

## 1936 Scrapbook, image 091

(Handwritten: Friday, March 12, 1937)

Funeral services for John C. Eckert, aged 62, who was widely known as the fattest man in America and who resided here until 28 years ago, will be held Saturday afternoon in Flomaton, Ala., where Mr. Eckert died Thursday night of injuries suffered in an automobile accident February 6.

Relatives here said the body of the man who weighed 739 pounds will be buried at Flomaton, but telegraphic news dispatches quoted J. E. Brennan, manager of the deceased, as saying plans are being made to turn the body over to a medical school.

Mr. Eckert, who had toured the country the last quarter of a century as the Nation's biggest man, was fatally injured when his truck theatre and home was wrecked. He suffered fractured ribs and internal injuries and was a patient in a Flomaton hospital until his death. Reports received here stated that 10 men lifted the giant man on a mattress, then to a stretcher, and he was placed on two beds placed together during his illness.

### TOURED EUROPE

The deceased toured Europe under sponsorship of P. T. Barnum, the circus man. He received a gold medal 20 years ago when adjudged the heaviest man in America. He had been in the show business for nearly half a century and had toured the South extensively. Too heavy to walk, Mr. Eckert lived and performed in his truck-theatre home.

Mr. Eckert was associated with his brothers, the late David Eckert, and William E. Eckert, of this city, in the cigar making business here before he entered the show business. The cigar firm was founded by his father, the late J. C. Eckert. Many Fort Wayne residents recall having seen the huge man sitting in front of the cigar factory on Calhoun street. His size, even before he entered the show business, attracted many people to the place of business.

### VISITED HERE SIX YEARS AGO

The deceased last visited his sister, Mrs. Katherine G. Eckert, 123 West Williams street, on Easter six years ago. The brother and sister here and several nieces and nephews are the only surviving relatives. A brother, Jess, died a month ago in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mr. Eckert was a member of the Elks, Moose and Modern Woodman lodges.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Handwritten date is cut off - 1937)

### PHYSICIAN VICTIM OF PNEUMONIA

Dr. R. B. McKeeman, Aged 63, Dies at Home After Short Illness

LAST RITES TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY

Began Practicing Here in 1900; Medical Society Calls Special Meeting

Dr. R. B. McKeeman, aged 63, vice-president of the Fort Wayne Medical Society and prominent in medical circles here for 35 years, died of pneumonia at 11:15 a.m. today at his home, 724 Packard Avenue, following an illness of less than five days.

Private funeral services, to be attended only by members of the family and the medical society, will be held at the home at 2 p.m. Saturday with the Rev. William N. Vincent, of the Third Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be: Dr. Herbert M. Senseny, Dr. M. B. Catlett, Dr. Philip S. Titus, Dr. E. M. Van Buskirk, Dr. Lynn W. Elston, and Dr. Edward H. Schlegel.

Friends may view the body at the Klaehn and Sons Funeral Home until 10 a.m. Saturday.

Dr. McKeeman was at his office as usual on Saturday. The illness was contracted on Sunday and his condition grew steadily worse until the end.

Dr. McKeeman was born in Madison Township, near Hoagland, on February 27, 1874, and received his early education in the Hoagland schools. He attended Taylor University at Upland, and the normal school at Marion.

After two years as a teacher in the Allen County schools, he entered Fort Wayne Medical College, from which he graduated in 1897.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Handwritten: Saturday, April 3, 1937)

#### WEDDED 50 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Baumgartner, of South Whitley, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Sunday with a family dinner and open house from 1 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

The couple, formerly residents of Decatur, Bluffton and Berne, were married by the Rev. W. D. Samuels in the Six-Mile church near Bluffton. Mr. Baumgartner, aged 73, was at one time Adams County surveyor. His wife is 70 years old.

Their children include Mrs. Ben Wilken, of Lima, O.; Mrs. J. T. Newton, of Franklin, O.; John Baumgartner, of Winchester, and Dr. Clyde R. Baumgartner of Spencerville.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Handwritten: Thursday, April 1, 1937)

#### NEW ARRIVAL

A daughter, Barbara Anne, was born to Paul and Sarah Felber Liechty last Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Handwritten: 1937)

#### MISS MARCELLA LEHMAN BRIDE

Daughter of L. F. Lehman Married at Fort Wayne on Easter

Ft. Wayne, April 1 - The marriage of Miss Marcella F. Lehman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Lehman of 3104 Fairfield avenue, formerly of Berne, to Helmuth Oldenburg, son of Rev. and Mrs. B. Oldenburg of Ridgeville Corners, O., was solemnized at 3 o'clock Easter Sunday afternoon at the home of the bride in the presence of the immediate families.

For her wedding costume the bride chose a blue lace dress with grey accessories. Her flowers were sweet peas and rosebuds arranged in a corsage.

Following the ceremony a two course luncheon was served to the wedding guests in the dining room where the color scheme was carried out in pink and white.

The bride was graduated from South Side high school in 1931 and has been employed by the National Mill Supply company.

**Adams County Historical Museum**

**1936 Scrapbook, image 91**

**Transcribed by Karin King**