

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 17, 1941)

VIRGIL BIXLER CLAIMS BRIDE

Nuptial Vows Are Exchanged With Miss Garnett Herman

Virgil Bixler, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bixler of near Geneva, and Garnett Herman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Herman, were married Wednesday, March 12, at 3 p.m. by the Rev. George Holston, pastor of the Linn Grove Evangelical church.

Marjorie Bixler, sister of the groom, and Dale Herman, brother of the bride, attended the young couple.

The bride was attired in navy blue. Her attendant also wore navy blue.

After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Bixler and attendants motored to Celina, Ohio, for a wedding supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Moser, sister of the groom.

The couple are at home with the groom's parents where he will be engaged in farming with his father.

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IN AND AROUND OUR OWN HOME TOWN

Mrs. John Rohrer of Fort Wayne has ordered a ticket for "Grand Old Switzerland" the operetta to be given by the local Berne high school glee clubs, directed by Freeman Burkhalter, with instructions to pick one out for her, way down in front on main floor. She adds: "You know, Switzerland is a 'Hobby' to me, and a fine one. I am so glad Berne is getting more Swiss conscious all the time. Brother Frank (Welty) once said, 'It's the most beautiful country in the world'." Mrs. Rohrer does collect pictures of Switzerland scenery, and is very much interested in descriptive literature of Switzerland as well as historical information.

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 10, 1941)

BIRTHS

Willis and Vivian Dellinger Taylor are the parents of a baby girl, Carolyn Joan, born Saturday at the Adams County Memorial hospital at Decatur.

Sandra Kay is the name of the baby girl, born Sunday at the Adams County Memorial hospital at Decatur to Herman and Opal Myers Kiefer.

Dr. J. H. and Pauline Baumgartner McCool of Evansville, are the parents of a baby boy, William Edwin, born Saturday. This is the third child in the family, but the first

boy. Mrs. McCool is a daughter of Ed Baumgartner of Fort Wayne, and has a large number of relatives in this community.

Verl L. and Dorothy M. Lee Snyder of near Rockfor, Ohio, are the parents (cut off)

(Handwritten date: Friday, March 14, 1941)

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Evans, ?? N. Madison, Saginaw, Mich., are the parents of a baby boy, Ronald Aron, born March 10. Mrs. Evans is a sister of Mrs. Robert Augsburg.

Howard and Rufine Habegger Pharr of Ringgold, Ga., are the parents of a baby boy, Derryle Lee, born March 11. This is a first child in the family and is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Habegger of this place, and a great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Schwartz.

Elmer K. is the name of the baby boy, born Thursday night to John and Katie Coblentz Hilty.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, January 15, 1941)

ED STAHLY SALE Totals \$8,825. 56

The Ed Stahly auction yesterday turned out to be one of the largest farm auctions held in this area in a long while, as many had expected it would. Several thousand persons attended and despite a cold penetrating east wind, the crowd stood with the auctioneers and the bidding was brisk all day. The cows in Mr. Stahly's Holstein herd averaged about \$100 and the highest price paid for a cow was \$140 and several others sold for over \$130. Three auctioneers and three clerks worked the sale and last night when the clerk sheets were totalled, the figure stood at \$8,825.56. This may still go a little higher, depending on the measurement of the grain that was sold.

Mr. and Mrs. Stahly will move to Geneva where they have purchased a home, that being in the proximity of two farms which Mr. Stahly owns. Tilman Affolder will move on the old Burghalter homestead from which the Stahly's are retiring.

(Handwritten date: Monday, 1941)

MOTHER OF JOSEPH SEABOLD EXPIRES

Bluffton, March 17 - Mrs. Dora Seabold, 68, widow of Christian P. Seabold, died Friday afternoon at her home here, after a long illness. Surviving are a son, Joseph, and a daughter, Mrs. Virginia Costello, both of this city, and a brother, Joseph Pease, east of Bluffton. Mrs. Seabold was a member of the First Evangelical and Reformed church of this city. Services were held at the church at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Yager attended the funeral of Mrs. Dora Seabold at the Reformed Church at Bluffton, Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Seabold was a relative of Mr. Yager.

(kk note: Buried Fairview Cemetery, Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana)

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 31, 1941)

OTTO SMITH JR., DIES SUNDAY AS PLANE NOSE DIVES TO EARTH ON FARM OF FRIEND NEAR BERNE

Kirkland High School Graduate is Fatally Hurt; Third of Family To Die In Air RITES WEDNESDAY

(By Bob Shraluka - Staff Reporter) Otto C. Smith, Jr., 23, an Adams County youth who Sunday afternoon met the same fate as his "Dad" - death in a falling plane - will on Wednesday be laid to rest beside the body of his father in the M. R. E. cemetery near Berne.

Smith, lately a resident of Fort Wayne, died in the Adams county memorial hospital at 3:25 o'clock Sunday afternoon, less than an hour after his plane crashed into hard ground on the Menas Wulliman farm, five miles northwest of Berne.

Members of the Wulliman family cut his crushed and broken body from the splintered cockpit of his light, upper-winged monoplane, which had buried its nose in the ground.

Smith was preparing to land when his plane crashed. A friend of Herman Wulliman, a son of Menas, Smith flew from Fort Wayne Sunday afternoon to visit his former Kirkland high school classmate.

Miss Vera Wulliman, Herman's sister, hesitantly described the fatal crash, which she and the members of her family witnessed from their front yard. "We heard Ott coming in from the west," she said. "He was flying low - almost 50 feet from the top of those pine trees (which were about a similar height). He flew over the field and then circled, banking to the north. He was flying still lower. Then all at once we knew he was going to crash. The nose of his plane suddenly dipped and it tore towards the ground. The nose plunged into the ground and the tail of the plane stayed in the air."

While the cause of the crash has not definitely been established, it is believed that the plane stalled, probably because of lack of flying speed. The fact that he was so close to the ground prevented him from bringing the ship out of the stall.

Perry Hodges, of the air safety department of the civil aeronautics bureau at Chicago, making an investigation of the crash today, stated that all evidence pointed to the fact

that the motor was working satisfactorily and that Smith was flying too slow, forcing the plane into a stall. The investigator also stated that the controls of the airplane were still in good working condition today.

Coroner Yager said this afternoon that he would return a verdict of accidental death.

Mr. Wulliman and his sons, Herman and Curtis, rushed to the spot where the plane had fallen, only about 20 feet from the road and telephone wires. They had to cut away his safety belt and part of the front fuselage to extricate him. Curtis drove the car and the Wulliman's brought Smith to the Decatur hospital. He was admitted about 3:10 p.m. and died at 3:25 p.m.

(Cut off)

...and his right ankle was broken. Both wrists were fractured - "as if he had his hands on the instrument panel when the plane crashed," the coroner asserted.

"He was kind of a daredevil," Miss Wulliman asserted, "and was giving us a little demonstration of his flying ability."

PLANE NOSE DEMOLISHED

The nose of the plane, a 26-horse-powered Aeronica C-3, was completely destroyed. The motor was shattered into fragments and only the hardness of the dry ground kept it from being buried.

The instrument panel and cockpit was also a mass of twisted wood and metal. Scattered blood stains on the panel and the twisted right door of the enclosed cockpit evidenced a bleeding head injury that the pilot suffered.

Smith was born in Monroe township 23 years ago to the day he died. He attended school at Kirkland township later and was graduated from the Kirkland high school in 1936.

In recent years he had resided on route two, Fort Wayne, with his wife, the former Alice Baumgartner of Berne, and son, Carl David. He had been employed at the Re?? Magnet Wire company.

FATHER KILLED IN 1927

Otto Smith, Sr., father of the victim, who was known for his daring as a stunt flyer, lost his life in a Monpelier plane crash in 1927. The elder Smith was stunting at a high altitude when the plane nosed down and plunged to the earth.

Art Smith, Fort Wayne's "birdboy", and probably the most illustrious of the trio, was a cousin of the elder Smith. He, too, was killed in a plane crash.

FLYING SINCE 1938

The victim had been flying since March, 1938 and soloed in January 1939. He received his instruction from O. B. McVey, who had been taught by Smith, Sr. Young Smith held a flying permit from the Smith-Baer field at Fort Wayne and a student permit from the civil aeronautics authority. Fort Wayne fliers asserted that he was one of the best young pilots in the city. He owned the plane, which he purchased about five weeks ago, and kept it at the Means airport.

Surviving, besides the widow and son, are the grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Simon Smith of Fort Wayne.

After his death, the body was taken to the Yager funeral home in Berne. It will be removed from there to the residence of the father-in-law, Joseph Baumgartner, east of Berne, Tuesday morning where it may be viewed until time for the funeral service.

FUNERAL WEDNESDAY

The services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the Baumgartner home and ? o'clock at the Cross Reformed church in Berne. Burial will be in the M.R.E. cemetery beside the grave of his father.

FIRST FATAL CRASH ('first' crossed out and '2nd' handwritten)

This was Adams county's first (crossed out and 'second' written) fatal plane crash. Although a number of residents of the county have taken to the air, only 'minor crack-ups' have occurred on local soil.

Smith's plane, a yellow-colored job, was sighted flying over Decatur by many persons, as he was enroute to the Wulliman home.

After the crash hundreds of curious sightseers and souvenir hunters flocked to the accident scene. Some over-enthusiastic spectator clipped the fence around the Wulliman farm in order that he might more easily enter the field and get close to the wrecked plane. This opening was an invitation to hundreds more to climb through.

Sheriff Ed Miller, who was called, shortly after arrival, ordered the plane removed to prevent further destruction of the Wulliman farm. Volunteers aided the sheriff in righting the plane (cut off)

Adams County Historical Museum

1940-1941a Scrapbook, image 39

Transcribed by Karin King