

NEWS NOTES FROM FOUR COUNTIES

ALLEN COUNTY

Sewing Center Closed By Surplus

Over-production of garments on Lima's WPA sewing project Thursday resulted in an announcement from William B. Schmuhl, district WPA director from Toledo, that the project will be closed down indefinitely.

Closing of the project, which will result in dismissal of 131 women workers, followed a personal investigation by Schmuhl.

It was found that the project workers have made enough garments, which are given to needy and relief people thru the city, to last for at least two months. This surplus was built up thru efficient operation of the project, Schmuhl said.

Police Radio Power May Be Boosted

Mayor Frank McClain is awaiting approval of the Allen County commissioners for a formal application to the Federal Communications Commission for authority to increase the power of Lima's police radio station at a cost of \$11,000 to the city and county. City council has sanctioned the proposal which would enable the station to provide emergency service to surrounding communities and improve communication facilities with the Ohio Highway Patrol station at Findlay.

Hen Lays Four-Ounce Eggs

An eight-pound pullet on the farm of George F. Boyer, near Lima, deserves some sort of a title. Every second day for two months the chicken has laid eggs which weighed one-quarter pound.

FBI Seeks Fake Factory Exploiter

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken over the case of the man who was in Delphos last week representing himself as wanting to obtain a site for a hinge factory and foundry. He is wanted in New York for bank robbery, according to FBI agents. The man was shown several potential factory sites by public-spirited citizens.

Before coming to Delphos, the impostor was in Dundee, Mich., and it was there that his identity was revealed by a Detroit FBI agent who took fingerprints of a drinking glass used by the man in a Dundee restaurant.

New Oil Line Under Construction

Construction of a new 12-inch crude oil pipe line from Hagerstown, Ind., to Lima, Ohio, will be started at Lima this week, the Standard Oil company, of Ohio, announced. The new line will connect with the line from Stoy, Ill., to Hagerstown, Ind., and will enter Lima from the southwest, connecting there with the Sohio refinery and the Buckeye Pipe Line tank farm.

Two Old Bridges To Be Replaced

Allen County Commissioners announced last week their agreement to share equally with Van Wert County and the city of Delphos in construction of two new bridges across the old Miami and Erie canal in downtown Delphos at a cost of about \$7,000.

The present bridges, on Cleveland and Clime streets, have been called unsafe for heavy traffic for several years. The canal divides Delphos in half and forms the Allen-Van Wert County boundary.

Pheasants Are Imported

Chas. Croft, president of the Northwest Ohio Field and Stream Association, Spencerville, has received a shipment of 75 pheasants from the State Conservation Department.

In the shipment were four roosters and two hens of Black Mongolian pheasants.

The pheasants were released in the country around Spencerville.

Abandons 1927 Stolen Car For New One

Not content with a 1927 sedan which he had stolen from the 900 block of South Main street, a Lima auto thief abandoned it about 8:30 p. m. Tuesday and stole a coach which was nine years newer.

Police expressed opinion Wednesday that the "hard-to-please" thief is the same one who has stolen three other automobiles in the past week.

HOLC Borrowers May Gain

Allen County HOLC borrowers will be saved \$21,711 annually if congress approves a bill introduced by Sen. W. Warren Barbour (R) of New Jersey.

The bill calls for extension of time for repayment of HOLC loans, and reduction of interest rates on such loans from 4 1/2 to 3 per cent.

Pointing out total HOLC loans closed in Allen county equalled \$2,030,697 at the time the Home Owners' Loan Corp. stopped lending money in June, 1936, Barbour said repayments since that time by Allen county borrowers have totaled slightly over 20 per cent. This leaves a balance of about \$1,608,000 still due on Allen county loans.

Bus Drivers Get Pay Boost

Announcement was made last week that 36 bus drivers from the Lima City Lines, Inc., has received a three-cent per hour pay increase under a new agreement reached by company officials. The agreement also carries a week's vacation each year with pay.

Crash Injuries Fatal To Autoist

Robert Bishop, 26, Johnstown, Pa., an Ohio Power Co. lineman, died last Wednesday night of injuries suffered in a collision between two trucks on a snow covered highway five miles north of Lima.

Witnesses reported that Mr. Bishop's truck skidded into the path of the approaching vehicle. He died without regaining consciousness.

County Gets \$36,117 For Relief

Allen county's share in the \$4,472,975 distribution of public utility tax poor relief funds, announced Wednesday by State Auditor Joseph T. Ferguson, will be \$36,117.

The annual poor relief distribution represents an increase of \$319,212 over last year, Ferguson reported. The funds are to be used in 71 counties for retirement of poor relief bonds issued in 1935 and 1936, but in 17 counties—including Allen and Auglaize—which did not issue bonds in those years the money may be used for matching purposes and current welfare needs.

To Start On \$272,000 Road Program

A force of 100 Lima and Allen county men will start work about April 1 on a \$272,000 highway project calling for relocation of Route 30 in the vicinity of Delphos. This announcement was made Thursday by O. C. Kohli, Lima, division engineer of the state highway department.

Bids on the improvement, 5.72 miles in length, will be received at Columbus Friday. The project includes a new pavement, roadway, roadside improvements, detours and structural work.

Frightened By Lightning, Woman Dies

A flash of lightning during Saturday's freak winter storm induced a heart attack which claimed the life of a 59-year-old woman.

The victim was Mrs. Grace Leona Mann, of Lima Route 1, who fell unconscious as lightning flashed while she was working in a Lima cafe operated by her brother, Earl Spees.

Durbin May Enter Senate Race

Atty. Francis W. Durbin, chairman of the Allen County Democratic executive committee, Saturday announced he is "considering very seriously" getting into the Democratic senatorial race left wide open by U. S. Senator A. Vic Donahey's decision to retire from office.

He said he would make a decision the first of the week.

Finds Son After 22 Years

Twenty-year-old Challis Weirman of Lima, and his father, William Wallace of Kenton, met for the first time in a Lima restaurant recently, the father still bewildered by the discovery that his son had not died in infancy as he had believed.

The youth, adopted when a baby by Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Weirman, learned only two years ago that he was an adopted child, and started a search for his parents. He knew he had been born in Foraker, Hardin county. A check of families named Wallace in Kenton, finally led him to his father. The father could give no information as to the whereabouts of the mother.

The youth was born after his par-

ents became estranged and while Mr. Wallace was serving in the U. S. Army.

March 20 Tax Deadline

A reminder that March 20 is the deadline for payment of first-half 1939 real estate taxes without penalty was issued Saturday by Allen county Treasurer Byron H. Dershem. Realty tax collections Saturday amounted to \$3,344.86, bringing the total for the week to \$49,416.42 and for the collection to date \$496,567.27, Dershem reported.

A total of \$612.52 in sales tax stamps was sold Saturday; and \$3,049.54 in personal and \$1,898.67 in classified property taxes was collected during the week.

Vertner Seeks County Nomination

Stanley M. Vertner, widely known Beaverdam contractor and mayor of that village, Saturday announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for recorder of Allen county.

Vertner has had considerable experience in public affairs. He was a trustee of Richland township for many years and for 16 years was clerk of the school board. He has engaged in several successful businesses and for several years has been operating as a contractor and drainage engineer.

A graduate of Bluffton High school and Ohio Northern university, Vertner is married and has two children.

Bible Helps Identify Mishap Victim

A Bible from the Lima Rescue Mission helped officials identify a hitchhiker killed by an automobile near London early one day last week as Taylor Holland, about 60.

It was written in the Bible, found in the victim's pocket, that it had been presented to him by Rev. A. D. Welty of Lima.

When notified of the accident, Rev. Welty said Holland had visited the mission several days ago and had asked for a copy of the New Testament. He did not tell Welty where he was from of his destination.

Lima High In Business Gain

Lima again took the business spotlight Friday as the Forbes survey for March 1, placed the city among the first 10 in the nation for favorable comparison with general conditions of a year ago. Lima was ninth.

Leading the last was Minneapolis, followed in order by Toledo, Berkeley, Calif., Lansing, Mich., Birmingham, N. Y., Mobile, Ala., Topeka, Kansas, Chester, Pa., Lima and Bloomington, Ill.

Income Tax Due March 15

Some 350 Lima and Allen county public employees will be obliged to dig down in their pockets and pay federal income taxes before the deadline falls March 15.

Under the new provisions, which become effective with the calendar year of 1939, every single person, or married person not living with husband or wife, is required to file an income tax return, if their income amounts to \$1,000 or more for the calendar year.

Existing income tax laws provide that every married person, or in the case of husband and wife whose combined income totals \$2,500 or more during the calendar year, is also required to file an income tax return.

Divorce Actions Are Parallel

Cases of marital discord run in pairs, judging by records in Allen county common pleas court.

A wife and a husband were granted divorces Friday by Judge Neal L. Lora, and a wife and a husband filed new suits.

The wife who was granted a divorce was ordered restored to her former name of Florence Shafer, and the wife who seeks a similar decree asks to be restored to her maiden name of—Florence Shafer.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Fakes Official; Lands In Jail

Cloyce Conine, 27, of Norwalk, said by authorities to have impersonated a justice of the peace, was held in the Findlay jail last week in default of payment of a \$100 fine imposed for reckless driving.

The reckless driving charge was filed by George Rader of Oakwood, who told the court Conine forced his automobile off the highway, stopped Rader, and told him he was

an officer. Rader quoted him as saying: "Do you want to settle now or go back to Findlay?"

Rader and his wife testified that Conine chased their automobile when they tried to get away. He allegedly rammed the rear of their car and forced them to stop again. Rader said he turned into a driveway west of Findlay and telephoned Conine's license number to the state highway patrol.

Hit By Two Autos, Unhurt

Earl Kirkendall, 21, of Findlay, was apparently little hurt last week when he was struck first by a taxi and then a private automobile as he crossed Main street at Center street.

Police said he was walking across the street and that he was struck first by a Home Cab driven by Paul Thomas, 22, and then by an automobile operated by Theodore Palmer, 32.

Ohio Oil Declares Dividend

The board of directors of the Ohio Oil Co. last week declared the regular quarterly dividend of \$1.50 per share on preferred stock of the company, payable March 15 to stockholders of record March 5.

485 On WPA In County

Employment strength on WPA rolls in Hancock county numbers 485 persons, both men and women, according to figures announced by Mrs. Jane Fronefield, county director.

She said that in contrast to many Ohio counties who have many of their waiting lists, this county has few, if any, who are eligible, who are not employed on various projects here.

New \$50,000 Van Buren Park Approved

Plans for the construction of a new park at Van Buren, Ohio, and the improvement of Riverside Park in Findlay, Ohio, were announced last week.

William B. Schmuhl, Toledo District WPA Manager, said the Van Buren State Park will become a reality this summer and should be open for visitors about July 1. He said the WPA will spend \$24,878 and the State Bureau of Conservation \$25,403 to improve the park area and a lake along Rocky Ford Creek for public recreational use. Fish shelters also will be erected.

At Findlay, Mr. Schmuhl said, the WPA will spend \$35,089 and the city \$32,421 for the construction of 11 picnic shelters, sidewalks, roads, a retaining wall along the Blanchard River, concession buildings, sewers, a poolroom and bowling alley, and other improvements in Riverside Park.

\$169,936 Paid To AAA Signers

One hundred and forty-five more AAA checks amounting to \$15,068.42 were received Wednesday by the Hancock county agricultural conservation committee. Chairman R. M. Traucht said.

The checks representing the fifth group received here, bring to \$169,936.31 the amount paid Hancock county farmers in benefits on the 1939 program. A total of 1,664 checks have now been received with still a 100 more to be issued.

Bank Robber Is Paroled

Abbey Fleming, who was sentenced to the Ohio penitentiary in January, 1930, for robbery of the old Vanlue Banking Co., was given a parole, effective April 15, it was learned here this week.

Fleming, whose home was in Fostoria, and Arthur Burkhardt, of Upper Sandusky, were sentenced to 25 years each by Judge George Schofield, of Marion.

Fashions Donald Duck In Snow

Dr. Maurice Kirsten, Findlay dentist and sculptor, fashioned an effigy of Donald Duck, famous Walt Disney character, out of snow in his front yard last week.

Cooperative Shows \$3,933 Profit

Experiencing its best year in the six years of its existence, the Hancock County Farm Bureau Cooperative has announced total sales during 1939 at \$176,806.46 for a net profit of \$3,933.98. John C. Burkhardt is manager of the organization.

A six per cent dividend amounting to \$1,003.80 was paid on common and preferred stock and another one and a half per cent dividend totaling \$2,850.09 was paid on patronage.

County Gets \$22,560 From State

Hancock county shared to the extent of \$22,560 in the distribution of \$4,472,975 in one per cent utility tax

poor relief funds and 65-100 per cent public utility tax funds, as provided for under house bill 501 and senate bill 462 respectively, announced Tuesday by State Auditor Joseph T. Ferguson.

By counties, with the funds released under senate bill 462 listed first, the distribution included: Hancock, \$11,117 and \$11,443; Allen, \$16,322 and \$19,795; Putnam \$6,057 and \$7,524.

Letter Describes War Overseas

First-hand information on the European war in which Germany is involved, is contained in a letter received by Mrs. Mary Traucht of Findlay, from a sister, Mrs. Catherine Shumacher, of Bach, Luxemburg.

Mrs. Shumacher lives only a short distance from the German border and wrote that she could hear the roar of cannons and that hand grenades and bullets landed so close to the Shumacher home the family was almost afraid to venture outside. She said her countrymen fear the Germans will come over and take possession of the country.

Mumps Has Perfect Score

One hundred per cent through! That is the record the mumps have in the Chester Fast household near North Baltimore. Mrs. Fast, the fifth and only member of the family to escape the ailment in the past ten weeks, now has it.

The Fasts are not bragging of the record Mr. Mump has brought to them, since at least 10 weeks will have been "taken out" by the family to get over the ailment.

No Leap Day Marriage In County

Not one prospective bridegroom took advantage of February 29 this year, according to Probate Judge Paul R. Capell of Hancock county. He said that couples with matrimony in mind either forgot all about it or they were just afraid they would never be able to stay married 200 years so they could celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Held For Stealing Chickens From Employer

Ray Sullivan, 37, employed on the Raymond Wiler farm south of the Findlay airport, was arrested Thursday at a Clinton court address by Officer Homer Johnston of the police department, on a charge of stealing chickens from his employer.

Police Chief Leo M. Larkins in a checkup of his Bertillon record learned that he served 13 months in the Ohio penitentiary in 1922 for the theft of an automobile in this county. He originally came to these parts from Providence, R. I.

Four Violent Deaths In County

Births, with 49, led deaths in Findlay and Hancock county for January, according to the report of Miss Edith Houseman, registrar of vital statistics for Findlay, and Dr. S. F. Whisler, county health commissioner.

Of the 36 deaths in the county, four were of a violent nature. On Jan. 16, Charles W. Lent, 59, of Toledo, became Findlay's and Hancock county's first traffic victim when his auto crashed into a train at a crossing here. He died from a fractured skull.

The second fatality was recorded the next day when an auto in which five youths were riding to a basketball game, skidded from the icy highway killing one of the boys, Harry Lauck, 15, of Mt. Blanchard. Two men died from gunshot wounds.

Bear Is Sought Near Findlay

Farmers and CCC workers between Fostoria and Findlay are wondering what has happened to the bear that made the tracks along Muskelunge creek during the past week.

Frank Firestone and Walter Frost, foremen in CCC camp here, returned to work on a project recently with details of enrollees after having been in camp since Monday due to snow and bad weather.

They found the tracks and farmers nearby told them the tracks first were noticed Wednesday. They were larger than a man's hand and obviously were made by a heavy animal due to the depth they were pressed into the snow. The tracks were followed along the creek, then across a bridge and further along the stream until they were lost in the water and slush.

Two enrollees, Ed Barger and Robert Hadding, who formerly were in camps in the Rocky mountains, Barger in Montana and Hadding in Idaho, also were sure the tracks were those of a bear. They said they had seen many of them out west.

\$7,500 Jewelry Theft In Findlay

J. Frank Kissick, Massillon, Ohio, a salesman for a Chicago company, reported to police that thieves stole jewelry valued at from \$7,500 to \$10,000 from an automobile which he parked in a street in Findlay last week while he made a call. A ventilator window of the car had been pried open, police said.

Cannonsburg Now Part Of Farm

Harry Thompson, a Union township farmer, believes he has more road fence to maintain according to his acres than any other man in his

township. With a farm of 160 acres, he has two miles of fence along roadsides to keep up. His farm is 80 rods wide and one mile long. It is intersected by a road cutting it in the middle and here is a half mile of road. It faces a road for one mile on the west and another 80 rods on the north end of the area and still another 80 rods at the south end.

Part of Cannonsburg was platted on Mr. Thompson's land and the last brick block to be torn down a quarter of a century ago stood on the west side of this farm. The old post office building still stands, sagging and sorrowful looking, on ground once part of the farm owned by Thompson. The Cannonsburg school house occupied an acre in the northwest corner and the United Presbyterian church is still sunning itself in a nook in one of his fields.

Boy Is Caught In Turntable

Eugene Bauer, 7, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bauer, suffered a fractured pelvis and internal injuries while playing at the Baltimore & Ohio turntable in Findlay.

The lad became wedged between moving parts of the turntable when he fell into the pit. His playmates were unable to extricate him from the device and he was hurt seriously before adult aid arrived.

HARDIN COUNTY

Re-forestation Program Under Way

More than 100,000 trees will be planted in Hardin county this year in renewal of a drive for restoration of forests, and control of erosion.

J. H. Allen, Jr., owner of a farm west of Kenton, is seeking 26,000 trees to place on his farm, while several other farmers have requested an additional 75,000 trees of the Ohio forestry service, County Agent B. E. Bradford said.

Schools In Debt \$660,585

Bonded indebtedness of Hardin county and taxing subdistricts totaled \$799,250.45 at the start of 1940, it was revealed by County Auditor W. B. Wilson, who said that schools led the way in debts with \$660,585.45.

Two WPA Workers Injured

Two persons were injured while at work on relief projects in Hardin county last week.

Victor McCann of Dunkirk, a WPA employe on a project three and a half miles southwest of Kenton on Route 67, suffered a fractured shoulder and ruptured muscle, when a derrick, used in raising a large tile, broken and struck him (Continued on page 6)

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