



MERRY CHRISTMAS



PERRY B. EWING KILLED

Former Resident of Davis City was Crushed to Death in Santa Fe Yards at Chanute, Kansas.

Many old time friends in Decatur county will be pained to hear of the death of Perry B. Ewing, a former well known resident of Davis City, who was killed in the Santa Fe railroad yards at Chanute, Kansas, on Wednesday night, Dec. 7th.

Life was crushed from the body of Perry B. Ewing, a switchman, in the Santa Fe railroad yards here last night, when he was caught between two oil tank cars. When the recoil of the cars came Mr. Ewing was able to pull himself from between them and dropped to the cinder path beside the rails.

Engineer E. M. Bedell and Fireman H. E. Jacobs, on the switch engine heard the groans of the injured man and Mr. Jacobs left the engine to investigate. He found Mr. Ewing helpless, but not unconscious. An ambulance was called and he was taken immediately to a hospital where he died at 4 o'clock this morning.

It is not known just how Mr. Ewing met his death. He was a large man and it is thought he was caught between the projecting platforms of the tank cars which, when coupled, are closer together than box cars or coal cars.

Perry Byron Ewing was born in Sycamore, DeKalb county, Illinois, August 10, 1880. When he was quite small the family moved to Davis City, Iowa, where he grew to manhood. At the age of 18 he went to Chicago, entering the employ of the Chicago Great Western railroad as brakeman, being promoted later to conductor.

He was fatally injured while on duty in the yards here about 10:40 o'clock, Wednesday night, December 7, 1915, living only five hours. He retained consciousness until a few moments before death, conversing with his relatives and fellow employees.

The funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church Saturday afternoon, December 11, 1915, at 3 o'clock, conducted by Rev. Charles A. Wilson. The services at the grave were conducted by the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

Mrs. Mary Rains, one of the old and well known residents of Decatur county, residing near Davis City, died on last Wednesday morning, having been a sufferer from dropsy for many years.

Strawberries in December. Simon Goodman, of north Church street, brought to The Reporter office yesterday a good sized strawberry picked from his vines that morning.

Jurors for January Court.

The new grand jurors for the year 1916 and the trial jury for the January term of the district court which will convene at Leon on Monday, Jan. 25, 1916 with Judge H. K. Evans presiding, were drawn Monday, the list being as follows:

- GRAND JURY: F. A. Townsend, Leon. A. J. Owens, Long Creek. W. D. Robinson, Eden. H. A. Tapscott, Fayette. Geo. M. Stephens, Burrell. C. E. Roe, Garden Grove. M. F. Potter, Hamilton. C. P. Bartlett, High Point. C. H. Fisher, Franklin. J. B. Redman, Decatur. P. C. Morgan, Center. T. E. Cummings, New Buda. TRIAL JURORS: Floyd Richardson, Fayette. Arthur Phelps, Morgan. W. F. Tenny, Burrell. James Cole, Richland. W. E. Lee, New Buda. L. W. Roush, Burrell. G. F. Henderson, Burrell. Newt Finkbone, Decatur. J. E. Brammer, Richland. G. E. Westfall, Franklin. Alonzo Bright, Leon. John Komers, Fayette. L. T. Greenland, Richland. James Marvin, Eden. Lewis Stephens, Bloomington. S. G. Overholzer, Franklin. E. S. Payton, Bloomington. W. A. Hill, New Buda. J. T. Harris, Leon. T. S. Arnold, Leon. Isaac Gatton, Leon. J. T. Brooks, Long Creek. L. E. Reed, Long Creek. Frank Daily, Richland.

145,024 Autos Registered in Iowa During This Year.

The registration of autos for 1915 closed Tuesday in the office of W. S. Allen, secretary of state at Des Moines, and no license fee will be required for this year for purchasers of new cars for the balance of this year. The total number of cars registered during the year was 145,024, the highest license number issued being 152,024, but it is necessary to deduct 7,000 from this number as the first 7,000 numbers were reserved for motorcycles.

New Court Cases.

L. E. Francis vs. N. P. West et al. Suit is brought on eleven promissory notes on which plaintiff asks judgment for the sum of \$6,000 and that a writ of attachment issue against the property of defendants. L. E. Francis and V. R. McGinnis, attorneys for plaintiff. Since filing the petition this case has been dismissed.

Children Set House on Fire.

There came near being a holocaust at the home of Alfred Brown, a farmer residing near Decatur City, last Thursday. Mrs. Brown went to a neighbor's on an errand, leaving her two small children in the house. Mr. Brown was chopping wood some little distance from the house and happened to glance toward the house and saw smoke pouring out of it. He rushed to the house and found that the children had been playing with matches and had dropped one in the wood box which was set on fire and was blazing up in good shape.

Received a Hard Fall.

Ex-county auditor Charles P. Shaffner, of Burrell township, is laid up at his home on account of a bad fall which he received at his home last Thursday morning. Mr. Shaffner slipped and fell on the cement walk at his home and was painfully bruised and sprained, being confined to his room by his injuries which are very painful.

The Leon Savings Bank is preparing to make some good farm loans at reasonable rates.

SIMPSON COLLEGE WON

In Struggle to Secure Endowment of \$300,000 a Total of \$306,000 Having Been Pledged.

Indianola, Iowa, Dec. 21.—Special: All Indianola was given over to a celebration tonight when it was learned that all of the \$300,000 endowment sought by Simpson College had been raised. In fact more than the sum desired was contributed, the total reaching \$306,000.

A watch meeting at which the bulk of Indianola's residents gathered, received the final returns on the endowment. The meeting was held at the Methodist church and three telephones installed in the church brought the welcome news. It was scarcely 7 o'clock this evening when the tally clerks shouted that the three hundred thousand mark had been passed. An outburst of cheers greeted the announcement.

Immediately after the result had become known bonfires were lighted and all the church bells rang. Churches and residents of other than the Methodist denomination joined in the rejoicing.

Indiana, by an eleventh hour effort, raised \$6,000, bringing the total given by the residents of the town to \$76,000. Denison has the honor of being the next largest contributor with well over \$7,000. The Methodist church at Denison and Grace church of Des Moines led the individual churches in the contributions with nearly \$7,000.

The Des Moines district was much the largest contributor with the Creston district second and the Council Bluffs district third.

The campaign for the endowment consumed slightly more than three months. The final date for the raising of the fund was set for midnight tonight when the campaign was inaugurated. While there was no obligation contingent upon the raising of the fund by that hour, it was felt by those backing the enterprise that they were morally bound to secure it by that time as donations were received on the understanding it would be.

All the leaders of the Methodist church in Iowa contributed their active assistance to the endowment campaign and Dr. John W. Hancher, secretary of the national board of education of the Methodist Episcopal church, lent his aid. Dr. Hancher termed the campaign the most successful effort of the sort he had seen in his experience with educational affairs of the church.

The money raised through the endowment will become a permanent school fund to meet the current expenses of the institution. It will be lent largely upon Iowa land and secured by first mortgages. The securing of this fund will enable the college to undertake a number of educational enterprises that it had hitherto been reluctant or unable to attempt because of lack of funds. The raising of the money, it was declared by officials of the college, insures an educational institution of the first rank and will place Simpson among the leading schools under the supervision of the Methodist Episcopal church.

It is probable that a move will soon be started to secure an additional \$100,000 for a new central building at the college. No active campaign will be made for this particular sum but the need of it will be called to the attention of the various Methodist churches in the state.

For Sale—One of the most desirable residence lots in northwest Leon. Will be sold at a very low price. See F. S. Stewart at the Big Furniture and Rug Store.

Leon Library is Made Depository of The State Historical Society.

The Public Library of Leon has been designated as an official depository for the publications of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Accordingly, this library will receive all of the publications of the Society as issued. An official depository, the public library of Leon will acquire a large collection of books and pamphlets on the history of Iowa for permanent preservation. Indeed, with such recognition and encouragement from the State Society, this library should become a center for the collection of materials on all phases of local history. Thus the materials of state and local history will be made accessible to every citizen of this community.

The State Historical Society of Iowa, which is one of the oldest of our state institutions, was organized in 1857 and is located at Iowa City. It is now perhaps the leading state society for historical research and publication in the United States.

Big Boxing Match Next Wednesday Evening.

Frank L. Carr, the well known manager and trainer of boxers and wrestlers, with headquarters at Peoria, Illinois, will stage a first class boxing match at the opera house in Leon on Wednesday evening, December 29th, when a rattling boxing match will be given by Midge Tierney, the Boston bantam weight, champion of the south, and Buck Timothy, a promising young boxer of Davenport, and no doubt many of the lovers of scientific boxing will be in attendance.

Manager Carr is an old time Leon boy and will be better remembered as little "Jap" Carr. He is recognized as one of the cleanest managers in the game and gives his personal guarantee that the exhibition in this city will be one well worthy of your patronage.

A Dandy Good Show.

The best show which has been in Leon for a long time was that of W. B. Patton in "The Good Samaritan" at the opera house in this city last Friday, and those who stayed away missed a dandy good show. Mr. Patton is an original comedian, the play was new and he was supported by an excellent cast. Manager Stuber has adopted the rule of not giving his personal guarantee to any attraction unless he knows it to be first class, and the patrons of the opera house can depend on seeing a good show when he makes his personal guarantee. Mr. Stuber has had the stoves at the opera house repaired and has added a new stove, so that the house will be well heated, regardless of the weather in the future.

Send in the Names of Golden Wedding Couples.

Several names have been received in response to our invitation to send The Reporter the names of every couple living in Decatur county who have been married fifty years. Next week we will publish the names of all those we can secure. We want the names, date of marriage, and address of every couple in Decatur county who have been married fifty years. If you know of any won't you please phone us their names or send them to us in a letter. It will make a pretty interesting list when completed and we don't want to miss any couple in all Decatur county.

Farm For Sale.

My farm known as the Randolph Perdue land east of Leon, fine land, well improved, good system water works. Liberal terms to right man. L. P. VanVerden.

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

Items Taken from the Files of The Reporter Published a Quarter of a Century Ago.

Dr. H. C. VanVerden had his parrot up at the drug store Saturday and Polly, perched on the frame of the awning, amused many of the people from the country with his string of talk.

The following marriage licenses have been issued the past week: Erastus O. Johnson 22 to Nellie W. Warren 16.

George Hoffman 31 to Sarah C. Stone 31. Andrew G. Scott 56 to Mrs. Allie Walker 36.

Cleora Standish 39 to Maggie Campbell 31. Fred Close was sitting by the stove in their parlor the other evening when he was treated to a little circus. They burn hard coal in a big heating stove, and all at once there was an explosion in the stove, pipe and flue. The trimmings and doors of the stove were blown off, the pipe which was wired was unjointed, and the brick chimney which is built from the ground had one side blown out of it.

The room was filled with very fine dust, making things look as if flour had been sifted over them. It is supposed that the explosion was caused by gas which the hard coal had generated.

Many persons do not seem to realize that they will commit a crime if they mail a letter to a lottery company. We understand a letter addressed to the Louisiana Lottery was recently mailed at Weldon, and was forwarded to the department at Washington by the postmaster to be investigated, and no doubt the sender will hear from it in a disagreeable manner.

Hiram Peck, of Morgan township, was badly injured last week by his team running away with him. He sustained a fracture of one arm, and was badly bruised and sprained in portions of his body.

Mrs. J. P. Hall, of Denver, Colorado, will arrive in Leon today for a visit with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. A. McClelland.

Sheriff G. W. LaFollette attended the meeting of the Iowa Sheriffs' Association at Des Moines last week. Mrs. Olive Carey who has been visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Detrick, left yesterday for her home at Seymour.

Misses Nellie and Georgia Post, daughters of Judge A. M. Post, of Columbus, Neb., are visiting at the home of their aunt, Mrs. H. R. Layton, in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Whetstone, sister of Mrs. M. E. Avery and Mrs. S. A. Gates, were visiting here the latter part of last week. Mrs. A. F. Anderson, of Lawrence, Kansas, a sister of Mr. F. N. Avery, is also visiting at the Avery home.

Creb Bobbitt is at Afton, where he is employed as engineer at the electric light works.

Will F. Kelley, of Colorado, is visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Kelley, at Blockley.

Miss Dollie Arney, of Fairview, entertained a number of friends in honor of her eighteenth birthday. F. T. McKibben, of High Point, fell and broke his arm.

Change on Garden Grove and Woodland Rural Route.

A change was made in the route of mail carrier John Duffield, who carries the rural route running from Garden Grove to Woodland. At the southwest corner of the route, instead of going straight south to the Leon and Woodland road, the route now turns west at the Lockwood corner a mile north of the Leon road and runs a mile west to K. P. Baker's corner, then south to the Leon road. About ten additional families are served by this change.

Land Prices Sure Advancing.

Chas. Brant purchased of Lew Chase 40 acres of unimproved land for the consideration of \$125.00 per acre. Mr. Chase bought this land eight years ago for \$54.00 per acre from Geo. King of Humeaton. It is rich low land however being a part of what is known as the McKibben pasture. It joins the Brant farm making him one of the best farms in High Point township.—G a r d e n Grove Express.

Marriage Licenses.

- W. A. Fisher, Weldon . . . . . 28
- Jane Haskell, Weldon . . . . . 20
- Wm. L. Adams, Grand River . . . 41
- Huldah Emley, Grand River . . . 33
- Floyd E. Boyer, Humeaton . . . . 24
- Legga Rush, Humeaton . . . . . 20
- Frank W. Miller, Decatur . . . . . 21
- Edith J. Feeler, Decatur . . . . . 16
- Grover C. Covington, Leon . . . . 31
- Lizzie Ellis, Leon . . . . . 29
- John A. Wright, Lamoni . . . . . 22
- Ether Edgington, Lamoni . . . . . 18

A. M. Pryor Talks of Decatur County Farm Lands.

Last Friday's Register and Leader contained the following interview with A. M. Pryor, the Leon real estate man, who was in Des Moines closing up another real estate deal:

A. M. Pryor, who is associated with Keller & Robertson of Leon, in the real estate business, was in Des Moines yesterday and reported that they had just concluded a total of \$242,000 in Decatur county land sales within a period of ten days.

"More than \$250,000 in sales of Decatur county land have been effected within the last thirty days," said Mr. Pryor. "We have just completed a total of \$242,000 in the last ten days. Decatur county is coming into its own. Northern Iowa people are beginning to understand that our land is about the best in the state.

"Many years ago when we were a settled country and northern Iowa was unsettled land men in Des Moines and other cities told settlers that they ought to buy in the north because our country had hardpan in it. That story still circulates and is the most absurd fake that ever was perpetrated.

"Our soil is good 300 feet down as shown by well borings, and besides that it is flavored with decomposed lime in sections, and that gives us our splendid crops of corn.

"Take it this year, for instance. Our land produced good corn. Most of it matured and I have seen it sell at \$25 to \$35 an acre as it stands. Our blue grass and clover fields will keep all the stock all winter if the snow is not too deep.

"The fact is that Decatur county is the garden spot of Iowa. The land there is selling from \$85 to \$135 an acre, only, and that is too low. But it has been going up in fine shape as fast as the people come to understand that it is as good as any in the state."

Mr. Pryor has lived in Decatur county for sixty-two years. That is, he will have lived there that long on his birthday anniversary next Monday. He and C. W. Hoffman office together and each is 62, but neither of them looks anywhere near it.

"Nobody looks his age down in Decatur county," said Mr. Pryor. "It is too healthful to let anybody get old. And everybody down there is good natured, which helps. Take Leon, for instance. There isn't a city in the west that has more progress and more genuine fraternal spirit than Leon. And there isn't a town in Iowa that takes more copies of the Register, I believe. Possibly that helps, too.

"Advertise? Of course we advertise our lands in the Register. We couldn't do without it for every advertisement I put in the want columns always brings dozens of answers from prospective purchasers." (Mr. Pryor requests us to correct the statement that our soil is 300 feet deep. What he told the Register and Leader reporter was that it was 300 feet down to the solid formation and that our soil was good and deep.)

A Christmas Cantata.

There was a good attendance at the Christmas Cantata, "Noel," presented at the assembly room of the Leon High School on Tuesday evening by the pupils under the direction of Miss Mida Bradley, the music instructor of the schools, the receipts being about \$21.00. Those who attended were very pleasantly entertained, all acquitting themselves with credit. The following was the program:

- Music, High School orchestra.
- Reading, Helen Jones.
- Pastorale, instrumental, Alma Kinblade.
- Chorus, "Wake, Wake."
- Recitative, soprano, "And in the Sixth Month," Freda Ferren.
- Double quartet, "Fear Not, Mary," Freda Ferren, Marjorie Sauair, Mabel Stover, LaNelle Mullinix, Gerald Hamilton, Mike Grogan, Bruce Townsend, Forest Hagan.
- Solo, "The Holy Ghost Shall Come Upon Thee," Gerald Hamilton.
- Carol, "O'er the Distant Mountains," chorus.
- Solo, "My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord," Helen Gammill.
- Chorus, "Gloria."
- Recitative, "bass, "And Joseph Went up from Galilee," John Gates.
- Solo, "Once in David's City," Joe Keshler.
- Carol, "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."
- Trio, "And There Were Shepherds."
- Chorus, "And Lo the Angel of the Lord."
- Chorus, "Glory to God."
- Solo, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."
- Chorus, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

Order cut flowers and floral designs from G. E. Hull, local agent of Leader of Des Moines, at The Reporter office. Orders sent by phone or mail, but order as early as possible.

DEATH OF A YEAR OF DEATH.

Since the time of the third century Christmas has been celebrated as a day of joy in honor of the birth of Christ, our only perfect man.

It has ever been our policy to speak of Christmas in tones of gentleness, and love, and compassion, and humility; in words of praise and thankfulness for the blessings of the year that would soon pass into history.

Now we approach the glorious Christmas day with feelings of sorrow, and sadness, and regret, for we are soon to witness the death of a year of death.

Today, when we should revel in the joy of living, we are consumed with compassion for our brothers who are perishing in the blood soaked trenches of Europe.

We are weighed down with sorrow for the unfortunate women and children who must bear the burdens of the greatest and most destructive human blight the world has ever known.

Our hearts are saddened with regret that the meek and gentle spirit of the Nazarine is forgotten in a wild and bloody carnage and death and destruction.

Nineteen hundred and fifteen, a year of death, will soon reach its own fitting end—in death. There comes a time in the life of every person when neither tongue nor pen can express the language of the heart. It is so with us as we write of this Christmas day. Our face should be turned toward the Christ; yet in our vision we see the crimson stained fields of Europe, the famine ridden land of Mexico, the dying race of the Christian Armenians, on every hand the grim and terrible spectre of harsh, violent, sudden and agonizing death. Death of a year of death! Farewell, 1915! May we never see your like again!