

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, April 9, 1941)

BERNE NEWS

Milford Balsiger, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Balsiger, and Miss Helen Braun, daughter of Mrs. George Braun, were united in marriage at Louisville, Ky., last Sunday, Rev. J. H. Arndt, formerly pastor of the local Evangelical church, officiating. Mr. Balsiger is employed at the Dunbar Furniture Co., and the bride has been employed at the First Bank of Berne.

Miss Agnes Sprunger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sprunger of west of Berne and William Habegger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Habegger of near Monroe, were united in marriage Sunday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. The ceremony was performed at the Defenseless ?? church. Rev. N. J. Schmucker and Harvey Habegger attended the couple. They will live with the groom's parents for the present.

Miss Lillie Templin and Homer Inniger, both of Berne, were united in marriage at the First Missionary church here last Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Rev. C. H. Weiderkehr officiated. Miss Agnes Amstutz and Ervin Inniger attended the couple.

Charles, five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Spurgeon, of this place, suffered a fracture of his right leg just above the ankle, while at play at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John Hindenlang, northeast of Monroe. Charles and his older brother were playing on an old-fashioned lawn swing when his foot became caught in the swing and he fell heavily, breaking both bones in the leg. He will be confined to bed for several weeks.

(Handwritten date: Friday April 11, 1941)

HONOR STUDENTS NAMED

(Photo: Dwight Girod and Viola Isch)

Dwight Girod, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Girod is the valedictorian of this year's graduating class of the Kirkland Township High School, with an average of 94.21. Viola Isch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Isch, is the salutatorian, with an average of 93.82. Commencement exercises will be held at Kirkland on Friday evening, April 18, with the Rev. A. D. Burkett, of Wabash, Ind., as the speaker.

Diplomas will be presented to 22 young men and women as follows: Carl Arnold, Alice Barnett, Noelin Barger, Donald Borne, Della Bieberich, Dwight Girod, Robert High, Ruthanna Hirschy, Viola Isch, Barbara Lehman, Carl Mankey, Eleanor Mankey, Donald Poling, Dwight Roth, Richard Roth, Warren Schladen, Reginald Skiles, Paul Worthman, Alive [sic] Troxel, Dolores Worden, Carol Wulliman, Edward Yaney.

(Handwritten date: Thursday, April 10, 1941)

DIES SUDDENLY LAST EVENING

Mrs. Joel Neuenschwander, Mother of Nine, Dies Suddenly

Mrs. Cora Neuenschwander, 42, wife of Joel Neuenschwander, died suddenly at 10 o'clock Wednesday at her home in Wabash township.

She became ill after retiring and fell over as she attempted to get out of bed. Death was unexpected, although, she had been in failing health for several years.

Mrs. Neuenschwander was born in Monroe township, May 21, 1898, the daughter of David and Louise Baumgartner-Winteregg.

Surviving besides the husband are nine children, all at home: Sherman, Vergene, Florine, Romana, Ellewyne, Willodean, Delmar, Leoris and Marjorie; two brothers, Homer Winteregg of Monroe and Elmer Winteregg of Berne; and two sisters, Mrs. Noah Graber of Berne and Mrs. Eli Graber of French township.

She was a member of the Mennonite church.

Funeral services will be held at the home at 1:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon and at 2 p.m. at the Mennonite church. Burial will be in the M.R.E. cemetery. The body will be taken from the Yager funeral home to the residence and may be viewed after this evening until time of the funeral.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, April 9, 1941)

ELI SPRUNGER DIES SUDDENLY

Former Prominent Decatur Resident Dies At Bluffton Home

Eli Sprunger, 78, for many years a resident of Decatur, died suddenly at 11:30 o'clock Tuesday night at his home, 412 East Market street, in Bluffton. His wife, overcome by shock, fainted and was unable to summon aid until after 2 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Sprunger for many years was an importer of Belgian horses, and was recognized as one of the leading stockmen of the middle west. He served several years as a judge at the international livestock exposition at Chicago.

He was born in Wells county January 21, 1863, the son of Abraham and Katherine Moser-Sprunger. He married Susan Riesen in Berne in 1888. He was a member of the Mennonite church at Berne.

Surviving besides the widow are a daughter, Mrs. Harry Starr of Bluffton; a son, Leo Sprunger of Saginaw, Mich.; three sons [sic] (should be brothers) Lewis and Amos Sprunger of Berne and Abraham of Fort Wayne, and two sisters, Mrs. J. D. Winteregg, of Berne and Mrs. Gideon Badertscher of Fort Wayne. A sister, Mrs. Jacob Steiner, died Saturday afternoon.

Funeral services will be held at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon at the Thoma funeral chapel in Bluffton, Rev. Matthew Worthman officiating. Burial will be in the M.R.E. cemetery at Berne.

(Handwritten date: Saturday, April 5, 1941)

BERNE NEWS

By S.M. Schwartz

E. J. Schug, president of the Berne Chamber of Commerce announces that the Adams county I. U. group of which Hansel Foley, principal of the Kirkland high school is president, will meet with the Berne Chamber of Commerce above the Swiss Cafe, on Monday evening, April 21. Branch McCracken, I. U. basketball coach, will be the speaker. The Berne Bears and their coach, Layke Glendening, will be the guests at this banquet.

A report posted in the Decatur Democrat last Monday to the effect that the plane crash in which Otto Smith, Jr., was fatally injured last Sunday, was the first fatal plane crash in Adams county, was not quite accurate. Paul Rohrer, son of the late Fred Rohrer of Berne, was killed just east of Berne when his home-made plane crashed on November 30, 1916. Paul was probably the first aviator in Adams county and was making a test flight when the ship went out of control and plunged to the ground.

The town on Linn Grove will soon have a new industry, according to present plans. Claude Monce and Floyd J. Brookmeyer, who are both connected with the Meshberger Brothers Stone company, have leased a building near the quarry for the production of bricks and some form of a cement block for building purposes. The new plant is to start production soon after April 15, according to present plans.

Mrs. Abe Inniger, who has been seriously ill with double pneumonia, is reported to be improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Yoder, Enoch and Joshua Yoder, and Emma Nichols attended the funeral of John Yoder, 82, in Wayne county, Ohio, this week. The deceased was an uncle of Joshua Yoder and had many relatives in this community.

(Handwritten date: Friday, 1941)

94 DINNER GUESTS AS ADAMS COUNTY FAMILY ASSEMBLES

BERNE, Ind., April 11 - When Christian J. Schwartz and his wife, Lea, have the family home for dinner, it takes plenty of food - for there are 94 members of the immediate family.

And as one of them expressed it, a family gathering at the home two miles north of Berne, resembles a mass convention - and it was pointed out they are all hearty eaters, thus it takes plenty of food.

Mr. Schwartz, 59, and Mrs. Schwartz, 63, members of the Amish faith, have 14 living children, all married - the youngest of whom is 20, the oldest 40. Six are boys and eight are girls. In addition to the sons-in-law and daughters-in-law acquired by marriage, the family boasts no less than 64 grandchildren, making a total of 94 in the family.

Family gatherings at the homestead are quite frequent and the traffic is heavy near the farm for a time prior to and after the gatherings.

The members of the family are well known in and out of their old Order of Amish Mennonites. They have made their marks in various walks, including school work. One of the daughters, Anna, at one time made the highest scholastic record of any students in the county. Later, Jacob, a son, made the second highest rating. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz are of French descent and most of the family members live in Adams county.

(Handwritten date: Thursday, 1941)

FUNERAL IS HELD FOR YOUTH KILLED IN CRASH

BERNE, Ind., April 3 - An overflow crowd attended the funeral for Otto Smith, Jr., 23, Fort Wayne aviator who was killed Sunday when his plane crashed on the Menas Wulliman farm, northwest of Berne. The funeral was held at the Cross Reformed Church Wednesday afternoon and burial was made in the MRE Cemetery west of Berne, the body being laid at the side of his father who was killed in a plane crash in 1927.

A number of well known Fort Wayne pilots attended the service. While the funeral was in progress several planes circled the church. The funeral was preached by the Rev. Russell Weiler, pastor of the Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren, of which Smith was a member. Pall bearers were Herman Wulliman, Noah and Evan Yake, Freeman Ste?ler, Oscar Brown and Fred Fosnaugh.

DECATUR, Ind., April 9 - A verdict of accidental death due to injuries from an airplane crash was filed with the county clerk here ?? the coroner in the death of Otto Smith, Jr., fatally injured near Berne Sunday.

Coroner Jerome Yager's verdict included the statement that "investigation showed that he (Smith) inadvertently permitted his plane to lose ?? speed while completing a tight turn over the Wulliman farm at low altitude, causing the plane to stall and dive nose first into the ground."

Adams County Historical Museum

1940-1941a Scrapbook, image 48

Transcribed by Karin King