

# 1934 Scrapbook #1, Image #006

BERNE, INDIANA, THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1934

## **Worst Sleet Storm In History**

Does Heavy Damage in Berne

Total Loss in County Estimated at More Than \$35,000, With Telephone Co. and Ind. Service Corp. Suffering Heavily; Fruit Trees Ruined by Hundreds.

Berne and community are recovering today from one of the worst sleet storms in history. The total loss in Adams county can probably never be accurately estimated, but will probably amount to at least \$50,000, figuring in the loss to telephone and utility companies, damage to trees and other losses. The loss in Berne alone is estimated at several thousand dollars while the community around Berne suffered accordingly.

## ICE MELTS TODAY

Most of the ice disappeared from wires, trees and fences today. Some of it melted Wednesday but the atmosphere did not warm up enough until today to allow most of the ice to melt. While the sleet and snow clinging to everything outside, painted a brilliant picture, the damage done is heavy. While telephone and electric wires can be spliced and replaced, the fruit trees, stately maple and elm trees which were broken down will take years to replace. Hundreds of fruit trees were destroyed or badly damaged in this community, some farmers losing almost their entire orchards. Some of the trees can no doubt be saved but their beauty as well as their usefulness will be marred. Berne was littered with broken limbs and branches Tuesday morning, making traffic over some streets impossible. As soon as the ice is all gone reconstruction work will commence at full swing and several men will be employed by the town to clear away the debris. One heartening thing about the storm, however, is the fact that nobody was injured.

## TELEPHONE CO. HARD HIT

Herman Ehinger, manager of the Citizens Telephone Co., announced today that the total loss to the company would be about \$12,000 at least. The loss is heavier than was at first estimated and will take weeks until phone service in the county is restored to normal. All toll lines out of Berne are out of commission and Berne is still unable to get in touch with the outside world by telephone. It has been impossible since Monday to call anybody on the phone living out of town. Telephone wires thru-out the county are down, weighted and torn down by the load of ice, and many poles were broken down. Linemen are busy at work but it will take several days yet until the main lines will again be in operation. In Berne many phones were put out of commission.

## ELECTRIC SERVICE INTERRUPTED

The Indiana Service Corp also suffered heavily in the county. Many lines were broken down and their linemen have been working day and night to repair the damage. Not a single factory in Berne was able to operate until about 10 o'clock Tuesday forenoon when some of the main power lines were repaired. Wednesday afternoon the power was again off for four hours when a break occurred in the main line near the local Reformed church, and this morning the power was again off for several hours. Several people, including Rev. C.H. Suckau, came near driving over live wires Wednesday when the line broke at the Reformed church, but were flagged in time to enable them to stop. Power lines were down all over the county and the northeastern part of Indiana.

#### **BERNE ISOLATED**

Tuesday and Wednesday Berne was practically isolated from the outside world. Telephone service was impossible, as were other means of communications. Even radios, except those operated by batteries were silent most of the day Tuesday.

#### **SCHOOLS CLOSED**

The Berne schools resumed classes Wednesday after being closed all day Tuesday because of the weather conditions. Other schools throughout the county were also closed for the day, and some remained closed Wednesday. The only sleet storm approaching this one occurred in March, 1928.

#### **AUGSBURGER RITES FRIDAY** Thursday Mar. 29, 1934

Sarah Augsburger, Aged 66, Passed Away Early Wednesday

Miss Sarah Augsburger, aged 66 died at the home of her brother Levi Augsburger on East Main street here at 1:20 o'clock Wednesday morning. Death was caused by paralysis. Miss Augsburger suffered three strokes, one last June, and after being in bed several weeks recovered to a certain extent. Two weeks ago she again suffered a stroke, followed by another one on Monday of this week. Since Monday she was unconscious and weakened rapidly.

The deceased was born in Hartford township, on October 31, 1867, a daughter of John and Maria Wenger Augsburger. Her entire life was spent in this community, moving to Berne a number of years ago. She was never married.

Surviving are one brother, Levi and one sister Mary. Both of Berne.

#### **OLIVER HELLER BUYS SPADES** Thurs. Mar. 29, 1934

Spades Grocery Changes Hands; To Be Known as Heller's Grocery

Oliver Heller, well known local man, Wednesday morning closed a deal with Frank Spade of Portland, through which Mr. Heller became the owner of Spades Grocery store on n. Jefferson street here. Mr. Heller assumed possession of the store at once, and the grocery will now be known as Heller's Grocery.

Spades Grocery opened here a number of years ago and Jesse M. Amstutz had served s manager since July 10, 1925. He came here from Portland where he served as stock manager for over two years, and during the time of Mr. Amstutz's management here, the grocery did excellent business.

Mr. Heller needs no introduction to local people. He recently quit the trucking business, having operated a furniture van for several years. Prior to that he served as night policeman here. His father, Ed. Heller, who passed away some time ago was a groceryman here and at Linn Grove for 40 years and Ollie learned the grocery business from the ground up when he was a boy.

Mr. Heller will devote his full time to the store here, but will retain Mr. Amstutz and Clara Habegger as clerks. Mr. Heller plans to institute a delivery service soon. He invites the patronage of the public.

Mr. Spade sold the grocery here because of the death of this wife and failing health. He perates three Spades Groceries at Portland.

### **Two Youths Escape Injuries In Crash** Sat. Mar. 31, 1934

Eugene Knodle, high school student, as knocked off a motorcycle driven by Robert Brown when the machine collided with an auto driven by F.L. Britson of near the Ohio state line, on Second street last evening.

Mr. Britson was driving onto Second street from East Jefferson street. He was headed for the Elberson Service station. Mr. Brown and Mr. Knodle were riding south. The two machines collided in front of the service station driveway. The Knodle youth was taken to the hospital. He was not injured seriously and was able to leave the hospital this morning.

### **BUYS NEW PLYMOUTH** Thursday, Apr 5, 1934

Elmer W. Baumgartner, cashier of the First Bank of Berne, is the owner of a new Plymouth Deluxe sedan purchased from Main Street Filling Station.

### **HENRY GERBER CLAIMS BRIDE** Thurs, Apr. 5, 1934

Miss Ada Heyerly Bride In Ceremony Last Saturday

Miss Ada Heyerly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Heyerly, east of Bluffton, and Henry Gerber son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gerber, also living east of Bluffton, were united in marriage at 2:30 Saturday afternoon at the Presbyterian manse at Ossian. Rev. R.A. Pitzer, pastor of the Presbyterian church, read the impressive single ring ceremony. The couple was attended by Miss Alice Heyerly, a sister of the bride, and Geius Gerber, a cousin of the groom.

#### **IND. SERVICE - PHONE CO. ASK FOR CONSIDERATION**

Officials of the Indiana Service Corporation and Citizens Telephone Company ask the public to kindly bear with them until the damage caused by the sleet is all fixed. Workmen for both companies have been busy day and night since Monday in fixing the damage, but there is so much of it and somebody has to wait until last. The linemen are risking their lives in repairing the damage, yet some people are always finding fault with them and nagging them because they think the linemen do not work fast enough.

Officials of the Indiana Service Corporation and local police warn the public, school children especially not to ouch any wires, trees or posts until all the damage is fixed here, as some live wires might mean instant death.

**CONVICTED** April 5, 1934

(Photo) Milton Werling

Thursday, Apr. 12, 1934:

Miss Lydia Nussbaum was removed to her home near Monroe Tuesday after being a patient at the Adams County Memorial Hospital at Decatur for the past two weeks.

Anna Marie and Vera Jane, daughters of Mr. and Mrs Noah Steury are confined to their homes with measles.

Paul Meyers and Silas Sprunger are the new employees at the Nussbaum Novelty Company since yesterday morning.

Thurs. May 3, 1934

Jacob D. Mazelin, an employee of the United Milk Company here, underwent an operation for the removal of his appendix at the Adams County Memorial hospital last evening.

Evelyn Graber, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Graber of Monroe township is seriously ill with a streptococcus infection in her throat.

David J. Graber of northwest of town is having his house remodeled.

**JOHN MYERS IS NEW TOWN CLERK – TREAS.** Thurs. May 3, 1934

Named by Town Council To Succeed David Depp Who Resigned

Adam's County Historical Museum Scrapbooks

**Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth**

July 19, 2012