

DOWNERS GROVE REPORT

VOL. XXX. NO. 17.

DOWNERS GROVE, DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DECEMBER 5, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1070

FIRE DAMAGES HOME OF H. W. BRUNS

Family Wakened Before Dawn by Flames Which Burst from Partitions—Children Reach Safety Through Windows.

Stiffing heat and dense clouds of smoke wakened the family of H. W. Bruns, 168 North Main street, shortly after 2 o'clock last Saturday morning. Mr. Bruns quickly ascertained that the flames were bursting through the partitions of several rooms and urged haste in leaving the house.

Four of the children were sleeping in chambers on the second floor. Frank, the eldest, jumped from the porch roof to the ground and hastily placed a ladder against the porch and assisted two brothers and a sister to safety. Meanwhile Mr. and Mrs. Bruns and the other children had escaped. The alarm was quickly sounded and the volunteer fire company responded. Holes were chopped in the walls of the house and several streams were played on the fire. So speedy was the departure of the family from the house that few clothes and valuables were carried in the flight.

Some of the more valuable clothing and a number of pieces of furniture were saved by the firemen and citizens from the damage by fire or water.

The blaze was a stubborn one, and after it was apparently extinguished broke out afresh in two places. The damage was estimated at \$5,000 by Mr. Bruns. Neighbors made the Bruns family as comfortable as possible until morning.

NAPERVILLE POSTMASTER APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.

The appointment of E. M. Dieter as postmaster at Naperville has been confirmed by the Senate and his commission will be forthcoming in due time. It is probable that Mr. Dieter will take charge of the office on Jan. 1, 1919.

ADDISON MURDER INQUEST CLOSED.

The inquest in the Rotermund murder case was concluded at Addison recently. No witnesses were called, but the case was closed and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that Edward Rotermund came to his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by an unknown bandit. The action of the authorities was commended in their endeavor to apprehend the bandit and they recommend that the search be continued.

MRS. JACOB MEY.

After months of suffering Mrs. Jacob Mey died last Friday at her home near Lisle. The funeral was Monday from the home. Belief that her death was possibly due to a cancerous growth with which she had been afflicted and for which she had been taking treatments, caused Coroner Hopf to hold an inquest. A report of the post-mortem examination was that death was caused by a complication of diseases and was not directly resultant from the malignant growth nor its treatment.

—Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Baker of Waterloo, Iowa, have been spending the last two weeks with C. F. Wolf and family and Mrs. C. Baker and family.

HARRY SPENCER CONVICTED MURDERER

Asks for Egg Diet—Hanging Set for December 19th.

Sheriff Kuhn sat in the Wheaton jail the other day and glanced over the headlines of a Chicago paper. His eye was arrested by the words, "Women Boycott Egg Dealers Because of High Prices." Weeks ago the sheriff took fresh eggs from the jail menu. He had scarcely laid the paper aside when word came to him that Harry Spencer, convicted murderer, was calling for him.

Going to the cell the sheriff asked, "What do you want?" "I want some eggs—an omelette or some fried eggs," replied Spencer.

"Eggs are pretty high now. City folks are going without them. Guess you'll have to do without," said Sheriff Kuhn.

"Well, it's pretty tough when a guy that's going to die in a few days can't have what he wants to eat," returned the prisoner.

Harry Spencer is under sentence of death for the murder of Mrs. Mildred Allison Rexroat, the dancing teacher who was lured by him to a lonely railroad crossing near Wayne and there murdered in cold blood. The sentence of the court condemned Spencer to die on the gallows Friday, Dec. 19, for the crime.

Justice, which in so many cases lags, was swift and certain in Spencer's case. The prosecution, guided by State's Attorney Charles W. Hadley, was fair and just, but at the same time relentless. No feigned insanity nor exaggerated bravado of the prisoner availed to turn aside the engine of justice as coldly, clearly and calmly, fact after fact with its damning weight of evidence against Spencer was marshaled before the jury. The words with which Judge Blusser closed the case, "and there be hanged by the neck until you are dead," have not been heard in a Du Page county court room since the fifties, when another murderer stood before the bar and received his sentence.

State of Illinois, Executive Department, Springfield.

Whereas, the National Association for the Study and Eradication of Tuberculosis has designated Sunday, Dec. 7, 1913, as the National Tuberculosis Day; and

Whereas, the study of the subject of the prevention of tuberculosis should not be confined to these self-sacrificing individuals who have taken it upon themselves to collect information, urge the need of legislation, collect statistics and educate the public in the ways and means of preventing the spread of this scourge; and

Whereas, the State itself should do all that lies in its power to aid and Downers Grove Reporter—Five assist in all ways in which it is possible to do so; and

Whereas, much information has been disseminated by the various bodies which have made a study of tuberculosis and it clearly becomes the duty of everyone interested in the cause of humanity, and the welfare of our State, to observe and compel an observance of such rules as have been adopted by scientists for the prevention of the spread of this disease.

Now, therefore, I, Edward F. Dunne, Governor of the State of Illinois, in the name and for the people of Illinois, do hereby proclaim and urge the observance of December 7th, 1913, as Tuberculosis Day, and advise the people of this state to disseminate such information and take such steps on that day and hereafter as will prevent the spread of this scourge.

Given under my hand and the great seal of Illinois, this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-eighth.

EDWARD F. DUNNE, Governor.
By the Governor:
HARRY WOODS, Secy. of State.

—The Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist church will hold their annual Bazaar in the Dicke building corner Belmont street and Forest Avenue Thursday evening, Dec. 11. All kinds of fancy work, candies, popcorn and bakery goods will be on sale. Don't forget the date, Dec. 11. Opens at seven o'clock.

—Mr. Henry Neddermeyer, age 55 years, passed away at his home after an illness of several weeks. Mr. Neddermeyer spent most of his life on his farm one mile north of Lombard, and was well known among the old settlers. He leaves a wife and five daughters, besides many friends and other relatives to mourn his absence. The funeral services were held at the Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoon.

DUTY OF SHERIFF AT EXECUTION.

From the number of requests which Sheriff Kuhn is receiving for admission to the Spencer hanging on Dec. 19 it seems there are a great many who desire to see this event. However, the sheriff must abide by the law regarding the number who are allowed to witness the execution. For the information of all we are publishing herewith, upon the request of the sheriff, a portion of the Illinois Statutes found in Chapter 38, Par. 441:

Duty of Sheriff at Execution.

"It shall be the duty of the sheriff, or the deputy sheriff of the county, to be present at each execution, and, by at least three days' previous notice, to invite the presence of the judges, prosecuting attorney and clerks of the courts of said county, together with two physicians and twelve reputable citizens, to be selected by said sheriff or his deputy. And the said sheriff or deputy shall, at the request of the criminal, permit such ministers of the gospel, not exceeding three, as said criminal shall name, and any of the immediate relatives of said criminal, to be present at said execution, and also such officers of the prison, deputies and constables as shall by him be deemed expedient to have present; but no other persons than those herein mentioned shall be permitted to be present at such execution, nor shall any person, not a relative of the criminal, under the age of twenty-one years, be allowed to witness the same."

The sheriff believes that the citizens of Du Page County, after reading the law, will not ask him to violate it in carrying out this execution.

WOMAN'S CLUB NOTES

The Downers Grove Woman's Club enjoyed a real treat at its regular meeting Wednesday afternoon in having Mrs. Frederick Dow, President of the State Federation, for a speaker; also Mrs. John T. Mason of Aurora, vice chairman of the Eleventh District, and Mrs. Wade of Aurora, a former vice chairman of the eleventh district.

All of the talks were interesting and full of enthusiasm on the work being done both in the state and district.

Mrs. Blackman gave a brief outline of the life of Ethelbert Nevin, one of our own American composers, and Miss Grace Towlesley gave several piano selections from Nevin and Mrs. Blackman two vocal selections from the same, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed.

The out of town guests and members of the executive board made up a very enjoyable dinner party at the Grove Hotel, where covers were laid for twenty, the decorations and favors being red and white carnations, the club flowers.

The Domestic Science Department of the club, with Mrs. Prince as chairman, have interested themselves in the Infant Welfare Association of Chicago, and especially in the Burlington station, which is to be supported by suburban towns along the Burlington in hope of raising a fund for the support of this station. On Friday afternoon there will be a free stereopticon lecture at Dicke's Hall, given by Miss Ahrens, superintendent of this work in Chicago, assisted by Mrs. Freer and Mrs. Welles of Hinsdale.

The club has on hand a number of the Red Cross seals for sale to aid the anti-tuberculosis society. Mrs. Lemon will be glad to see anyone regarding this matter, which is a most worthy cause.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURES

IN ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

On the first and third Sunday evenings during the winter months the pastor of St. Joseph church will give an illustrated series of lectures on Church History. The introductory illustrated lecture will be given Sunday evening, Dec. 7, at 7:30. It will begin with a brief account of the history of writing, containing illustrations of Assyrian clay tablets, of the Moabite stone, the Siloam inscription, and the Phoenician, Hebrew, Greek and Latin alphabets. Then will follow an account of how we got our Bible. Photographs of pages of the Vatican manuscript will be shown, and pictures of the Samaritan, Ethiopic, Syriac, Arabic, old Latin and Gothic scriptures. There will also be reproductions of pages of various codices dating from the fourth, fifth and sixth centuries. The second part of the illustrated lecture will be given up to a brief description of a trip from Jaffa to Jerusalem. The principal streets, buildings, valleys and gardens will be described and illustrated. This will give an idea of the method to be followed in the course of lectures. Church history will be illustrated by descriptions of the great cities of Europe. It will be a kind of Pilgrim's Progress.

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MOTIOGRAPH NEWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1913

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