

# DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER

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WHOLE NO. 1935

## "Marsh Gas" Asphyxiates Three Men at Westmont

Two Lose Lives Tuesday Evening in Vain Effort to Save  
Third—Dreaded Black Damp Thought to  
Have Caused Deaths

Three men, Joseph A. Brewer, 27; Arvid S. Anderson, 33 and Nils O. Borwick, 29, of Westmont, are dead from asphyxiation as the result of a peculiar accident there Tuesday evening.

Mr. Brewer, who was employed as a grocery clerk at the Matthews store in Westmont, left for home about 5:30. He had dug and bricked in a well 22 feet deep early this summer. Not striking water, he dug a new hole and was transferring the brick from the new to the old.

Tuesday, after his evening meal, he went down into the well to continue his work. Mrs. Brewer noticing his absence after about half an hour, and suspecting something had happened to him in the well, went to it with a flashlight and peered down. When she saw her husband lying there unconscious, she screamed for help.

Nils Borwick and Arvid S. Anderson, brothers-in-law and neighbors of the Brewers, heard her screams and ran to the well. Borwick started down first, on an improvised ladder, down which Brewer had climbed. He had not thought of gas, apparently thinking that Brewer had fallen and was hurt. Borwick took but a few steps when he was overcome by the deadly "marsh gas" and fell the rest of the way.

Anderson, nothing daunted by the fate of his brother-in-law, went down in a vain effort to save both of them. Before he could do anything, he too, was overcome.

By this time, attracted by the screams of the women, a crowd had collected. Oscar Johnson, another neighbor, started down the ladder, but after going just a few feet felt the effects of the gas and hollered for help. His brother, Carl, caught him by the arms and succeeded in getting him out in time.

All this was done with the covering of the well still over it and only the trap door open. While several of the men went in search of a rope, Made Hokenson, 68 years old, father of Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Borwick, tore off several of the boards, letting air into the shaft. He then tied a rope around his waist and was lowered into the

hole. He succeeded in tying the rope around the men, one after another and after four trips down, got them out.

Dr. Scott, of Hinsdale, had been called and arrived just as the last man was being pulled from the well. He rushed them to the Hinsdale Sanitarium where every means was taken to bring them back to life, to no avail. A pulmotor was secured at Riverside and even this means failed.

At the inquest held at Hinsdale Wednesday morning, Dr. Scott testified that had a lung motor been right at the side of the well when the men were brought to the surface, that, in his opinion, nothing could have been done. The gas, he said, is probably similar to that known as black damp in mines, owing to the peaty soil in that neighborhood, and in this particular form is very deadly.

Anderson and Borwick were brothers-in-law, Borwick being an electrical foreman at the Western Electric Co., at Cicero and Anderson was employed as electrician at the Chicago Mill and Lumber Co. Each leaves a wife and two small babies.

They were living together and building a home with the intention of duplicating it for the other as soon as possible. They were both members of Lake View Lodge, 774, A. F. & A. M., and that body will have charge of the funeral services which will be held today.

Brewer was working as a grocery clerk in the Matthews store at Westmont and leaves a wife who is about to become a mother. She was taken by Dr. E. B. Goodwin in a hysterical condition to his home Tuesday evening and attended by Dr. Tope. Prayers for the dead were said by Dr. Goodwin at the home of a brother at 1111 S. California Ave., Chicago, Wednesday evening and the body shipped Thursday to Perryville, Mo., the old home town of both Mr. and Mrs. Brewer, where burial will take place.

This case recalls a similar one which occurred here about fifty years ago. Mr. Wheeler, who lived at that time where the Whitney house is in East Grove, his son and a neighbor named Carey Freeman, lost their lives in a well in a similar manner.

## Support Local Football Teams



High School - Hinsdale, There, Saturday  
Legion - Addison A. C., Here, Sunday

## CLARENDON HILLS YOUTH DIES FROM PECULIAR ACCIDENT

John Dvorak Passes Away Suddenly  
Yesterday Following Fall  
From Bicycle

John Dvorak, fourteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dvorak, of Clarendon Hills, died yesterday afternoon, following a fall from his bicycle the evening before.

He was a student at St. Joseph's Parish school and attended yesterday played with his playmates and apparently was in the best of health and spirits. Today his lifeless body is mourned over by his loving parents.

John was riding his bicycle after the evening meal Wednesday night. As he went down the road, a small child ran in front of the machine and in a quick turn to avoid hitting the child, the bicycle turned over and the handle bar hit John in the abdomen.

He righted the wheel and rode home. Not until yesterday morning did he feel any pain and then it was not very severe. A doctor was called shortly before noon and at 1:45 the boy suddenly passed away.

No funeral arrangements had been made late yesterday. The grief-stricken parents have the sympathy of the community.

## LOCALS WIN FROM HINSDALE SUNDAY —RECORD CROWD

Opponents Smothered Under Av-  
lanche of Runs Losing Exciting  
Game 20 to 10.

The Downers Grove American Legion baseball team climaxed and spasmodically ended another successful season Sunday, when they hurried and covered Hinsdale in a quelling and overly animated defeat. Our eastern friends battled lustily but the lively pill was eluted promiscuously and they hung their heads as they solemnly and serenely returned to their hamlet bearing the animosity of a grilling 20 to 10 contest.

It was a battle, the like of which is seldom seen in these parts, from start to finish. There was plenty and lots of hectic battling with the locals pestering the arena for 21 safeties which netted them a total of 31 bases.

The largest crowd ever witnessed an athletic contest in this country was assembled to watch the locals and Hinsdale play off the tie. It is estimated that between 2,500 and 3,000 witnessed the grueling contest.

It was none other than Mr. William Shanabrook who plastered and pestered Harry Thiedel off the mound. On Bill's first trip he lifted it for a long ride for a near home run. Billy was (Continued on Page 10)

## "PURPLE" WINS CLOSE GAME FROM THORNTON H. S.

Coach Rogers and his high school squad came home from Harvey last Saturday night victors over the eleven representing the Thornton Township high school by the score of 2 to 0.

Playing against a much heavier team, the locals football gladiators showed their class by not only holding them, but by carrying the ball into enemy territory for more than half the game and several times threatening to push the pig skin over the line.

Harvey waltzed through the local line for several substantial gains in the first quarter. Baron kicked out of danger twice and it seemed as if the "Purple" squad could not get organized. They tightened up, however, and in the last half made several unsuccessful attempts to score by a touchdown, each time failing by sev-

eral yards. In the third quarter they were within a yard of the Harvey goal line and lost the ball on downs. In attempting to kick out the Thornton man fumbled the ball which was recovered by Downers who scored two points for the safety, being the only marks of the game.

The first quarter was played in the rain and the field, a new one, was a sea of mud. Mud coated the uniforms of the players, got into their hair and teeth, coated the ball and made a mess of things in general.

Coach Rogers says that in his opinion the high school rooters will have something to yell for this year, as the showing made by the team last Saturday against a heavier aggregation, makes it seem as if they will play (Continued on Page 10)

## Jacob Klein, Charged With Murder, Held in County Jail

October Grand Jury, Meeting Monday, Will be Asked to  
Indict Him for the Killing of Leo Neu-  
mann Sunday Night.

Jacob Klein, whose home is on the Plainfield road, southeast of Downers Grove, is in the County jail at Wheaton charged with the murder of Leo Neumann, of 2237 West 20th street, Chicago, last Sunday night.

State's Attorney C. W. Reed of Naperville, will go before the October grand jury, which meets Monday and will ask that body to indict him on the murder charge and says he will push the case to a conclusion as quickly as possible.

Facts of the shooting came out at the inquest held in the Hinsdale Village Hall Monday morning. At the request of C. W. Hadley, Klein's attorney, the inquest was postponed until this morning and it will reconvene at ten o'clock with one or two witnesses still to be heard.

The story, as reconstructed from stories of witnesses at the inquest and from interested parties, is as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Neumann and their thirteen year old daughter were invited by Mr. and Mrs. Gust Vorreyer to motor to Barber's Corner for a week end visit with the Ed. Schroeder family there. Mrs. Neumann is a sister of Mr. Vorreyer.

They made the trip, five of them, in a Ford roadster, leaving the Schroeder home for the trip back to Chicago, about 7:40 Sunday evening. Mr. Vorreyer testified that he was driving slowly because of the load in the car and also because they had twelve dozen eggs and garden truck in back of the machine.

They were going east on the Plainfield road and as they neared the Schurn home, the second place east of the Klein home, saw a man walking down the road toward them. Both Mr. and Mrs. Vorreyer recognized him as Jacob Klein, as they had at one time made Downers Grove their home. Just as Klein reached the front end of the machine he hollered either, "Halt" or "Hey" and as the machine passed about twenty feet, they heard a shot. Neumann straightened out, precipitating Mrs. Vorreyer, who had been sitting on his lap, into the road. The bullet entered the back of the seat about three inches from the top

and plowed its way through Neumann.

Mr. Vorreyer then drove to the W. F. Andermann home a little way east on the same road, where he left the women folks and picking up several men there, drove with the unconscious man to the Hinsdale Sanitarium where he died on the operating table.

After the shooting Klein kept on walking to his home where he called up Louis Callihan, night policeman here, saying he had shot a man. Callihan notified Chief Venard, who after calling Sheriff Geo. F. Leineke, went to the Klein home.

Leineke and State's Attorney Reed were on the scene shortly after the shooting, and after hearing the stories of the witnesses, went before Police Magistrate L. C. Harner of Hinsdale, and secured a warrant for Klein's arrest, charging him with murder. A preliminary hearing was held at 3:00 and Harner gave him into the custody of the sheriff, pending the finding of the coroner's jury. Magistrate Harner also postponed the hearing until after the inquest and will hold it this morning.

Several men who saw and talked with Klein after the shooting say he had been drinking. Neither he nor his attorneys G. H. Bunge of Downers Grove, C. W. Hadley of Wheaton or Harvey Gansel of Aurora, have made any statement beyond saying he would plead not guilty.

Coroner Hopf and the jury composed of Wm. Johnston, A. P. Lytle, Wm. Hardy, Walter Davidson, E. Karlson and Dr. C. G. Chase, all of Hinsdale, will hear the remainder of the witnesses this morning.

The Court Jurors for the October term of court, who will be asked by State's Attorney Reed for a murder indictment are:

Addition Township — George L. Franzen and Louis Bell of Bensenville.  
Bloomingdale — Ed. Klein, Roselle; Mike Bender, Roselle.  
Wayne — Everett Hammond, West Chicago.  
Winfield — James Campbell, West

(Continued on Page 2)

## MARRIED MEN OF PARISH CHALLENGE ST. JOSEPH A. C.

Post-Season Game to be Played at  
Memorial Park on Next  
Sunday A. M.

The St. Joe's will answer the challenge of the married men on Sunday morning in what is supposed to be a regulation nine inning combat. Whether or not the old timers will last the full route remains to be seen.

The married men's lineup will contain at least three names familiar to the Semi-pro fans of twenty years ago and not a few names known to the local fans almost recently. If talk and dire threats mean baseball the old timers will have a whale of a team but large quantities of first aid supplies are being gathered to take care of the lame backs, etc., that are expected.

The game while not promising in actual baseball will be rich in comedy. It is also rumored about that four or five of the St. Joe athletes will be compelled to eat under the table and sleep in the wood shed if the young bucks let their daddies cop the tilt.

Don't forget, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock at Memorial Park.

### ENTERTAINS FILIPINOS

Mr. D. E. Tombo, star twirler for the Filipino All Stars and three other Filipino boys were entertained last Sunday evening at the residence of Wm. Holloway by the St. Joseph A. C. A good time was had by all, but our one disappointment is that Tombo will leave us to attend school in Indiana. Probably he will be here next year when the St. Joe A. C. will play the Filipinos a series of games, although he has a chance to pitch for the Cuban Stars. Don't forget that most wonderful game next Sunday.

## MRS. WEINHEIMER ENTERTAINED FOR ALICE B. MARSHALL

"Class Meeting" Held by Pupils of  
Pianist at Weinheimer Home  
Tuesday Evening.

The pupils of Mrs. Alice Brown Marshall were entertained on Tuesday evening, at a class meeting, by Mrs. Phillip Weinheimer. Mrs. Marshall has been spending a few hours in Downers Grove for the past three months, on Tuesdays, and her pupils have been enjoying the work.

Mrs. Marshall has a national reputation as a pianist, having received the Theodore Thomas Medal at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, for her piano playing. She also played at the World's Fair at St. Louis, as the representative of the National Federation of Musical Clubs.

For years she was associated with the School of William Hall Sherwood, and she is now engaged in introducing his work as a standard of credit in the public schools of the United States.

## QUIT KICKING— TRY CLIMBING

Jellyfish are left on the rocks when the tide goes out. No doubt they complain of adverse conditions. They cannot adjust themselves to the situation.

The period of reckless buying, on the part of the public, may be over. But business men who know how to adjust their enterprises to changing conditions know that business is still to be had and that newspaper advertising will help get it.

## CELEBRATES BIRTH- DAY SUNDAY WITH CHICKEN DINNER

Gust A. Johnson Entertained Rela-  
tives from Wilmington and  
Richey

Gust A. Johnson, 186 Blodgett avenue, celebrated his 66th birthday last Sunday by entertaining a number of relatives from Wilmington and Richey, Ill. The main attraction was a chicken dinner and supper, which, needless to say, was enjoyed by all.

Those present were Mrs. Hannah Wenstrom, sister of Mr. Johnson, Reinhardt Wenstrom and Miss Alice Myers, of Richey, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kirchner and daughter, Lavon, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Smith and children, Herman, Jr., Ragna and Raymond, of Wilmington. Miss Mable Wenstrom and A. F. Johnson of the Grove, also being present.

After dinner was served the men folks saw Downers beat Hinsdale at Memorial Park.

The trip here was made in Mr. Smith's Nash car and Mr. Kirchner's new fiver.

## TRY CLIMBING WITH ADVERTISING

Some people can see trouble with their eyes shut.

Others never shut their eyes to the opportunities that come every day.

Newspaper advertising—always important—takes on an added usefulness when there is special need for creating quick sales and rapid turn-over.

Kicking won't climb a tree—try climbing—with advertising.

The best medium is the local newspaper, The Reporter.

## VOTERS LEAGUE WOMEN HEARD A FINE ADDRESS

Mrs. Simonds, Member of Faculty of  
Northwestern U. Spoke on  
Citizenship

Mrs. A. M. Simonds, a member of the faculty of Northwestern University and Citizenship Chairman of the Illinois League of Women Voters, made a talk at the meeting of the local branch at Library Hall Tuesday afternoon which was both inspirational and practical.

Mrs. Simonds has had years of experience teaching civics and similar subjects and has done most of the preliminary educational work in Wisconsin in citizenship which the voters league of that state is now advocating. She told what the league in that state has done thru classes and how the State University had co-operated with them in their work, all of which was, as one of her hearers remarked, "both interesting and helpful."

Mrs. Simonds outlined for our women possible courses for their prospective citizenship classes and advisable procedure. Later the committee for citizenship study of the local branch will announce what classes will be open to the women of the village interested in this vital subject.

The Chairman of the Local Government Committee reported that the committee had waited on the Village Council in regard to the refuse disposal matter. They report they were very courteously received and found the Council members very willing to listen and ready to promise co-operation in an attempt to solve the refuse disposal problem.

Recommendations on garbage disposal will be made soon.