

1934 Scrapbook #1, Image #004

Berne, Indiana, Monday, March 26, 1934

Many Here Recall Flood of 1913 Which is Now twenty-one Years Old

Twenty-one years ago the worst flood in the history of this community caused thousands of dollars of damage in Adams county, especially through the lowlands south of here. Local people will well remember the flood, but the following story appearing in the Fort Wayne New – Sentinel will help recall the incident:

Fort Wayne, Mar. 26 – Cheer up, ye who have been bemoaning the prolonged Wintery weather this Spring, and be happy that weather conditions are not like those of exactly 21 years ago Friday – the beginning of the most severe flood in the city's history, entailing the loss of six lives and damage totaling thousands and thousands of dollars.

Twenty-one years ago, on March 23, 1913, rain began to fall totaling 208 inches, and the Maumee River rose to 6. feet. On March 24, the rivers had risen 13 additional feet; almost two more inches of rain fell, and damage from high waters had started. Forty-two houses on Baltes Avenue, Prospect Avenue and Wagner Street were surrounded by high waters; the approach to the Tennessee Avenue Bridge was cut off, Swinney Park was inundated; the Ball Park was flooded and sand bags were used to fill in cuts at the Coombs Street Bridge. On the same day,

March 24, just after the rain started falling, the County Commissioners watched anxiously the rising waters and publicly announced, “The situation looks bad.” In addition to the rainfall a wind that attained a velocity of 52 miles an hour uprooted trees and tilted portions of sidewalk at Berry and Union streets, tore off the roof and second story of the convent at St. Joseph's Hospital, unroofed the chapel and blew off the smoke-stacks.

“Lakeside dike goes out at 2:30 P.M.” - “Three thousand Fort Wayne Families Rendered Temporarily Homeless by Flood” - said the headlines of The Fort Wayne News on the following day, Tuesday, March 25. Still more rain, totaling .69 inch, fell and the Maumee river reached a stage of 24 feet, nine feet above flood stage. The Maumee levee broke west of the Walton Avenue Bridge, flooding Lakeside; the city was facing a water famine with the putting out of commission of every pumping station in the city; industrial plants were forced to close and cessation of business was noted throughout Fort Wayne. On the same day, the City Health Department issued a warning for all citizens to boil their drinking water, which was being drawn from the reservoir.

Six Persons Die

Six fatalities occurred on the next day, Wednesday, March 26, including one man who was engaged in rescue work in the Nebraska section of the city; a farmer who died from exposure sustained in rescue work, and four children, who were drowned when their boat capsized as they were being taken from the Allen County Orphans' Home to the Broadway Bridge. The rivers continued rising, the Maumee cresting at 26.1 feet at 11 p.m. Snow fell, adding to the discomfort of the hundreds of homeless and the rescue workers. A total of 10,000 homeless were fed in lodge halls, churches and the Court House. On that day, too, Stephen B. Fleming sent a special train to Peru for the succor of the people there, and an order of 38 coffins for Peru flood victims was filled. Big sections of the dike on St. Joseph Boulevard broke, and water in Lakeside rose toward the same level as the rivers outside.

Practically every family was removed from West Superior Street, where water reached a depth of 10 feet. Boats were the only means of communication between Bloomingdale and the city proper, and boats found the situation serious at Wells and Cass streets because of the swift current. Flooring of all bridges in the city were torn up to give gangs of workmen an opportunity to shove debris free in order to save the causeways. Patrol duty along the flooded areas was in charge of Battery B and Company D.

The News on the next day, March 27, brought more cheerful news, the prediction of fair weather. Only 21 precipitation was reported and the rivers dropped six inches. Fifty eight orphans and 12 adults were rescued from the Allen County Orphans' Home; mail and transportation service was being resumed, and IMAGE CUT OFF (Col.2)

...5.1 feet; the next day no rain occurred, and the river dropped to 3/7 feet. On March 30, .14 inch of rain fell, but the Maumee subsided to 25.1 feet the next day no IMAGE CUT OFF (Col 3.)

TO OPEN BEAUTY SHOPPE Mon. Mar. 26, 1934

Miss Lorene Rich announces that she will open her Beauty Shoppe on Friday, April 6. She will have two opening days, Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7. The shoppe will be located above the West Main Grocery, in the room formerly occupied by the Berne Studio, and will be known as "Lorene's Beauty Shoppe."

THOMAS HENRY KILLED Mon., Mar. 26, 1934

Thomas Henry, aged 34, a salesman for the Western Paper Company, for many years, was killed instantly last Wednesday night when the car he was driving crashed into a truck near Osceola, Indiana. A woman companion was also killed. Henry lived at Fort Wayne and called at the Berne Review every other week where he was well known.

Claimed by Death Mar. 27, 1934

Mrs. Frank G. Martin

Mrs. Frank G. Martin, aged 45, mother of Miss Selma Flory and Mrs. John Hughes both of this city, died of complications Monday evening at her home in Cedarville. Mrs. Martin lived in Fort Wayne for several years. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Leo and the Order of Eastern Star at Harlan.

Surviving besides the daughters, are a son, Howard Martin, of Cedarville, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 1 p.m. At the Leo M. E. Church. Burial will be in Robinson Chapel Cemetery, near Cedarville.

BIRTH 1934

Born to Gilbert and Isadore Winteregg Hirschy a son, Dale Franklin, on Tuesday, March 27. Mother and babe are being cared for at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Winteregg.

MRS. LEO HANNI HONORED Thurs. Mar. 29, 1934

Monday evening a group of friends surprised Mrs. Leo Hanni, formerly Miss Vera Huser, with a miscellaneous shower at her apartment. They presented her with many beautiful gifts and then spent the evening playing games and contests. Refreshments of candy and apples were served to the following: Mrs. Emerson Neuenschwander, the Misses Belva Huser, Edna and Evas Yoder, Verena Burry, Dorothy Lehman, Jeanette Baumgartner and the honored guest, Mrs. Hanni.

Mrs. Ira Sprunger, proof reader at the Berne Review for nearly six years, discontinued her work there Saturday. Mrs. Sprunger was former- IMAGE IS CUT OFF. (COL. 1)

BEG YOUR PARDON Thus. Mar 29, 1934

This issue of the Review will reach you several hours late. The electric current was off most of the time Thursday, putting the machines at this office out of commission. Several other local factories experienced the same trouble.

DEATH TAKES MRS. MARTIN

Daughter of Mrs. Dan Zuercher Dies Tuesday

Otilla, Thursday, Mar. 29, 1934

Tuesday evening at 10 o'clock occurred the death of Mrs. Frank Martin, aged 46, daughter of Mrs. Daniel Zuercher of this place. She died at her home at Cedarville, north of Fort Wayne. Death was caused by heart trouble from which she had suffered for several days.

Mrs. Martin was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brechbill, Mrs. Brechbill later marrying Dan Zuercher. Mrs. Martin was born north of Berne and her youth was spent in this community. In her early life she was married to Rufus Flory, who died several years after their marriage. Later she married Frank Martin. Three children survive, and one brother, Dennis of Rochester, N.Y. Five half-brothers also survive, Elmer, Fred, Ed., William and Calvin Zuercher. Two surviving half sisters are Mrs. Jeff Rauch and Mrs. Wilbur Beer.

The funeral was held today at Leo.

HATCHERIES SUFFER LOSS

Lack of Electric Current Brings Loss to Hatchery-men

Thursday, Mar. 29, 1934

Because of the severe sleet storm that put electric power lines out of commission, several hatcheries in the county owning electric incubators suffered a heavy loss. The power was off from 12-36 hours at some of the hatcheries, resulting in the eggs being chilled. Geneva and Monroe Hatcheries report a heavy loss, while the Limberlost Hatchery operated by Amos M. Schwartz north of town also suffered a loss.

Hatcheries in Berne seem to have been more fortunate than some of the others in the county. The Berne Hi-Way Hatchery may have a small loss, but the Globe Hatchery's damage is said to be light.

WE'RE LATE AGAIN

Mon., Apr. 2, 1934

Because of an interruption again today in the light and power furnished by the Indiana Service Corporation, this issue of the REVIEW will reach you somewhat late again.

SOCIETY NEWS: HONORED WITH SHOWER

Mon. Apr. 2, 1934

On Friday evening, after concert at the Mennonite church, Mrs. Ira Sprunger, formerly Miss Anna Luginbill, was called to the home of Esther Lehman "to see something." Upon her arrival she was greatly surprised to find herself the victim of a "shower", cleverly planned by the hostesses, Miss Esther Lehman and Mrs. Ralph Stager.

The gifts were arranged on the center of the table, over which, suspended from a chandelier, hung an umbrella decorated with colored streamers. After the gifts were opened, three contests were played, the prizes for which were given to the bride. The rooms were nicely decorated with pussy willows and jonquils.

Later in the evening a delicious two-course luncheon was served on small tables lit by tall tapers. Following is the menu: creamed chicken on biscuits, creamed peas in pattie shells, perfection salad, brick ice cream, Swedish cookies and coffee. Favors consisted of small baskets of candy Easter eggs. These also served as place cards.

Many invited guests were unable to be present due to illness or because they reside in other cities. Those present besides the guest of honor, Mrs. Sprunger, were the Mesdames Howard Gilliom, Wilbur Nussbaum, Wm. Spurgeon, Wm. Habegger, Harold Imhoff of Carlock, Ill., and the Misses Martha Liechty and Edith Neuensch- IMAGE CUT OFF (Col. 4.)

BIRTHS

Born to Arthur and Ida Armontrout Elzey of near Bryant a son, Robert LeRoy on Wednesday, April 4.

Born to Peter B. and Elizabeth Welty Lehman of Washington township a son, Roe Allen on April 4.

A son David Herman was born to Albert and Grace Reinhardt Nussbaum on April 3.

MANY PATIENTS

The Adams County Memorial Hospital cared for the largest number of patients during the month of March than any previous month since the opening of the institution, Miss Emily Crist, superintendent, announced Wednesday.

April 5, 1934

Evelyn Graber, 9 year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Graber of Monroe township is ill with streptococcus sore throat.

Norman Steury, son of Mr. and Mrs. Noah R. Steury is suffering with the measles.

Willard Woods, of Charleston, West Virginia, is a new linotype operator at the Berne Review. He was employed at this office as an operator several years ago and is well remembered by many here.

Adam's County Historical Museum Scrapbooks

Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth

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