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Trial of Linn Fryback, 19, 508 Lavina Street, and Donald Combs, 19, 2223 Miner Street, for the murder of a filling station attendant in Gallup, N.M., has been set for the Spring term of the district court there, Attorney David Hogg, retained as legal counsel for young Combs, said today. Hogg has returned to the city from Gallup, where he conferred with the youth.

"Feeling in Gallup against the two youths is much less strong than it was," Hogg commented. He corroborated press dispatches which said that Combs had repudiated his confession admitting the slaying of James Fry, 19, a filling station attendant, during a holdup November 18th in which \$18 was taken. Young Combs is fully repentant of all that has transpired since leaving Fort Wayne, Hogg said.

The murder charges will be heard by District Judge David Chavez Jr., who is a brother of Dennis Chavez with whom Hogg said he once served in Congress.

## Asks Prayers of Mother

His mother's prayers are asked by young Fryback, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fryback, 508 Lavina Street.

Asserting his innocence, young Fryback in a letter to his parents asked that prayers be said so that "they would find out the real truth," and requested pictures of the family be sent him. The text of the letter is as follows:

"Dear Mom and Dad:

"I suppose you know by now that I'm in jail. I guess a boy never realizes how much he loves his family until something like this happens, so don't mind a few tears. They say I will get the electric chair for killing a boy, but honest, mom, I didn't do it.

I've been praying night and day that somehow they would find out the real truth. Mom, go to church every chance you get and ask them to pray for the truth, and ask Dad to go too.

"Send me some pictures of the whole family. If you need money you can sell my car. Please forgive me and help me pray. With lots of love, Linn.

P.S. Deliver the note for me. (Note refers to his girl, Virginia, which was enclosed with the letter.)

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## Samuel Beitler Dies

Funeral services were held at 9:30 this forenoon at the Cross Reformed church here for Samuel Beitler, aged 79, who died suddenly Friday morning. The Rev. C.a. Schmid

officiated and burial was made in the M.R.E. cemetery. A short service at the home preceded the church funeral.

Mr. Beitler died suddenly at 5:45 Friday morning while sitting in a chair at his home on Van Buren St. He complained the evening before of not feeling well, but had been uptown during the day and believed his ailment was rheumatism. Friday morning he rose at 5:30 and then sat down in a chair and died without warning. His neighbor, Jerome Yager, county coroner, was among the first notified and Mr. Beitler was dead when Yager arrived. He said death was caused by a heart attack.

Mr. Beitler was a great outdoor man, enjoyed hunting and fishing and enjoyed good health until nearly the very end. He knew birds, trees, plants and the realm of nature generally and had his eyes and faculties of observation trained to nature's beauty. It was a source of great happiness to him and he was willing to share his knowledge and his happiness with the younger people which endeared him to many.

Mr. Beitler served as janitor of the Cross Reformed church several years, as a janitor and supply janitor of the Berne school for a time and served in the same capacity many years for the annual summer Bible School. He was a member of the Berne Town Board for several years. The decedent was born in Clear Creek Twp., Huntington county, Jan 2, 1860, the son of Samuel, Sr. and Elizabeth Christner Beitler. He moved to French twp. with his parents as an infant. His father, who responded to the call during the Civil War, was killed in action at Vicksburg, Miss.

Mr. Beitler as a youth was married to Mary Wetter who survives. Four children were born to the union. Surviving are Hugo, Mrs. V. A. (Osie) Eichenberger, Mrs. W. O. (Cora) Neuenschwander, all of Berne. One daughter, Della, preceded as a young child. One brother, Lawrence of Monroe and one half brother, C.E. Stuckey survive.

Brothers and sisters preceding were William, John, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellenberger, Mrs. Magdalena Yager. A half brother, Fred of Chattanooga, O., died a week ago.

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Mrs. Pauline Berber Dro, aged 78, widow of the late Emil Dro, died suddenly at about 8:30 Wednesday evening at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. T.J. Benton, at Willow Springs, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. Mrs. Dro was sitting in a rocking chair when death struck her without warning. It is believed that she suffered a heart attack, although full details have not been received here.

Ervin Dro of this place, son of the deceased, received a phone call at 9:00 last evening informing him of his mother's sudden departure. She had been in fair health, although suffering from gallstones for some time.

Mrs. Dro spent most of her life in Berne and the past few years lived here in summer and with her daughter in winter. She was planning to come to Berne in a few weeks to spend the summer here. She still owned her home on North Behring St. here and always lived here in the summer. The house is completely furnished but no one lived in it this winter.

Mrs. Dro was born in Switzerland, Jan. 24, 1862, a daughter of Jacob and Anna Blozzer Berber. She was married in Switzerland on Jan.17, 1882, to Emil Dro. Several years after their marriage, or about 50 years ago, the family came to this country and came directly to Berne, where they lived until Mr. Dor's sudden death 18 years ago.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter, Ervin Dro of Berne, Emil Dro of Los Angeles and Mrs. Pauline Benton, of Willow Springs, Ill. One brother survives, Jacob Gerber of East Franklin St., well known Berne photographer. 8 grandchildren survive, and also 1 great-grandchild.

The husband, the parents and the following children preceded: Ernest, former local printer; Sam, who was killed by a train; Mrs. Lena Dro Hall Warren, and Herman. Eight brothers and sisters preceded including Mrs. Fred Darfuss, Mrs. Godfrey Morand and six other died many years ago, five of them in a short time from diphtheria.

Mrs. Dro was a member of the Cross Reformed church here.

Luther and Jerome Yager left at noon today with the Yager ambulance to bring the body to Berne. It will be taken to her home on North Behring Street. The body is expected to arrive here sometime tonight but the funeral arrangements have no been definitely decided. The rites will be on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 at the home and at 2:00 at the Cross Reformed church, with the Rev. C.a. Schmid officiating. Burial will be in the M. R. E. Cemetery.

## Adams County Historical Society 1939 Scrapbook, Image 075 Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth