

DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER.

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR.

DOWNERS GROVE, DuPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1904.

NUMBER 11.

Confesses Many Crimes

Carl Gentner of Glen Ellyn Admits Murder, Arson and Theft.

His Neighbors Impute to Him Most of the Offenses Committed in Glen Ellyn for Years Past—He Repudiates Murder Tale.

Carl Gentner, the aged Glen Ellyn shoemaker in the Wheaton jail, who was arrested on a charge of arson, is said to have confessed to a collimate to a series of mysterious crimes which have kept the residents of Glen Ellyn in a state of anxiety and terror for many months.

The confession of Gentner, who for years has been the terror of Glen Ellyn, has thrown that village into much excitement. With the exception of the murder, most of the crimes which the aged German has admitted can be proved, and there is no longer much doubt in the minds of the authorities as to his sanity.

Louis Wagner, to whom he has told his story in fragments during the two weeks they have been collimate, has been working under the direction of Deputy Sheriff C. B. Gorham in drawing out the confession. Further details of the alleged murder of his friend are now needed, and the old residents of the village are trying to connect the disappearance of a shoemaker in 1880 with Gentner's story.

When taken into the sheriff's private office Saturday afternoon to divulge his fellow prisoner's confessions Wagner said: "Gentner now says he did not murder the man, but that a friend of his by the name of Saylor killed a laborer, because of jealousy, and the body was buried under Gentner's barn."

Pending further details, Marshall W. H. Churchill of Glen Ellyn will take no action toward finding the body, as the spot where Gentner's barn stood is now buried under an eight foot embankment of the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago railroad.

The indictment charging arson under which Gentner is now lying in jail is in connection with the burning of the home of William H. Luther, Chicago & Northwestern station agent in Glen Ellyn, and indicates an unrelenting hatred. Shortly after Gentner went to Glen Ellyn in 1874 he was offended by Luther and swore to "get even." Five years ago Gentner was arrested for putting his wife out of doors on a cold winter night, and was finally sent to asylum at Elgin.

In a year he returned but during his absence Luther had been appointed a trustee of his estate. Mrs. Gentner had saved up \$380, and out of this money Luther paid her doctor bills. By the time Gentner returned there was only \$65 left, and this went to his lawyers for fees. Gentner bore ill will to Luther for using the money by order of the court, and this served to increase his previous enmity.

Saturday as he paced back and forth in his cell he kept repeating: "I want my money. Mr. Luther got my money and he spent it. He can't prove that I burned his house. I will fix him when I get out."

This was only one of the grudges which the old shoemaker cherished. All feared him, and most of the offenses which have been committed in Glen Ellyn in the past 30 years are now charged to him. His alleged confession mentions the following:

Burning of house of William C. Newton three weeks before Luther's death, \$5,000.

Poisoning of a cow belonging to Henry Llewellyn, a neighbor. Llewellyn family still keep ear of corn with poison on it. Lying in wait with shotgun to kill Luther. Luther escaped by not coming. Countless minor depredations consisting of cruelty to animals or waste of property. Two weeks after the death of her husband Gentner proposed to Mrs. Robie of Glen Ellyn. She refused him and that night her cow was tied to the railroad tracks and killed.

Gentner is 74 years old and walks with a painful limp. "There are a lot more I'll fix when I get out of here," he said, as he fixed a suspicious look on the visitors. "I'm not done yet."

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION.

St. Patrick's day will be celebrated by the Ladies' Altar society of St. Mary's church at the Auditorium tonight at 8:30. A pleasing program has been arranged with an address by Rev. John P. Dore. The program is as follows:

- 1 Opening address..... Rev. C. J. Votynka
- 2 My Old Kentucky Home..... Miss Mae Daly
- 3 Song..... Charles M. Moore
- 4 Instrumental..... Selected
- 5 Recitation..... Miss Josephine E. Hamilton
- 6 Shadow..... Miss Ella Reil
- 7 The day we celebrate..... Rev. John P. Dore
- 8 Then you'll remember me..... Miss Mae Daly
- 9 Song..... Charles M. Moore
- 10 Recitation..... Roy Binder
- 11 The Blains..... Miss V. Scully
- 12 The Holy City..... Miss Ella Reil
- 13 Piano Solo..... Miss Mae Daly

ANNOUNCEMENT—TOWNSHIP COLLECTOR

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for collector of Downers Grove township subject to the action of the township nominating primaries and solicit the support of the legal voters of Downers Grove township.

CORRAD BUSCHMAN.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEET.

Proceedings of Special Meeting Held Last Saturday—Many Bills Allowed.

Proceedings of the board of supervisors of DuPage county at a special meeting held at the court house in Wheaton on the 13th day of March, pursuant to call of chair. Meeting called to order with Supervisor Betts presiding. On roll call all members were present. Proceedings of last meeting were read and declared approved. All bills on file with the clerk were read and referred to the respective committees.

Report of superintendent of county farm was read and ordered filed.

The following report of committee on claims was on motion of Supervisor McClintock approved: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the board of supervisors: Your committee on claims beg to report that they have examined all claims presented and recommend the payment of the following and that the clerk be directed to issue orders for the several amounts, to-wit:

A H Fairbank, care paper.....	\$13 50
J E Bender, committee work.....	11 80
C D Bartlett, same.....	11 80
Thos Betts, same.....	3 30
C B Blodgett, same.....	7 40
W W Stevens, same.....	9 30
Amos Churchill, same.....	19 50
Callaghan & Co, report.....	2 75
R T Morgan, postage & books.....	13 75
W K Guild, lumber.....	89 65
Chas Gates, repairing.....	12 14
J B Grove, painting.....	115 50
Wheaton Electric Co, lights.....	13 50
H F Lawrence, assessors books.....	625 00
W J Hilliard, livery.....	8 00
A L Hamilton, printing.....	59 25
R T Morgan, clerk hire.....	50 00
W L Guild, medical service.....	10 00
Hugh M White, tax receipts.....	21 50
Peironnet & Co, coal.....	174 75
Appleton Mfg Co, machinery.....	73 12
Chicago Tel Co, toll.....	11 65
Seebansen & Co, repairing.....	14 76
Northern Ill Democrat, printing.....	19 50

The bill of R. T. Morgan against the state for \$345 was examined and found correct.

The bill of E. B. Howe of \$709.00, for care of county inmates to March 1, which was heretofore paid, we have examined and found correct.

On motion of Supervisor Hamerschmidt the board adjourned to April 1, 1904. H. F. LAWRENCE, Clerk.

WILL OPEN RAILROAD STREET.

The board of trustees held a special meeting Monday evening to pass upon the matters of a sewer outlet and accepting the proposal of the Burlington railway to vacate a portion of West Railroad street. The committee appointed to treat with the railroad officials reported that they had reached an agreement whereby the railroad company would deed to the village a 35-foot roadway from Main to Washington street, on the thoroughfare now known as East Railroad street, provided the village would vacate to the company all land in excess of 35 feet in width in West Railroad street. This will give a street of uniform width from Foote to Washington street. The proposition was accepted by the village and the transfer will be made as soon as the papers can be prepared. The committee appointed to treat with the Lyman estate reported that they had secured an option on a three-acre tract of land upon which to locate the sewage disposal plant. Engineer Shields was instructed to prepare final plans of the sewer system and disposal works for submission to the April meeting of the board of trustees in order that a public hearing may be given the question at as early a date as possible.

MARCH TERM CIRCUIT COURT.

The March term of the circuit court opened with Judge Willis presiding. The grand jury was sworn in with C. H. Hoy as foreman and J. D. McChesney as clerk. The docket showed 43 common law and 57 chancery cases for trial. The Judge called the docket and adjourned court to Wednesday when the trial calendar for the term was made up. The grand jury visited the county farm Wednesday, finding 50 inmates—32 sane and 18 insane. In one room were two men having one leg; that is, the two feet of one man were amputated and one of the other. Downers Grove township has the only colored inmate of the institution. The finest sight at the farm are 200 spring lambs. They have been contracted for by E. Wootton of Downers Grove who will pay \$4 apiece for them when they weigh 40 pounds each. The jury was discharged Wednesday, reporting the consideration of 16 cases, finding 12 true bills and 4 no bills. Court was adjourned to Monday when the petit jury reported for duty.

If there are any members of the entertainment committee who have not rendered a final report of the sale of tickets in the entertainment course they will please report to V. Simonson, treasurer, at once in order that he may make up and render his statement as treasurer. D. G. GRAHAM, President.

Local and Personal Paragraphs

The Woehrel Cigar. White Rose gasoline, Nash's. Additional local news on fifth page.

Mrs. Lester Barr is visiting relatives at Hamilton, Ill.

Fresh fish every Wednesday and Friday during lent at Klein's.

John Stanley is now able to walk about after his long siege of sickness.

Do not forget the luncheon this, Thursday noon at the Congregational church.

Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Dempke will entertain a party of friends at cards Saturday evening.

Mrs. J. K. Burch who has been visiting Mrs. F. J. Preatiss has returned to her home in the city.

Fred Hines, Jr., left Tuesday afternoon for an extended visit with relatives at Denver, Colo.

The next meeting of the Thimble club will be held at Mrs. E. M. Gallup's next Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Chas. Andrus of lower Cass has rented a house here where she will move in the near future.

We are glad to see Capt. Rogers well and around again. His eyes are a little weak but getting stronger.

Mrs. W. J. Beidelman was called to Naperville by the death of her half-sister which occurred there Monday.

Mrs. A. B. Cole and Clara Cole of Ottawa were visitors at her father's, Mr. John Stanley, the fore part of the week.

Raymond Craigmile of Lyonsville visited with his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Oldfield at Cass, Saturday and Sunday.

MILLINERY—A beautiful assortment of new and attractive styles in advanced Spring millinery. Miss Goodspeed, Bank building.

Quite a number of our citizens are attending circuit court at Wheaton in the capacity of attorneys, jurors, witnesses or litigants this week.

The Downers Grove republican caucus will be held at Hinsdale this afternoon at 3 o'clock to choose 15 delegates to the DuPage county republican convention.

Mrs. E. F. Lindley and family wish to extend their thanks to the Modern Woodmen of Downers Grove, of which the late E. F. Lindley was a member, for their beautiful floral offering.

The Lotus club will have charge of the music at the Baptist church Sunday evening at 7:30. The pastor will speak on the subject, "Self-sacrifice or self-denial; which in Christian life."

An ordinance prohibiting spitting on sidewalks, street cars and other designated places is now in force in Chicago. A fine of one dollar is imposed for each offense and the victims last week were numerous. A similar ordinance would abate a great nuisance in this town during the summer months.

Mrs. Anna Augusta Ayers of Hinsdale, declaring she is the daughter of Richard Clark, Monday began suit to set aside Mr. Clark's will, in which he gave his \$50,000 estate to the First Methodist church of Oak Park. Mrs. Ayers accuses the church of fraud in exercising undue influence on the testator.

There are good prospects for Naperville to secure a pickle factory this summer. Squire Dingee Co., one of the largest, and probably the oldest firm in the United States, in this line of business, has assured the local association that they will come to Naperville and erect, or secure the necessary site and factory, for the raising and curing of cucumber pickles, providing the necessary acreage can be secured.

On Saturday evening, March 19, occurs the last entertainment of the season in the winter's course. Miss Mabelle Church, reader, will be the entertainer, and she is recommended highly as an artist of great ability, displaying wonderful powers of description and imagination. She has a piquant, natural manner, devoid of affectation and possesses superior qualifications in the line which she assumes. Previous to engagement with the Slaytons she was for several years a teacher in the Cumcock school of oratory.

When you get a catalogue from a big mail order house, just look it over and see what they will pay you for your produce; investigate and see what their terms of credit are in case you don't have the ready cash; how much will they give you to keep up the sidewalks; just write and ask how much they will give to support your church; how much they will give to assist the poor? If after you have done this and received a reply, look at the advertisements in the home paper and see if they don't do just as well or even better.

National Light oil at Nash's. Cook's Flaked Rice at the Fair. Best oil in town at Curtiss & Heartts'. Miss Florence Bates is on the sick list this week.

Mrs. T. E. Brooks left Thursday to visit relatives in Iowa.

Apples, pears, peaches and apricots in gallon cans; fine goods, at Rang's.

R. D. Parker returned Tuesday from a three months trip through the south.

E. Wootton has purchased of DuPage county a fine bunch of 200 spring lambs.

Frank A. Burner has been dangerously ill for some time past with pneumonia.

Miss Grace Peck entertained a party of ladies Saturday afternoon at a "thimble bee."

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Mitchell returned Tuesday from their wedding trip to New York.

S. A. Coe of South Dakota has been visiting relatives here and at Freeport the past few weeks.

Miss Leonora Kline is visiting in Canton, the guest of Mrs. R. F. Wood, formerly of Downers Grove.

Reynolds Vieklie of Cass is hauling a carload of drain tile from Downers Grove to his farm at Cass.

Invitations will be issued this week for a dance to be given in Carpenter's hall Saturday evening, March 26.

J. W. Mergenthal of Chicago was calling on old friends in Downers last Saturday. He reports his mother as quite sick.

The next meeting of the dancing class will be held on Friday evening, March 19, at Carpenter's hall. Admission by invitation card only.

G. H. Buge has purchased the Lindley house, corner Highland and Warren avenues, and will occupy it as a residence about the 1st of April.

I have the brick dwelling, barn and 20 lots in Gostyn for rent or sale. Will rent for \$10 per month for one year from 1st of April or May. D. G. Graham.

The funeral of the late Eugene F. Lindley whose death occurred at Phoenix, Arizona, from tuberculosis, was held at Princeton, Saturday, March 12, where interment was made.

Mrs. Mary Davy, of Cass lost a valuable cow of hydrophobia Tuesday night. Geo. Stangler, a veterinary surgeon of Lockport was summoned and ordered the cow shot at once. Last summer a rabid dog bit two other dogs in this vicinity and they were both killed. Nothing further developed at the time and it had been forgotten. The cow had been tied up the entire winter and has resulted in much excitement as this is supposed to be the source of the disease.

Several hundred lady and gentlemen "rooters" attended the indoor ball game between the married men and bachelors at the Auditorium Saturday evening. The latter aggregation had everything their own way after the first inning and skinned the benedicts by a score of 31 to 11, while the crowd of "rooters" howled itself hoarse. The disciples of marital joys were easily outclassed by the youngsters though several brilliant plays were made by both sides.

The Baptist Ladies give an entertainment in Carpenter's hall on Thursday evening, March 31. A very pleasing program will be furnished by the little folks, consisting of instrumental and vocal solos and a chorus and Easter Lily drill by 20 little girls. Eight little Brownies in costume will also assist with their songs and smiles. Another important feature of the evening will be the sale of useful and fancy articles made by the ladies, also delicious home-made candies and bakery goods. Ice cream and cake will be served. Admission of 15 cents will be charged for those over 12 years old. Children 10 cents.

One of the heaviest snowstorms of the winter descended on this vicinity Sunday night and continued all day Monday. The weather forecaster had told people Saturday night that the storm was on the way, but as there were no signs of it up to Sunday evening those who were wearied of the "old fashioned" winter were hoping that the prophet had been mistaken. When the first few flakes sifted down it seemed that the weather man had no more than a scare in store and a few minutes later when the snowfall ceased, smiles grew broad. But when the snow started to fall again, after a brief rest, it came with a whirl and swish, and continued to descend in a way that suggested that winter's fractured backbone had been repaired, till it was as good as new.

SHOULD RETAIN CAPABLE OFFICIALS.

Officers Whose Terms Expire Should be Re-nominated and Re-elected.

The caucus to nominate officers for the village election has been called for Saturday evening, March 26, at the Auditorium. Owing to a change in the laws the village president now holds office for two years, in consequence President Mochel holds over. The terms of Trustees J. W. Hughes, J. W. Graves and C. K. Roe, and Clerk B. C. White expire at this time. All have made efficient officers and as such are deserving of re-election. It is especially desirable, in view of the work now being done by the board, that no change be made in its membership. The public improvements commenced under its administration should be finished by it. They are thoroughly familiar with all the details of the plans for Main street paving now under contract and the sewerage system now being planned, and are in a better position to complete these improvements than new men would be. Being thoroughly conversant with the terms of the gas franchise granted by them to the La-Grange Gas company, they are better fitted to superintend the construction of this work, which will also be done this summer. By all means the outgoing members of the board should be renominated.

Are you looking for a bright idea for your Easter bonnet? If so, you should have been present at the C. E. social and business meeting at the home of the president, Martha Downer, Tuesday evening. After the business session all kinds of hats and trimmings were distributed to the gentlemen and some of the ladies who were told to use their artistic taste, ingenuity and pins to construct some sort of head-gear. The ladies who had not the privilege of manufacturing the creations had the honor of wearing them. Modern, ancient and far-away-in-the-future styles were displayed and if it be true that one becomes hearty by laughing more than one person in our town will be reported improving. It is sincerely hoped that no one's slumber was disturbed by any haunting recollection of the "hat" she wore. Those which were voted the most becoming and the best trimmed were made by Miss Reeves and John Gray. Although they have not publicly announced their intention of starting competitive millinery establishments they surely could satisfy your wants. Let us recommend them for your service for especially striking and up-to-date work. Mrs. Allen Barnhart had charge of the social, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

ENDEAVORER'S MAKE BONNETS.

Not only is the news of the whole world covered with unexampled fullness in the Sunday issues of the Chicago Record-Herald, but every issue embraces also an exceedingly choice assortment of illustrated special articles ranking with the highest products of our best magazines. Such well known and popular writers as William E. Curtiss and Walter Wellman and Frank (i. Carpenter are regular contributors to the Sunday Record-Herald. There are many special articles in each issue of particular interest to women, including the latest fashions, household economy, art, music and the dramatic. There is a beautifully illustrated special sporting section, which not only covers all the news of the sporting world with a thoroughness that satisfies to the utmost, but includes also entertaining departments by such sporting experts as Tim Murnane, who writes of base ball matters; Malachy Hogan, noted for his "Talks of Pugilism," and J. L. Hervey, who conducts the department of "harness horses." The comic section and other entertaining departments round out this mammoth Sunday magazine to the entire satisfaction of its readers.

MEDAL FOR SAVING MAN'S LIFE.

The Royal Humane society of England has arranged through the British consulate in Chicago to present a medal to James Pridham of Downers Grove, a clerk in the employ of the Pennsylvania railway, for bravery in rescuing a drowning man from the Chicago river Nov. 3. Pridham saw James McGuire floundering in the water near the Madison street bridge. Pridham who is advanced in years, was seated at his desk, but without hesitation ran from the room to the dock not far away, where he plunged to the rescue. McGuire was saved after a hard fight. The medal will be presented to Pridham by the British consul before all of the recipient's fellow employes.

J. P. Mohr of Fallersburg announced his candidacy for highway commissioner of Downers Grove township from the Hinsdale district and solicited the support of the voters of the township at the primaries.

Ruth For Circuit Bench

Hinsdale Jurist Being Urged to Succeed Judge Brown.

Will Have the Solid Support of DuPage County—Retirement of State's Attorney Leaves a Clear Field in The County.

Judge Linus C. Ruth, by the unanimous choice of the republican leaders of DuPage county, is the man this county will support at the judicial convention to succeed Judge Brown of the circuit bench. This was decreed at the recent meeting of the county central committee. State's Attorney Blusser who had aspirations for the same seat of honor, retired in favor of Judge Ruth.

It is a case of the office seeking the man, for it was only after continued urging by party friends from all parts of the county that Judge Ruth finally overcame his modesty and allowed his name to be mentioned. The chances for the Hinsdale jurist brighten as each day bring the convention nearer. He not only has the assurance of the solid DuPage delegation, but also observers of the district political barometer predict that DeKalb and Little Kendall counties will preferably lend their votes to Judge Ruth in rebuke for Kansas county wanting two of the three judges. The situation in Kansas county better DuPage's opportunities in the convention. With her two candidates in vogue in Kansas county there is certain to be a split in her delegation, furthermore some of her delegates will be too fair minded to support Kansas county in her all grab set.

Linus C. Ruth, long before he became county judge, has been Hinsdale's pride. In private life he has had the confidence of the entire community, being honored with many positions of trust. Closely identified with every public venture in his home town, he has been a director of the Hinsdale club, Hinsdale Building and Loan association and the Hinsdale State bank.

But it is his public career that has disclosed to his fellow citizens the sterling character and the high type of ability of the man. Twenty years ago Judge Ruth made his home here, a young lawyer. He rose in the legal profession until today he is prominent in Chicago as a consulting attorney of unimpeachable reputation. Hinsdale recognized his legal worth and in 1890 he became village attorney under Deming H. Preston's administration. Hinsdale had begun the expenditure of \$75,000 in public improvements, and in their course the attorney was called upon for many opinions concerning the various assessment cases, contracts with contractors, etc. His opinions saved the village much costly litigation, and few cases grew out of the assessments. Of the few suits brought the village won every case, and Hinsdale became noted as one of the few villages where extensive public improvements had been made without costly and prolonged litigation.

The record of Judge Ruth is an open page without a blot, and if elected to the circuit bench, the district chooses a man of fair judgment, honest of action and unapproachable in any way—a worthy successor to Judge Brown. His experience in assessment cases, estates and commercial litigation is ample qualification and in supporting Judge Ruth every county in the district will act with a wisdom which time will verify.—Doings.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to take from our midst our dearly beloved member, in her full womanhood, at the time and age as in our humble judgment it would seem worldly life was most dear, yet mindful of the wisdom of Him whose infinite knowledge shapes the destinies of all things, we most humbly bow and submit to His will, and pray to that omnipotent providence who has seen fit thus to call from us our co-worker and friend, assuage the grief, to palliate and bear with them whose hearts are most heavy the pain which it has pleased Him, in His far reaching wisdom, to inflict. Therefore, be it resolved that in the death of Cora Escher Hughes this Woman's club of Downers Grove loses one of its most worthy and honored members, her parents' loving and dutiful daughter, and her husband a kind and affectionate wife. Resolved, that we extend to the relatives of our deceased friend our sincere sympathy in this their hour of bereavement. Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of the club, that a copy be given the Reporter for publication and that a copy be given to the family of the deceased.

VILLAGE CAUCUS.

There will be a caucus of the legal voters of the village of Downers Grove at the Auditorium, Saturday evening, March 26, 1904, for the purpose of nominating the following village officers to be voted on Tuesday, April 13. These members of the village board of trustees, and one village clerk. Also to transact such other business as properly comes before the caucus.

W. W. GARDNER, C. J. GARDNER, J. P. MOHR, J. W. GRAVES, J. W. HUGHES, B. C. WHITE, F. W. CURTIS, WALTER WELLMAN, FRANK CARPENTER, J. W. HUGHES, J. W. GRAVES, C. K. ROE, B. C. WHITE, F. W. CURTIS, WALTER WELLMAN, FRANK CARPENTER, J. W. HUGHES, J. W. GRAVES, C. K. ROE, B. C. WHITE, F. W. CURTIS, WALTER WELLMAN, FRANK CARPENTER.