

Mon. April 3, 1939

## PHOTOS

Decatur youths whose alleged confessions solved a series of more than 50 crimes in this area are \_\_\_ with the officers who arrested them in breaking up the gang. Seated are Walter Garwood, 23, Roy Shoaf, 19, and Raymond Evans, 26; standing left to right are Sheriff Ed Miller of Adams county, State Police Officers Truman Bierie and Russell Prior and Decatur Police Chief James Borders. Pictured below left to right are Ivan Garwood, Lucille Shafer and DeLoyd Garwood, other members of the alleged gang now serving sentences for other offenses.

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## Confessed Robbers are Taken to State Reformatory

The last chapter in a short and inglorious career of crime for Roy Shoaf, Raymond Evans and Walter Garwood, Adams county's "embryonic Dillinger gang," was written Friday - the last for a year at least.

The three young men, who confessed to approximately 50 crimes in the county and community since the fall of 1937, were taken to the Indiana State Reformatory at Pendleton Friday morning by Sheriff Ed Miller and City Officer Roy Chilcote.

There they started servicing 1-10 year terms each, as decreed by Judge J. Fred Fruchte in circuit court when they all pleaded guilty to charges of grand larceny.

There they will join Ivan and Deloyd Garwood, two other members of their reported gang, who were sentenced by Judge Fruchte several weeks ago on similar charges.

The sixth and last member of the youthful robbery gang, Miss Lucille Shafer, is serving a six months' sentence in the woman's correction institution at Indianapolis on a charge of issuing a fraudulent check. Her four-week-old baby is being kept at the Adams County Memorial Hospital.

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## Dr. Grandstaff Dies Suddenly

Former Adams County Coroner Dies at Home in Preble

Dr. John Curtis Grandstaff, 66, prominent Adams county physician, died shortly before 1:00 Friday afternoon at his home in Preble of a heart ailment.

Dr. Grandstaff had been very active in medical circles in this county, having served both as county coroner and county health officer.

He was born in Root township, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel and Catherine Dutcher-Grandstaff. He taught in Adams county schools for five years and then, desiring to practice medicine, entered the office of Dr. J.L. Smith at Hoagland. He graduated at the Electric Medical College at Cincinnati, O., in 1889. He started practice at Hoagland and in 1901 moved to Preble, where he had maintained an office since that time.

His first marriage was to Miss Lillie Flemming, who died March 8, 197. In 1899 he was married to Miss Ethel Mann, who survives.

He was a member of the Adams County Medical society and the Indiana Medical society. He was a member of the Masonic and Red Men's lodges of this city.

Surviving beside the widow are three sons, Dr. Floyd Grandstaff of Decatur, present county health officer; Gerald, northwest of Decatur, and Francis of Texas; one sister, Mrs. Doris Schieferstine of Monmouth, and nine grandchildren. One son, Curtis, died four years ago.

Funeral services were held this afternoon at the Decatur M.E. Church, conducted by Rev. Robert Yunker, pastor of the Beulah Chapel M.E.church of which Dr. Grandstaff was an active member.

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C.H. Gage is Taken by Death  
Retired Farmer Dies Thursday Evening at Monmouth

C.H. Gage, 78, prominent retired Monmouth farmer, died Thursday evening at 1:15 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harold Owens in that village.

Death was attributed to asthma and complications, following an extended illness.

The deceased was born in Scottsburg, Mich., Sept. 15, 1860. Early in life he married Samantha Dailey, who preceded him in death many years ago. A daughter, Mary was born to this union. On March 1, 1906, he was married to Gertrude Kitson, who died two years ago.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Mary Moses of New York and Mrs. Owens of Monmouth. A daughter also preceded him in death.

The deceased taught in the county school system for a period of 17 years before being engaged in farming.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at 1:30 at the home and at 2:00 at the First M.E. Church of Decatur.

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Mon. April 10, 1939

Death Takes Decatur Man  
M.F. Harris, 61, Former Grocer is Dead; Rites Tuesday

Matthew F. Harris, 61, local hardware store employee and former grocer, died of a cerebral hemorrhage Saturday night at his home here.

He was born at Butler and came here in 1915. Surviving are the widow; one son, George Harris of Decatur; two daughters, Mary and Flothilda Harris of Decatur, and three grandchildren. One daughter, Florence Harris, died two months ago. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Funeral services will be held at 9:00 Tuesday morning at the St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Rev. J.J. Seimetz, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic cemetery.

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Leonard and Ludella Stauffer Whitehurst are the parents of a boy, Frederick Leon, born Friday evening at the Dubach hospital.

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Thurs. June 1, 1939

New Arrivals

Hiram and Clara Mettler Nussbaum are the parents of a boy Stanley James, born this morning.

A boy, Ronald David, was born to Alton B. and Mildred Bixley Corson on May 30.

**Adams County Historical Society 1939 Scrapbook, Image 076**  
**Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth**