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Elwood Mother And Three Daughters Die In Fire

BANDITS RAID LUCERNE

Victims Trapped In Blazing Home

Three Members of Family Awaken in Time to Escape Similar Fate.

ELWOOD, Ind., May 12.—(UP)—A mother and her three daughters, trapped on the second floor, perished today in a fire which destroyed their home. Three other members of the family escaped. The victims were Mrs. Iva Sosbe, 42, and her daughters, Marjorie, 8, Beulah, 19, and Mamie, 17. Two sons, Richard, 14, and Kenneth, 21, and the latter's wife, sleeping on the first floor, were awakened in time to escape.

Cleveland Sosbe, the father, was working in a glass factory at the time, having gone to work at midnight.

The fire was discovered about 3 a. m. by an unidentified person who phoned in the alarm. When firemen arrived the house was in flames and there was no chance to rescue the mother and girls.

Mrs. Sosbe and Marjorie, although they slept in another room, were found in the bedroom occupied by Beulah and Mamie. Firemen said the mother probably had been awakened by the smoke and had attempted to sound the alarm.

Mamie and Beulah were still in bed, indicating they had been suffocated in their sleep. The mother and youngest daughter were on the floor.

The family moved into the house from another part of town only yesterday. It is believed the fire started from a chicken incubator in the rear of the house.

PROMISE PAY TO TEACHERS

More Than Three Million Dollars Will be Distributed to Chicago Teachers

CHICAGO, May 12.—(UP)—Chicago's 14,000 school teachers, who haven't seen a pay check in seven months, wanted to receive \$3,400,000 today.

This amount represents salaries for last September. Before next Wednesday, the teachers have been promised, they will get their pay for three other months.

The payday was made possible when bankers agreed to purchase tax anticipation warrants aggregating \$12,750,000. This sum, combined with cash already in the school treasury, will pay teachers and 4,000 other board of education employees up to Jan. 1.

PLEAD WITH GANDHI TO ABANDON FAST

POONA, India, May 12.—(UP)—Dr. Ansari, Mahatma M. K. Gandhi's physician, told the United Press today that he had high hopes of persuading his patient to abandon his 21 days fast of "purification."

Dr. Ansari believed his pleadings would be effective once there was unanimity of medical opinion that Gandhi's life was in danger.

Summoned hastily to the marble palace where Gandhi was ill of jaundice and nausea, Ansari told the Indian leader that if he wished to live he must give up his fast.

Weather Forecast

Local showers tonight on Saturday; little change in temperature.

FARM STRIKE WILL BEGIN ON SCHEDULE

Milo Reno Claims that 900,000 Farmers Will Join in the Holiday

ST. PAUL, May 12.—(UP)—Postponement of the National farm strike called for Saturday was hinted strongly here today as leaders of the farm holiday association went into conference on President Roosevelt's appeal for leniency toward farmer debtors.

DES MOINES, Ia., May 12.—(UP)—The local point of the National farm strike, scheduled to begin tomorrow, shifted today to St. Paul, where leaders assembled to hold a council of war and to await from President Roosevelt a telegram on which may depend the outcome of the farm revolt threat.

Milo Reno, head of the National Farmers Holiday Association, and guiding figure behind the scheduled embargo, hurried to St. Paul to meet men in command of strike units in three other states. The United Press learned that Reno sent to President Roosevelt, last night, the following telegram: "According to press reports you are willing to do all in your power to avert the farmers' strike and its resultant confusion. Will you declare a moratorium on farm foreclosures and executions until farm production costs are conceded to the farmer. Answer. Important."

As he prepared to board a train for the North Reno said: "If President Roosevelt answers in the affirmative, we have won our battle."

Despite booming grain markets and rapidly spreading optimism among 900,000 farmers, according to Reno's estimate prepared to start tomorrow on a "buy nothing, do nothing" campaign.

RIVERS NEAR FLOOD STAGE

Water of Wabash Reaches 14.6 Feet at 1 O'clock; Fifteen Feet is Flood Stage

At 1 o'clock this afternoon the Wabash river was within less than six inches of flood stage, Frank Eminger, government representative, announced. However the rate of rise had been reduced to less than an inch an hour.

The afternoon measurement placed the water at 14.6 feet. Flood stage here is fifteen feet.

At 5 o'clock the water had reached 14 feet, at 7 o'clock 14.24 feet, and at 10 a. m. it was 14.48 feet. The crest is believed to be near.

NAME LOCAL MAN STATE DIRECTOR

Walter J. Uhl manager of the Logansport Home Telephone company, was named a director of the Indiana Telephone Association at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the association in Indianapolis Thursday.

PERU CAR STOLEN

Police Friday morning were maintaining a vigil for a Ford sedan stolen at Peru. The car, carrying license plates number 433-018, belongs to H. A. Senger of that city.

GARY MAYOR IN CITY



An invitation for Logansport people to take part in Gary day, June 29, at the Century of Progress, Chicago, was extended by Mayor R. O. Johnson of Gary, who visited Mayor William O. Fledler of this city Friday morning enroute to Marion where he speaks at the dedication of a federal hospital building.

Accompanying Mr. Johnson was his publicity man, Frank Morrow. The Gary executive announced that at 1 p. m. Saturday the one hundred piece Emerson high school band of Gary will give a free concert on the streets of Logansport, coming here from Perry, Ind. A concert will be given at 11 a. m.

BOY KILLER CONVICTED

New York Youth Found Guilty of Stabbing Boy Who 'Told Stories about Him'

NEW YORK, May 12.—(UP)—Harry Murch, a pale slight boy of 16, awaited sentence of 20 years to life today for the stabbing of a 12-year old "tattle tale" whose gagged and bound body was found stuffed in the closet of a vacant house last January.

A juror sobbed, and from an adjacent room came the screams of an hysterical 13-year-old witness as the verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree was read last night.

Harry received the verdict without emotion. He seemed perplexed that his parents were not in the courtroom. A few minutes before the jury filed in his mother, Mrs. Mary Murch, collapsed and had to be led away by his father.

Harry was remanded to jail pending sentence May 19. He allegedly confessed that he stabbed William Bender because the younger boy had "told stories about me."

He lured William to a house in the unincorporated "Ghost City" erected by Arnold Rothstein, slain racketeer, and bound him under the pretense of rehearsing a trial. Then, the confession said, he pushed the knife into the boy's heart.

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HIGH WATERS DRIVE MANY FROM HOMES

Situation at Kokomo Grows More Serious; Two Drownings in State

INDIANAPOLIS, May 12.—Flood conditions in central Indiana today reached the most serious proportions since 1913.

Hundreds of families have been driven from their homes, two lives have been lost and thousands of dollars damage caused to gardens and farm crops.

The situation was most serious at Kokomo where more than 400 persons had to flee from their homes because of the high water.

Wildcat creek left its banks after four inches of rain fell there between 5 p. m. Wednesday and 7 a. m. Friday, the creek believed to have reached its crest early today and officials were hopeful the water would soon recede.

Stricken families were cared for by the American Legion, Red Cross and Salvation Army. Shelter and food was found for all of them. Legionnaires patrolled the evacuated homes to guard against looting.

One of the districts inundated is occupied largely with homes of factory workers. Somers park was under eight feet of water.

The Kokomo city water supply was threatened when the plant was cut off by floods. Officials said there was little danger of contamination.

All other streams in Howard county were out of their banks and hundreds of acres of low farm lands were flooded.

The first death was reported at Fairmount when Alfred Matson, 5, drowned in Back Creek. He was throwing sticks into the swollen stream when he lost his balance.

The swift water carried him downstream, companions reported. William H. Rhodes, 21, Port Wayne negro, was drowned at Muncie when a boat overturned in the flooded White river. Two companions swam to shore.

J. H. STEWART DIES IN OHIO

Former Superintendent of Local Municipal Light Plant Succumbs

Joseph H. Stewart, 68, superintendent of the Logansport Municipal Electric light plant under Mayor David Fiekie, died this morning at his home in Lakeside, Ohio. He had been in failing health for two years.

Mr. Stewart, who is the father of Mrs. Carl Wagner of this city, left Logansport about eighteen years ago to become superintendent of a municipal plant at Plymouth and since that time has been in charge of various plants.

Surviving are the widow, the daughter, and a son, William Stewart, of Tiffin, Ohio.

The body will be taken to Tipton, Indiana, for funeral rites and burial Sunday.

Fire Forty Shots And Wound Two As Holdup Of State Bank Fails

Doris Miner, 22, Lucerne, and Mrs. Ethel Jones, 22, Star City, Are Wounded as Fleeing Robbers and Their Two Women Companions Open Withering Machine Gun Fire On Residents of Town; Lawson Selders, Assistant Cashier, In Bank, Barely Escapes Death When One Bandit Fires At Him Point-Blank

The ordinarily quiet and peaceful village of Lucerne in the northwestern part of Cass county was thrown into a state of wild excitement early today when bandits literally shot up the town in escaping after an unsuccessful attempt to rob the Lucerne State Bank.

More than two score shots fired by the bandits riddled the bank, crashed through the home of Mr. and Mrs. Court Miner and the Bell restaurant, whizzed by a score of citizens and wounded two slightly.

The tactics used by the thugs, two men and two women, resembled the wildest escapades of Chicago gangland and matched the tales of the wild and woolly west.

The wounded were Doris Miner, 22 years old, of Lucerne and Mrs. Ethel Jones, 22 years old, of Star City, who is in Lucerne visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ura Witters.

Les Powlen, county councilman, and Homer Hunter, Logansport, who pursued the bandit car from Lucerne, traced the machine west of Winamac on road 14 where they lost the trail.

The bandit car ran into a herd of about twenty pigs and two sows on the right northwest of Lucerne and killed two of the pigs.

The bandit driver was an expert at the wheel or he would have been wrecked.

Wounded in Her Home. Miss Miner was dressing in the bedroom of her home across the street and west of the bank when two bullets sped through the weather boarding of the home, fragments hitting her in the left shoulder and left cheek, inflicting painful but not serious injuries.

Mrs. Jones was standing in front of the Jessa Sheets home, the first house west of the Miner residence, when a bullet grazed her right arm.

The two bandits who raided the bank were concealed on the top of the vault when Cashier Everett Gregg opened the bank at 7:30 o'clock. A moment later Lawson Selders, bookkeeper and assistant cashier, came in and the two of them commenced to get ready for the day's business.

Gregg and Selders had worked about a half hour putting the cash in drawers when Gregg stepped into the vault, leaving Selders alone in the cage. Selders was working over an adding machine when he heard a noise above him and looked up.

Escapes Death by Inches. A roughly dressed young man, holding a pistol in each hand leaped up with a yell: "Put 'em up." Selders responded by lunging for the safety of the open vault. As he did so a shot rang out. The bullet missed his head by inches.

Almost at that moment, Ed Frushour walked past the bank, heard the shot and looked in. The man beckoned him to enter and then shouted "Come in." Frushour ducked away as three bullets crashed through the big plate glass

window. A fourth hit near the top of the glass. Gregg and Lawson, armed by this time and waiting for the bandits to appear in the cage, heard them leap down at the back of the vault. Then seven more shots fired by the bandits added to the din. The bullets crashed into the brick and cement reinforcement sheltering the vault.

The gun men ran out of a back door. One of them turned and fired nine shots into the back wall and windows of the bank building before joining his companion in a Ford V-8 sedan in which the two women were seated.

Parting Fusillade. The road in which the car was waiting when the men ran from the bank forms a loop south of the bank, coming back on the main street and state road 16 at the Christian church, a block west of the bank.

As the car was speeding around the corner, Ura Witters, who had heard the shooting, attempted to wreck the vehicle by tossing a large chunk of wood into its path. The driver, a man, veered the car to the right and into a soggy lawn but brought it safely back onto the narrow road and increased his speed.

At the Christian church the bandit car slowed up to permit a third fusillade of lead to be turned on the citizens who had rushed from their homes into the street to learn the cause of the firing and excitement.

It was here that Mrs. Jones and Miss Miner were wounded.

Flee Westward. The bandit car headed west and vanished. Les Powlen, driving a high-powered car, accompanied by Homer Hunter of Logansport, gave pursuit.

Standing in front of the Sheets home when Mrs. Jones was injured were her husband, Myrtle Jones; Mary Sheets and George and Willard Witters. They crouched in terror as the hail of lead passed over their heads.

Mrs. Miner was out in the strawberry patch at the rear of her home when she heard the shots at the bank and the shots that hit her home and injured her daughter. In all, four bullets struck the Miner home.

One of the bullets that was fired from in front of the Christian church passed through a telephone pole. A second was imbedded in the pole and two or three hit in the street. Another struck a cherry tree in the Miner yard.

Ruth Peckham, who lives on the main street about a block west of the Christian church, was an eye witness to the shooting that took place just before the bandits drove from town.

Shoot at Mail Carrier. Bert Hilkert, a rural mail carrier drove by the bank just as Frushour was being shot at. The bullets missed his car by narrow margins. He kept on going until out of range.

J. A. Frushour, who runs a hardware store adjacent to the bank at the west, had just entered the back door of his place of business when he heard the shots and looked out in time to see the woman drive up in the car and the gun men retreat. He said he believed that had he been in the yard when the robbers came out of the bank that he would have been killed. He also said if he had had a gun he could have killed one of them.

That the bandits had been in Lucerne Thursday to look over the situation was testified by several persons including Mrs. Roscoe Hensell, who said she saw the men twice the day before in the same car they used in making their escape. George Witters and Mrs. Elsie Hoover also said they saw the car and bandits Thursday.

The license number of the Ford was 625-096, it was issued at Green castle, Ind., to Carl Porter of Waveland.

Bandits Arrived Early. How long the bandit car was in Lucerne Friday morning is a matter for conjecture but Elsworth Hoover saw it parked in front of his home with the two women in it at 7 o'clock. Ura Witters verified this. At first the car was parked directly in front of the Hoover home. It was moved slowly until it was right along side the Witters home. The women drove from this point when they heard the shots. When Hoover went to work he spoke to them. At the sound of the third shot, said Harry Thomas, who lives near the bank, a big dark-colored sedan roared through Lucerne, going west. Others saw the vehicle, too, but all agreed that it was going at such terrific speed they were unable to ascertain its make or even give a good description of it or the driver.

Those who saw the bandits leave town were alike in their stories that the women did a large part of the shooting and probably all of it during the parting fusillade.

Find Fourteen Shells. Fourteen shells were picked up from the street in front of the Christian church. Five or six were found on the floor of the bank and DeWitt Stuart gathered up nine, one of which was unexploded, on the premises in back of the bank.

Sheriff Stonebraker and Gols Thomason of the police department examined the shells and said they believed they were from high powered rifles and not from machine guns as Lucerne citizens believed (See Page 1 for No. 3)

Inflation-Farm Bill Signed By President

WASHINGTON, May 12.—(UP)—A plea that all persons having financial claims upon farmers refrain from foreclosure proceedings until the new farm relief act can become effective was made today by President Roosevelt as he signed the unprecedented currency and agricultural aid measure.

The president appealed for patience on the part of all mortgage creditors.

His statement, issued as he signed the momentous document which combines currency inflation authorization as well as a revolutionary program for aid to the farmers, was considered a direct answer to those who have appealed for a farm mortgage moratorium during the present farm crisis.

The bill becomes effective immediately. Mr. Roosevelt said that the mortgage refinancing section of the act could not become effective instantly, however, since it needed considerable book work.

"I urge upon mortgage creditors, therefore," he said, "until further opportunity has been given to make effective provisions of the mortgage refinancing section of the farm relief act, that they abstain from bringing foreclosure proceedings and making any effort to dispossess farmers who are in debt to them."

"This," the president concluded, "is in line both with public duty and private interests."