

(Handwritten date: Monday, Oct. 6, 1941)

ONE DRAFTEE IS RELEASED

Wayne Johnson First Released Under 28-Year Age Ruling

The first of the Adams county selective service trainees to be released from services under the 28-year age limit ruling arrived home Sunday.

He is Wayne Johnson, son of William Johnson, local welding shop proprietor.

Wayne entered selective service training from here in January. After a short time at Fort Benjamin Harrison, he was sent to California.

At Fort McArthur, California, he drove a truck for a time and later was a welder. He received his discharge Thursday, arriving here Sunday.

Wayne is 34 years of age and was eligible for discharge under the recent selective service legislation. He is placed on the reserve list, and is subject to call.

Everett Lough, 31, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lough, of this city, is also eligible for discharge. He is stationed at Fort McArthur. Johnson said that Lough would likely be discharged about the middle of this week.

(Handwritten date missing)

YOUNG COUPLE WED PLAN TO LIVE HERE

...star of Geneva, and Mr. Leo Etzler, of Convoy, Ohio, were quietly married at 8:00 o'clock Saturday evening at the home of Rev. R. E. Gillette, pastor of the Geneva Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Gillette read the simple but impressive single ring ceremony in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Uhrick, brother-in-law and sister of the bride, and Mrs. Gillette.

The bride has been a resident of southern Adams county practically all her life, and has a large number of friends and acquaintances in this vicinity.

Mr. Etzler is a young farmer of near Convoy, Ohio.

The young couple stated that they expect to make their future home in Berne.

(Karin King note: bride is Josephine Morningstar)

(Handwritten date: Thursday, October 2, 1941)

JESUS VELEZ DIES WEDNESDAY NIGHT OF GUNSHOT WOUND

Wound Inflicted August 15 Fatal to Mexican; Plan Grand Jury Call For Indictment SLAYER HELD

Jesus Chavez, alias Prado, 41-year-old Gary Mexican, sat in the Adams county jail today facing possible charges of first degree murder as result of a shooting in the village of Curryville on August 5.

Jesus Velez, 78-year-old Mexican and former member of the once infamous Pancho Villa gang, who was allegedly shot by Chavez died last night at 7:45 o'clock in the Adams county memorial hospital.

His attending physician, Dr. Daly D. Jones of Berne, said that death was due to "hemorrhage from injury caused by gunshot wound." County Coroner J. Jerome Yager listed the same cause on the death certificate.

TO CALL GRAND JURY

Prosecutor Harry T. Grube, when informed of Velez' death, stated that he would ask Judge J. Fred Fruchte to issue a venire for the September term grand jury and that the jury would be asked to return a first degree murder indictment against Chavez.

Since Judge Fruchte is out of town attending the American Bar association meeting in Indianapolis, it was considered likely that the jury might not be called for a day or two.

Members of the September term grand jury are: Vernon S. Pontius of Hartford township; Rolla Raudebush of Blue Creek; Victor Bleeker of Union, Ida Gallows of Wabash, Otto P. Lehman of Wabash and Bertha Everett of St. Mary's.

Prosecutor Grube, who took office after the shooting, succeeding Vincent Kelley, who was called into army service, stated after assuming his duties that he would follow the same procedure indicated by his predecessor and call upon the grand jury to charge Chavez.

Chavez has been held in jail since the day of the shooting. He was arraigned on a charge of assault with intent to kill on September 8 after Hubert R. McClenahan, local attorney, appeared in behalf of the defendant. Unable to post the \$2,000 bond set by the court, Chavez remained in jail after entering a not guilty plea. The first degree murder charge will now supplant the lesser court.

ENDS COLORFUL CAREER

The death of Velez ended a colorful and varied career that ranged from fighting with the Mexican bandit gang to a conviction on a charge of selling marijuana, known as "Mexican hay," in the county.

Valez was born in Jalisco, Mexico, on October 15, 1862. He reportedly was a Mexican cowboy in his youth and it was at this time that he was linked with the famous Villa gang. In 1905 he came to Pittsburgh, Oklahoma in the United States and went to work in a coal mine.

In 1919 he came to Adams county where he worked in the beet fields until several years ago when he quit work because of his advanced (cut off)

Numerous times Adams county authorities "raided" his home in Curryville when he was allegedly peddling the narcotic - but it was found in his possession only once - the time he was convicted.

Valez's prowess with a gun allegedly gained while with the Villa gang, followed him to Adams county. He was heralded as having the "quickest draw" in Adams county and once displayed his ability as a marksman to a former Adams county sheriff.

At the time of the shooting he was the owner of three small "shacks" in Curryville, one of which he occupied. One was occupied by the Chavez family.

NINE CHILDREN

Information from the Yager funeral home in Berne, where the body was taken, states that there are nine children surviving. They are John, Lea, Rebecca, Ruth, Garnet, Audrey, Frederick, Jesse, and Deloris. The youngest is 12 years of age. The death notice states that his wife died about 10 years ago.

Relatives late today were making funeral arrangements to hold the funeral services Friday morning at the Catholic church, east of Bryant.

The cause of death was listed after an autopsy performed by the attending physician, assisted by another Berne doctor and the county coroner.

GOAT STARTS FIGHT

The shooting itself was directly attributed to a fight over a goat. It was averred by Chavez and his wife that Valez was continually arguing over rent matters and Mrs. Chavez insisted to authorities that they owed Valez nothing.

He came to the Chavez residence on the morning of the shooting, she averred, and started arguing over the alleged killing of a goat owned by Valez, for the purpose of providing meat for the Chavez children. Chavez admitted to Sheriff Ed Miller that when he saw Valez approaching, he went into the house and secured his old-style .41 calibre revolver. During the ensuing argument, he admitted shooting Valez in the stomach (cut off).... Sheriff Miller, Deputy ??, state policeman Truman Bierie, police chief James Borders and Wells county officials. Chavez meanwhile came into town and submitted to arrest.

The gun was found in his possession, reloaded, but with the chamber showing evidence of having recently been fired, authorities stated.

Valez was taken to the Adams county memorial hospital, where for several days little hope was held for his life. Except for various intervals, however, he showed steady improvement and it was believed that he might recover. The hemorrhage, however, which started a day or two ago resulted in his death. He had been shot through the

stomach, the bullet having nicked his bladder and passing out through the back of the hip. The slug was never found.

Chavez is the father of one child and six stepchildren.

(Handwritten date: Saturday, October 4, 1941)

GUN VICTIM BURIED

(PHOTO) Funeral services were held today at the St. Mary's Catholic Church at Decatur for Jesus Valez, 78, shown above, well-known Adams County Mexican beet worker who died at the Adams County Memorial Hospital from gunshot wounds. Burial was made in the Holy Trinity Cemetery near Bryant. Jesus Chavez, who allegedly fired the shots which caused the fatal wounds, is held in the Decatur Jail. A first degree murder charge will be asked against Chauvez [sic], Prosecutor Harry T. Grube has indicated.

(Handwritten date: Saturday, September 27, 1941)

CARL LOUIS CENTLIVRE WEDS MRS. LEAH EHINGER

Of interest to their many friends both in Decatur and Fort Wayne, was the marriage this morning of Carl Louis Centlivre of Fort Wayne and Mrs. Leah Ehinger of this city.

The wedding was solemnized at St. Mary's Catholic church, at seven-thirty o'clock. Rev. J. J. Seimetz, rector, received the single ring vows. Attending the couple were the bride's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles Ehinger, of this city, and the groom's son, Robert Centlivre, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

The bride chose an attractive three-piece suit of soldier blue with which she wore a gold blouse, and matching blue accessories. She wore a corsage of natural orchids. Her attendant, Mrs. Ehinger, also wore a corsage of orchids.

Only members of the immediate families witnessed the ceremony after which a breakfast was served at eleven o'clock at the Fort Wayne Country club. Miss Alma Centlivre, sister of the groom, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ehinger, son and daughter-in-law of the bride, were the host and hostesses.

After the wedding breakfast (cut) day cruise, stopping at Cuba, Panama, and other places of interest.

Out of town guests at the wedding included Miss Alma Centlivre, Mr. and Mrs. William Kane and daughter Molly, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Popp, Mr. and Mrs. Lou? Centlivre, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Centlivre, Clarence, Austin and Frank Cenlivre, Mrs. Mary Fre?stauffer, Mrs. Monta Hensley and Mrs. Robert Orff, all of Fort Wayne; Robert Centlivre of Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; Mr. and Mrs. James Ehinger of Homewood, Ill.; and Mr. and Mrs. David Hensley of Bronson, Mich.

Also at the wedding breakfast other than those mentioned above were Rev. J. J. Seimetz and Rev. Alvin Jasinski, both of Decatur and Most Rev. Msgr. Thomas R. Co?roy of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

The bride is a prominent club woman of this community and has been active in civic and social affairs. The groom, who is treasurer of the Centlivre Brewing corporation of Fort Wayne, is well known in both business and social (cut off)

Adams County Historical Museum

1940-1941a Scrapbook, image 66

Transcribed by Karin King