

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1951)

THREE DEATHS RESULT FROM FIRES EXTINGUISHED BY BERNE FIREMEN IN 1950 ANSWER 25 ALARMS

The Berne firemen answered 25 fire alarms during 1950, 10 in Berne and 15 in the rural areas surrounding Berne, according to a report submitted today by E. E. Bixler, fire chief, and Hallman Schindler, secretary of the local fire department. Three deaths, one in Berne, and two outside of the corporation resulted from three of those fires, and while the property loss was not exceptionally high, the loss of life gave the year's fire loss a tragic note.

The property loss in the 10 local fires was estimated at \$2810 by fire chief Bixler. He did not make an estimate on the loss in the rural fires, but it was fairly heavy. The most costly rural fires were the Junior Ray barn in Monroe township, the Ray Thomas home in Hartford township, the William Johnson home in Blue Creek township where their son was painfully, but not seriously burned and the Grover Groves farm in Nottingham township, Wells county.

THREE MEET DEATH

The three persons who died as a result of being burned in these fires were Menas Graber, an employ of Graber Produce, who died several hours after being badly burned on Sept. 15 in a fire which followed an explosion at the plant. Mrs. Amy Tembring, 19, of Grand Haven, Michigan, burned to death in a fire which followed a truck mishap north of Berne on Sept. 23, and Harve Eckrote, who was badly burned in a fire at his home adjoining the Franklin Sprunger residence north of Berne and who eventually died from these burns and complications.

Had it not been for the prompt response to all of these alarms by the local fire department and for their valiant efforts in battling the fires when they arrived on the scene, the financial loss would have been much heavier.

The local calls answered by the firemen were the following, with four of the ten coming in the month of March:

Jan. 3 - Orval Kaeser home
March 10 - Berne Equity truck
March 18 - Robert Burkhalter home
March 23 - Mrs. Bess Bracker home
March 29 - Riley Brown trailer house
May 15 - Truck on Road 27
July 7 - Nussbaum Novelty Co.
Sept. 15 - Graber Produce
Nov. 10 - Paul Nelson home
Dec. 14 - Pennsylvania Railroad mail car fire

The firemen answered the following rural alarms:

Jan. 6 - Joel Baumgartner home in French township
March 29 - Truck in Monroe Township
May 3 - Franklin Sprunger home in Monroe township where Harve Eckrote was badly burned
Aug. 7 - Dale Affolder barn in Wabash township
Aug. 22 - Junior Ray barn in Monroe township
Aug. 28 - Grover Groves barn in Wells county
Sept. 17 - Ray Thomas home in Hartford township
Sept. 18 - Ray Thomas home (Flames flared up again)
Sept. 27 - Truck on Road 27 north of Berne in which Mrs. Tembring burned to death
Oct. 5 - William Johnson home in Blue Creek township
Oct. 9 - Guy Shoemaker home in Hartford township
Nov. 23 - Eldon Lehman home in Monroe township
Dec. 5 - Wittwer Body Works, Wabash township
Dec. 13 - Amos Stauffer home in Blue Creek township

The firemen answered the following calls with their rescuscitator:

Jan. 10 - Walter Stucky
(Cut off)

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 12, 1951)

MRS. FRED FOX IS DEAD AFTER LONG ILLNESS Funeral Here Tuesday For 76-Year-Old French Tp. Woman

Mrs. Mary Yoder Fox, 76, widow of Fred Fox who died a few weeks ago, succumbed at 10:00 a.m. Sunday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. David J. Reinhard northwest of Berne, in French township. She suffered a stroke five years ago and had been bedfast four years. She gradually became weaker, especially during the past few weeks.

Mrs. Yoder was a life-long resident of this community. She was born April 28, 1874, in French township, the daughter of Chris and Elizabeth Mosser Yoder. She was married to Fred Fox, December 29, 1902, in Vera Cruz.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. David J. (Pearl) Reinhard with whom she resided; a grandson, Max DeWayne Reinhard; a sister, Mrs. Chris (Lydia) Roth, Fort Wayne and two brothers, Sam Yoder, Geneva, R. R. and Jonas Yoder, Wauseon, Ohio.

The husband preceded in death January 5 of this year and a daughter, Wilma, is deceased.

Mrs. Fox was a member of the Cross Evangelical Reformed church where funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, the Rev. C. A. Schmid officiating. Burial will be in the Evangelical Mennonite church cemetery.

The body is at the Yager Funeral Home where it may be viewed.

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 12, 1951)

LONG PERIOD WITHOUT DEATH COMES TO END

The week-end deaths of Mrs. Mary Fox and Mary R. Graber were the first reported to the Yager Mortuary here since January 27. The Yager firm did not conduct a single funeral in February and none in March so far. This is believed one of the longest periods in a number of years (cut off)

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MOTHER OF NELSON STRAHM SUCCUMBS Funeral Friday For Mrs. Lydia Strahm, 82; Dies Last Evening

Mrs. Lydia Strahm, 82, of near Bluffton, widow of Daniel Strahm, died at 6:30 p.m. yesterday in the Lutheran hospital, Fort Wayne. She had been ill five weeks after suffering a fractured hip in a fall.

Surviving are six sons, Edward of Waynedale, Jacob and Albert of Fort Wayne, Herman and Aden, Craigville, and Nelson, Berne; five daughters, Mrs. Eva Blume of Waynedale, Mrs. Ernest Gerber of Rockville, Conn., Mrs. H. R. Gibson and Mrs. Elizabeth VanBuskirk, Fort Wayne and Mrs. Anthony Metzger, New York City; a stepson, William Strahm, Craigville; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Aaron Minger, Craigville, and Mrs. Joel Kehr, Bluffton; 28 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Jacob Klopfenstein, Bluffton, and Joel Klopfenstein, New York City, and three sisters, Mrs. Sarah Meyer of Bluffton, Mrs. Frank Brazer, Portland, Ore., and Mrs. Emma Baumgartner, Decatur.

The body taken to the Jahn Funeral Home in Bluffton will be taken to the home of the son, Aden Strahm, at Craigville, where friends may call after 6 p.m. today. Funeral services will be conducted Friday at 1:30 p.m. at the residence and at 2 o'clock in the Apostolic Christian Church, of which Mrs.

Strahm was a member, with the Rev. Samuel Aschliman officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

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CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our relatives, friends and neighbors for the many appreciated expressions of love and sympathy extended to us during the illness and recent death of our beloved mother and grandmother. Especially do we wish to thank for the many cards, for the flowers and prayers as well as all the other expressions of love toward us during our bereavement.

The Ellen Nussbaum Family.

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Among those from out of town who attended the funeral of Mrs. Ellen Nussaum which took place last Thursday were:

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Reynolds and son Max, Mrs. Carl Burkett and Mrs. George Bourn of Elkhart; Mr. and Mrs. Millen Nussbaum and Albert Nussbaum, of Kidron, O.; Mrs. E. E. Ames and Mrs. Dewey Gabel of Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. MacKenzie and Rev. and Mrs. Paul Steel of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Jay Gerig and Burl DuVall of Fort Wayne and Mrs. R. L. Case and children Ann Louise, Mary Sue and Riley B. of Lagrange.

(Handwritten date: Tuesday, June 9, 1953)

SWARTZ

BERNE - Mrs. Caroline Lehman Swartz, 63, a native and former resident of this city, died Sunday in Elkhart, following several month's illness. Surviving are her husband, Edwin L., two sons, four grandchildren, four brothers and four sisters. Services will be held Wednesday morning in the First Evangelical United Brethren Church, Elkhart.

(Karin King note: Caroline is buried in Rice Cemetery, Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana)

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WIFE OF EDWIN NEUENSCHWANDER SUCCUMBS HERE

Funeral Here Today For 63-Year-Old Woman

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. today at the First Mennonite church for Mrs. Mary Aldine Moser Neuenschwander, 63, wife of Edwin Neuenschwander, who died unexpectedly at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Rev. Olin A. Krehbiel officiated at the rites and burial was in the M.R.E. cemetery.

Mrs. Neuenschwander died at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Augsburg on West Franklin street. Death was caused by hypostatic pneumonia. She had been ailing since July and bedfast part of the time, though, because of her condition had to sit up much of the time. She failed gradually but death was quite sudden and unexpected although she complained Sunday morning of not feeling as good as usual.

Mr. and Mrs. Neuenschwander had resided in their cottage at Rome City for the past 13 years but usually spent the winters here.

She was born June 30, 1887, in Berne, the daughter of Levi and Judith Winteregg Moser. She was married to Edwin Neuenschwander, Nov. 24, 1908.

Surviving are the husband; a daughter, Mrs. Harold (Marcella) Augsburger; a grandson, Richard Augsburger; and the following brothers and sisters: Oren and Marcus Moser, both of Berne route 1; Mrs. Jacob Stucky and Mrs. Ira Stucky, both of Berne rural route, and Mrs. Marcus Lehman, Cincinnati, Ohio. A daughter, Mary Ann Augsburger, died in 1947 and a brother, Harve, and a sister, Mrs. Lillie Habegger, preceded in death.

Mrs. Neuenschwander was a member of the First Mennonite church and spent all of her life here until she and her husband moved to Rome City.

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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lehman, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Neuenschwander and Mrs. Milton Schlotzhauer of Bluffton were in Berne this morning to attend the funeral of Mrs. Edwin Neuenschwander which took place at the First Mennonite church.

(Handwritten date: Friday, 1945)

BLUFFTON FLIER DIES

BLUFFTON, April 13 - Mr. and Mrs. Earl Harvey have been notified that their son, Sgt. Philip J. Harvey, 20, an aerial gunner on an Army bomber plane that went down over France, March 4, was killed on that date. He was previously reported missing. Sergeant Harvey was born in Bluffton and was graduated from the Bluffton high school in 1943. Surviving besides the parents, are a sister, an uncle, an aunt, Mrs. William Richey, Fort Wayne, and his grandfather, Jacob Masterson, Bluffton.

(Karin King note: Philip is buried in Elm Grove Cemetery, Bluffton, Indiana)

Adams County Historical Museum

1933-1953 Scrapbook, Image 018

Transcribed by Karin King