

(Handwritten: Thursday, July 12, 1934)

## BERNE HAS ITS JIM FRENCHY AND THE TOWN OF BRYANT HAS ITS AARON MOSER

In a small and dingy hut in the town of Bryant several miles south of Berne, living the life of a hermit and almost forgotten by his former friends, lives Aaron Moser, a native of this community, and a brother to Jacob Moser of near here. When we paid ?? visit to his humble abode, it took a few minutes to get him to talk, and finally he told us an interesting ?? of his life, including a recent robbery of his shack which was committed by a number of men from this community and which was never made public. Moser, Bryant residents say, lives a quiet life. To the residents of that village he is much the same as Jim Frenchy is to the people of Berne. Both are interesting characters, live in shacks almost identical and are practically the same age.

Moser has a large number of relatives in and around Berne. At the present he is in poor health, suffering from asthma and hay fever. He is more than 70 years of age and is not nearly as robust as he used to be. He is planning to move to Starke County within a week or two and spend the summer months at a lake cottage if arrangements can be made, where he claims he has some acquaintances who will care for him.

Moser does little work at present, although for several years he made considerable money in a business that is yielding large returns to many people, especially in big cities. He draws enough old age pension to eke out a bare living.

His hut is located about half a block east of Federal road 27, in the north part of Bryant. No rugs or carpets grace the floor, but to him it's home. In one corner of the room is a bunk. That's where he sleeps. At the end of the bed is a little stove. In summer he lights it to cook his meals and in winter it serves to keep the hut warm. A shelf on the wall holds a few books, measly few. No newspapers are to be seen in the shack and the only way he is able to keep up with the times is to listen to what his neighbors tell him. One old chair is the only piece of furniture except his bed and a little cabinet in which he keeps a loaf of bread and a few other eatables. This cabinet also houses a few of his treasures, including a number of pictures which were taken a long time ago and which have faded by this time. But to him they are still precious, as they speak of better days, many years ago. His clothes were once new, but that was a long time ago.

Moser does not have to pay rent. The hut is his, he claims, and the man who owns the ground where the shack is located does not charge him rent. In summer time the interior of the shack gets uncomfortably warm, and Moser seeks relief under the nearby shade trees. At night his slumbers are interrupted by mosquitoes who find it very easy to enter the hut as there is no screen door and the only window in the building is also without a screen.

Moser is not married and never was. "Yes, this bachelor life is not anything to brag about, especially when you grow old and have no one to take care of you," Moser said. He related how he moved to Bryant 35 years ago and has lived there ever since. "When I'm in my hut I'm at home," he said. "When I go to visit my relatives and former friends, I get lonesome and feel lost." Moser is paralyzed in his arms, but is able to use both of them to some extent. He was formerly engaged in the lumber mill business and will be remembered by many here. The life he leads would not appeal to any of us. No companionship, little to read, no interest in life, nothing to while away your time, irregular meals and no entertainment or recreation of any kind makes every day a long one for him.

He told us recently one evening four young men from the vicinity of Berne came to his shack and robbed him of four dollars. He told us the names of them, but we will not repeat them as he did not file charges. He went to the home of one of the thieves later, he said, and had his four dollars returned to him. They come in mighty hand now, Moser said.

About current events, Moser knows little. He never heard of Hitler, John Dillinger or some of the other well known public characters of this day.

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(Handwritten: Mon., Aug. 6, 1934)

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Fuhrman moved to Ft. Wayne last Saturday. They have been making their home with Mrs. Fuhrman's mother, Mrs. Dora Baumgartner.

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WIFE OF JOHN BOLLENBACHER DIES SATURDAY

Mother of Local Woman is Victim of Cancer

FUNERAL IS TUESDAY P.M.

Mrs. Emma Bollenbacher, aged 56, wife of John Bollenbacher of Jefferson twp., died Saturday morning at 12:30 o'clock at the Adams County Memorial Hospital, following an operation for cancer last Thursday morning. Mrs. Bollenbacher had been failing for some months, but her condition did not become serious until a week or ten days ago. She suffered much during her illness.

Mrs. Bollenbacher's husband was formerly trustee of Jefferson twp. and the family is well known here.

Mrs. Bollenbacher was born on April 1, 1878, in Mercer County, O., a daughter of Jacob and Caroline Schott Bollenbacher. On Aug. 9, 1900 she was married to John Bollenbacher. Soon after their wedding they moved to Jefferson twp., Adams Co., where they resided since.

Surviving are the husband and the following children: Victor, Jefferson twp.; Mrs. Helen Kuhn, Jefferson twp.; Lucille and Ralph, at home; and Mrs. Chester (Esther) Heare of Berne. One son, Martin, is deceased.

The following sisters and brothers remain: Mrs. Phoebe Garres, Van Wert; Alolph, Merrill, Mich.; Mrs. Henrietta Garres, Van Wert; Fred, Celina; William, Jefferson twp.; John and Mrs. Elizabeth Bollenbacher, Celina; Mrs. Miriam Baker, Berne; Mrs. Hulda Linn, Rockford; Dan, Celina and Jacob, Rockford.

One brother and three sisters preceded.

The deceased was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church. The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the house and at 2 o'clock, EST, at the Zion Lutheran Church, Rev. Carl Yahl officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

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(Handwritten: Monday, Aug. 13, 1934)

MAHALA BURLEY IS BRIDE SAT.

Becomes Bride of Fort Wayne Man in Impressive Church Wedding

Saturday evening at 6 o'clock occurred the wedding of Miss Mahala Burley of this place to Chester E. Schuelke of Fort Wayne. The marriage was solemnized at the local Missionary church, and the wedding was a very impressive and charming event, attended by numerous friends and relatives of the couple. Rev. H. E. Tropf officiated, using the double ring ceremony.

Miss Palmyre Colpaert of Berne and Robert Eickmeyer of Fort Wayne attended the couple. Grace Tropf was flower girl and Robert Burley ring bearer.

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Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Winteregg and son Junior and daughters Christine and Mary Elizabeth visited patients at the Adams County Memorial Hospital and also Mary Stuckey, at Decatur, yesterday.

**Adams County Historical Museum**

**1934 Scrapbook, image 70**

**Transcribed by Karin King**