

# FIRE FIEND SPREADS TERROR TO NORTH SIDE

## AUTO PLUNGES OFF BRIDGE INTO CREEK; OCCUPANTS ESCAPE DEATH

### BLINDING LIGHTS OF APPROACHING CAR ARE BLAMED WOMAN BADLY CUT

EVERY CARE TAKEN TO SHIELD NAME OF PASSENGER INJURED SATURDAY NIGHT WHEN NEWARK FARMER MET WITH ACCIDENT NORTH OF OTTAWA.

Blinded by the lights of a big touring car which was approaching from the opposite direction and said to have been crowded against the railing of an approach to a bridge over a small creek on the Chicago road, William Thorson, a young farmer living near Newark, and his companion, a young woman, had a narrow escape from death about midnight Saturday, when their auto broke through the railing and landed upside down in a creek about twenty-five feet below.

The accident occurred two miles northeast of Ottawa. The big car did not stop to see if the passengers in the Thorson car were injured, but sped on into Ottawa, leaving Thorson pinned under his car and the young lady severely cut, bruised and badly shaken up in the bottom of the ravine. Thorson managed to crawl unassisted from beneath the wrecked auto and was making his way to the top of the ravine, when Floyd Erickson, a well known young farmer, passed, going home. He heard the calls of Thorson and the girl, but did not at first turn back, thinking that someone who was intoxicated might be in the ravine. After passing by the scene he decided that he had better go back and investigate.

Upon reaching the approach to the bridge, he found Thorson badly bruised, but attempting to crawl to the road to reach assistance. The girl was bleeding freely from the cuts she had received. She was placed in the Erickson auto and rushed into Ottawa, where she received medical attention.

Thorson was driving a new Ford roadster, which he recently purchased. The top of the car was smashed, the windshield broken and the radiator broken. It will cost about \$100 to put it into repair again. Yesterday it was hauled from the ravine to a farmhouse nearby.

Thorson used every precaution to keep the identity of his companion a secret. At the hospital today it was denied that the girl was taken there to receive medical attention.

### Shield Woman's Identity.

Conflicting stories were circulated around town today regarding the young woman who was Thorson's companion. At the hospital vehement denials were made that she was taken there for medical treatment, although rumor had it that she was rushed to that institution shortly after midnight and departed shortly after receiving medical attention. The identity of the mysterious woman was veiled in the deepest secrecy today.

### MILLINGTON CHILD DIES AT I. V. HOSPITAL

Bernice May Cowan, four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Cowan of Millington, Ill., passed away Saturday night about 6:30 o'clock at the Illinois Valley hospital, South Ottawa, following a lingering illness. Bernice had been confined at the local institution for considerable length of time. She was born in Millington, Jan. 20, 1917 and has resided there her entire life.

### LAST RITES SAID FOR LATE EUGENE PERROTT

Funeral services of the late Eugene Perrott were held yesterday afternoon at St. Columba church. A large number of friends of the deceased gathered at the church to pay their last tribute and the floral offerings were many and beautiful. Interment was made in a vault at the Ottawa Avenue cemetery. The pall bearers were as follows: Attorney Harold Richardson, Mayor G. V. B. Weeks, W. D. Duncan, John O' Kane, Bert Bradish and Fred Scherer.

## GRAND MOTHER IS GIVEN BABY OVER PROTEST OF MOTHER

### COUNTY COURT RULES AGAINST MRS. HELEN McPHERSON'S PLEA FOR RETURN OF CHILD NOW WITH HUSBAND'S PARENTS.

Mrs. Mary Wise of Marseilles was awarded the custody of her son's 2-year-old daughter, Helen Mae McPherson, by Judge Reek in the County Court this morning. Mrs. Wise has had the little girl for two years, since she was a tiny babe. Recently the mother, Mrs. Della McPherson of Ottawa, made an effort to secure possession of Helen.

Mrs. Wise filed a petition asking that the court declare the little girl dependent and award the custody to her. The mother, Mrs. McPherson, employed Attorney Robert Carr to represent her, and staged a fight to secure the little girl. During the hearing today it developed that the mother has an 8-year-old child to care for and is forced to make her own living. Fearing that she could not give the baby the proper financial support and care, Judge Reek allowed the grandmother to keep the child.

### Resume Damage Case.

The first testimony for the defendant opened in the Byars-Nelson \$10,000 damage suit in the Circuit Court this afternoon, after a recess which closed Friday. The suit will probably not be concluded until Tuesday night or some time Wednesday.

### CORN PLOWING DONE; PLANTING IS BEGUN

Springfield, May 8.—The weekly review of crop conditions issued by S. D. Fessenden, agricultural statistician for Illinois, says:

Corn plowing is nearing completion. The acreage probably will be smaller than last year. Planting has been started in the central areas, and the condition of winter wheat and rye continues high, though recent frosts have been slow. The heaviest frost has been generally killed by rain. The condition of oats is only fair. Spring wheat average is smaller than that of last year. The plant is generally looking well.

The stand of barley is good. The condition of all classes of livestock is high. Some distemper has appeared among horses in the southern areas, and hog cholera has broken out in some localities and seems to be increasing.

### PETER GOLDBERG DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Peter J. Goldberg, sixty, well known resident of this city, passed away at his home, 1424 N. La Salle street, this morning about 5 o'clock following a lingering illness. Mr. Goldberg's death was attributed to a complication of diseases from which he had been suffering for the past eighteen months.

### DETROIT BANDITS GET \$20,000 TROLLEY CASH

Detroit, May 8.—Twelve men armed with sawed off shot guns and occupying three autos today held up a Detroit United Railways' trolley car and escaped with \$20,000 in cash.

## WATER'S WARMING UP



## KOENIG MAKES IT HARD ON BRAWLERS; 2 ON LONG STRETCH

### TROUBLE SEEKERS WHO PRECIPITATED DISTURBANCE AT ARMY FRIDAY NIGHT FIND POLICE IN RIGHT HUMOR TO DEAL WITH 'EM TODAY.

On several different occasions recently police authorities have been called to the Army C. to quell brawls. Following a fight which occurred there at midnight Saturday, Joseph Nevins, 504 Walker street, and Nicholas Wolfa, a chauffeur, were arrested before Judge George T. Koenig this morning at 9 o'clock and ordered to pay fines totalling \$500 and costs or serve the time out in the county jail. The fines were imposed against the young men, after they had pleaded guilty to charges of disturbing a public meeting, using profane language and resisting an officer of the law.

### White Mule Fells Black.

W. M. T. Powell, Negro, residing at East Center street, South Ottawa, was arrested Saturday evening about 11:30 o'clock by officers James Fox, James Sheehan and Thomas Reilly charged with being drunk and disorderly. Powell was arrested in front of the Bianchi confectionery store on La Salle street, after he had called "help," "murder" and for the police. He was taken into custody and was heavily under the influence of liquor.

### MEMORIAL ASSN. TO HOLD MEETING TONIGHT

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Memorial Association will be held at the Probate Court room in the court house this evening. Arrangements will be inaugurated for the appropriate observance of the day in Ottawa, as well as election of officers and transmittal of other business that may properly come before the meeting. More than ever before, Memorial Day is emphasizing the interest of the whole people and it is almost hoped that all interested will attend this meeting.

### CLAIM BRITISH RECOGNIZE SOVIETS

Copenhagen, May 8.—The British government according to information from a Russian source, has given de facto recognition to the Russian soviet government. (No confirmation of this report has been received from any sources.)

## EARLVILLE ESTATE OF \$47,600 IS FILED TODAY FOR PROBATE

### LATE CHARLES LINCOLN DIED WITHOUT DRAWING WILL—PROPERTY FALLS TO THREE CHILDREN.

The late Charles E. Lincoln of Earl township, who died on April 18, left an estate valued at \$47,600, according to a petition for letters of administration filed in the Probate Court today. Mr. Lincoln's real estate consists of 178 acres of Earl township land, valued at \$12,500, and \$3,000 worth of personal property.

### SENATE COMMITTEE DEBATES TAX ISSUES

Washington, May 8.—Tax revision discussion began today before the senate finance committee with sales tax proposals the announced topic, but with witnesses and committee members rambling over the whole range of taxes.

### NAMES TWO ILLINOIS REVENUE COLLECTORS

Washington, May 8.—The following were nominated by President Harding today as collectors of internal revenue:

- John C. Cannon, first district, Illinois.
- George W. Schauer, eighth district, Illinois.

## FOOT PROTRUDED INTO STREET; HIT BY AUTO

### Mobile this morning about 10 o'clock in front of the Indolence supply company on Main street, Otto Hahn, sides agent for that firm, had his right foot protrude into the street, when he was struck by a passing automobile driven by Harvey White, agent for the Nash motor car, of this city. Luckily, Hahn was not seriously injured and no later, was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Hahn when changing the tire saw his foot protrude into the street. Mr. White drove his car close to Mr. Hahn and as he attempted to back in the rear wheel of the White car passed over Mr. Hahn's foot. At first, because of the pain from which he was suffering, it was thought his foot might be seriously injured, but after examination was made it was determined that the accident had resulted in nothing serious. Mr. Hahn was able to continue his work.

### AFTER EFFECTS OF FLU PROVE FATAL

Mrs. John Patterson, widow, known resident of West Ottawa, died of the influenza in South Ottawa, Monday morning after a long illness which followed a bad attack of influenza which she suffered during the influenza epidemic of last year. She died at her home at 11 o'clock this morning after a long and painful illness.

### USE SCARIFIER ON BREWERY HILL ROAD

The Ottawa Valley road commission has ordered the use of a scarifier on the Brewery Hill road, between the Ottawa Valley road and the Ottawa Valley road, between the Ottawa Valley road and the Ottawa Valley road.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES

Joseph C. Schell, 11 La Salle St.  
Theodore Wagner, 109 W. 2d St.  
Leaves G. Reiman, 109 W. 2d St.  
Hattie S. Smith, La Salle St.  
John Week, Dismick St.  
Sophia Marentak, La Salle St.  
Norman C. Koffe, La Salle St.  
Anna Power, La Salle St.

### Water Falls to Stop Blaze.

Several attempts to stop and extinguish a fire which broke out in the rear of the Young men's club building and after several hours of hard fighting the flames were finally extinguished by the fire department.

### Police Activity Needed.

Police activity is needed in the rear of the Young men's club building and after several hours of hard fighting the flames were finally extinguished by the fire department.

## APPLIES TORCH TO UNTENANTED HOUSE, THEN FLEES SCENE

Ottawa's fire bug, who up to Saturday confined his operations to west and central Ottawa, is again at work, this time spreading terror to the north side.

### The Fire Brand's Toll

Since November of last year ten fires have been traced directly to the mysterious firebrand who has scattered terror into all sections of the city (except the East Side, which so far has been unscathed) by applying the torch apparently only with the fiendish desire of seeing property destroyed. So far the authorities have obtained no clue which would lead to the identity of the perpetrator of these crimes. Up to the present, including Saturday night's visit to the Allen Brundage home on Post street, the following places have been visited by the "brand":

- Sundal & Williams grocery, La Salle street (three separate visits).
- Dr. T. W. Burrows barn, off Columbus street.
- James Milligan barn, East Van Buren street.
- A. S. Calkins barn, Ottawa avenue.
- Burlington house barn, Madison street.
- C. B. & Q. freight car, Walnut street.
- William Kerrigan residence, Superior street.
- W. Coble barn, Christie street.
- William Groszkurth soft drink parlors, Court alley.

Losses through this source in all instances were heavy and approximately total about \$15,000.

According to reports, the firebug visited a cottage belonging to Allen J. Brundage, at 1706 Post street, north of a row of 22-500 to the owner, as a result of the firebug's fiendish plan and escaped probable disaster.

The residence, which was completely destroyed, together with its contents, has been without a tenant for several months during the owner's absence in Chicago, where he is employed over the winter season. Only part of the loss, it is reported, is covered by insurance.

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