

As the years have gone by other features have been added to this annual event, till now the plowing match includes a ladies' fair, where pantry stores, needle work and the work of the county schools are exhibited, corn, oats and potato show and a dinner furnished for 25 cents per eater.

The vands for this dinner are furnished from "donation baskets" subscribed for premiums. Hundreds of city folk attend the match drawn by the privilege of obtaining a good "farmers' dinner" as much as anything.

The proceeds from the dinner, the sale of pantry stores entered for premiums and the sale of the grain and potatoes shows, go toward paying the premiums and other expenses of the match.

Thos. Hanning gives prompt attention to trunk and luggage and express shipping. Telephone 225, corner of Cortina & South.