

(Handwritten date: Monday, April 29, 1940)

...UNDER ARREST

Adam Diehl and Wife Arrested For Slugging, Robbery

Adam Diehl, 54, and his wife, Mamie, 38, both of Homewood today faced 10 to 25 year prison sentences on charges of robbery.

Diehl and his wife were held in the Adams county jail on charges of slugging and robbing Lewis Barat, 60, of Van Wert, Ohio last Friday night.

Both Diehl and his wife entered pleas of guilty when arraigned before Judge J. Fred Fruchte in Adams circuit court this noon. They were remanded to jail while their punishment was taken under advisement by the court.

Mrs. Diehl was arrested Saturday afternoon at her home in the Homewood addition by Police Chief James Borders and officers Roy Chilcote and Adrian Coffee. Diehl was arrested soon after by the same officers while he was working on a WPA project.

They were both lodged in jail. Mrs. Diehl, it was reported, admitted her connection in the robbery and implicated her husband almost immediately. Diehl refused to admit his part until Sunday night, it was stated.

Last night about 7 o'clock Diehl confessed to Sheriff Ed Miller.

From the confessions of the two, it was learned by authorities that Diehl and his wife were in a local beer parlor at the time Barat was there. They persuaded him to enter their car on the pretext of taking him to their home to look at some horses, which he had been interested in purchasing.

They drove west on federal road 224 to the south entrance to Hanna-Nuttman park and then turned north to enter the park. At the approach to the park they stopped the car and said, "this is the place." As Barat started to alight from the vehicle, Diehl slugged him, knocking him to the ground. Barat was knocked down twice after being beaten severely about the face, according to the former's story, and then he feigned unconsciousness to escape further assault. Here Diehl's story and that of his wife varied. Diehl asserted that she helped search the fallen man, while she denies that part.

According to Diehl's confession, after robbing the man, they returned to Decatur, purchased half a dozen bottles of beer and then went to their home.

Their arrests followed. The robbery charges were placed against the pair this morning by Prosecutor Arthur E. Voglewede when Barat returned to Decatur to sign the affidavit.

Conviction on a charge of robbery, in addition to a fine, carries a prison term of 10 to 25 years, which may be imposed by the court.

Barat told authorities that \$33 in bills and about 85 cents in change had been taken from him in the robbery.

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VALEDICTORIAN NAMED AT BERNE HIGH SCHOOL

BERNE, Ind., April 19 - Miss Ruth Soldner, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T. H. Soldner, is the valedictorian of this year's graduating class of Berne High School, with an average of 95.056 per cent. The Berne high school does not name a salutatorian. Commencement exercises will be (cut off)

Adams County Historical Museum

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Transcribed by Karin King