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THE SENTINEL-LEADER

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ONE OF MICHIGAN'S MOST PLEASANT AND PROSPEROUS AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES

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VOLUME 61—ESTABLISHED 1876 | SPARTA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1937 | Number 12

Rotarians of Belding Support Local Club

Interest toward the organization of a Rotary Club in Sparta went skyward at the regular meeting last Monday evening which was held at Brown's restaurant occasioned by the presence of 17 members of the Belding Rotary Club, sponsors of the local club.

Announcement was made at the meeting by E. K. Lane, temporary secretary, that the Sparta Rotary Club was admitted to membership in Rotary International on March 19 as Club Number 4183. It was also stated that Monday night, April 19, had been designated as "Charter Night" when it is expected that at least 200 visiting Rotarians from all sections of Western Michigan and Canada will be present to felicitate this newest member of their group. Clifford J. Lonnee was appointed chairman of arrangements for this meeting which he states will be held at the Masonic Temple. O. E. Balyeat was assigned the task of registering this large number of guests when they assemble for the banquet.

The entire program for "Charter Night" will be in charge of the District Governor Frank C. Barnes of Manistee and officers and members of the Belding Rotary Club and promises to be one of the high-lights of recent social activities in Sparta.

Floyd W. Cone, past president of the Belding Club, and well known attorney was the guest speaker at last Monday evening's meeting and discussed "The Influence of Rotary" in its many phases. "In Rotary," he said, "we have built a great international machine, and we are making use of it in the simple way of developing acquaintance, friendship and confidence. Visualize if you will the Rotary Clubs in those great international cities like Shanghai, Hongkong, Cairo, Jerusalem and Calcutta, where men of many nationalities and different religious faiths meet about the Rotary board each week and come to understand each other and see what Rotary is accomplishing."

Belding Rotarians present at the meeting included Ralph Shepard, Floyd Cone, Dick Wilson, Art Johnson, Guy Weter, Peter VandenBoss, Russ Fink, George Ruddness, George Wagner, Bruce Fales, Mert Smith, E. C. Lloyd, Hubert Englemann, Charles Cook, E. V. McNally, Clint Kern and Vance Loyer.

WEALTHY BAPTIST CHURCH TO PRESENT CANTATA FRIDAY

The combined choirs of 65 voices of the Wealthy St. Baptist Temple will render the sacred cantata "Olivet to Calvary" by Maunder, Good Friday evening, March 26, at 7:45 P. M. The pastor, Dr. David Otis Fuller, will preside at the service and give a short message.

Soloists include Mrs. Evelyn Collar, Mrs. Scott M. McCurdy, Alfred Hansen, R. G. Read, R. S. McCurdy and Louis Schooley; reader, Florence Hemmes and violinist, Doris Olmstead. Mrs. Ray Q. Harrison is director and Scott M. McCurdy, organist. An illuminated cross will be a feature of the service. The public is cordially invited to this meeting.

NOTICE

Whenever you feel like going out for Sunday dinners, try Brown's Chicken Dinners. BROWN'S RESTAURANT, SPARTA. 3-25p

Farmers Are Hosts To Merchants April 2

Members of the Sparta Cooperative Association are to be hosts at a dinner meeting for local business men which will be held at the Methodist church on Friday evening, April 2.

It has been definitely announced by those in charge of arrangements that Prof. W. B. Henderson of Ann Arbor, a well known and very popular speaker, has been secured to address this annual joint meeting. A more detailed program of the meeting will be published next week.

Farmers, it is said, may secure tickets from Jacob Spangenberg, Phil Klenk, John Kober, Lynn Bradford, J. R. Bettes, Albert Atkinson and Eli Roberts. Local merchants are requested to secure tickets from E. W. Smith, or Lyle O'Conner.

LEGIONNAIRES OBSERVE PAST COMMANDER'S NIGHT

About 65 legionnaires and their wives participated in the celebration of Past Commander's night at the Legion Hall Friday evening, March 19.

A delicious dinner was prepared by the ladies of the Auxiliary in a manner very creditable to them and was served by their good looking daughters in a pleasing way. The tables were beautifully decorated with flowers and imitation lamp favors. Arzie Pinckney ably filled the role of toastmaster. The Misses Joan and Georgia Bettes entertained with accordion music in a pleasing manner and Mr. Bettes showed pictures of the Ohio Valley flood.

After the roll call of past commanders our fifth district committeeman, Earl Schuhart, was introduced and proceeded to speak on the "state of the fifth district." Following him our vice-commander, Emil Ganser, gave a splendid and inspiring talk touching on subversive activities and other matters important to legionnaires.

Our first post commander, Thomas Walsh, presented the past commander's badge to Hilding LaVine in a fitting manner and complimented him on his success in getting such a fine legion hall during his year as post commander.

MRS. RAY BADGEROW IS PTA PRESIDENT

The regular meeting of the P. T. A. was held Tuesday evening at the school. Following the business meeting officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Ray Badgerow; mother vice-president, Mrs. Fred Humeston; secretary, Mrs. William Young; treasurer, Mrs. Harold Morgan.

The program subject was "Grandparents' Night" and the meeting was in charge of Mrs. Mattie Fearron. Mrs. Fearron graduated from Sparta high school in 1881, her son and daughter also graduated from the same school and she now has a granddaughter in Junior High.

Mrs. Wealtha Carlson spoke on "Responsibilities of Grandparents". Mrs. Walter Bloomer played a piano solo, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rogers sang a duet in costume, "School Days" and a violin solo, "The Mocking Bird" was played by Mr. Barnum.

The speaker of the evening was H. Heaney of Grand Rapids who discussed "Discipline and the Law".

A social hour was enjoyed at the close of the meeting.

Attend Church Easter Sunday

For generations the Cross was an emblem of sorrow, pain and death. Thieves, murderers and other transgressors of the law paid the penalty for their crimes in crucifixion on the cross.

It was not until after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ that the cross ceased to be an emblem of shame. It became the insignia of Christian society with the promise that whosoever looked upon the cross and believed would have life abundant and eternal.

Next Sunday March 28, is Easter Sunday in every church throughout this country. Ministers will tell again the story of life, death and the resurrection of this same Jesus who changed the cross from one of death and disgrace to one of life, honor and glory.

You are invited to attend church somewhere Sunday. A welcome awaits you. You will hear a message and special Easter music that will help you bear your cross without complaint.

The Sentinel-Leader takes this method to urge you to attend church on this Easter Sunday. Will you come?

YOUNG REPUBLICANS TO ATTEND BANQUET WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

About 400 young Republicans are expected to attend a banquet to be held at the Fountain St. Baptist Church Parish House, Grand Rapids, Wednesday evening, March 31.

Three prize winners from the Major Bowes' Amateur Hour will provide entertainment. Gerald M. Henry, assistant Kent County attorney is in charge of arrangements.

The Kent County Young Peoples' Republican Club, the Young Men's Lincoln Club, the Young Men's Republican Club, and the Young Women's Republican Club are represented in the consolidation.

EASTER PROGRAM AT BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Easter Vision", a service of story and song, will be presented on Sunday evening at the Baptist Church by the Christian Melody Choir.

The story tells of how a drunken Roman chariot driver kills beautiful little Judith and leaves her father Benjamin totally blind. Her brother David, full of bitterness seeks to avenge the cruel wrong, but meets Jesus and is completely changed. Learning of Jesus' healing powers, he brings Benjamin to Jerusalem, but finds the healer dead on the cross. After three days of utter despair come the resurrection tidings and with them the great Easter vision. Their Judith lives and they shall meet again!

The story will be interspersed with singing, including solo, trio and choir numbers.

SENIOR CLASS PLAY THURSDAY

The Senior Class play "Spooky Tavern" gave one performance Wednesday night and the final show will be presented tonight, Thursday, March 25.

All those expecting to attend the play are urged to be in the auditorium before the curtain goes up at 8 o'clock as no one will be seated after the curtain rises.

Those in the cast include the following seniors, Wilton Norris, Irene Taylor, Arlene Cumings, Josephine Johnson, Eleanor Antor Bill Bloomer, Harvey Scott, Merlin Robinson, Glen Inman, Dalton McFarland and John Powers.

The play this year is directed by Miss Ione Irland, music is furnished by the high school orchestra and Gordon Striplin is stage manager. There are three acts in the play.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MRS. ALBERT ANDERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Rezin Anderson entertained at their home Tuesday evening with a dinner honoring Mrs. Albert Anderson on her 78th brithday. Those who were present at the celebration were Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Anderson and daughter, Roberta, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Anderson and Mr. and Mrs. Rezin Anderson. The table was decorated in yellow and white with snapdragons as a centerpiece. Mrs. Anderson received many gifts and flowers and card and a beautiful birthday cake.

A. & P. STORES PROMOTE SHORTER HOURS

Officials of the A. &. P. stores announce a program of shorter store hours effective this week. All stores, it is stated, will close at 6 o'clock throughout the week and at 9 o'clock on Saturday nights.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank my friends for the many kind things they did for me during my long illness. The flowers, the fruit and other delicacies, the loving messages and the visits of my dear friends did so much to cheer the long hours of my imprisonment. My Sunshine Bag with its many beautiful gifts not only brought sunshine to me, but also to other patients in the hospital. The Casnovia Sunday school, the Canada Corners Sunday school, the Literary Club and the Garden Club all remembered me and I do thank them. I also thank the nurses of Sparta hospital for the excellent care they gave me during my stay with them.

Rose Herald.

The names of Dean Bradford and Jim Warren were unintentionally omitted in the Scoutmasters' banquet story received and published by the Sentinel-Leader last week.

"LLOYDS OF LONDON" AT OUR THEATRE SUNDAY AND MONDAY

Jane Withers in "The Holy Terror" her latest picture will be seen at Our Theatre Friday and Saturday, March 26-27. In this picture Jane tries to disrupt the Navy and succeeds in capturing some foreign spies. On the same program will be seen a Buster Keaton Comedy.

"Lloyds of London" will be seen Sunday and Monday, March 28-29. Ablaze with action, vivid with pageantry and vital with drama, this story of a love that changed the destiny of an empire unites in swiftly moving kaleidoscope the thrilling account of the founding of England's sea power, and the establishment of the world's most exciting and extraordinary institution. Freddie Bartholomew, Madeline Carroll and Tyrone Power are starred in the exceptional cast.

Jean Arthur's captivating charm so much in evidence in "Mr. Deeds Goes To Town" will sparkle anew in "Adventure In Manhattan" which will be shown Tuesday and Wednesday, March 30-31. In the principal role opposite Miss Arthur is Joel McCrea. The story concerns the exciting escapades of a prominent detective story writer who presumes to predict the theft of various art and jewel treasures.

POST VOTES NO ON PROPOSED CONVENTION

Editor, Sentinel-Leader:

We had many important bills before the House last week. Bill No. 237 proposes to put a moratorium on all taxes prior to 1936. Taxes for 1933-34 and 35 to be divided into ten equal payments with no interest or penalties. I don't believe this bill would be fair to those that have paid their taxes and would retard future collections. The bill will be voted on for final passage this week Tuesday, March 23rd.

House Bill No. 38 proposing to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of writing a new constitution for the State was defeated by a vote of 36 yeas to 67 nays. I voted no.

Senate Bill No. 101 would add the Lieut. Governor and the Speaker of the House to the Administration Board with a salary increase of $2500 a piece. A similar bill passed both House and Senate two years ago and was vetoed by the governor. I voted no then and will this time.

There has been introduced in the House a milk control bill. It would create a Board to control the price of milk. This bill is very long and will require considerable study. I will mail copies of this bill to anyone interested.

I met Mr. Ziegler this week, who is a candidate for Highway Commissioner to be elected this April. Mr. Ziegler was chief deputy under Mr. Dillman. He informed me that State Highway employees had increased from 856 under Mr. Dillman to 4220 under Mr. Van Wagoner. These do not include employees on Federal jobs. Mr. Ziegler said if he were elected he would turn the State Trunk lines back to the counties where they were equipped to take care of them. This would save money for both the State and Counties.

(Rep.) Maurice E. Post, Lansing

FAREWELL PARTY

About fifty friends and neighbors gathered Tuesday evening as a farewell party on Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rogers who are moving north of Kent City this week. The evening was spent in playing games. A lovely lunch was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers were presented with a gift in remembrance of their many friends.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Of our dearly beloved daughter and sister, Unabelle, who was taken from our family circle March 27, 1932:

A ray of sunshine
Has gone from our home,
And a place is vacant today.
And the little girl
That we loved so well
Seems so very far away.
But we're trying to live
Just day by day,
Trusting the Father for light—
Knowing that some day
She'll be with us again
In the Home in the City of light.

Mrs. and Mrs. Carl Schaefer and family.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to express my thanks and sincere appreciation to the many friends who so kindly remembered me in my recent illness with gifts, flowers, fruit and cards.

Mrs. E. M. Finch.

Lauffers Celebrate Golden Wedding

Over one-hundred friends and relatives gathered Sunday afternoon, March 21 to honor Mr. and Mrs. William Lauffer at their Golden Wedding celebration. The affair was at the home of their daughter Mrs. Ervid Johnson of West Sparta and an abundance of letters cards and flowers also brought with them "many happy returns of the day."

A short program was prepared and presented by Mrs. Eli Roberts. John Lauffer, accompanied by Ernest Chamberlain of Muskegon, sang two numbers, "The Old Road" and "Until". The Rev. G. R. Brown offered words of congratulation from the community and the Swedish church, and the Rev. J. K. Hoffmaster of Sparta also made a few remarks of esteem and good wishes.

Miss Elizabeth and Royal Klein sang an appropriate number, "Put on Your Old Gray Bonnett". Mr. Lauffer said that in his time there were no high-speed cars and flying machines for courting but lumber wagons with spring seats, and implied that they were just as good for romance, at least theirs had lasted for fifty years. The Lauffers have lived in this vicinity all their lives, Mr. Lauffer having made his home on the same farm for nearly 75 years.

A delicious lunch was served and as each guest departed a gift of wedding cake was given. The lovely large cake was presented by Mrs. Ida Wegal, Mrs. Leonard Anderson and Mrs. Ernest Wegal. A purse of silver was presented the couple and everyone wished Mr. and Mrs. Lauffer many more anniversaries and expressed the sentiment in a poem written for the occasion by Mrs. Lester Fisk.

One interesting feature of the event was that four who attended the wedding party fifty years ago were also present to help them celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, namely, Mrs. Noble Gaut and Mrs. Charles Johnson of Sparta, Mrs. Archie Haring of Casnovia and Eli Roberts of Kent City.

Among those from Sparta were Mr. and Mrs. George Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Noble Gaut.

CHANTERS TO SING NEXT TUESDAY EVENING

Invitations have been sent out to practically all of the Masonic families in our territory as well as in adjoining lodges inviting members and their families to attend the concert next Tuesday evening, March 30, which will be given by Saladin Temple's Shrine Chanters of Grand Rapids.

This program is being sponsored by Sparta Lodge No. 334, F. & A. M. and the arrangements are in charge of Al Johnson, Worshipful Master of the lodge.

The Chanters will be directed by Stanley Baughman. Harold G. Vaughan, vice president of Muskegon Piston Ring Company, is a member of the Chanters and it was through his personal efforts that the Chanters were secured for the local concert.

CAMP LAKE GOLF COURSE HAS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

A membership drive with the purpose of making it possible to continue the Camp Lake Golf Course for another season was set in motion by C. E. Broman this week.

Letters and applications for membership have been sent to all those who in the past have enjoyed the environment of this nearby course, and if enough members are secured to partially repay Mr. Broman for the expense involved in operating the course play will be resumed in the near future.

According to Mr. Broman's announcement the scale of membership for the season has been set at $20 for a paid-up family membership with no green's fees or $12.50 for an associate membership with 25 cent green's fees until a total of $20 has been paid.

This membership schedule, he states, is contingent upon the number of applications received and he urges the kind cooperation of all interested golfers in our immediate territory as well as the surrounding district.

METHODIST SUNRISE SERVICE

The annual Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by the Missionary Society of the Methodist church will be held Sunday morning at 7 o'clock with breakfast following the service. The special offering will be used for missionary work. The society extends a cordial invitation to the entire community to attend this service.

COUNTY FARM NEWS

A series of soil testing days will be offered to farmers of Kent County starting next Monday, March 29, when a representative of Michigan State college will be at Rockford. On Wednesday, March 31, a soil testing program will be offered at the Kent City Farm Bureau and on April 1, at the D. J. Remer elevator in Cedar Springs.

Farmers bringing samples will be given time to discuss their soil needs and should be able to give a history of the field for the last four or five years.

Farmers will also have an opportunity to get the very latest information on soil improvement and conservation when the soil train comes to this county on Monday, April 5, according to K. K. Vining, county agent. The train stops at Caledonia.

Plans are going forward for the fifth annual all-county 4-H club achievement day for winter clubs in clothing and handicraft projects to be held at Rockford high school, April 9 and 10.

FARM UNION MEETING

The Sparta and Alpine Farm Union Locals will have a Pancake Supper and moving picture show at the Sparta K. of P. hall Monday evening, March 29, at 8:30 o'clock for members and friends.

Sparta Hospital Has Birthday

The Sparta Hospital observed its first anniversary last Tuesday since operating under the management of its two registered nurses Edith Steffens and Mildred Beute.

These two young women, who were strangers when they first began operating the hospital a year ago, have won the admiration of the entire community by keeping the hospital on its feet during adverse circumstances. They have worked faithfully and performed their duties efficiently and have had the support of several local societies which have frequently presented them with various supplies and equipment.

During the past year Miss Steffens states the hospital has cared for 134 cases. Included in this number were 40 maternity cases and 10 emergency cases. It is also stated that over 100 surgical operations were performed at the local hospital during this period.

The recent drive for funds with which to place the hospital on a more stable basis has passed the $1,000 mark with the latest contributions having been sent in by the Sparta Independent Basketball Association, of $7.50 and $11.00 being contributed by the L. O. T. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stoner of Cedar Springs, route 3, are the proud parents of an 8¼ pound boy, Patrick Edwin, who was born at the hospital Monday, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cook of Sparta are the equally proud parents of a 9 pound boy, David Wayne, who was born at the hospital last Friday.

Richard Heiss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Munson Heiss of Solon Center, returned to his home Saturday following a severe attack of pneumonia. Another pneumonia patient was Billy Frey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Frey of Cedar Springs who was returned to his home last Saturday. Each child was one year old and the cases were quite critical when brought to the hospital.

CASNOVIA CLUB HAS EASTER PROGRAM

The Casnovia Ladies' Literary Club observed the Lenten season with an Easter program on Tuesday, March 15. The president, Mrs. V. R. Fancett, presided and opened the meeting with the club collect. The guest speaker, the Rev. G. R. Brown, appropriately chose the subject, "The Cross", speaking of the supreme sacrifice made by God, the Father, when He offered His only Son, Jesus, to endure substitutionary suffering and death that all mankind might have redemption from sin and live eternally.

The music was given by the ladies of the Kent City quartette, Mrs. C. B. Leaver, Mrs. Gilliam, Mrs. L. Rexford and Mrs. Soerhelde, accompanied by Mrs. M. H. Saur.

An informal tea following the program gave an opportunity for social enjoyment and discussion among members and guests. The hostess, Mrs. M. H. Saur, was chairman of the committee which included Mrs. Brott, Mrs. Porteen and Mrs. Soerhelde. Mrs. J. L. Norris and Mrs. S. J. Drummond poured tea and the centerpiece of the beautifully appointed table was a bowl of white snapdragons.

As the work of the next meeting on April 6 is a lengthy book review it is desired that the session shall be opened on time and members are requested to arrive promptly at the home of the hostess, Mrs. R. G. Hayward.

MURPHY PICKS KENT JURY COMMISSION

Delay in naming the new jury commission for Kent county, first by Gov. Frank D. Fitzgerald and then by Gov. Frank Murphy, was ended late Monday when Murphy named the commission in accordance with the recommendations of the judges of circuit and superior courts.

Frank J. Seibel, 1058 Kalamazoo-av., S. E., insurance man, is the new member, representing the Third ward. Others who were re-appointed are James A. Richards, Second ward; John Ley, First ward; Charles Foote of Alto for the southern tier of townships and H. J. Kurtz of Sparta for the northern tier. The customary period of service is five years.

CARD OF THANKS

I want to thank my friends for the lovely cards, flowers and gifts, and to thank Mrs. Anderson for the wonderful care given me during my stay at the Anderson Maternity Home.

Mrs. Chester Welch.

Hear Talks On Florida Trips

Erastus W. Smith and William A. Rogers entertained local business men at the regular weekly luncheon which was held at Brown's restaurant last Friday by describing incidents concerning their recent trips to Florida. Mr. Smith prefaced has remarks by stating that no two ever see Florida alike and that no where else could one see such ridiculous things. Florida, he said, is full of places where one can spend money. He referred to the architecture of Miami as being "crazy".

The farmers, he claims, are against the proposed Florida Canal and that Miami also opposes this shipping dream. Florida has two classes of people, he discovered, old people and those with money. Gambling is encouraged in St. Petersburg on a large scale. The average tourist can readily spend $8 a day on general expenses.

Mr. Rogers spoke of his visit with the Striplins at South Bend, former Sparta residents, whom they visited briefly enroute to the south and of many pictures which were taken enroute to Florida. He referred to St. Petersburg as a city of old people and described a Sunday evening service at a colored church. He spoke in detail of his visit to the famed Bok Tower and Ripley's auditorium. Another interesting thing he described was a school of porpoise, some of which he claimed to be 12 feet long.

Mr. Rogers also mentioned several of the noted bathing beaches and described many interesting features connected with the return trip to Sparta.

BIG AUCTION SALE ON J. AUSTIN FARM NORTHWEST SPARTA

An all day auction sale beginning at 9:30 a. m. with a free lunch at noon will be held Thursday, April 1, on the John Austin farm located 4 miles west and 1 mile north of Sparta with auctioneer A. W. Hilzey in charge of the sale. The sale comprises the stock and farm tools of the late John Austin of which Guy Lockwood and Otto McQuistian have been appointed administrators.

Included in the sale are a number of fine Holstein and Guernsey cows, several horses and a large amount of farm machinery, tools and miscellaneous items, and promises to draw a record crowd.

ELLSWORTH MOORE HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Ellsworth Moore, manager of Mary Jane Creameries, Kent City, had a narrow escape form being severely injured last Saturday evening by a hit-and-run driver.

Moore it is said, was returning to his home at Casnovia about 7:30 o'clock when his car was struck by another car attempting to pass a car on the highway. Moore's car was badly damaged, the fenders were torn off, also the running board and rear tire.

The hit-and-run driver, it is said, stopped about 200 yards from the accident, got out and walked around his own car to see if any damage had been done, and drove on. State police are investigating the case.

FORMER EMPLOYEES OF VARIETY STORE STAGE SURPRISE PARTY

The E. E. East residence was the scene of a pleasant affair Monday evening when a number of former employees of the East Variety Store arranged a complete surprise for Mr. East.

They arrived about 6 o'clock with well filled baskets and the table was set for ten guests. Following the delicious dinner Mrs. Lee Braford presented, in behalf of those present, a lovely end table to Mr. and Mrs. East.

The remainder of the evening was enjoyed with cards and games. Those present were the Misses Mildred Wald, Bernice Anderson, Emma Boros, Claribel Haas, Caroline Parcels, Mrs. Lee Braford, Mrs. Willard Amidon and Laverne Bockman.

CARD OF THANKS

Being able to be out on my crutches again, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness and helpfulness during my illness, which began 1 year ago the 28th of March, the year has been shortened by the thoughtfulness of friends.

Karl Pendell.

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Explosion Kills More Than 600 Children in Texas Rural School—Justice McReynolds' Rebuke to Critics of Supreme Court.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

© Western Newspaper Union.

THE east Texas oil field was the scene of the worst school disaster in history. The London Consolidated rural school, a few miles north of Henderson, was demolished by a tremendous gas explosion and more than 600 children and their teachers were killed.

The horror that followed wrought such confusion that Gov. James V. Allred declared martial law in the vicinity of the school, and ordered National Guard troops to the scene. He previously had ordered all state highway patrolmen in the area to proceed there.

President Roosevelt, hearing at Warm Springs about the horrible disaster, was most distressed and urged the Red Cross "and all of the government agencies" to stand-by and render every assistance possible. Albert Evans, flood disaster head in Little Rock, Ark., and his staff rushed to the stricken Texas town, and all communities within reach gave aid to the extent of their capacity.

The blast smashed to bits the main structure of the educational plant that was termed the largest rural school in America and the richest in the world.

About 740 children and 38 teachers were in the building at the time and nearly all who were not killed outright were injured. Of the latter it was believed many would not recover.

Fifty or more mothers of the young victims were attending a parent-teacher association meeting in the school gymnasium, a separate building, when the explosion came, sending the mangled bodies of their sons and daughters flying through the air. The women raced to the wrecked structure with screams of agony and tore at the ruins with their bare hands.

For a few minutes after the roof caved in, leaving jagged remnants of wall standing like the ruins of a medieval castle, flames shot out above the wreckage. But the building was of fireproof construction and the blaze, having almost nothing to feed upon, soon died out.

W. C. Shaw, superintendent of the school, whose son was one of those killed, had just left the building.

"I was standing about fifty feet away from the building when the explosion came," he said. "There wasn't much noise. The roof just lifted up, then the walls fell out and the roof fell in. It was all over in a minute, no, less than that, half a minute. It's unbelievable."

Highway police, National Guardsmen and workers from all the nearby oil wells managed to restore some semblance of order at the scene, roping off the campus and systematically carrying on the task of getting out the bodies of the dead.

From the oil well machine shops were brought acetylene torches to burn away the steel girders while trucks hauled on heavy iron chains, pulling the debris away from the building.

The great force of the blast was taken as proof that the disaster was caused by the ignition of natural gas which was used to heat the school plant. Unable, because of all the confusion, to ascertain the cause of the explosion, it was theorized that someone attempted to light a heater which accidentally had been left turned on.

The "wet gas" used, which comes from oil wells on the school campus, is odorless and so would have given no warning.

(Continued on page 6)

WARNING

—TO—

Dog Owners

THE SPARTA VILLAGE ORDINANCE REFERING TO STRAY DOGS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED THIS SPRING AND SUMMER.

ALL DOGS FOUND RUNNING AT LARGE WILL BE IMPOUNDED AND IF REDEMPTION FEE IS NOT PAID AND DOG CALLED FOR WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER IMPOUNDED, DOG WILL BE DISPOSED OF.

BY ORDER OF

Village Police Dept.

THE SENTINEL-LEADER

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Sentinel established 1876—Leader established 1895—Combined 1900

The Kent City Press and the Casnovia Herald merged with The Sentinel-Leader in 1931

These spring days call to mind the fact that there is often more pleasure going fishing than coming back.

—o—

It has not been verified yet that the recent earth tremors were due to the sitdown strikes.

—o—

We've observed that most of those who have a pull, usually get it by having a little push.

—o—

There is one thing that none of us really appreciate. That is advice on how a thing should be done after it has been done the other way.

—o—

We're now looking for those prophets who forecast a long, hard winter. We want to congratulate them on the mistake they made.

—o—

YOUR OWN HOME—AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

It was once said that men will fight to protect a home but never to save a boarding house. Home ownership, in other words, is essential to good citizenship, to patriotism and love of country.

But home ownership, in our estimation, goes far beyond such remote considerations. Home ownership here in Sparta may prove in the years to come to be one of the safest of all investments.

There have been times and periods, abnormal periods to speak correctly, when home ownership does not pay, when it is cheaper to rent than to own. But these periods usually come to an end. When the situation changes it is much more economical to own than to rent. Such a period is now approaching in the opinion of all observers.

Ownership of a home here in Sparta should prove to be a highly satisfactory investment. First, because Sparta is a substantial community with fine possibilities of future development. The home you build or buy today may grow in value as demand for additional housing here takes an upward turn. Second, because there is a personal satisfaction that cannot easily be measured in living in a home of your own.

The fluctuating value of our money is another consideration that urges home ownership as well as home modernization now. Some students of economic conditions fear inflation. Others expect a new standard of values. The National administration has endeavored to establish higher values and so the argument among inflationists and anti-inflationists involves only a matter of degree.

Thus it appears almost inevitable that the American dollar will buy less in building materials and in labor in the years ahead than it will secure today.

In the face of this trend wisdom advises home ownership and home modernization now.

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A SALUTE TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS

The future hope for agriculture in America lies with the boys and girls on the farm today, is the opinion of most informed observers of agricultural problems. Therefore, we take advantage of this occasion to salute the 4-H Clubs and chapters of Future Farmers of America.

The alert young people who comprise the membership of these organizations are continually working on a great variety of interesting and valuable projects which promise great improvement in agriculture in future years.

At the present time 4-H clubs are presenting projects which demonstrate the value and need of rural electrification. The great value and need of electricity on the farm are recognized by the young people and the idea of promoting its extension has captured their imagination. As a consequence they are seeking to demonstrate what electricity means in making farm work easier in eliminating much of the drudgery in the farm home, and in improving the efficiency of farm operations.

But this is merely one, though typical, of many projects which promise to improve the social status of farm life. We take pleasure, therefore, in offering a word of approval of this work and in promising to aid the cause in any way that may fall within the possibilities of our newspaper.

—o—

WHAT THEY DESERVE

People always get just about the sort of government in the community, the state or the nation that they deserve. The people of the community also have about the type of stores their patronage will justify. And we'll go just another step and say that the town has just about the sort of paper that the loyalty and support of its citizens merit.

If you desire better stores here in Sparta just exhibit greater loyalty and extend your full support and you'll be surprised at how soon the stores will show improvement; how stocks will be enlarged, how service will be improved, how enterprise will be stimulated.

If you would like to have the community represented by a better newspaper than the Sentinel-Leader just show that you are constructively interested and note the improvements which will follow. Every publisher knows how he could improve his paper. He knows that he might add new news departments, install more modern equipment, and enlarge and strengthen his staff.

But there is always that important matter of patronage and support to be considered. If he did not consider that practical reality he would soon be out of business. He cannot expand his services which cost money unless there is sufficient income and adequate loyal support to justify the improvements. There are examples by the thousands of business men who have plunged ahead with great vision to enlarge and improve service without cautious regard for financial considerations. Their establishments eventually go into the hands of the liquidators. There are other examples by the thousands of business institutions called "dead" which survive financial collapse and depression.

All of this evidence merely emphasizes one thing. The service rendered by an institution must be commensurate with the financial support extended by the public.

Consider this and then ask yourself: "Am I giving my local newspaper the support it deserves? Do I make suggestions on news stories? Do I readily offer tips which will help make the local paper more interesting? Do I give the local newspaper and printing plant first consideration when I need printing? Do I use its columns as my advertising medium?"

Answers to these questions will determine whether you and the other citizens of this community are entitled to a better newspaper.

We will discuss the question at greater detail in the near future. It has a bearing not only on this newspaper but upon the business development of the entire community.

The Spartan Echo

EDITED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM CLASS

Volume 5 — Thursday, March 25, 1937 — No. 23

ST. PATRICK DINNER

The faculty gave a dinner last Wednesday evening in the Kindergarten room. The honored guests were the pastors of the community, Rev. J. K. Hoffmaster, Rev. and Mrs. A. O. Odegard, Rev. and Mrs. Gilbert Brown, Rev. and Mrs. B. R. Parsons, Senator and Mrs. M. H. Saur, the latter being the guest speaker. Mr. Saur talked on Religion and Education, bringing out the value of both the church and the school. Mrs. Humeston, accompanied by Mrs. Gardner, gave a musical selection, "That Old Irish Mother of Mine". "Taps" was sung by the group.

Mr. Balyeat had charge of the program. Miss Kober was chairman of the dinner committee. Miss Woodworth, Miss Gliddon, Mr. Hawkins, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Day, Miss Lukins, and Mrs. Humeston all assisted on this committee.

The menu of the banquet was as follows: Pineapple juice, city chicken, mashed potatoes, mint jelly, buttered asparagus, molded lime salad, olives and pickles, rolls, butter, shamrock ice cream, cup cakes, coffee, nuts, mints.

THE HUMOROUS CHARACTERS WE MEET EVERY DAY

Kate Smith (Russ P. in a bias cut dress.)
Jiggs—Penny Humphreys
Maggie—Eleanor Dutton
Major Hoople—James Gardner

Watch a certain brown-eyed sophomore girl throw daggers at another certain blue-eyed sophomore girl over a certain senior boy.

FIRST GRADE

March is a very busy month for us. We are studying about the people from Holland, and are watching for the first signs of Spring. Easter comes this month, too, so we will have to get ready for a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Miss B: Which poet do you like the better, Tennyson or Browning, Norman?
Norman N: Tennyson.
Miss B: Why?
Norman N: Because we've finished studying his poetry.

Mrs. Scott: Here is a new tooth brush for your birthday, Harvey.
Harvey: What in heck do I want with a tooth brush? I ain't got hair on my teeth.

Marion Ransom was seen knocking on a lightpost when an officer approached?
Officer: Why are you knocking there? Nobody lives there.
Marion: Thash funny, there's a light upstairs.

SASSIETY IN SPARTIE
(By Mrs. Idle Chatter)

What little freshman girl is causing a great disturbance due to her mania for misinformation? (are you listening J. F.?)

We wonder who will be the first to date up the new gal? (Nice going, Squirt).

We see that Mr. Gardner was absent last Friday. We hope it is not serious.

All the Guys 'n Gals of Spartie are going to the Regent Roof Friday night. See you there.

Did all of you fast drivers see the wreck last Sunday afternoon? (Better let it register).

John Powers: Speaking about baseball, I've even got me a baseball dog.
Gordon Striplin: What makes you call him a baseball dog?
John P.: 'Cause he wears a muzzle, catches flies, chases fowls, and beats it for home when he sees the catcher coming.

When Volney Elkins was small, his nursemaid tried to discourage him from sucking his thumb.

"Don't suck your little thumb like that," she cooed. "You may need it some day to get a ride."

There was an earthquake recently which frightened inhabitants of a certain town. One couple sent their little boy to stay with an uncle in another district, explaining the reason for the nephew's sudden visit.

A day or two later the parents received this telegram:

"Am returning your boy. Send the earthquake."

THEME SONGS

George Klenk—Love and Learn
Robinson and Ryan — Sweetheart Let's Grow Old Together
Gordon Striplin—Alone!
"Jimmy" Gardner—Rhythm in My Nursery Rhymes
Stebbins and McDougal — The Whistler and His Dog
Wilton Norris—Sonny Boy
Leonard Vaughan—Margie
Virgil Lehmkuhle — You're Gonna Lose Your Gal
"Kenny" Hawkins—How Dry I Am
"Pam" Bockman—I'll Sing You a Thousand Love Songs
Carol Fresby—Swing Time
Gordon Sack—Brother Can You Spare a Dime?
Kenny Johnson—Hey Babe!
Josephine Johnson—Sweetheart of Sigma-Chi (six other guys)
Caroline Parcels—Minnie the Moocher
Wilton Norris — He Ain't Got Rhythm

NICK NAMES

Harvey Scott—Bone-head
Gordon Striplin—Muscle-bound
Penny Humphreys—Half-Pint
Bernice McDougal—Wimpy
Bub Carlson—Rupert
Evelyn Klenk—Mae
F. Van Timmeran—Polo Joe
John Powers—Pud
Ed Clark—Nosye
Bob Stebbins—Squeak
Bob McParland—Lemeke

Sentinel-Leader Want Ads Pay

IT DOESN'T COST A THING to look over our samples of personal printed stationery. We invite you to see it. Or phone 3 and we will be happy to call and show it to you. Sentinel-Leader Publishing Co.

SILENT as the SPHINX

Rest assured that whatever business you transact with this institution is not only handled in the most capable manner possible but that it is treated with the utmost confidence as to your plans and financial welfare. Choose the bank you can trust and whose clientele already proves its efficiency and better facilities.

Accounts in this bank up to $5,000 are insured in full under the provisions of the Banking Act of 1933.

Peoples State Bank
SPARTA, MICHIGAN

30 Above or 30 Below

YOU STILL NEED

COAL

Still from six to eight weeks in which a fire is an absolute necessity! Don't let the mild weather fool you . . . Be prepared for any kind of weather by ordering coal today.

Lumber

BY THE PIECE OR CARLOAD

"SERVICE THAT SATISFIES"

Sparta LUMBER & FUEL COMPANY
Phone 33

Eugene B. ELLIOTT

for

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

We, the undersigned citizens of Grand Rapids and Kent County, being interested in the welfare of our schools and children, endorse DR. EUGENE B. ELLIOTT for re-election as State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the following reasons:

1. Dr. Elliott is making a definite effort to take schools and the education of our children out of politics.

2. Without reference to political parties Dr. Elliott's program is being endorsed by groups representing labor, industry, business, education and Parent-Teachers' Associations.

3. Dr. Elliott stresses education which emphasizes the solution of practical every-day problems of life.

4. Dr. Elliott advocates special emphasis upon physical safety and character education.

5. He is a Michigan man, educated and trained in Michigan schools, with Michigan interests at heart.

Judge John Dalton	John W. Brower	Frank Cerajewski	Lynn H. Clark
George C. Thomson	Henry W. Lightner	Mrs. Joseph Filipiak	Amos F. Paley
Mrs. Dorian M. Russell	Mrs. Charles H. Lillie	Frank S. Kaminski	David D. Hunting
Albert J. Rooks	Newman Joyce	Ernest R. Snawble	Forrest G. Averill
H. G. Dekker	Clayton C. Davies	Edith Ferneau	Frederick H. Mueller
Henry VanZyl, Jr.	Wm. P. Joyce	J. E. Hanna	Arthur Haines
O. J. O'Dell	Harry Minion	Herbert W. Wheeler	B. Taylor Hackmuth
Alice Mueller	Wm. Kies	Meritt D. Potter	Glenn McCarthy
Ernest Althaus	Lena Alles	Beryl Austin	Irving Woodworth, Jr.
D. L. Garfield	Edna Johnson	Wesley S. Ebu	Frank E. Dempsey
Percy Read	Wm. A. Armstrong	Lynn H. Clark	J. L. Ramsdell
Elmer Wittenbach	Jas. Hudson	O. E. Balyeat	W. B. Williams
Guy Ford	Mrs. Martha Inwood	Carl G. Fischer	A. C. Guenther
William Mueller	J. Nieuwdorp	Grace E. Walker	E. J. Robinette
Bruce Tower	J. G. Vanden Bosch	Ray W. Rittenger	Arthur Edison
Fred J. Roth	Seymour Swets	Carl B. Snow	Edmund H. Taorna
Thos. J. Read	Jacob Kybarz	Martha Schultema	Edward V. Dietzel
Claud Condon	Wallace Clark	James McCabe	Melvin Lubbers
H. L. Weekes	Frank C. Fisher	George Landheer	Chas. Sour
F. F. Coons	Chas. H. Young	L. A. Winchester	John L. Tynan
C. H. Runciman	Lee Jakeway	Arthur Hubbard	L. D. Morris
M. D. Court	Lena Jakeway	Paul O. Strawhecker	Roy S. Head
Earl V. Colby	Edwin E. Hessler	Peter H. Moll	George C. Hanselman
Chas. T. Colby	Will Hessler	Marie A. Gezon	Hattie Walcott
Pauline M. Watts	John E. Nash	Edwin Y. Monsma	W. J. Davies
L. A. Dygert	J. A. Jakeway	John Orlebeke	C. W. Lubbers
W. R. Nolan	Theo. E. Bailey	E. R. Post	C. A. Bielby
W. J. Robertson	Cecil T. McDonald	L. H. Cummings	J. J. VerBeek
W. W. Gunsser	Clarence Mulder	Carl P. Bradford	J. V. Smith
R. P. Auble	Cecile C. Wallace	C. B. Leaver	S. A. Partington
Roy A. Richardson	John Allan Smith	Boyd Clark	J. A. Skinner
Robert E. Morris	Mrs. Carl Meinke	E. A. Kellogg	Louis Yarrick
Mrs. W. R. Canno..	Mrs. Felix Pupel	C. A. Frost	
R. E. Curtis			

RE-ELECT EUGENE B. ELLIOTT

—Political Adv.

Registration NOTICE

— FOR —

Biennial Spring Election & Annual Township Election Monday, April 5, 1937

To the Qualified Electors of the Township of Sparta, (Precinct No. 1) County of Kent, State of Michigan

Notice is hereby given that in conformity with the "Michigan Election Law," I, the undersigned Township Clerk, will upon any day, except Sunday and a legal holiday, the day of any regular or special election or primary election, receive for registration the name of any legal voter in said Township not already registered who may Apply To Me Personally for such registration. Provided, however, that I can receive no names for registration during the time intervening between the Second Saturday before any regular, special, or official primary election and the day of such election.

The last day for General Registration does not apply to persons who vote under the Absent Voters' Law. (See Registration by Affidavit).

Notice is hereby given that I will be at KELLOGG'S BARBER SHOP, SPARTA, MICH.

Tuesday, March 16, 1937

THE TWENTIETH DAY PRECEDING SAID ELECTION

As provided by Sec. 2767, Michigan Election Laws, Revision of 1936.

From 8 o'clock a. m. until 8 o'clock p. m. on each said day for the purpose of REVIEWING the REGISTRATION and REGISTERING such of the qualified electors in said TOWNSHIP as SHALL PROPERLY apply therefor.

The name of no person but an ACTUAL Resident of the precinct at the time of said registration, and entitled under the Constitution, if remaining such resident, to vote at the next election, shall be entered in the registration book.

In any township or city in which the clerk does not maintain regular daily office hours, the township board or the legislative body of such township or city may require that the clerk of such township or city shall be at his office or other designated place for the purpose of receiving applications for registration on such other days as it shall designate prior to the last day for registration, not exceeding five days in all.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN
That I Will Be At
KELLOGG'S BARBER SHOP
during office hours and from 8 o'clock a. m. until 10 p. m. on

SATURDAY, MARCH 27—Last Day

For General Registration by PERSONAL APPLICATION

REGISTRATION OF ABSENTEE BY OATH

If any person whose name is not registered shall offer and claim the right to vote at any election or primary election, and shall, UNDER OATH state that he or she is a resident of such precinct and has resided in the TOWNSHIP TWENTY DAYS next preceding such election or primary election, designating particularly the place of his or her residence and that he or she possesses the other qualifications of an elector under the constitution; and that owing to the sickness or bodily infirmity of himself or herself or some member of his or her family, or owing to his or her absence from the TOWNSHIP on public business or his or her own business, and without intent to avoid or delay his or her registration, he or she was unable to make application for registration on the last day provided by law for the registering of electors preceding such election or primary election, then the name of such person shall be registered, and he or she shall then be permitted to vote at such election or primary election. If such applicant shall in said matter, wilfully make any false statement, he or she shall be deemed guilty of perjury. Any inspector of election shall have authority to make such registration and to swear such person to the registration affidavit.

Provision in Case of Removal to Another Precinct

Any registered and qualified voter who has REMOVED from ONE ELECTION PRECINCT of a TOWNSHIP to another election precinct of the same TOWNSHIP shall have the right, on any day previous to election, or primary election day, on application to Township Clerk, to have his or her name transferred from the registration book of the precinct from which he or she HAS REMOVED to the registration book of the precinct in which he or she THEN RESIDES. Such elector shall have the right to have such transfer made on any ELECTION or Primary election day by obtaining from the board of inspectors of such election or primary election of the precinct from which he or she HAS REMOVED a CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER and presenting the said certificate to the BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS OF THE PRECINCT IN WHICH HE OR SHE THEN RESIDES.

H. M. LOOMIS, Township Clerk.
Dated March 8th, A. D. 1937

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