

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, July 30, 1941)

KIDNAP EFFORT THWARTED HERE THIS MORNING

Bluffton Man Battles Alleged Attacker of His Wife

Police officials late today intensified their efforts to apprehend a supposed sex maniac who, early this morning, kidnapped a Bluffton young couple in Decatur and was frustrated in his apparent attempt to attack the girl.

Officials were positive that the purported moron was the same man who on Monday kidnapped a couple at Celina, Ohio and raped the girl.

Shortly after midnight last night, Harold Jones, 25, and his wife, 18, of Bluffton, came to the police booth of the street fair to relate the story of the kidnapping and their escape. Powder burns about Jones' face, shirt and shoulder and on his wife's cheek attested to their assertion that the husband had been shot at three times by the attacker.

The couple said that while they were sitting in their auto in front of the Catholic school on Fourth street preparatory to returning home after visiting the fair, the man suddenly appeared at the side of the car.

Before climbing into the car, the man ordered them to drive on and fired a shot into the cushion of the car near the couple to "show them he meant business."

He ordered them to drive southDecatur and then to turn west. About half a mile down that road, he ordered Jones, at the point of the gun, to halt the car. Jones was driving and Mrs. Jones was riding between her husband and the attacker.

The gunman, carrying what is believed to have been a .22 calibre dark revolver, ordered the husband out of the car, and commanded the wife to tie the husband's hands.

Before alighting from the car Jones grabbed for the gunman, leaning over Mrs. Jones. It was ... fired three ...knocking him to the ground. Then Jones immediately jumped back into the vehicle and fled with his wife.

Since the attacker had taken the keys from the ignition lock when he commanded Jones to stop, the youth had to secure another key from his pocket before starting the car.

They drove back to the police booth, where they noticed special officer Raymond Shackley. Sheriff Ed Miller, officers Adrian Coffee and Roy Chilcote were immediately summoned and drove to the location where the scuffle had ensued.

Officers Truman Bierie and Earl Warnock, of the state police, chief James Borders of the city police and several volunteers took part in the manhunt and thoroughly combed the vicinity throughout the balance of the night.

The Bluffton couple described their assailant as being in his early ??, about five feet and ?? inches to five feet and 11 inches tall, weighing about 125 to 135 pounds, having blond, curly hair, wearing a faded blue shirt and work trousers.

Sheriff Ed Miller and state police opened the search for the kidnapper yesterday when they found an abandoned car near Pleasant Mills, which had been used in the kidnapping of Betty Hauck, 17, Celina, and Urban Kaup, 20, of Coldwater, Ohio.

Authorities revealed late yesterday that Miss Hauck had been raped. She had previously told them that she was not harmed by her attacker.

Finding of the car and the nature of the two led authorities to link the two. Since descriptions from Celina and those from Mr. and Mrs. Jones tallied, officials are convinced that the same man perpetrated both crimes.

Highways and railroads for miles around were being checked today in an effort to apprehend the attacker.

(Handwritten date: Monday, August 4, 1941)

TWO YOUTHS ON MISSING LIST

Sheriff Reports Two French Township Lads Are Missing

Sheriff Ed Miller today issued an appeal for information regarding the whereabouts of two Adams county youths who have been missing from their homes for several days.

The one youth, Rudolph Weidler, son of Fred Weidler of French township, is described as 16 years of age, about five feet and six inches tall, weighing 150 pounds, having light wavy hair and blue eyes.

The other lad, Harry Frauhiger, also of French township, is described as being 14 years of age, weighing 115 to 120 pounds and about five feet, four inches in height, having light hair.

Anyone possessing information which might enable authorities to learn whereabouts of the two lads are asked to notify Sheriff Miller immediately.

(Handwritten date: Friday, August 15, 1941)

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Eicher of North Sprunger street here are the parents of a baby girl, born Wednesday night at 6:43 o'clock at the Adams county memorial hospital. The baby weighed five pounds, eleven and one-half ounces and has been named Mary Irene. Born August 13, she is the 13th grandchild of the paternal grandmother, Mrs. John Eicher.

Peggy Ann is the name of the daughter born Thursday to Weldon L. and Helen Hieser Sprunger of Wabash township.

Doyle and Vesta Rich Bauserman, of Kalamazoo, Mich., are the parents of a baby boy named Jerry Keith born Sunday. The mother, formerly a teacher in the Monroe schools, and the baby are getting along fine.

Adams County Historical Museum

1940-1941a Scrapbook, image 62

Transcribed by Karin King