

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 560 Powers Lane

Legal description:

Assessor's Subdivision of a part of the W 1/2 of SE 1/4 of  
Sec. 15 Twnshp 16 N Range 2 East of 3rd PM.

Date of original construction: 1910.

Name of original owner: Frank Schlaudeman.

History:

1. An incomplete chain of title follows:

Oct. 4, 1905	Margaret and J. Fred Given to Frank Schlaudeman.
Dec. 1, 1919	to Charlotte Parr (Frank Parr).
July 10, 1924	to Isabel V. LeForgee.
?	to Frank Beaman.
May 24, 1972	to Philip R. Wiant.

2. Data from available city directories:

1907-	Missing.
1908-1918	Frank and Josephine T. Schlaudeman.
1919-1920	George B. Conover.
1920-1924	Frank J. Parr.
1925-	Missing.
1926-1950	C. E. LeForgee.
1951-1967	Mrs. Isabel V. LeForgee.
1968-1972	E. Frank Beaman.
1973-	Philip R. Wiant.

(NOTE: Frank Schlaudeman lived on S. Webster when he became head of  
Decatur's first 2-car family.

3. Data from assessor's office:

2 stories, 14 rooms.

Wood frame, stone foundation, brick exterior.

Gable roof, medium pitch, tile.

2 porches.

Hardwood floors.

Hot water heat.

3 natural fireplaces.

Blacktop drive 10x120 (1967).

3 bathrooms, 1 2-fixture toilet room.

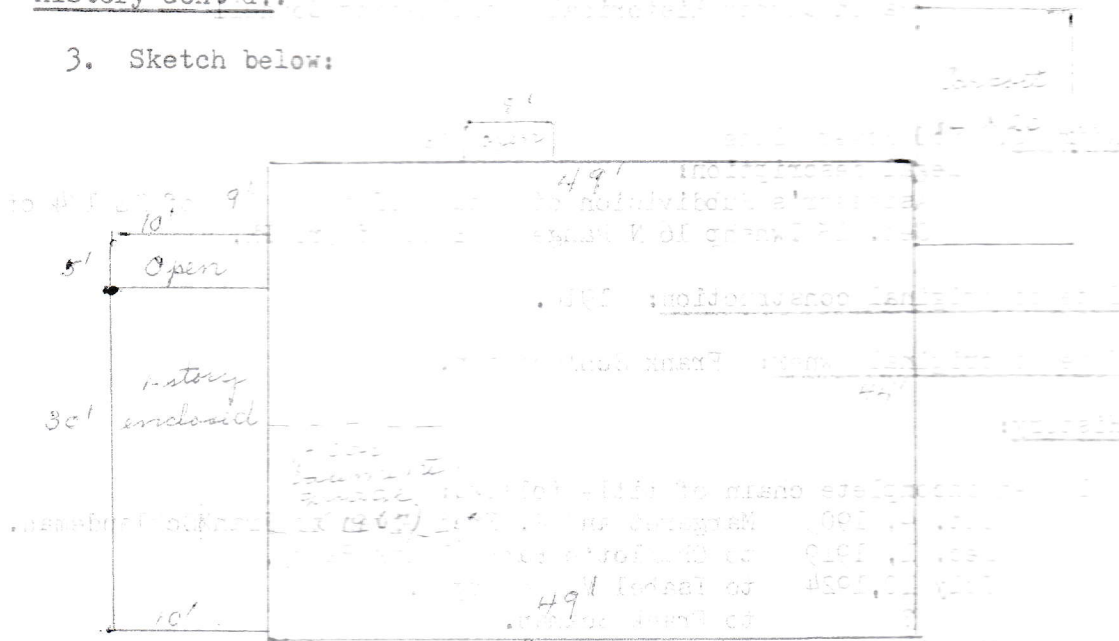
(Dec. 1967 - remodelling)

(See sketch on next page)

Present owner: Philip R. Wiant.

History Cont'd.:

3. Sketch below:



4. Bradley Cantrell describes the house as follows: (1975)

The Schlaudemán-LeForgee home was built in 1908. Its overall style is Georgian, but this home is more of a transitional home moving into the modern mode of architecture. Points which give it a Georgian appearance are the balustrated central portico with dentilled cornice which is supported by Ionic columns. The doorway is very Georgian with sidelights and fan-lights arranged in a palladian manner as is the central dormer. Points which are not true to style but add character are the lintels over the windows, which are a Federal influence, the second story central window which was common to many homes of its period the heavy central dormer. The plain cornice and projecting eaves are two points of the modern mode of architecture being less ornamented and simpler.

5. See attachments:

- a. From Brink, McDonough and Co.'s History of Macon County, Illinois 1880, p. 61 regarding beginnings of the Decatur Brewery Company.
- b. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co.'s Past and Present in Decatur and Macon County, 1903, pp. 95, 96.

History Cont'd.:

5. Attachments Continued:

- c. March 17, 1968 Sun. H. and R. Sesquicentennial column, regarding early automobiles in Decatur, including Frank Schlaudieman's.
- d. Obit, Frank Schlaudieman, August 27, 1937.
- e. Lake City Publishing Co.'s Portrait and Biographical Record of Macon County, Illinois, Chicago, 1893, p. 439 Biography of Jesse LeForgee.
- f. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co.'s Past and Present in Decatur and Macon County, Illinois, 1903, biography Charles C. LeForgee.
- g. Judge Nelson's City of Decatur, etc., 1910, pp 726, 727, biography, C. C. LeForgee.
- h. Feature story on C. C. LeForgee, June 16, 1938.
- i. Obit. C. C. LeForgee, The Decatur Review, June 23, 1951.
- j. Obit. Mrs. C. C. LeForgee, Decatur Review, July 19, 1965.
- k. Sunday Herald, Sept. 17, 1967, Beaman remodeling of 560 Powers Lane.
- l. Sunday H.&R., May 2, 1971, 560 Powers Lane included in tour of homes.
- m. Sun. H. & R., Jan. 11, 1976, Decatur Diary column, Trial Lawyer C. C. LeForgee Had Few Peers.

560 Powers Lane



100 - 100

### EDWARD HARPSTRITE

Was born near Ettenheim in Baden, February eighteenth, 1828. In 1833, his father, John B. Harpstrite, came with the family to America, and after residing a short time in Pennsylvania, two years at Dayton, Ohio, and then at Delphi, and near Terre-Haute, Indiana, in 1844 settled near Lebanon in Clinton county, Illinois. Mr. Harpstrite was sixteen when he came to this state. In 1825 he married Dorothea C. Rubsamen of St. Clair county, and began farming for himself in Clinton county. In 1855 he moved to a farm in Wheatland township, six miles south of Decatur. In 1860 he engaged in the brewing business at Decatur, purchasing a small brewery. In 1865 he formed his present partnership with Henry Schlaudeman. Various improvements have been made, and the Decatur steam Brewery is now one of the completest establishments of the kind in the state. His wife died in October, 1876. He has eight children living. He is a democrat, and in 1880 received the democratic nomination as member of the Board of Equalization from the fourteenth Congressional district. He has twice represented his ward in the city council.

*History of Macou County, Illinois, Brink, Mc Donough and Co.,  
Philadelphia (and Edwardsville, Illinois) 1880, p. 141*



**F**RANK SHLAUDEMANN, an educated gentleman and prominent business man of Decatur, is Vice-President of the Decatur Brewing Company, and also Vice-President of the Decatur Ice and Cold Storage Company. His entire life has been passed in this city, where his birth occurred on the 17th of June, 1862. Under the parental roof the days of his boyhood were passed, and his primary education was acquired in the public schools of the city. He afterward attended the University of Illinois, at Champaign, taking a five-years course as a mechanical engineer in the mechanical department. He was then graduated from that institution in the Class of '82, with the degrees of B. S. and M. E. After his graduation he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and entered the employ of the British Electric Light Company. He worked in all the departments of that company and became familiar with every detail of the business. Later he spent six months in Chicago. He had expected to devote his attention to electrical work, but events caused him to abandon this plan. However, he has built two electric machines, one for lighting the ice factory and one for motor purposes in the bottling works, of three-horse power. He put up the first electrical machine in Decatur, a Brush machine of ten-horse power for exhibition purposes.

In October, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Shlaudeman and Miss Josephine Baum, whose home was in Springfield, Ill. They have a pleasant residence on Webster Street, and are well known in this community, having many friends. From his boyhood our subject has been familiar with the brewing business, and in 1886 entered the brewery. Since that time he has given his entire attention to the business, and has practically been its manager. He has entire charge of the manufacturing department, and his brother Harry superintends the office and sales. The property covers a tract of several acres. The Decatur Brewing Company was incorporated on the 27th of March, 1888, with a capital stock of \$50,000. Its officers are H. Shlaudeman, President; Frank Shlaudeman, Vice-President; and Harry Shlaudeman, Secretary and Treasurer. It has a capacity of twenty thousand barrels annually, with an annual business of fourteen thousand barrels, and they purchase about fifteen thousand bushels of barley, mainly grown in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Employment is furnished to twenty-three men. The bottling works are separate from the brewery. Mr. Shlaudeman is an intelligent and cultured gentleman, pleasant and popular, and a man of good business ability.

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The Decatur Brewing Company is one of the earliest established institutions of the city; it was started by John Gaus, in the latter part of the fifties, who was succeeded in the business by B. D. Richards, Mark Simpson and Nicholas Weber, who in turn sold the brewery to E. Harpstrite and H. Shlaudeman in 1862, by whom it was conducted for twenty-two years. In 1884 H. Shlaudeman bought his partner's interest

and, with the co-operation of his sons, has successfully carried on the business since then. The plant is located at 604 East Central Street. The main building is 100 by 135 feet; part of it is three stories and part is five stories. There is a mashing capacity of 15,000 barrels of beer annually. In the manufacture of beer the best Minnesota barley and New York and Pacific Coast hops only, are used. The cellars are cooled with a consolidated Ice Company machine, the capacity of which is ten tons per day, and a Westinghouse machine, having a capacity of twenty-five tons. The buildings are lighted by the company's electric light plant. Glass-enameled steel casks are used in the vacuum process of aging and ripening the beer. A number of deep wells have been sunk, affording an abundance of pure water for brewing. The plant is equipped throughout with the newest and best appliances. This firm sells beer all over the state, and seven-eighths of the beer used in Decatur is of this company's make. The bottling works, which is a part of the plant, is a two-story brick structure 25 by 75 feet. Twenty-one men are employed in the brewery and twelve in the bottling works. The officers are: Henry Shlaudeman, president; Frank Shlaudeman, vice-president; Harry Shlaudeman, secretary and treasurer.

Getwell Decatur in Decatur and Mason County, Illinois, and Clarke Publishing Co., 1903, pp. 95, 96

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**J**ESSE LEFORGEE, who is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business in Decatur, is numbered among the early settlers of Macon County, having been a resident of this county since 1856. During all this time he has carried on a book and stationery store and engaged in farming, and is now, as above stated, one of the real-estate dealers. His extensive busi-

ness interests have made him widely known, and we therefore feel assured that this record of his life will prove of interest to many of our readers.

Mr. Leforgee was born January 1, 1833, in Fleming County, Ky., and in that State occurred the birth of his parents, Ayres and Dorinda (Cassiday) Leforgee. The family is of French origin, and was founded in Kentucky by Abraham Leforgee, who emigrated from France and became one of the pioneers who located on the present site of Blue Licks. The maternal grandfather, Michael Cassiday, was born in Dublin, Ireland, and at the age of fourteen crossed the Atlantic, locating in Kentucky. He served in the Revolution from the battle of Lexington until the Colonies had achieved their independence. He bore all the hardships of that struggle, having his toes frozen and being several times wounded by the Indians. After the war, he entered three thousand acres of Government land in Fleming and Nicholas Counties. He was elected to the Kentucky Legislature for fifteen terms, and was in the Senate two terms, and, a man of more than average ability, became very prominent and influential in the State of his adoption. His death occurred in 1815. In religious belief he was a Presbyterian.

The father of our subject was born in August, 1795, and during the greater part of his life followed the trade of a carpenter. He also ran a large mill in Poplar Plains, Ky., for some years. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and afterwards drew a pension. In 1866, he came to Decatur, and there lived retired until called to his final rest in 1870. He was a member of the Methodist Church for more than sixty years, and was one of Nature's noblemen. His wife, who was also a member of the same church, passed away in 1868, at the age of seventy-two. Of their family of seven sons and three daughters, the following are still living: Martha, widow of D. W. Litster; America, wife of Dr. W. J. Chenoweth, of Decatur; Ayres; Jesse; Mary E., widow of James A. Leforgee; Frank and Robert.

The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Poplar Plains, Ky., and learned the wool-carder's trade under his father in Wyoming, that State. Having arrived at years of maturity, he

was married, July 20, 1857, to Miss Julia A. E. Smallwood, daughter of James M. and Iva (Powell) Smallwood, whose people were natives of Ohio. They have been the parents of five children, of whom Iva, the eldest, and James, the fifth child, died in infancy. Walker L., who studied medicine and graduated from Rush Medical College, of Chicago, married Miss Jessie Drake, and a month later died. Dorendia C. is the wife of John E. Patterson, a dry-goods merchant of the firm of A. Waite & Co., of Decatur. They have a daughter, Jessie. Charles C. is a graduate of the law department of Northwestern University of Evanston and is now practicing in Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. Leforgee hold membership with the Christian Church and he served as Deacon for many years. In church work he takes an active part, doing much for its upbuilding. In politics he is a Democrat and is a member of Celestial Lodge No. 186, I. O. O. F., and belongs to the Rebecca Degree. Mr. Leforgee has a good home property at No. 304 Macon Street, and is a prominent man in city affairs. For almost forty years he has resided here, and has therefore witnessed much of the growth and development of the city, and has always identified himself with those interests calculated to prove of public benefit.

*Portrait and Biographical Record of  
Macon County, Illinois, Lake City, Published  
Chicago, 1893, p. 439*

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gain recognition as a capable representative of his chosen calling. [redacted] was born in Decatur in 1807, his parents being Jesse and Julia A. E. LeForgee. The father, who is a prominent real estate dealer of this city, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, on the 1st of January, 1833, and is a son of Ayers and Dorinda (Cassidy) LeForgee, who were likewise natives of the Blue Grass state. The grandfather was a cabinet-maker by trade and died in the eighty-fourth year of his age. The great-grandfather of our subject was Abner LeForgee. Jesse LeForgee accompanied his parents on their removal from Fleming county to Illinois. Prior to this time he had acquired his education in a private school in Kentucky. Since 1856 he has resided continuously in this city and has been prominently and actively identified with its improvement and upbuilding, watching its growth from pioneer times down to the present. It is one of the best sections of the state and is noted for its varied and important industrial interests. In 1857 he was united in marriage to Miss Julia Smallwood, who was born, reared and educated in this city, a daughter of James M. and Ida Smallwood. Mr. and Mrs. LeForgee became the parents of two children. The daughter, Dorinda, is now the wife of John E. Patterson, a real-estate dealer of Decatur.

The only son is Charles C. LeForgee, who, having obtained his education in the public schools of Decatur, entered his father's office at the age of sixteen years and was thus initiated into the real estate business. He continued with his father until almost twenty-one years of age, at which time he took up the study of law in the office and under the direction of Judge William E. Nelson. Later he entered the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and was graduated on the completion of the law course in 1889. Returning to his native city, he then opened an office here and has since continued in practice in Decatur. Professional advancement is proverbially slow and yet in a comparatively short time Mr.

#### CHARLES C. LEFORGEE.

One of the prominent attorneys of Decatur is Charles C. LeForgee, whose history is in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country, for in the city of his birth Mr. LeForgee has so directed his energies as to

LeForgee obtained a practice which was notable both by reason of its extent and its character. He has been retained either as counsel for the defense or for the prosecution in a number of important cases, both civil and criminal, and is to-day recognized as one of the best trial lawyers in central Illinois. He masters his points in every particular and marshals the facts with military precision, being strong in argument, logical in his deductions and clear in the presentation of his cases before judge or jury. It was in 1890 that he was admitted to the Decatur bar and in November, 1895, was admitted to practice before the supreme court at Springfield.

Mr. LeForgee was united in marriage to Miss Isabel Vennigerholz, a daughter of Julius H. and Isabel Vennigerholz. They now have two interesting children: Isabel Vallette and Charles G. In the city where his entire life has been passed Mr. LeForgee is well known and has gained for himself an enviable place at the bar. He possesses laudable ambition and strong determination to win success and he realizes that it must be gained through capability and merit, for in no profession does advancement depend so largely upon the individual as in the law.

*Past and Present of the City of Decatur and Macon County, Illinois, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company,*



## CHARLES C. LE FORGEE.

Charles C. Le Forgee, senior partner of the law firm of Le Forgee, Vail & Miller, has during the years of his active connection with the Macon county bar been associated with some of the most important civil and criminal law cases tried in the courts of this district. His constantly expanding powers have made him a man of pronounced ability in his chosen field of labor and he is now regarded as an able and conscientious minister in the temple of justice who, while devoted to the interests of his clients, never forgets that he owes a still higher allegiance to the majesty of the law.

Mr. Le Forgee was born in Decatur in 1867 and is a son of Jesse and Julia A. E. (Smallwood) Le Forgee. The father was a native of Fleming county, Kentucky, born January 1, 1833. The family, as the name indicates, is of French origin and was founded in Kentucky by Abraham Le Forgee, who emigrated from France, becoming one of the pioneer settlers of the city of Blue Licks. The great-grandfather was Abner Le Forgee, a native of Kentucky, whose son, Ayres Le Forgee, was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, in August, 1795. After arriving at years of maturity he married Dorinda Cassidy, a daughter of Michael Cassidy, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, and at the age of fourteen years crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Kentucky. He served with the American troops in the Revolutionary war from the battle of Lexington until the colonies had achieved their independence. He bore all of the hardships and trials which came to the soldiers during that long struggle. On one occasion he had his feet frozen and several times was wounded by the Indians. After the war he settled in Kentucky, entering three thousand acres of government land in Fleming and Nicholas counties. He became a man of notable prominence and activity in that state. He was elected to the Kentucky legislature, serving for fifteen terms, and was also a member of the state senate for two terms. He often bore active part in shaping the legislation of Kentucky, leaving the impress of his individuality for good upon the framing of the laws of that commonwealth. His death occurred in 1815. In religious belief he had always been a Presbyterian. It was his daughter, Dorinda, who became the wife of Ayres Le Forgee. The latter during the greater part of his life followed the carpenter's trade and also for a number of years operated a large mill at Poplar Plains, Kentucky. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812 and afterward drew a pension from the government in recognition of the aid which he had given in that struggle. In 1856 he became a resident of Decatur where he lived retired until called to his final rest in 1870. For more than sixty years he was a devoted member of the Methodist church and his wife, who also belonged to the same church, passed away in that faith in 1868 at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of ten children: Martha, the wife of D. W. Litster; America, the wife of Dr. W. J. Chenoweth, of Decatur; Ayres; Jesse; Mary E., the widow of James Le Forgee; Frank; Robert; and three others who are now deceased.

Of this family Jesse Le Forgee became the father of Charles C. Le Forgee, whose name introduces this review. In the town of Poplar Plains Jesse Le Forgee was reared and educated and afterward learned the wood carver's trade under the direction of his father in Wyoming, Kentucky. He came with his parents to De-

*Nelson, Hon. William C., Editor, City of Decatur  
and Macon County, The Pioneer Publishing  
Company, Chicago, 1910 Vol II*

deatur in 1856 and the following year he married Julia A. E. Smallwood, the wedding being celebrated July 20, 1857. Her parents were James M. and Iva (Powell) Smallwood, also pioneer residents of Macon county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Le Forgee were born five children, but Iva, the eldest, and James, the youngest, died in infancy. Walker L., who studied medicine and was graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago, married Miss Jessie Drake and died a month later. Dorinda C. is the wife of John E. Patterson, a real-estate dealer of Decatur; and Charles C. is the other surviving member of the family.

In politics Jesse Le Forgee was a democrat and his religious faith was that of the Christian church, in which he served as deacon for many years and otherwise took an active and helpful part in the church work. He also belonged to Celestial Lodge, No. 86, I. O. O. F., and to the Rebekah degree of that order. For more than a half century he was a resident of Decatur, where he died December 28, 1907. His widow still survives him and is one of the honored pioneer women of the county.

Charles C. Le Forgee pursued his education in the public schools of Decatur and at the age of sixteen years entered his father's office to learn the real-estate business, but at the time he attained his majority he decided to study law and pursued his reading under the preceptorship of Judge William E. Nelson. Later he entered the law department of the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and was there graduated with the class of 1889. In that year he returned to his native city where he opened an office. His recognized ability has brought him into close connection with some of the important cases, both criminal and civil, that have been tried in the courts of central Illinois. In 1890 he was admitted to the Decatur bar and in 1892 he became a partner of J. C. Lee under the firm style of Le Forgee & Lee. The present firm of Le Forgee, Vail & Miller was formed in 1910 and is still occupying a commodious office on the fourth floor of the Title & Trust building. In all the intervening years since his admission to the bar he has been actively connected with the profession which has important bearing upon the progress and stable prosperity of any section or community. His is a natural discrimination as to legal ethics and he is so thoroughly well read in the law as to be able to base his arguments upon thorough knowledge of and familiarity with precedents and to present a case upon its merits, never failing to recognize the main point at issue and never neglecting to give a thorough preparation. His pleas have been characterized by a terse and decisive logic and a lucid presentation rather than by flights of oratory, and his power is the greater before court or jury from the fact that it is recognized that his aim is ever to secure justice and not to enshroud the cause in a sentimental garb of illusion, which will thwart the principles of right and equity involved.

Mr. Le Forgee was married to Miss Isabel Vennigerholz, a daughter of Julius H. and Isabel Vennigerholz. Their children are Isabel Vallette and Charles G. While a representative of one of the old families of the county, it has been his individual ability that has brought Mr. Le Forgee to his present creditable position in the ranks of the legal fraternity in Decatur.

*Nelson, Hon William E., Editor, City of  
Decatur and Macon County, The Pioneer  
(Press) Publishing Company, Chicago, 1910*

# Recalls 50 Years in Law



C. C. LEFORGEE

## LeForgee Discusses His Famous Trials; Not '38 Worried About Future of U. S.

By BILL MARTIN.

C. C. LeForgee, venerable Decatur lawyer, looks back to the date of his admission to the practice of law. He sat in retrospect over this century that has passed since, stripping lawyer, freshly graduated from Northwestern university he experienced the thrill of first lawsuit, his office was filled with flowers bearing congratulations from his friends. Telegrams poured in from cities about the nation from prominent persons in government, the profession, and other activities, carrying a message of congratulation.

A glance at the stack of telegrams on Mr. LeForgee's desk disclosed the signatures upon a few. There was Edward Hughes, secretary of state; W. S. Horton of Peoria, former chief counsel for the Illinois Central railway; N. S. Brown, general counsel for the Wash, general; James G. Condon, prominent Chicago lawyer; Judge Walter L. Lindley of the U. S. district court, Eastern district; Judge Charles G. Briggie, U. S. district judge for the Southern Illinois district. H. L. Hanley, St. Louis; and Q. Dorshel, New York. There were many others, and a brief interview with Mr. LeForgee was frequently interrupted by telephone calls from other members of the Decatur bar, officials of the Decatur banks, and leading industrial leaders in the

### Admitted in 1888.

While attending law school, Mr. LeForgee worked at times in the office of Mason Brothers, then a leading Chicago law firm, and upon graduation and admission to the bar on June 16, 1888, he went into that law office where he remained a year. Then, he started practise alone in Chicago; was getting along well for a beginner, but found he was not satisfied in Chicago. He decided to return to his home town.

"I talked to several lawyers then practising in Decatur," Mr. LeForgee recalled. "Among them were W. C. Outten, I. R. Mills, W. C. Johns, C. A. Ewing, Hugh Crea and I. Buckingham.

"Some of them were not very encouraging, but I was happy when Mr. Ewing said, 'You open up an office, you'll succeed here.'"

### Office on Merchant Street

In a back room on Merchant street, the Decatur career of Mr. LeForgee, lawyer, was started. There was a pine table covered with newspapers for a desk. Three rickety chairs were ready to receive clients. For a library, there were the Illinois statutes and a volume of Moore's Civil Justice. Today Mr. LeForgee sits in his spacious, well-appointed office, surrounded by his associates in the firm of LeForgee, Samuels & Miller, and a staff of assistants, with access to a library of 6,000 volumes.

Perhaps a Decatur barber named Walsh should have credit for turning Mr. LeForgee to his brilliant career as a trial lawyer. As a young man, his interest turned toward examination of real estate titles, and he expected to become what is termed an "office lawyer."

But his barber work was being done by Walsh, and when the barber became charged with the abduction of a daughter of a prominent Decatur family, Mr. LeForgee yielded to an appeal from the defendant and agreed to defend him.

Soon Walsh was indicted and arraigned for trial in circuit court. The late I. R. Mills was state's attorney. The family of the young woman employed other counsel to assist in the prosecution. Mr. LeForgee stood alone for the defendant.

### Overcomes Fear

"But a most amazing thing occurred," Mr. LeForgee continued. "As I argued the case, I found I was no longer scared. I have no idea whether or not my speech to the jury was well done—the surprising thing to me was that it was done at all." The defense won a half victory; the jury deadlocked six to six and was dismissed.

But, the now confident young lawyer turned to trial practise and for 25 years did little else. His practise carried him to distant states and found him in some of the most publicized trials.

He was within a few years to win attention as a defense lawyer in the trial of Edley McCoolle who was acquitted of a murder charge when the defense successfully advanced the "unwritten law" as justification for the killing of a man.

There was the successful defense of the Illinois Central railway in St. Paul against an accumulation of personal injury claims totaling more than 3 million dollars, with a victory for the defense on every claim in cases requiring seven months for trial.

### Defended Len Small

In later years came his successful defense of the late Len Small, Illinois governor, on criminal charges growing out of his service as state treasurer. "I am frank to say," Mr. LeForgee remarked today, "that I have an honest belief Mr. Small was not guilty. I have tried several other cases which I regarded more seriously."

While Mr. LeForgee won prominence as counsel for railway companies, utilities, and industrial organizations, he once represented the United Mine Workers in Christian county, filing a petition asking an injunction against employers on the charge they were conspiring against the union in regard to a strike in Pana. The labor trouble was settled before trial on the petition.

Mr. LeForgee is an optimist as he looks to the future of the United States. He sees a wholesome tendency within the two political parties toward elimination of the old theory of unwavering party loyalty. There is a dawning realization, he said, of the fact that

which the people make, rather than attempt to frame issues for the people to follow. He declares his abiding confidence that under the people as a whole will develop proper issues.

### No Cause for Alarm

Recognizing the innovations in government that have occurred in recent years, Mr. LeForgee is not alarmed. The government, he contends, develops in cycles. As the present innovations have time to display their worth, those unsound will be discarded, he said, while those found sound will lead the nation on to the next cycle of progress.

"The best court for the trial of a new law is the people of the nation. If you want to test the worth of a law, simply let the lawmakers try to enforce it. In this modern time the people of the nation will not be driven by the flash of the law.

And Mr. LeForgee has a refreshing confidence in the future of the legal profession which he believes will be of greater service. The law colleges are giving students of law better training, he says, and are turning out young lawyers who look forward, and are not reactionary.

"Macon county has had some lawyers of great talent," he said, "but the county now has young men coming into practise who are outstanding in promise. They are keen, capable young men, who are to travel far in their profession."

# C. C. LeForgee, Dean Of Decatur Lawyers, Dies; Funeral Monday

June 23, 1951

## Retired From Active Practise 6 Months Ago

C. C. LeForgee, 83, who won national recognition during his 60-year career as a lawyer, died in his home at 560 Powers lane at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Monday in St. John's Episcopal church. There will be private family burial services in Greenwood cemetery. Friends may call at the Dawson & Wikoff funeral home from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Mr. LeForgee, dean of Decatur lawyers, retired from active practise last Dec. 31, although his name remains with the new firm of LeForgee, Samuels & Miller.

One of the most able lawyers to practise in Macon county since Charles Emerson became Decatur's first resident attorney in 1834, he won fame as chief counsel for Gov. Len Small, when he successfully defended Small, charged with embezzlement and conspiracy to defraud the state. In a trial in Waukegan in 1921.

He won renown in the successful defense of Edley McCooles, charged with murder, when he advanced the "unwritten law" as justification for killing a man.

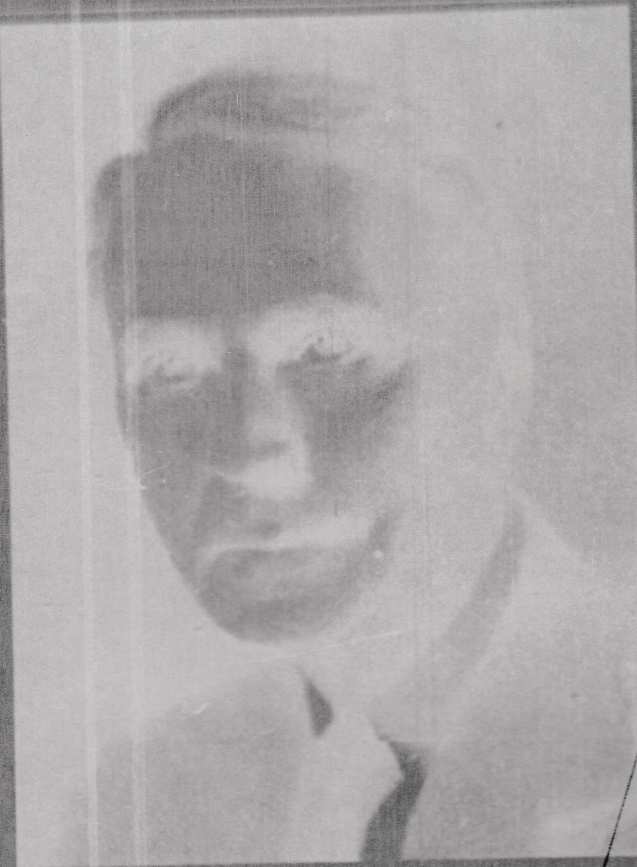
However, his chief accomplishments were as a corporation lawyer.

HE ALSO was chief counsel for the Illinois Central railroad, successfully defending the road in litigation involving some three million dollars during seven months of trials in St. Paul.

For many years he was general counsel for the A. E. Staley Mfg. Co. and also represented the Wash and Illinois Terminal railroads. He was once chief counsel for trustees of Millikin university and for trustees of the James Millikin estate. He had practised before the U. S. Supreme court and courts of many states other than Illinois.

Starting in the practise of law in 1888, Mr. LeForgee knew many of the pioneer Central Illinois lawyers who helped to carve out a system of justice in Illinois courts.

HE FORMED a partnership with J. C. Lee in 1892, and in 1910 the firm of LeForgee, Vail & Miller was formed. He remained senior partner through several changes of



C. C. LE FORCEE

Apparently with great effort the defendant knelt at an almost unperceptible angle.

Now," asked Mr. LeForgee, "how high could you raise it before the accident?"

Before the witness was aware of the trap, he raised his leg with all the flexibility of an athlete. There was no further need of testimony.

ON ANOTHER occasion, Mr. LeForgee was defending a man charged in an election fraud. Suddenly the prosecution closed its case and Mr. LeForgee found himself called upon to proceed with the defense with none of his witnesses available.

Calling a man at random from the court room audience, Mr. LeForgee started questioning the surprised witness and, within a few minutes had his confession that he committed the offense with which the defendant was charged.

NO LEGAL question was too big to stop Mr. LeForgee. There was a time, in 1914, when he prepared for a possible challenge of the organization of the U. S. Senate. It was at a time when members

## Darrell Alcorn Is Wounded

Pfc. Darrell G. Alcorn of the marine corps son of Mrs. Cleo D. Alcorn, 28 Longview place, was wounded by shrapnel in action in North Korea, according to word received by his mother, but is back in the line now.

In addition to the Purple Heart, which he received for this wound, he has four battle stars, two arrowheads (for the unit spearheading a drive), and an award for knocking out two Russian-built tanks.

Alcorn, who is 19 now, enlisted in the marines Sept. 24, 1943. He took his training at Parris Island, S. C., and Camp Lejeune, N. C.

He sailed for Korea last August and his first battle was the Inchon landing.

## Mrs. Alma E. Welch, Former Resident, Dies

Mrs. Alma E. Welch, the former

## Revised Civil Defense Plan Goes to Mayor

Col. Frank J. Gollings, civil defense director, yesterday handed a revised Decatur civil defense plan to confirm more closely with state planning, to Mayor Robert E. Willis. Gollings said at least two city ordinances will be required under the newly passed state civil defense bill, and he said a tax for the organization probably would be levied this year.

THE BILL passed by the General Assembly Thursday, and now awaiting the signature of Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson, permits a maximum levy of 25 cents per capita. The full levy here would produce more than \$17,000 for supplies, equipment and public information. Local revenue must be provided also to take advantage of matching funds, Gollings explained.

The federal government already has been notified that the city will have \$1,000 available as a matching fund for medical supplies.

The new plan sets up six staff divisions which absorb 14 former administrative board positions, and seven operating divisions. The initial plan had five operating divisions.

MOST OF the major posts have already been filled, according to Colonel Gollings. The immediate need is for about 400 male first aiders. Another need treated under the state plan is for a civil defense council, conforming closely to the former advisory committee.

The basic plan, Gollings said, spells out purposes, authorities, responsibilities and policies for the city. Sabotage is seen as "the most probable hostile action in the area."

Twenty-two annexes will outline operating procedures in detail. Medical operations are to date the furthest advanced in planning.

## Mrs. Ray Weakley Dies; Sister of H. A. Kuhle

Mrs. Ray Weakley, 40, the former Hazel Kuhle of Assumption, died Thursday morning in Lawrence, Kan., where she made her home. She had been ill for two weeks.

Mrs. Weakley was a sister of H. A. Kuhle, 236 North Westlawn avenue.

Graveside services were held at 2 p. m. today in Greenwood cemetery, Assumption. Pitzer funeral home, Assumption, will be in charge.

## Light Check Tags 91 Cars

Police last night issued 91 light tickets for defective car lights. Police Chief W. Glenn Kerwin, Lt. William Kitch, head of the traffic department, had the drive in a

...the U. S. Supreme court and courts of many states other than Illinois.

Starting in the practice of law in 1888, Mr. LeForgee knew many of the pioneer Central Illinois lawyers who helped to carve out a system of justice in Illinois courts.

HE FORMED a partnership with J. C. Lee in 1892, and in 1910 the firm of LeForgee, Vall & Miller was formed. He remained senior partner through several changes of name in following years.

Mr. LeForgee attended Decatur public schools until he was 16, then entered his father's real estate office. Soon, however, he turned to the study of law in the office of William Nelson.

Finding it to his liking, he entered the law college at Northwestern university, graduating in 1898. In Chicago he had been employed part-time in the law office of Mason Bros. and he was undecided as to where he should establish his practice.

He talked to several Decatur lawyers, including W. C. Outten, I. R. Hunt, W. C. Johns, C. A. Ewing, Hugh Criss and I. Buckingham. Some gave little encouragement, but Mr. Ewing advised: "You open up an office; you'll succeed here."

Relying on that advice, he fitted a back room on Merchant street with a pine table, spread newspapers over it for covering, bought three ancient chairs, and acquired a library consisting of Illinois statutes and a volume of Moore's "Civil Justice".

HE WAS AS proud of that scanty library and office furnishings as he was in later years of his fine suite of office and library of 4,900 volumes.

Think as a youth, so far as public speaking was concerned, Mr. LeForgee determined upon a career as an office lawyer. But soon his father was in difficulty, charged with a criminal offense, and urged Mr. LeForgee to appear for the defense.

About that trial, Mr. LeForgee once said: "I don't know which was the more novel, the defendant or the lawyer. But, a most amusing thing occurred. As I argued the case, I found I was no longer afraid. We won a half-century. The boy was defeated and dismissed."

No longer ill at ease in a court room, Mr. LeForgee plunged into trial practice, winning a reputation as one of the great trial lawyers in Illinois county history.

MAVEY STORIES are told of his near-sensory ability as a cross-examiner of hostile witnesses. There is the story of a trial of a personal injury suit in another state in which the plaintiff jumped in the witness stand and told of the pain he suffered from injuries allegedly sustained in an accident.

Unconsciously, Mr. LeForgee asked the location of the greatest pain and the witness said: "In my knee." Among his most shrewd legal moments, Mr. LeForgee asked the witness to stand and show how high he could raise his foot.

...and Mr. LeForgee found himself unable to proceed with the defense, with none of his witnesses available.

Calling a man at random from the court room audience, Mr. LeForgee started questioning the surprised witness and within a few minutes had his confession that he committed the offense with which the defendant was charged.

NO LEGAL question was too big to stop Mr. LeForgee. There was a time, in 1914, when he prepared for a possible challenge of the organization of the U.S. Senate.

It was at a time when members of the Senate were considering refusal of seats to two senators, one from Illinois and the other from Michigan. There was a bill pending which, if passed, would operate against the interest of one of Mr. LeForgee's clients. He prepared, in event the bill were passed, to question the legality of the organization of the legislative body.

"It is not a question of men," he said at the time, "it is a question of government. If the Senate can get together and vote to exclude two members, we may assume that it could also exclude more than two, and it could continue to reject until it might be down to a point where we would have the spectacle of only two men passing laws and pretending to be the Senate of the United States."

WHEN ISSUES were raised between the authority of governmental units and the rights of citizens, he first explored the rights of the citizens. On one occasion, several years ago, when the city council ordered the closing of a section of public street in the west part of the city, Mr. LeForgee raised a question of authority for the act during a casual conversation. He was not retained as a lawyer in the matter.

"Once a public highway is established," he said, "it is my opinion that citizens have a vested interest in it, which may not be extinguished by a city council or any other agency."

"Not only have the citizens of Decatur the right to continued use of the highway, but it is my belief that every citizen of the United States has the same vested right."

A MAN of broad interests, Mr. LeForgee was widely read, and respected as an outstanding conversationalist.

Although he was not interested in holding public office, he always maintained a keen interest in government and politics. He was a life-long Democrat, frequently addressing political meetings and acting as toastmaster at political banquets.

Mr. LeForgee was born in Decatur July 7, 1867, of French ancestry. His parents were Jesse and Julia A. E. (Smallwood) LeForgee. His great-grandfather, Abner LeForgee, fought in the American revolution, settled in Kentucky and served 17 terms in the Kentucky legislature.

On Nov. 20, 1885, Mr. LeForgee married Isabel Vennigerholz, a daughter of Julius H. and Isabel Vennigerholz and a niece of the late Gov. Richard Oglesby of Illinois.

HE LEAVES his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Valetta Barnes, widow of

...and his first battle was the Inchon landing.

Alborn, who is 39 now, enlisted in the marines Sept. 14, 1949. He took his training at Parris Island, S. C., and Camp LeJeune, N. C.

### Mrs. Alma E. Welch, Former Resident, Dies

Mrs. Alma E. Welch, the former Alma Fisher, a one-time resident of Decatur, died at 12:40 p. m. yesterday in St. Francis hospital, Peoria.

Mrs. Welch lived in Decatur for several years after her marriage here to S. Bliss Welch on June 21, 1919. She attended Greenville college, Greenville, and Millikin university. She was a member of Central Christian church and the Eastern Star in Decatur.

She moved from Decatur to Baltimore, Md., then to Fort Wayne, Ind., and about six months ago to Peoria.

She was the daughter of Theodore and Cora Rawlings Fisher, and leaves her husband, her mother, and a sister, Mrs. S. A. Miller, Decatur.

The body will be brought to the Dawson & Wikoff funeral home. Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

### 'Y' Boys Sell Soap Today for Camp Trip

Today was "Soap Salesman day" for about 40 boys at the Y. M. C. A. The boys were selling soap to finance their way to camp this summer.

At least 17 boys have sold five boxes of soap to clear \$17.50—the necessary fee for Camp Seymour July 22-29.

The boys are trying to complete their soap sales before July 1, according to J. Walter Spilman, boys' work secretary of the "Y".

### News From the Sick

PEGGY Cornell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cornell, 3810 East Minnetta street, is recovering satisfactorily in Decatur and Macon County hospital, where she underwent an appendectomy Thursday.

William Barnes, Jr., who was president of the Citizens National bank; and a son, Charles Granville of Chicago.

Mr. LeForgee was a member of the Decatur Club, the Country Club of Decatur, St. John's Episcopal church, the Decatur Bar association, the Illinois Bar association and the American Bar association and the Elks lodge.

Mr. LeForgee had pride in his home community. He was toastmaster for the memorial dinner in the 25th anniversary of the Decatur and Macon County Hospital association on Nov. 10, 1941. On this occasion he remarked:

"The finest thing I can say, I have lived in Decatur and I have had a part in it."

Graveside services were held at 2 p. m. today in Greenwood cemetery, Assumption. Pitzer, home, Assumption, will be in charge.

## Light Check Tags 91 Cars

Police last night issued 91 traffic tickets for defective car lights. Police Chief W. Glenn Kerwin and Lt. William Kline, head of the traffic division, led the drive in an effort to collect the "one-eyed" headlight and defective taillight situation.

The chief said 12 men worked overtime to put on the drive. A similar campaign will be conducted next week, Chief Kerwin said.

Most of the tickets were dropped after the offending motorists appeared at police headquarters with receipts to show that the defective lights had been repaired. Most of the violations were for missing headlights.

Police set up check points at West Main street and Oakland avenue, Grand avenue and route 43, Grand and North Main street, Twenty-second and Wood, and at Jasper and Cantrell.

Different intersections will be policed next week, Mr. Kerwin said.

### Charlie Stare, Retired Bus Driver, Dies

Charlie Stare, 69, of 509 South Nineteenth street, died at 6:30 p. m. yesterday after illness of one year.

Mr. Stare moved to Decatur in 1910 and in 1915 was employed as street car operator. When the cars were removed from service, he became a city bus driver, a job which he held until his retirement in 1948.

The Van Dyke and Jasper street route was the last driven by Mr. Stare.

He was a member of the Methodist church and the Bus Operators local 558.

He was born Sept. 7, 1881, Whitmore township, Macon county, a son of Peter and Lucy Stare. He was first married to Ada Fish who died in 1918. He was married to Irene Mack in Decatur July 1925.

Besides his wife, he leaves 11 children, Donald Stare and Charlotte Hoyt, Decatur; a grandson, Dean Hoyt, Decatur; two brothers, Harry Stare, Oakley, and Floyd Stare, Owneco, and a sister, Mrs. Bessie Engenecker, Land, Calif.

Services will be at 3 p. m. Monday in the Monson funeral home. Burial will be in Fairlawn cemetery. Friends may call at the home after 7 p. m. today.

### REPORTS SON MISSING

Mrs. Henry Roberson, 1011 Sunset, told police here today that her 11-year-old son Johnnie has been missing since 11 a. m. yesterday. The youth was described as being 120 pounds and wearing a white shirt and blue denim trousers.



# Trial Lawyer LeForgee Had Few Peers

By Don Brilley

A barber charged with kidnaping. A "justified" murderer. Railroads. The Governor of Illinois.

Decatur attorney Charles Chambers "C. C." LeForgee defended them all in his 62 years of practice. And he won each case.

Born in Decatur on July 7, 1867, to parents of French descent — Jesse and Julia Smallwood LeForgee — young Charles at first intended to join his father in the real estate business.

Soon the legal profession lured him away and he began "reading" law in the old-fashioned sense in the office of Judge William E. Nelson.

While studying there he gained acceptance to Northwestern Law School and landed a job working in the law offices of the Mason Brothers in Chicago.

After his graduation from Northwestern with a juris doctor degree and his admittance to the Illinois Bar on June 16, 1888, LeForgee remained with the Mason firm for about a year.

He was not especially fond of Chicago and his law practice there, so he moved back to his hometown, establishing an office on Merchant Street.

In 1892 he formed a partnership with J. C. Lee. Three years later, on Nov. 20, 1895, he married Isabel Vennigerholz, a niece of former Gov. Richard J. Oglesby.

And in 1910, he established the law firm of LeForgee, Vail & Miller. He remained the senior partner of that firm for the next 40 years despite frequent changes in personnel and name.

Not only was LeForgee's long law practice a prosperous one, it was also an extraordinary one.

The first client LeForgee defended was a barber named Walsh who was charged with kidnaping. LeForgee didn't exactly win the case. The jury's deliberations ended in a deadlock, but since there was no retrial, LeForgee's client remained free.

LeForgee later represented Edley McCoolle who had been charged with murder. This also was a unique victory as LeForgee for the first time advanced the "unwritten law" (adultery) as justification for killing a man.

## Decatur Diary



C. C. LeForgee

Perhaps LeForgee's longest and most intense legal engagement was that with the Illinois Central Railroad.

He successfully defended that railroad against an accumulation of personal injury claims totaling \$3 million in a seven-month trial.

During this case, which was tried in St. Paul, Minn., LeForgee wondered aloud why the plaintiff had left her native Kentucky to sue Illinois Central in a Minnesota court over her husband's death.

By asserting that she had done so merely because St. Paul had an abundance of lawyers specializing in such cases, LeForgee swayed the jury to his point of view.

Because of effective tactics such as these, Illinois Central

tried to hire LeForgee for its own legal staff in 1914, but he refused, preferring his private practice.

The number of railroad cases he handled actually increased because of this decision as Burlington Railroad retained him less than a year later.

By the time he was arguing for Illinois Central before the United States Supreme Court in October of 1916, LeForgee had built quite a reputation for himself as a defense lawyer who employed winning tactics.

LeForgee was chosen to represent three members of the Chicago Board of Education — Davis, Severinghouse and Ward — in grand jury proceedings of fraud charges.

When the trio was sentenced to jail on contempt of court charges by Judge Scanlan, LeForgee secured pardons from Governor Len Small and then persuaded the judge immediately to dispatch the case to the Illinois Supreme Court.

There was no precedent for such a move, but this did not inhibit LeForgee.

LeForgee was best known for his successful defense of the Governor of Illinois in 1921, although he did not consider the points of law in the case especially intriguing.

Gov. Len Small had been indicted on a charge of fraud which stemmed from his previous conduct as state treasurer.

As in most of the Decatur attorney's cases, the defendant was acquitted.

Numerous honors came LeForgee's way.

In September of 1915 Gov. Edward F. Dunne appointed LeForgee to serve on a commission to purchase and erect for \$25,000 an appropriate memorial to the late Richard G. Oglesby.

When Sen. Harry S. Truman of Missouri came to Decatur on June 13, 1939, it was LeForgee who was asked to introduce the future President to a meeting of the Transportation Club.

And in January of 1941 LeForgee was given an honorary doctor of laws degree from Millikin University.

While LeForgee never at-

tempted to gain political office, he did hold some potent views on political issues of the day.

He questioned the legality of the United States Senate in January of 1923 when two senators named Smith and Vare were excluded from that chamber's proceedings.

Charging that such an act deprived these men's states of their right to equal representation LeForgee developed a plan (which failed) to have all that body's laws declared null.

LeForgee also attacked the court system before the Decatur Kiwanis Club on April 28, 1931, claiming that it was "rapidly becoming obsolete in its applications to business affairs."

He felt the Illinois Constitution, which was "drawn up in the state's infancy," was grossly out of date in a nation of more than 2 million laws, a number increasing by 200,000 yearly.

LeForgee lauded the British legal system in which persons are tried within 60 to 90 days of their arrest and he termed America's anti-trust legislation as "impossible to enforce."

After 62 years in the legal profession LeForgee retired Dec. 1, 1950, but did not officially announce his departure until the end of the month.

He had actually quit six months earlier when he almost totally confined himself to his mansion on Powers Lane.

The name LeForgee, Samuels, Schroeder & Jackson remained with LeForgee's law firm from the time of its founder's retirement until it was changed to Samuels, Miller, Schroeder & Sly over 16 years later.

C. C. LeForgee died in his home June 22, 1951, at the age of 83.

At the time of his death a Herald & Review editorial eulogized LeForgee as "an outstanding lawyer who will be remembered for his learning, his unflinching charm in conversation and his alert interest in all about him."

The Decatur Bar Association also paid respects to its departed member shortly after this by holding a memorial service in the circuit court room. President James E. Henson presided.

Almost a quarter century later, Mr. Henson still remembers C. C. LeForgee as a trial lawyer "who had no peers in this particular locale."

# Arrival of Automobile Major Impact

David D. Miller  
Special Staff Writer

Nothing has ever had greater impact on the history of Decatur and Macon County than the advent of the automobile.

Even scrupled pioneers of the auto industry like Decatur's Hieronymus Mueller probably would be surprised at the extent that it has become an automobile age.

Mueller brought the first auto to Decatur in the spring of 1895. Even after he successfully made innovations for the car making it operation more practical, many in the area were skeptical about the future of automobiles.

The growth of automobile use in the area was a slow but steady process.

In 1901, a newspaper survey counted as a list of 19 owners in Decatur. The number increased to 46 in 1904, and a count in 1906 showed that there were 90 cars in the county, several of which belonged to non-Decaturians.

Over the Years

...has continued to ... 1,800 in 1958 and ... 1967.

... Frank Schaeferman ... with having two ... in 1904, or probably ... of the first two-car ...

According to newspaper accounts, Schaeferman bought a car with gasoline engine first, but it was too hard for his wife to manage, purchased ...

A list of early car owners in Decatur includes Robert Farries, Frank Fisher, Ed Fowler, L. C. Shalinger, Rev. F. W. Burbanck, E. McCall and J. W. ... They all owned gasoline machines.

George ... and Paul ... each owned steam machines in 1901, according to the article.

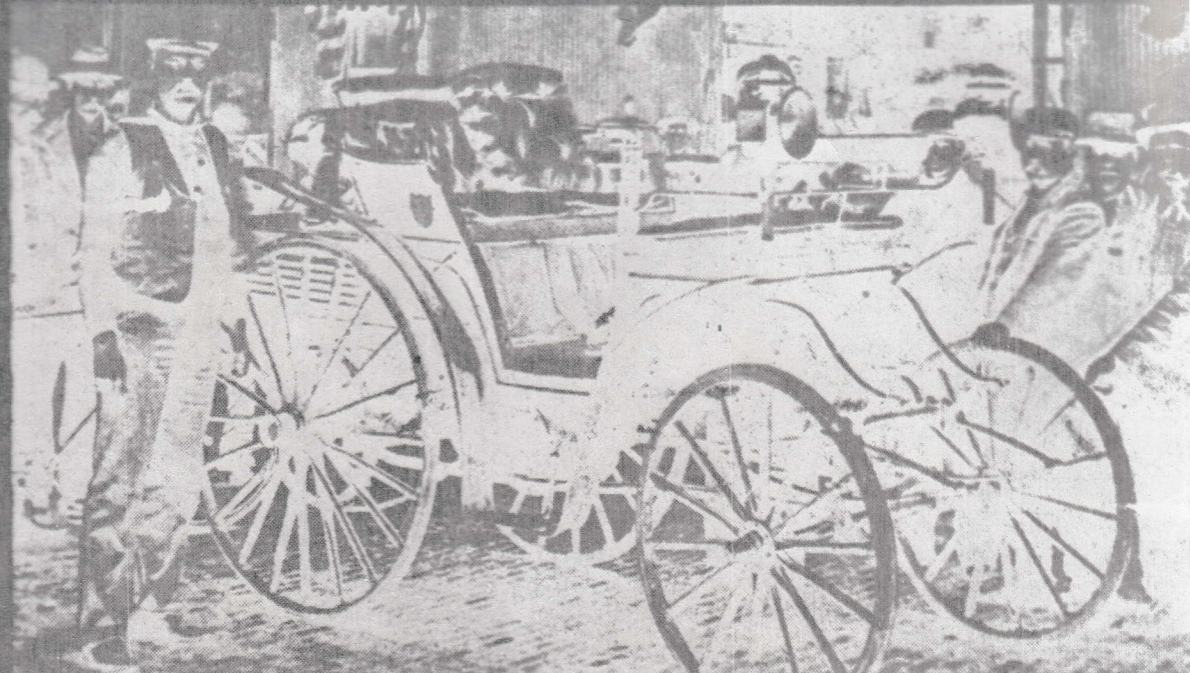
Operating Cost High

The cost of the operating an automobile in the early 1900's was relatively high for that era.

An newspaper account in 1909 features W. L. Shalinger, a Decatur grain elevator operator ...

... who owned what ... as a medium- ... without given ... figured ... \$2,500 to maintain an automobile for five years.

Included in the cost was \$2,200, ... for seven ... for five-



This was the first auto brought to Decatur, the 1895 vehicle the property of Hieronymus Mueller.

## A Mile Equalled a Million

# Early Roads Constituted Major Problem

"Only a mile and one-half from town, yet it might as well be a million on a muddy day."

This was the lament of an early day Macon County resident, who like many others in the county was hopelessly stranded on days when the roads were too muddy to travel.

Muddy roads were a problem before the advent of automobiles, but when the use of automobiles became prevalent, the need for all-weather roads became more imperative.

There had been some agitation in Springfield as early as 1893 for at least one or two state financed hard roads to facilitate horse and buggy travel.

One of the first improvements proposed for Macon County roads was the spraying of a type of road oil on various main thoroughfares in the county.

**Protective Coating**

This was not actually a paving, but the oil did provide a type of protective coating on the dirt roads, as water would tend to run off rather than sink in.

The federal and state highway programs were the first implemented. State highways 2 and 10 were paved through the county, later becoming U.S. highways 36 and 51.

Other early paved highways included State Routes 48, 169, 132, and 121.



Plenty of muscle was needed for autos to navigate early roads in the area.

with another innovation in 1925, stop signs.

Stop signs were required along all state highways by an act of the General Assembly.

Previously, warning signs calling for the exercising of caution at intersections had been the only safety markers used.

The city of Decatur and Decatur Township were in the hard road and street business as early as 1884.

One of the first streets to be

The continued growth of city necessitated a more sophisticated program of street building, which has evolved to point that \$11 million street improvement program is part proposed five-year capital improvements plan being now considered by the City Council. Decatur's future in high



...the...  
...the...  
...the...

### Operating Cost High

The cost of the operating an automobile in the early 1900's was relatively high for that era.

An newspaper account in 1909 features W. L. Shellabarger, a Decatur grain elevator operator for one year.

Shellabarger, who owned what was described as a medium-priced automobile, without giving the actual make, figured that it cost him \$3,540 to maintain an automobile for five years.

Included in the cost was \$2,200 price of the car; \$800 for seven sets of tires, and \$340 for five-year upkeep.

Shellabarger estimated that he got 4,000 miles out of a set of tires, although most persons in the area could expect 6,000 miles a set.

He did a large share of his driving on rural roads, which, because of their condition, shortened the life of a set of tires, he said.

### Mileage Cost

He also figured that it cost him about 30 cents per mile to operate the car, close to what it is reported to cost today.

The automobile also provided a sporting event that is popular today - racing.

The races became an integral part of summer sports in Decatur in the early 1900's.

In 1900, a Memorial Day racing card featured six events, a one-mile, five-mile, 10-mile, and 50-mile race for automobiles.

The prizes for the race winners were "affixed in the shape of silver cups," according to an article in the Decatur Review.

### Trips Made Headlines

Long car trips made headlines in the early part of the 20th Century.

Headlines of July 9, 1909 read "Takes two days for trip from Chicago." The story involved a 2,150 mile trip taken around the United States by Arthur J. Gallagher and George W. Ehrhardt. The trip home from Chicago was made in two days.

Later, in 1915, I. A. Sims and an employe claimed to have traveled from Decatur to Chicago in a Ford in less than eight hours.

Along the way, they used 11 gallons of gas and half a gallon of lubricating oil.

No one doubted the veracity of Sims' report, but other Ford car owners, said that they would like to ride with Sims sometime, according to a 1915 article.

A more impressive record was made a year later by R. B. Shaw, who drove from Detroit to Decatur, 432 miles, in a single day.

### 18 Hours From Detroit

Shaw, who went to credit to purchase a new Ford...

...the...  
...the...  
...the...

One of the first improvements proposed for Macon County roads was the spraying of a type of road oil on various main thoroughfares in the county.

### Protective Coating

This was not actually a paving, but the oil did provide a type of protective coating on the dirt roads, as water would tend to run off rather than sink in.

The federal and state highway programs were the first implemented. State highways 2 and 10 were paved through the county, later becoming U.S. highways 36 and 51.

Other early paved highways included State Routes 48, 169, 132, and 121.

By 1928 the county had 110 miles of state paved highways, about half on Routes 2 and 10.

Macon County later established a road program, and the first county black-top was constructed in 1931.

### Stop Signs Installed

The increasing number of hard roads and automobiles caused the state to come up

made the trip in a total of 18 hours.

This was considered quite a feat, especially since Shaw was driving a new car on what was one of the hottest days of the year.

Numerous other accounts of unusual motor car excursions made during the early years of automobile history are on record.

The automotive age introduced a new type of business to Decatur.

The city's first auto agency was established in 1903. A year later, the first motor garage was set up.

Before this time, blacksmiths were given most of the auto repair business.



Plenty of muscle was needed for autos to navigate early roads in the area.

with another innovation in 1925, stop signs.

Stop signs were required along all state highways by an act of the General Assembly.



### MAN JOINS MEDICARE AT 100 YEARS OF AGE

Kansas City (AP)

Henry Werby joined the medicare program Friday at the age of 100.

Werby, who emigrated from Russia in 1888, has been retired since 1936 and lives with his bachelor son, Kolef, 69, a medicare recipient.

The elder Werby has an excellent health record. His only trip to a hospital was four years ago for minor surgery. He'll be 101 March 28.

Previously, warning signs calling for the exercising of caution at intersections had been the only safety markers used.

The city of Decatur and Decatur Township were in the hard road and street business as early as 1834.

One of the first streets to be improved was the Grand Avenue entrance to the city.

Different types of hard surfacing were used for city streets including concrete brick and asphalt.

There apparently were disadvantages to all three, because in 1911, the city adopted a new type of street paving material, creosoted wood blocks.

This was considered quite an innovation, and was thought to be the ultimate in weather proof streets. It was by far the most expensive paving method available.

The blocks later proved to have disadvantages. The streets, with abrupt changes in the temperature, would buckle.

On warm days, the creosote would ooze from the blocks and after walking across the street, a Decatur man could be tracked all across some of the towns most expensive carpets.

The blocks were gradually removed until 1933, when the last of the block streets were given away as fuel. Since then concrete and asphalt have been the primary surfacing materials.

The continued growth of city necessitated a more sophisticated program of street paving, which has evolved to point that \$11 million street improvement program is part of proposed five-year capital improvements plan being now considered by the City Council.

Decatur's future in highway isn't as bright as some cities, it is the only city of more than 50,000 population that won't part of the federal Interstate highway system upon its completion.

However, Springfield - Champaign - Springfield expressway which would pass near Decatur would provide a super-highway link to the interstate system.

-David D. M.

## County Started Transportation Taxes in 1829

Auto and truck owners, 1968 will note with a sigh (and perhaps chagrin) that taxes on modes of transportation are as old as Macon County itself.

The first county court in 1829 established a tax levied against personal property residents, including "pleasure carriages, horses, mules and asses," among other things.

The total collected from the levy was \$109.32 1/2.



Autos line up in preparation for a hill climbing contest, one of many popular racing events in early days.

# Former Brewer F. Shlaudeman Dies in Florida

1937 - 8/27/37

Was Well-Known Decatur Business Man; 76 Years Old

Frank Shlaudeman, former Decatur civic and business leader, who operated the Decatur Brewing Co. here for several years, died last night at his home in Clearwater, Fla., according to word received here today. He was 76 years old.

He had been in ill health during the last year. Mr. Shlaudeman left Decatur several years ago and for about seven years he has lived in Florida.

#### Widely Educated

Frank Shlaudeman was born June 17, 1862 in Decatur, attended the public schools in this city, and then took a five year course at the University of Illinois, where he was graduated in 1882 with the degrees B. S. and M. E.

Following graduation he went to Cleveland, O. and entered the manufacturing establishment of the Brush Electric Co., at that time the biggest plant in the electric manufacturing line in the west. Later he went to Chicago, where he was engaged several months in studying manufacturing problems.

#### Joined Brother At Brewery

With his brother Harry he assumed charge of the Decatur Brewing Co., relieving the father of its management. Harry Shlaudeman took the office part of the business and Frank took charge of the plant. He designed, built and installed an electric lighting plant for the brewery and made changes and improvements contributing to a more economical operation of the plant.

His school work had been along the line of mechanics but he had ground work for the development of technical chemistry to which he gave time and study.

One of his recreations was the study of astronomy. He had a telescope and often invited friends to his home to look at the stars.

Besides his wife he leaves two sisters, Mrs. B. A. McGorray of Decatur and Mrs. Maude Johnson of Bamber, India, and a brother, Harry Shlaudeman, who lives in California.

### Kitchen Typical 1905 Vintage

# Beaman Home Remodeling Long Term Job

By Barbara Cross  
Herald and Review  
Women's Editor

The E. Frank Beamans of 560 Powers Lane have spent more than a year remodeling their home . . . and aren't finished yet.

Mrs. Beaman says much credit for the thought and effort in decorating the house, built in 1905, goes to Mr. Beaman. The Beamans bought the two-story house on Powers Lane in June of 1966 and just moved into it this past June.

Walls have been removed or added, ceilings have been lowered, bay windows built in and central air conditioning added.

"We still have a lot to do," says Mrs. Beaman. "The foyer isn't furnished yet because we haven't found just

the right pieces. The same is true in other areas. We'll get it done eventually, though."

The 62-year-old house has had only four owners. The Frank Shlandemans built it in 1905. In 1918, Frank J. Parr, purchased it. Charles C. LeForgee, also a lawyer bought the house from Parr in 1934 and sold it to the Beamans.

Mrs. Beaman said the original wallpaper was on the walls when they started decorating. "You know how workmen sometimes put a date on things?" she asked. "When we peeled the canvas from the walls, the date June 22, 1905, was on the back."

The library has a Tiffany chandelier suspended on a large chain. When the Beamans bought the house, the chandelier was fastened flush with the living room ceiling.

Mr. Beaman suggested the chain, which permits a better view of the antique opalescent glass and brass fixture. The light beige grass-cloth paper is an effective background for the golden oak woodwork.

A bay window was added in the living room which provides a setting for the grand piano. The wood-framed fireplace is flanked by doors leading to a sunroom which was added after the house was built.

Mrs. Beaman said, "I don't know exactly when the sunroom was added, but it is not shown on the original plans which we were fortunate enough to get."

"We practically live here (the sunroom) in the mornings," she added. It is decorated in a sunshine yellow with

casement windows running on the North and East. The tile floor, old drug store ceiling fan and wicker furniture give the room a not-so-new but ever-so-comfortable appearance.

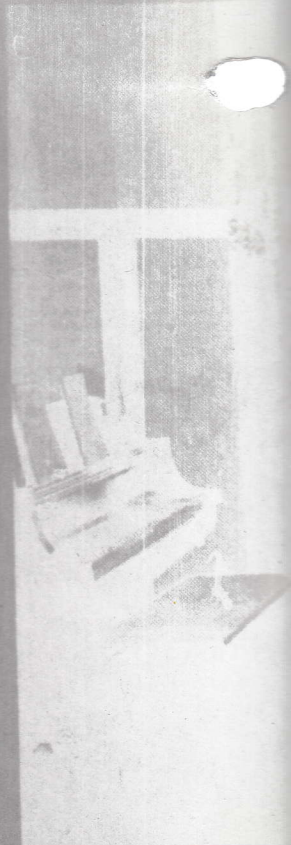
"When we bought this place, the kitchen was typical 1905," Mrs. Beaman said. "The sink hung on a wall, with all the pipes showing, and it was a blank wall, too. On the other side of the room a chimney protruded into the room. It was terrible."

The small, high windows were removed and enlarged, one into a bay window for an eating area. The sink was moved under the other window. Here, too, a tile floor and counter tops are a perfect complement to the oak cabinets.

There are two full baths and a powder room in the house, all with marble walls up to about five feet from the floor. The original wooden water tanks have been replaced with porcelain, but otherwise the fixtures are pretty much the original ones.

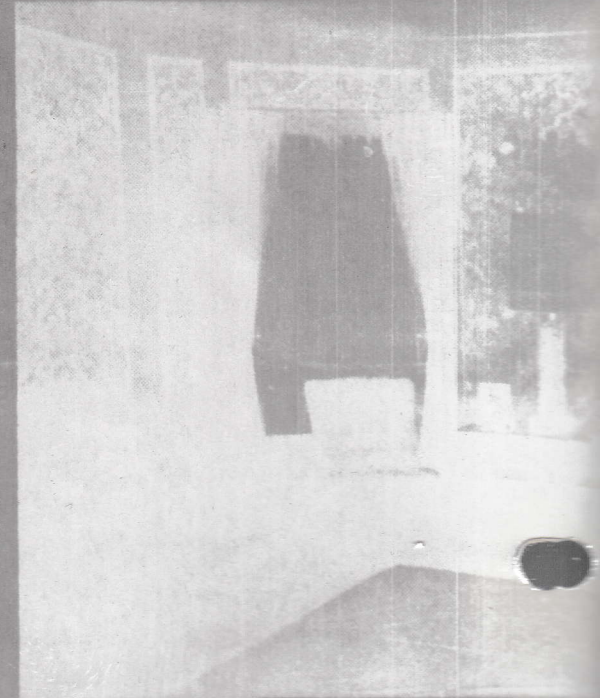
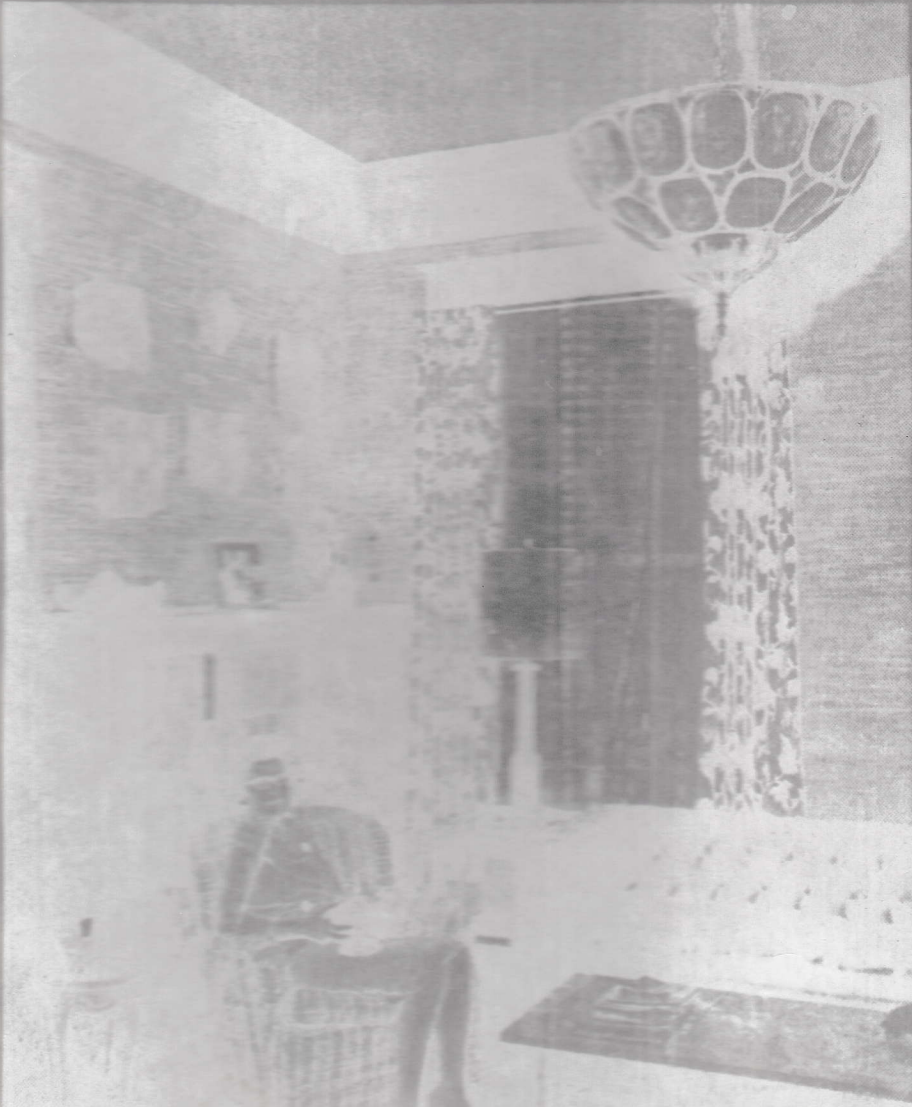
In the bath off the master bedroom, the old "Rube Goldberg" shower was removed entirely and a built-in one installed. The tub was sunk into the floor.

The dining room woodwork, according to Mrs. Beaman,



"was just black. We made it white and it looks much more cheerful." The trim, the ceiling is molded plaster instead of wood.

Mrs. Beaman said she figured her husband would decide the house is too large



Master bedroom provides a quiet

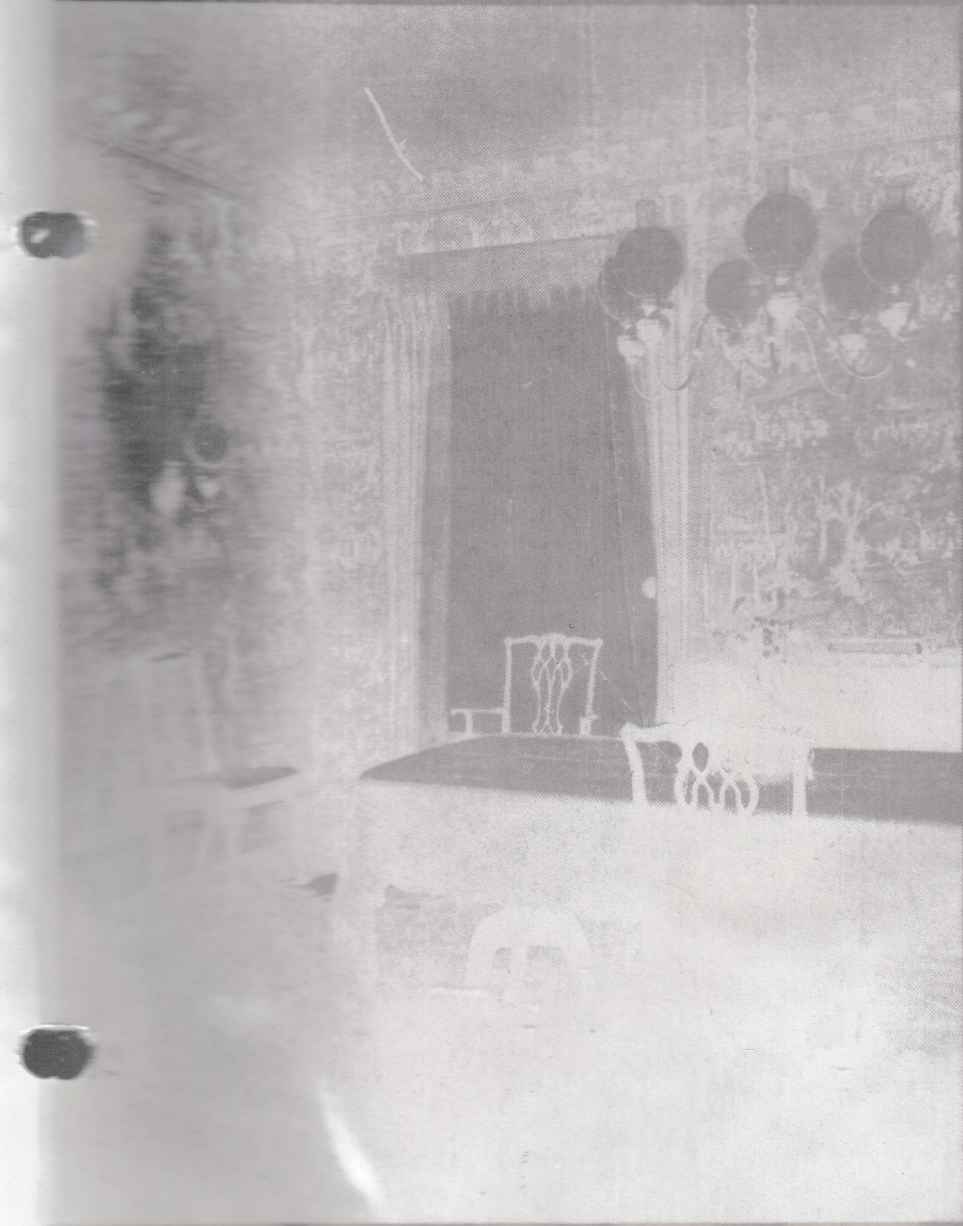


Tiffany chandelier decorating feature of library.

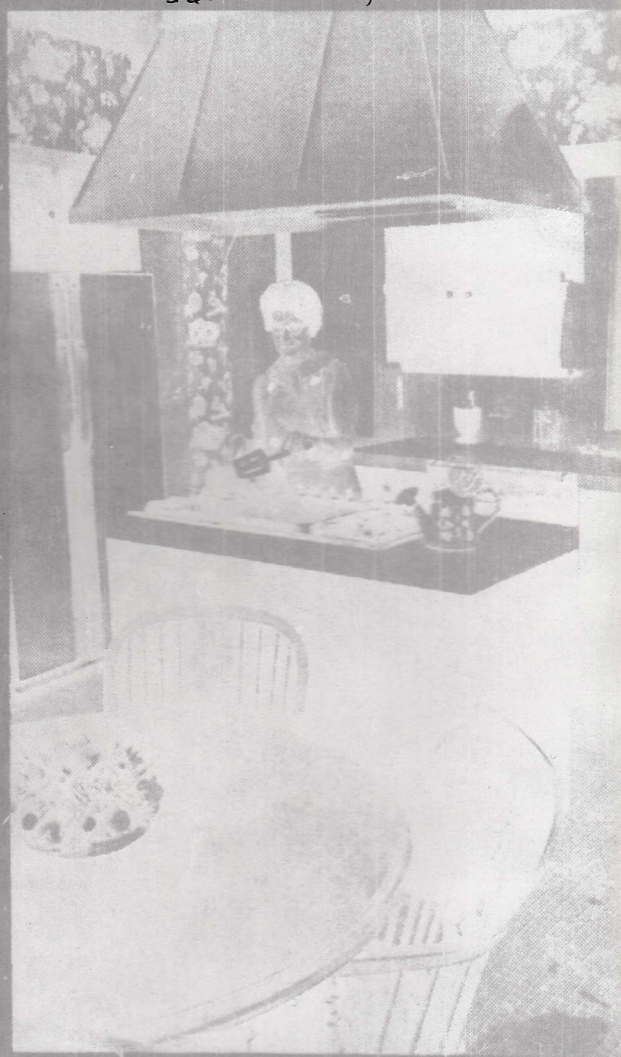


Master bedroom provides a quiet place

*Sun. A.P. - 9/17/67  
560 Bowers Lane*



Master trim is accent in dining room.



Modern appliances make kitchen work easier.

Photos by Ken Kiley





Master bedroom provides a quiet place to read.



Marble walls are found in the bathrooms.

2/15/67  
500 Riverside Lane Sun. Hill, Pa.



Modern appliances make kitchen work easier.



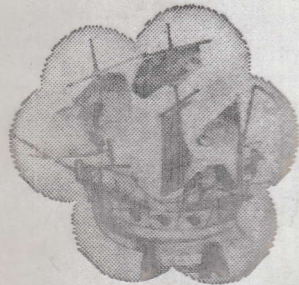
Sun. H. + R.



May 2,  
1971



560 Bowers  
Lane



By Kay B. Geiger  
Women's Editor

As a pretty package  
is a great winner if the gift  
is as elegant, the ex-  
perience of Decatur's  
five homes are only the  
beginning of beautiful in-

Junior Welfare  
Association is offering the  
chance on May 13 to  
open the paper and ob-  
serve it presents its Bou-  
quet of Homes.

and Mrs. Frank  
and Mrs. Robert Bruce,  
and Mrs. C. R. Flint,  
V. William St.

and Mrs. James East-  
105 Highgate Dr.  
and Mrs. William Green,  
Vesters Dr.  
These people have been  
out in opening up their  
homes to the public.

Prust, who is helping with tour  
publicity. The association asks  
that persons on the tour wear  
low heeled shoes, and "please  
do not smoke while in the  
homes."

The homes will be open from  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 13.  
Each ticket contains a  
synopsis of the decor of the  
five homes and a map.

The Bruce and Beaman  
homes are within walking  
distance, and the Randall and  
Simon homes are across the  
street from each other. The  
Flint home is easily enroute to  
or from luncheon at the Blue  
Mill Restaurant, 1099 W. Wood  
St., which will be served  
between 11:30 a.m. and 2  
p.m.

Proceeds from the tour will  
be used for sustaining Junior  
Welfare Association projects,  
such as the dental shoe and  
box funds for needy Decatur  
school children, contributions  
to the Decatur Day Care  
Center and Webster Hall and

an art project in the  
schools.

All proceeds will be used for  
these projects. Administrative  
costs of the association come  
from members' dues, and tour  
expenses are being un-  
derwritten by a contribution  
from Mutual Home & Savings  
Association.

Tickets are \$2.50 for the tour  
and \$2.25 for the luncheon.  
Call Mrs. Michael Campbell or  
Mrs. William Wiessing by May  
10 for luncheon reservations.  
Tour tickets will be available  
at the door, but the association  
prefers that tickets be obtain-  
ed in advance from Mrs.  
Elmer Hawkins or Mrs.  
Morton Melnik.

General chairmen of the  
"Bouquet of Homes" are Mrs.  
Donald Dipper and Mrs. Erik  
Brechnitz.

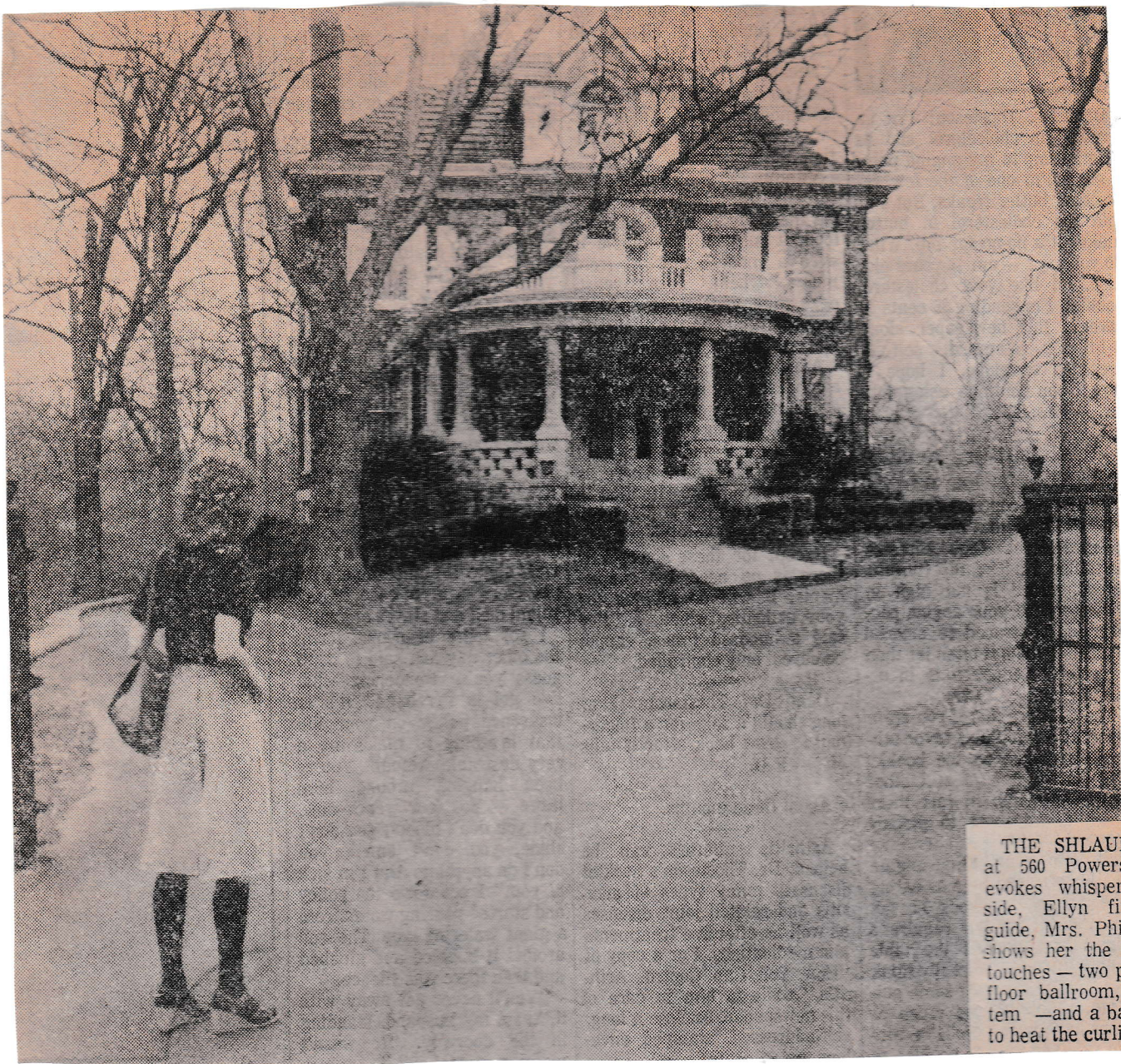
Beaman

Architecture of homes in the  
"bouquet" ranges from ultra-  
modern to the old, stately  
Beaman home, with the tall

white columns. At once you  
will be struck by the warm  
feeling created by carefully  
chosen colors and furnishings,  
a blend of period pieces and  
antiques collected by the  
Beamans during their travels.  
The balcony of the open  
stairway with curved railing  
overlooks the study and living  
room. Highlighting the study  
are Tiffany glass lamps, one  
overhead and two on the wall.  
The sun room overlooking a  
terrace patio is truly sunny,  
with its cheerful yellow and  
greens.

Bruce

A circular drive leads to the  
front door of the Bruce home,  
a low white ranch style home  
from the front. But the back  
opens into two stories  
overlooking the wooded, green  
ravine behind Greenwood  
Cemetery and a magnolia tree  
recently in full bloom. Nature  
is brought to those inside with  
several bird feeders attached  
directly to the window panes.



THE SHLAUDEMANS house at 560 Powers Lane (left) evokes whispers outside. Inside, Ellyn finds a willing guide, Mrs. Philip Wiant, who shows her the home's special touches — two pantries, a third floor ballroom, intercom system — and a bathroom gas jet to heat the curling iron.

Despite the black iron fence, the circular drive welcomes one to a large, pillared porch that calls for reverence.

Ellyn rings the bell at 560 Powers Lane, whispering while she waits for Mrs. Philip Wiant.

"Shlaudeman built it in 1905," offers Mrs. Wiant. "He owned Decatur brewery and eventually sold out to Pabst Blue Ribbon."

Mrs. Wiant is cordial. Ellyn tiptoes into the expansive house that has two pantries, a sun-room built for a tubercular daughter, intricate ceiling moldings, a Tiffany lamp resembling an inverted tortoise shell and a third floor ballroom.

"Bet your children would like it if you opened a disco upstairs," suggests Ellyn.

"It may not be as large as you think a ballroom should be," Mrs. Wiant replies, adding, "One room has nothing but hooks for people to hang their coats."

Upstairs, too, are goldplated duck head faucet fixtures and an "electric light bath."

The latter, a steam box contraption lined with electric lights, Mrs. Wiant avoids, preferring, she says, to let husband and daughter experiment with it.

Good moments end.

Ellyn descends a sweep of stairs, a modern Scarlett O'Hara, pausing at the mirror on the landing.

*Decatur Sunday Herald and Review*  
 May 22, 1977

*(— portion of a page story by Ruth Westkathorn)*

"Did your daughter come down these steps in her prom dress last year?" she wonders.

She recrosses the threshold.

The reverie of bygone days is over, gone like the wind.

There were just today's lilac-sweetened breezes to whisper along the streets of old Decatur.