

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 425 N. Edward
Legal description:
Armstrong's Add. Plat 335/50
Lot 2 & N20' of Lot 1

Date of original construction: 1909 (See c. d. information below)

Name of original owner: Frank Pahmeyer

History:

1. Data from available city directories:
 - 1909 c.d. - Unoccupied Oct. 10, 1909 (new)
 - 1910-1911- Frank H. and Amy R. Pahmeyer*, cigar mfgcr.
 - 1912-1922- Edgar B. and Charlotte Tyler*, Sec.-Treas. and Gen. Mgr. Decatur Bridge Co.)
 - 1923-1958- Mrs. L. L. Tyler (wid, Edgar B.), sometimes given as Lotta L. Tyler, ater as Charlotte L.
 - 1959- Vacant
 - 1960-1972- Albert R. Tucker (with another apt.)
 - 1973- Larry Klugman* (with another apartment)
 - 1974- Bruce K. Smith (with another apartment)

2. Data from assessor's office: (Decatur Township)

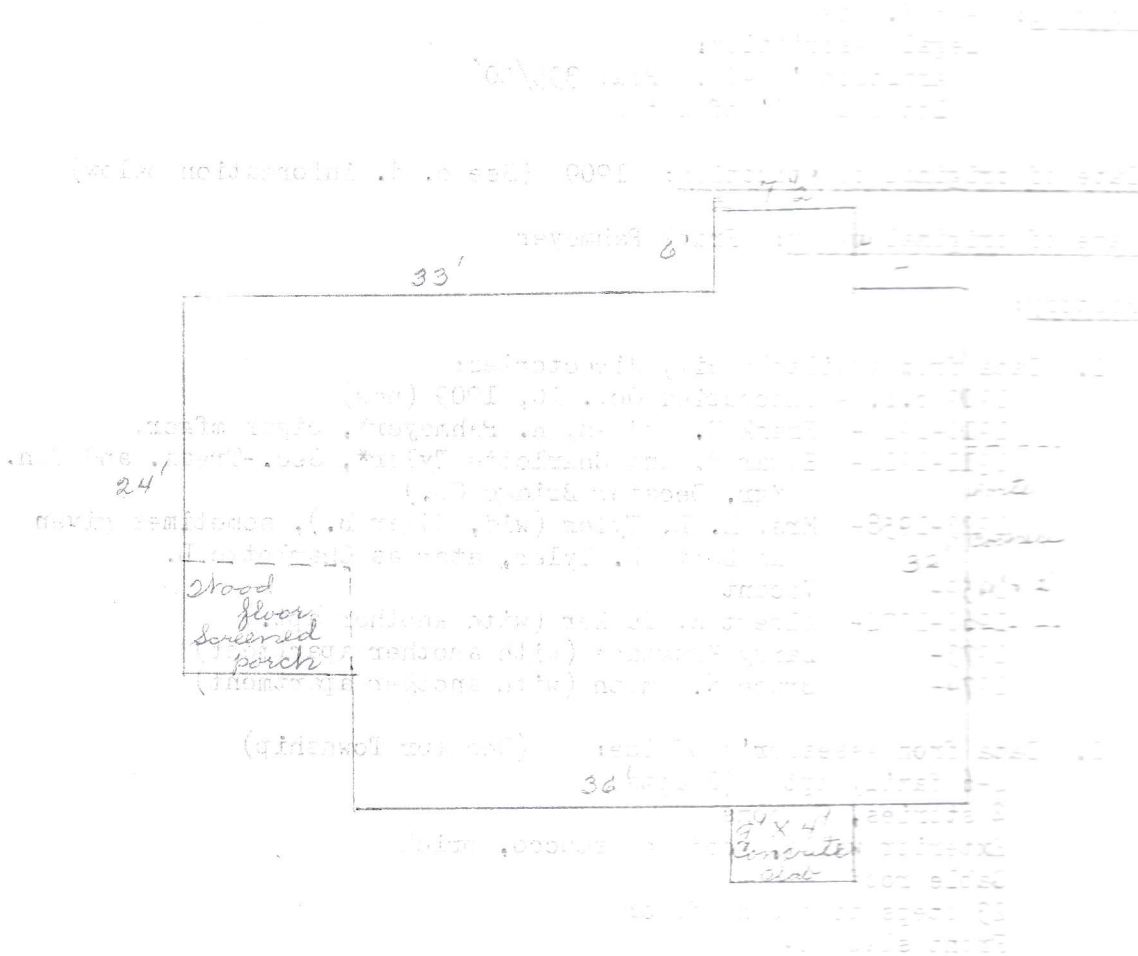
2-6 family apt (2 apts)
2 stories, 9 rooms
Exterior walls, wood and stucco, brick
Gable roof
23 steps to second floor
Front slab 9x4
Coach port 11x12
9 rooms with hardwood floors, softwood doors and trim
2 bathrooms
Garage, cement drive
Copper gutters and downspouts

(See sketch on following page)

Present owner: Albert and Mary Tucker.

2. History Cont'd.:

Sketch:



3. In conversation with Mary Tucker (a present owner), October 18, 1975, she confirmed that Frank Pahmeyer, cigar manufacturer, built this house but lived in it only a short time, selling it to the Tylers. A fire in recent years ruined some of the woodwork, including the parquet floor in the living room. In the insurance settlement, the Tuckers accepted carpeting in lieu of replacement of the floor.

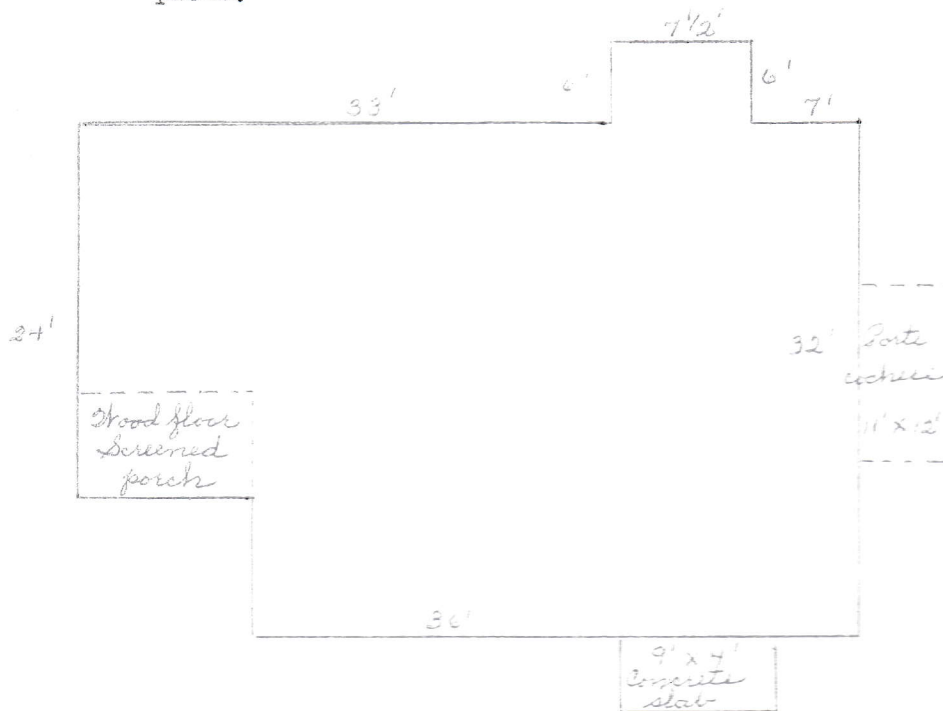
4. Architectural description of house by Bradford Cantrell:

The Edgar B. Tyler house was built in 1909. Its over all style is English Domestic. The English Domestic style was a revival of the English half-timbering design which was very popular in the early 1900's. The style's popularity stemmed from its easy adaptability to houses of comparatively small scale and looseness of design. Some typical characteristics may be seen in the half-timbered second floor, roof-line representative of English thatched covering, strong designation of first and second floor and street oriented facade with few projections. While it is by no means free from defects of design, the quaint and picturesque appearance easily overshadows them.

History Cont'd.:

5. See attachments:

- a. Decatur Review, Dec. 31, 1909, end of year of stories. Reference to E. B. Tyler, secretary and general manager, Decatur Bridge Company.
- b. April 18, 1909, obit, Miss Alice Tyler.
- c. Oct. 18, 1955, obit. Frank H. Pahnmeier.
- d. Dec. 10, 1927, obit, Allen E. Tyler.
- e. Sun., May 5, 1968, Decatur Sunday Herald & Review, Decatur Diary column, City Orchestra Had Three Lives. Reference to Harriet Tyler.
- f. Jan. 19, 1928, local Sunday paper, Harriet Tyler Kiick Member of Ethel Leginska's Famous Women's Symphony Orchestra. (harpist photo).





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Decatur, Illinois, Tuesday, October 18, 1933.

F. Pahmeyer, Cigar Maker, Dies at 85

Frank H. Pahmeyer, 85, retired Decatur cigar maker, died at 10:30 p. m. yesterday in his home at 1264 Lake Shore Drive.

Mr. Pahmeyer had been ill for the last year.

Mr. Pahmeyer was the last active cigar manufacturer in Decatur, where the industry once numbered 22 factories employing some 100 men.

His father, Fred, founded the cigar business around 1870 and Mr. Pahmeyer was once quoted as saying he couldn't remember when he himself started rolling F.P. brand cigars.

In an interview in 1940, Mr. Pahmeyer traced the cigar-making industry from the time his father started through its peak years, and then through its declining year.

The peak was about 1900 when Decatur had its 22 cigar factories. The industry held its own until about World War I and then started its decline.

Mr. Pahmeyer recalled that the "cigar-smokingest day" in Decatur was June 27, 1914. On that day 45,000 Decatur-made cigars went up in smoke.

The day was promoted as "Smoke Decatur-Made Cigar Day" in an effort to revive the failing industry.

When he was interviewed, Mr. Pahmeyer was alone in his factory at 437 N. Broadway which was due to be torn down in a short time to make way for a used car lot.

"People don't smoke cigars any more," Mr. Pahmeyer told a reporter that day in 1940, adding "There's too much nervous agitation in the world.

"They just think they haven't got time to smoke a cigar so they light up a cigaret, take a couple of drags off it, and then go away and forget about it."

The world would have been in much better shape, Mr. Pahmeyer speculated, if people would sit down for a while, smoke a good cigar, and take it easy.

"Instead, they go around chain-smoking cigarets, being nervous and leaving half-smoked butts in ash trays all over the place," he said.

As a lone practitioner of the vanishing art of cigar making, Mr. Pahmeyer was turning out two or three boxes of cigars a day in 1940.

He retired several years ago.

Frank H. Pahmeyer was born in Beardstown on Dec. 9, 1869, a son of Frederick and Elizabeth Pahmeyer.

On Oct. 29, 1913, he was married in Raymond to Lela McCallum.

Surviving are his wife, who is hostess for the Welcome Wagon here; a daughter, Mrs. Jane Connolly, Ft. Monroe, Va.; four grandchildren, and two brothers, Fred, St. Louis, and Harry, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Mr. Pahmeyer was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Funeral services will be at 2 p. m. Thursday at J. J. Moran & Sons Funeral Home. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 4 p. m. to 9 p. m. Wednesday.

New Lumber Shed of Decatur L. & M Company.

both concerns are contemplating enlarging their plants. The bridge company will next spring erect a two-story office building, to cost around \$7,000, while the plant will probably also be enlarged.

The Leader Iron Works is to add more machinery, rebuild power plant, change much of its machinery to motor drive, and make certain additions calculated to give the concern from one-third to one-half more room than it now has.

TO SPEND \$75,000.

The H. Mueller company is also planning an addition for next year, to cost between \$60,000 and \$75,000. It will be for use as a machine shop and also for enamelling work. Plans have progressed as far as the matter of deciding between a building of 48,000 feet ground dimensions and one of 48x300 feet. The building will be three stories high, with a basement, and will be built of fireproof concrete. It will be lengthwise along Cerro Gordo street, just west of the present office building, and may extend as far west as Monroe street.

\$466,400 IN WAGES.

In connection with this contemplated improvement, it may be of interest to mention that the H. Mueller company paid out approximately \$466,400 in wages the past year, while the net business done has gone over the million and a half mark. Last year the concern paid out \$411,000 in wages. As for factory expenses they average between \$75,000 and \$100,000 yearly, nearly all spent in Decatur.

FACTORY IMPROVEMENTS.

A number of factories have made important improvements this year. At the Walrus Manufacturing plant a new four-story building for packing, shipping, storage, and show room purposes was added. This building cost \$10,000. A sprinkling system was also added.

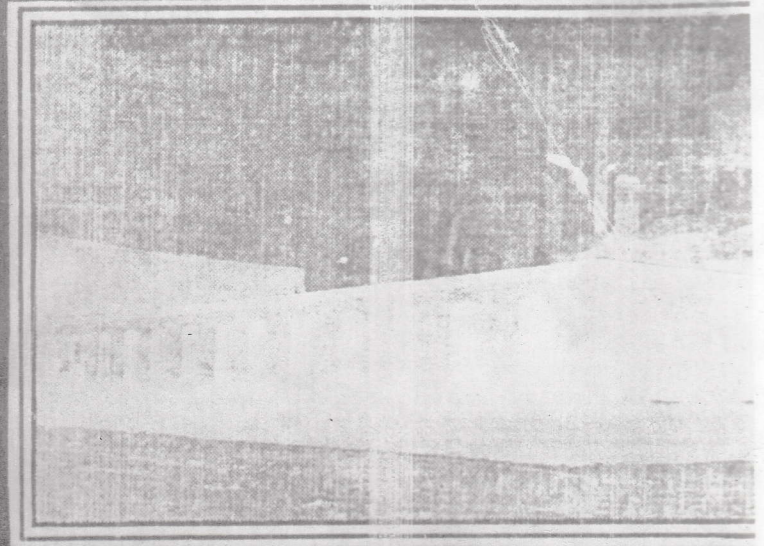
At the Faries Manufacturing plant a \$6,000 warehouse building, 80x130 feet, and a sprinkling system were added. Sprinkling systems, such as installed by these two plants, cost in the neighborhood of \$13,000, but the outlay is more than paid back in decreased insurance rates.

Walrus Factory Addition.

The main factory was almost doubled by adding a four story addition.

We have done more business than ever before in our history. The volume at Faries does not show up as well on paper as might, however, owing to the decline in the price of copper and brass from twenty-six to thirteen cents a pound. Because of this the selling price is naturally cut and the figures do not look as imposing as in 1907, for instance. At the Walrus plant, the increased business is sufficiently evidenced by the new building added there.

George E. Moeller, vice president Decatur Coffin Company "Our business doesn't vary much, but we have more people employed now than ever before."



Faries Factory Addition.

A big one-story warehouse was erected.

E. B. Tyler, secretary and general manager Decatur Bridge company.

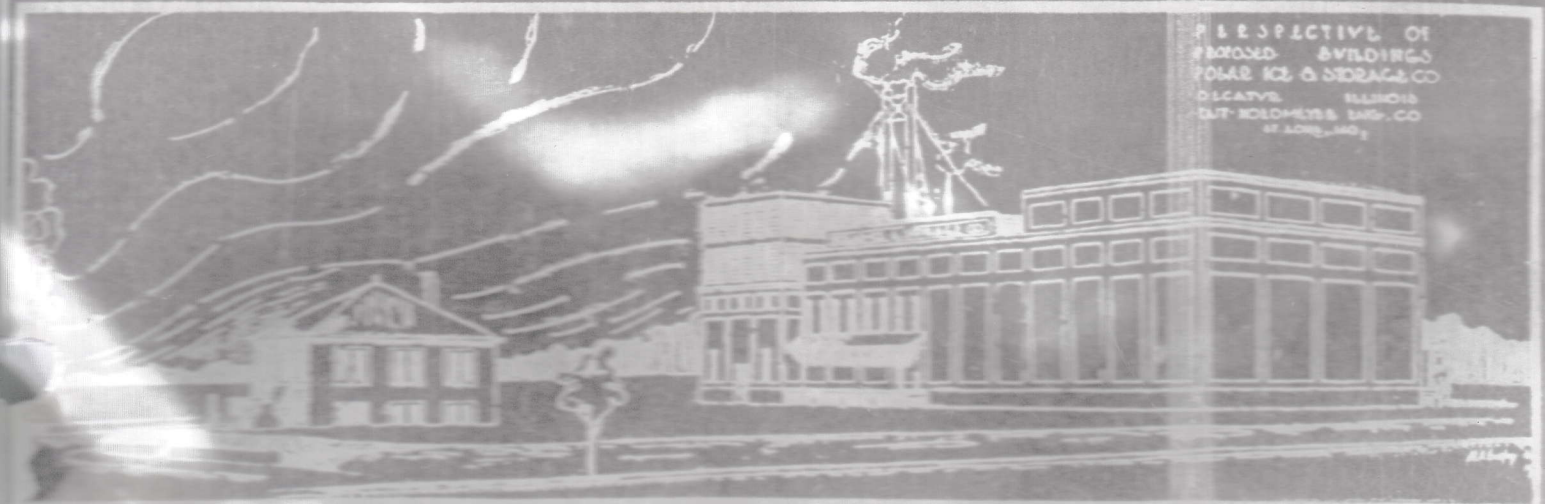
"Our business shows a 25 per cent increase over last year. We look for better business next year, too."

L. H. Alvord, president Decatur Fountain company.

"Business is getting better all the time. We probably will have to have more room next year."

R. E. Persinger, secretary Leader Iron Works.

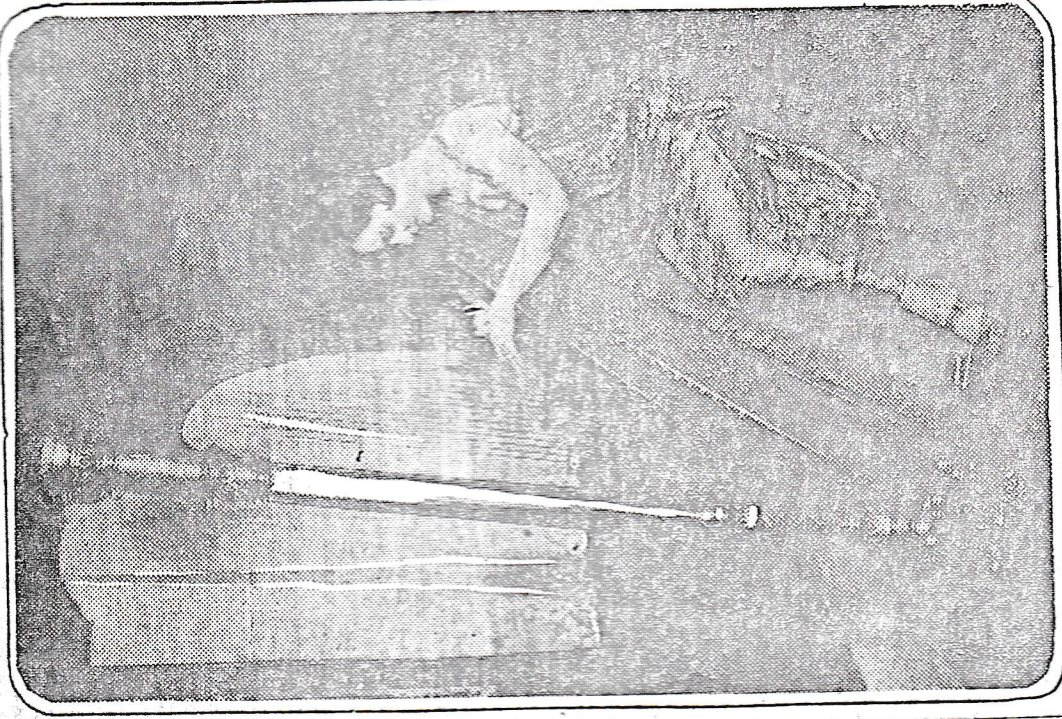
"We have just opened up a branch office in Rochester, N. Y. We estimate that our business is 25 per cent greater than last year."



PERSPECTIVE OF PROPOSED BUILDINGS POLAR ICE & STORAGE CO. DECATUR, ILLINOIS. EAT-MOELLER & SARGENT ARCHT. 1909-1910.

Polar Ice and Cold Storage Building.

In Ethel Leginska's Orchestra



HARRIET TYLER KIICK

Miss Tyler, as the former Decatur girl is known in Chicago music circles, is harpist with the Women's Symphony orchestra of that city, which is directed by the famous Ethel Leginska, former concert pianist.

Harriet Tyler Kiick Member of Ethel Leginska's Famous Women's Symphony Orchestra

Former Decatur Girl Is Harpist in Unusual Organization in Chicago; Was Pupil of Tramonti and Has Played Frequently in Decatur

1928

HARRIET TYLER KIICK, daughter of Mrs. E. B. Tyler, of Decatur, is a member of the Women's Symphony orchestra of Chicago, which is directed by Ethel Leginska. She is a harpist, and frequently played in Decatur before leaving here a year or more ago for Florida, and then Chicago.

Known in Chicago music circles as Harriet Tyler, the former Decatur woman joined the famous orchestra some time ago, and writes glowingly of her enjoyment of the work. Miss Tyler stresses the fact that it is real work, and that there is no sentiment about the way Miss Leginska handles the 70 women who comprise her organization. Miss Leginska was on the concert stage as a pianist before she organized her symphony.

A number of Decatur persons plan to hear the orchestra, and to visit Miss Tyler before the season closes. In addition to playing in the Women's Symphony orchestra, Miss Tyler is a member of the Civic orchestra in Chicago. She is a former pupil of Enrico Tramonti, Chicago harp master, who now is living in Switzerland. Miss Tyler is studying now under Vito.

**Allen E. Tyler, 35,
Found Dead In Bed**

Des Moines Review - Sat., Dec. 10,

Was Popular Young Man 1927

With Many Friends.

Allen E. Tyler, 35 years old, was found dead in bed in the home of his mother, Mrs. E. B. Tyler, 425 North Edward street about 11:45 o'clock Saturday when an attempt was made to call him to lunch.

He had shot himself sometime during the night or morning.

Allen Tyler was a most likeable young man, had a host of friends and was always a friend once you knew him. For fifteen years he was employed at the Mississippi Valley Structural Steel Co. as traffic manager. For the last six years he has been connected with the N. L. Rogers Co. in the sale of bonds.

He leaves besides his mother, two sisters, Mrs. Harriett Klick of Chicago and Mrs. Fred Riggin of Sarnia, Canada.

The body was removed to the Monson Undertaking parlors.

April 13, 1944

Miss Tyler Dies in Ohio

Miss Alice Tyler, prominent Decatur woman who began her career in the library field here and worked up to achieve national recognition, died today in Cleveland, Ohio.

According to word received by her nephew, Dr. Tyler Meriweather, Miss Tyler died at about 9 a. m. today in a Cleveland nursing home a few days before her 85th birthday. She had been in failing health for the last year.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Tyler, pioneers of Macon county who came here from Kentucky in the early 50's, locating in Long Creek township in the Antioch church community. Mr. Tyler was a minister of that church.

After the family moved to Decatur in the early 70's they made their home at the corner of North street and North Main, the present site of Bell's Drug Store. Their home was always a center of hospitality for friends and ministers.

D. H. S. Graduate

Miss Tyler graduated from Decatur high school with the class of 1877.

She began work in the public library here after the death of the Decatur librarian, R. L. Evans, in 1887. His widow, Mrs. Alice G. Evans, became librarian and Miss Tyler worked as an assistant to Mrs. Evans. Together the two women made the Decatur public library a progressive and modern community facility.

In 1893 Miss Tyler entered Armour Institute, Chicago, to become the first Decatur person to take technical library training. She graduated from Armour the following year.

In 1895 she went to Cleveland, Ohio, where she was the first trained librarian to catalogue the Cleveland library.

At Western Reserve

Following her work in Cleveland she became secretary of the Iowa Library commission in Des Moines in 1900. She held this position for 13 years during which time she gave a series of lectures annually at the Western Reserve School of Library Science, Cleveland, Ohio, and was elected vice president of the National Library association.

In 1913 she became director of the Western Reserve School of Library Science, and was appointed dean of this school in 1924 upon the death of Mr. Brett. She remained dean of the school until 1928, when she was retired dean emeritus.

During World War I she left her duties at Western Reserve briefly to go to New Jersey where she served with the American Library association in preparing and sending books to men overseas.

In 1920 she was elected president of the American Library association, the third woman ever to hold this office.

Woman's Club Founder

She was a charter member of the Decatur Woman's club and later became a charter member of the Woman's City Club of Cleveland.

LIBRARIAN DIES



MISS ALICE TYLER

mentioned, Miss Tyler was president of the League of Library commissions, the Ohio Library association, and the American Association of Library schools. She was editor of the Iowa Library quarterly and a contributor to many professional periodicals.

In 1929, in a letter to the Decatur Herald describing her career, Miss Tyler wrote, "I am continually grateful for my early association with the Decatur Public library under Mrs. Evans, when Dr. William Barnes (grandfather of the present William Barnes, Jr.) was president of the board and many public spirited Decatur citizens were cooperating in building up the struggling library, with inadequate support in limited rented quarters."

Decatur friends will remember her not only for her outstanding work in the library field, but also for her pleasant appearance and manner and her capable intelligence which made her a charming person, a local friend said today.

The body of Miss Tyler will arrive in Decatur Thursday at 2:36 p. m. and graveside services will be held in Greenwood cemetery with the Monson funeral home in charge.