Register of Old Buildings Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: #2 Millikin Place
Legal description:
Millikin Place Second Addition
All rights in private driveway S. & adj. & Lot 7.

Date of original construction: 1911 (assessor's office)

Name of original owner: Edward P. Irving

History:

1. Data from available city directories follows:

1912-1923 E. P. Irving, pres. and treas. Faries Mfg. Co.,
pres. & treas. Walrus Mfg. Co., v. pres. Home
Ice Cream Co. and The Polar Co.

1924-1950 Mrs. Florence Irving, wid. Edward P.
1951-1955 E. Frank Beaman (Elma A.) Yellow Cab Co.
1956-1959 Robert S. Brown (Sally M.) v. pres., Home Mfg. Co.
1960-1971 George S. Walker (Hazel A.) Pres. Geo. S. Walker
Inc.
1972Vacant
Wm. E. Dutton (Bonnie) pres. Westervelt Div., Smith,
Scharf Paper Co.

2. Data from office of the Decatur Township assessor follows:

2 stories, 12 rooms, masonry constr., concrete foundation Brick exterior, tile roof, hip roof, medium pitch Front patio (terrace) 22x44 (968 sw. ft.)
Side porch llx26 (2° x 14) (321 sw. ft.)
Canopy (car port) - concrete slab - 26x30 (780 sq. ft.)
Concrete slab (rear) 43x45 1935 sq. ft.
Floors - 1 softwood
ll hardwood

Steam heat

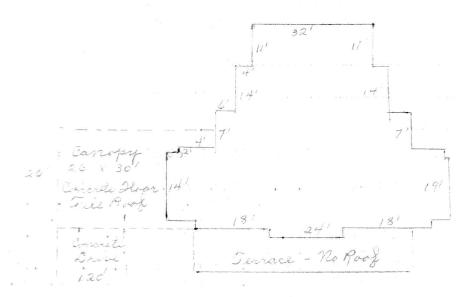
3 bathrooms 1 half-bath

2 natural fireplaces - Apt. in garage 15x21 (315 sq. ft.)
Mod. bath - steam heat in garage apartment

(See sketch on following page)

History Cont'd.:

2. Sketch below:



not drawn to real

3. See attachments as follows:

- a. Record of visit to #2 Millikin Place by Margaret M. Meger, Feb. 15, 1976.
- b. Sunday Decatur Review; April 24, 1910, p. 15, Education Be Built by E. P. Irving.

 (Includes floor plan and sketch of exterior)

C. Decatur Review, July 10, 1910, p. 11 - Much Building Underway
(Includes progress report on Irving house)

- d. 5. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1903, Past and Present of Macon County, p. 182, Robert Faries (biographical sketch)
- e. Decatur Review, August 16, 1923, obit. E. P. Irwing
- f. Decatur Review, August 17, 1923, editorial page, He Was Our Best (E. P. Irving)
- <u>Becatur Review</u>, June 15, 1950, obit. Mrs. E. P. Irving (Florence Faries Irving)

Elstery Cont'd.:

- 3. See attachments continued:
 - n. <u>Decatur Sunday Herald</u> and <u>Review</u>, August 13, 1950, <u>Beaman</u>
 <u>Buys Irving Home</u>
 - i. Decatur Sunday Herald and Review, April 12, 1959, Three Frank Lloyd Wright Homes Here

To Dutton showed me the downstairs. He has some blueprints and copies of material published in the Western Architect about his house. He loaned me a copy of an article published in Feminist Art Journal, Spring, 1975, about Marion Mahony Griffin.

To the left of the west entrance is a reception hall, where the clock made for the house is located (presently not in working order.) Here also is a long upholstered built-in bench: he understands its purpose was to hold coats of visiting guests as there is no guest-closet in the area.

The stairway is concealed from the living area, as it is directly behind the fireplace wall. Stairs from the reception room and from the back hall meet on a landing to become a single stairway to the second floor.

To the right is the library. Built-in book shelves above, with bin-door curboards below, are on the north and south walls. Originally the shelves all had glass doors which were later removed: two pairs have been recovered and placed at the center of each trio. Design of the glass repeats window design. Library also has a long built-in couch on the west in front of concealed radiators. There is no hallway as such between the entrance door and the living porch on the east (this porch is open); the first part is incorporated in the reception hall, the next part passes in front of the fireplace, and then a short hall leads to the porch, with door on the right to the dining room and on the left to what is now the breakfast room.

The Roman brick fireplace of brown brick with rectangular opening is hugh. At four corners of the living room space are four square wood grilles concealing radiators. The living room has a built-in combination couch-with-headboard at one side, table adjacent on its left (south); the opposite side of the table is a desk.

Dining room furniture, table and chairs, designed for the house are also still present. Mr. and Mrs. Dutton are removing the antique of finish put on by some previous owners, and restoring it to light oak. A built-in sideboard with curboards above is on the north wall. There are numerous built-in tall narrow cupboards with art glass doors rereating the window patterns.

The original kitchen is now a breakfast room, and the servant's room behind it is the kitchen with modern equipment but in by xxx the Walkers. The refrigerator is recessed, where the original cooler with a drain directly to the basement, was placed originally.

The den has not been changed. Some of the original light fixtures are still present in the house.

I did not see the upstairs, but it has six bedrooms, two dressing rooms, two sleeping porches. Linen closets of generous size are at either end of the upstairs hell.

Downstairs are seven rooms, counting the reception hall, so the total is thirteen.

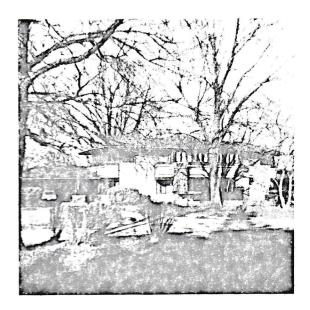
Walkers installed air conditioning.

maguluge

PRAIRIE STYLE 1900-1915

Characteristics:

- a. usually two stories
- b. often having single story wings with carports or porches at their extremities
- c. low roofs at different levels
- d. horizonal emphasis
- e. ribbon windows with wooden casements
- f. stripping and panelization of facade
- g. overhanging roof
- h. structure frequently either plaster over wood frame, brick, or brick-wood frame combination
- i. chimneys appear as oblong masses
- j. rectangular piers supporting roofs, porches, or verandas

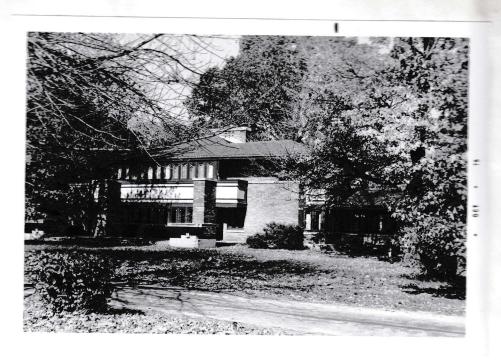


E.P. Irving Home (1909) 2 Millikin Place

This Prairie Style home has the distinction of being designed by perhaps the most famous of the Prairie School architects, Frank Lloyd Wright. It has the two story main section and the single story wings with a garage at the end of one wing. The roofs of the different levels are low-pitched and extend out over the main structure in varying degrees. Horizonal emphasis is achieved through panelization, ribbon windows, and dark wooden stripping. Brick, plaster, and wood are all employed in the constructuion. Rectangular piers are structural, as well as sculptural elements of the facade. The walls appear merely as screens or curtains; a thin membrane rather than a structural element.

From Breservation in Decatur, prepared by a team of students in the Environmental Blanning Horkshop, Dept. of Urban and Regional Blanning, 21. of Illinois at Champeign-Urbana, under the supervision of Brofessor J. Blair.

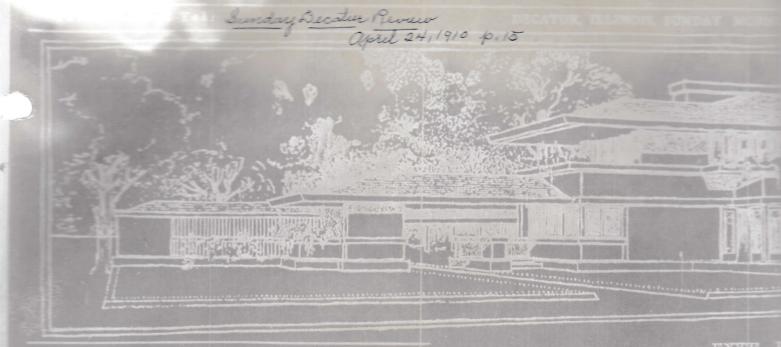
1974 - p. 18



Bhoto-Margaret M. Meyer-October, 1976 # 2 Millikin Glace &. D. Drving House (architect Frank June



That - Leca : Herald and Review - Late not given # 2 172



House To Be Built By E. P. Irving

persective drawing and floor
the bome of E. P. Irving and
Mrs. Robert Farles, under con
the site of the
Hill bouse, is presented on this

the unique and peans give a faint of the unique and beautiful style can be and construction yet artistic in conception and detail. There will be a an of spaciousness but nevertheless the rooms will be homelike, com-

LOCATION.

Til be located almost exthere is a Hill house has stood
to rear Mr. Irving's lot
if feet from east to west and
feet deep. This dimension
there determined because plans
and for a drive that in
an extension of Prairie
the James Millikin
Hill property and they

MEET OF HOUSE

and about 130 feet from the same and about 50 feet from the 130 feet from the 130 feet from the west, however, will be a brick features. Along the bouse will be a brick corners, flower

MATERIALS AND PINISH

of but which from Beaver, Pa. Some player will be used on the second wider. Water table and stone coping will be of just brown Bedford stone to the monline with the brick. The root be of red tile.

in the windows will be casenamental features of the house, being leaded glass in original design, many of those downstairs having in one scorner just a few small square pieces of art glass. It may be stated that no

and finished stained brown.

A feature of the lighting in the main rooms will be in the fact that the fixtures will be concealed in the ceiling The light will come through amber colored glass, ornamented by gril work. All the window acreens will be inside the windows. The sleeping porches will all be provided with bronze wire screens. Hardware will be of wrought bronze down stairs and cast bronze up stairs in angests deather.

NO FRONT DOOR

An interesting fact about the house is that it has no front door. This is an idea of Mr. Wright's. He says that in most houses the best part of the house is given up to the entrance, while the best part of the house should be reserved for the use of the family.

In this house the living room is in the center of the south side, with a number of pretty windows along the entire side of that room and along almost all of the south side of the dining room and library. The dining room, living room and library are virtually one big room, open to the light and air from the south with a charming outlook on the handsome grounds in that direction.

MAIN ENTRANCE

The main entrance is from the carriage drive on the west. There a vestibule just the right size to protect the interior from the cold winds of winter gives entrance to the small reDen Entry Servants the garage east and west, north house, will be a pergola.

The house will cost about Baldridge & Sons have the generator. The plumbing and heat been let to W. E. Adams.

Plower Bax | Britis Terreco

FIRST FLOOR PLANS

Flower boxes, stone railings, terraces and other such ornamental features ould not be shown in a drawing made a small as this one had to be.

will be a vegetable cellar, laundry and ther such rooms.

Most of the furniture will be built in, of special designs. Included in this will be library cases, sideboards, seats and all the usual cupboards, chests and ic on. This feature of the house has been given a great deal of thought and worked out with a good deal of attention to the comfort of the family. Chests of drawers in the dressing rooms will have counters above, for use as a table.

UNIQUE DESIGN

The plans are by Frank Lloyd Wright of Chicago, who has a reputation all over the country for planning houses especially for the use, pleasure and comfort of the people who are to use them and the surroundings among which they are located. The Wright house is a term that carries much significance to those best informed un architecture and the making of the most

76. 844

ECOND PLOOR PI

Many built-in dressers, chearge balconies and boxes and such are not shown.

ably with the temporary pile by The self-appointed inspectors at ting a fair chance on this job. did not have much of a show newer job. That was ten or fifted under ground and it was damp a comfortable down there. They take the word of the men who working on the sewer and a good different kinds of word rame up that hole. But the bridge is our clean air and sunshine and they have to take anybody's word for

ASSOCIATION HER

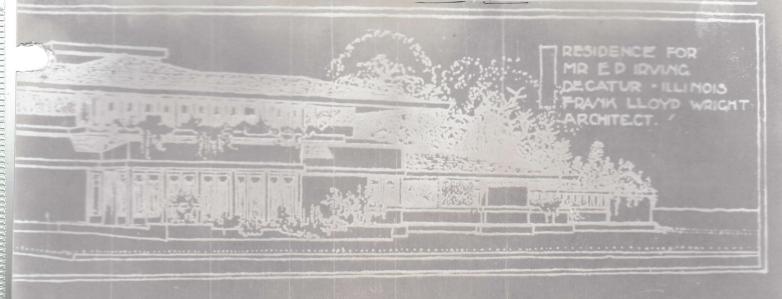
& unday Review

Break In Building Brid Office Boy Caused Bad

24,1910

DEALS IN RESIDEN

108 in Month, While rmel Clears \$109.



EXTE RIOR OF E. P. IRVING HOUSE.

Soon To Let Contracts Totaling \$100,000

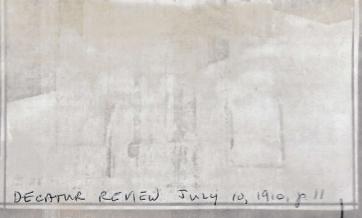
for Starch Works Finished After Months of Work

in etc









UNDER WAY

Some New Work Started in the Last Week.

C. A. BURKS OUT OF BROKERAGE COMPANY

Sells His Interest in Concern

LOVING

P. Irving Dies

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THIRTY YEARS

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The was a manufact of the building of the building of the V C A which was a surface of the party will be a surface of the building of the buil

ON Y M P EBYEN

He was appointed a brand of managers of like interesty in Justine and served in the place.

He was a director club at different time in May, 1993 and re-element 1995. It was while he board that the directo the club should have membership and carr a movement to doub stock and membership at that time most of for the development of Decatur original

It was while Mr. Ir roard that plans for of the Association of developed and that at first under the naber of Commerce.

JFR MEMBER COUNTRY CL. He was a life member of the Co ry glub, elected to the board of ectors in 1914, and served in t osition until 1929, he served f

DIRECTOR ROTERY CLUB,

He was one of the first director the Enjary club and was viresident and would have been or the early presidents but he diined election.

At that time we had begin to this business are public to billities were more than due at time for and declined tries that were offered him.

He had served also as dir e Art Institute and as dir e Association of Commerc

Water Supply to the later of the water of th

Figure 1

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DEVELOPED MILLINIA PLACE.

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WAS REPUBLICAN

Mr. Irving at no time took an active part in politics although he was awars known as a Republican. The rearest he came to being prominent is identified with a political organization was in 1926 when a number of friends of W. B. Mckinley in Decatur organized a McKinley for Sentire club and Mr. Irving was elected available.

No. of the last of

ACCOMPLISHE

This would be would be would be called one teelings of a group of a sociated together who was leaving to a similar and the style of a bight complished English who are to it in the most delightful of its lighted way the charming qualities the one legying.

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sion would have been left out if he
had not been called on.

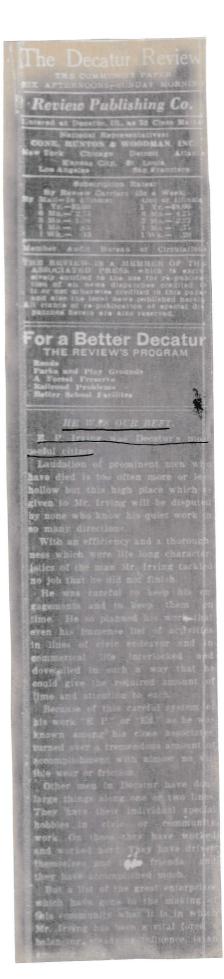
ALWAYS GAVE FAITHFUL SERVICE TO EVERY TASK

One of the distinguishing and most evident characteristics of Mr. Irving to those who knew him well was his steadfast levalty and faithfulness to any duty that he had Once he had undertaken to do a thing er to help a group of other people do a thing he seemed to entirely submerge his own feeling and inclinations in the tast. Once on the job he thought of aching but going through with it to the end. He might admit if the rippose wire not accomplished that here had been a failure, but he never tried to, give any excuse for himself or fix blame for athers. From first to last he knew only his own part and jut that his effort was constant.

He often saw others start on in some public undertaking with a some of tramples and great entire, some to plan and organized to colsoftness and latest work therein a little while begin to come latest plate failures altogather and to plate failures of themselves by the shortcomings of others.

AUWAYS DID HIS PAR

Not so Mr. Irving Once he had been to he had been the stayed He would be the heart had been that our



the time of its femalion death—these resume of its positions of the usefulness this remarkable man filled tion to being interested in director the Rotary club, the Decatur club clyle enterprise which me help and assistance.

And he irring was not in the ridiculed sense of the Whatever he joined in this joined to serve and by the his friends and of his the his share quiety, carnestly ficiently.

His intelligent planning of activities—quiet in the clivities—quiety religious

with an efficiency of the second state of the

June 15, 1923

B)AVEDO

REVIEW

16 PAGES-PRICE PHREE CENIN

ENT MANUFACTURER DIES



E. P. Irving, Prominent In Decatur Business For Thirty Years, Dies

Public Spirited; Faithful to Every Task and Identified With Every Worthwhile Movement.

Edward T leving, for more than thirty years one of the leading and most keller business men of Decatur, and at his books. Thursday morning at his home, No. 2 Milliam Place, ile had been very low for the last two yeeks and his death had been expect.

It was for that reason that Dr. an Mrs. L. P. Walbridge came from Ha View, Mich. about a week ago. Mrs. Walbridge is a select of Mrs. Irvins

FUNERAL SATURDAY.

The funeral will be a gimple one at the residence Saturday afternoon at 4,0 clock. Here Herry L. Meyer paster of the Congregational church will be in charge. It is requested that no flowers be sent.

The Faries factory was closed alone and will be closed until after the fineral. The Walrus factory closed in noon, and will remain closed until Monday.

ILL SINCE MARCH.

Mr. Irvin a illness dated from thout the first of March this year Some two or three weeks before that he went to Florida with Dr. Wil Chenoweth for a rest. The idea when he went was that he needed to get away from business. It was no known that he was ill and the visit was arranged with his friends to get away from winter weather and get outdoor into the more agreeable southern climate.

He played golf and visited about in southern Florida, without seeming to get the benefit that had been expected and came home feeling even more in need of rest than when he wen away. Then it was suspected that he was seriously iil.

STOMACH TROUBLE

About the middle of March he went to the Decatur and Macon county hospital for a thorough examination. It was found that he had a serious stomach trouble that resisted all efforts of treatment. He was at the hospital for some weeks without an-

pearing to get better or worse that he went home in the hope that with care and attention his life might be prolonged. His decline was alow for several weeks but a month ago he began getting much worse.

BORN IN NEW YORK

Edward 1. Irving Dorn & Wolcott Wayne County, New York New York New York 1815. He was the son of Rev. Pater and Martin Irving he father being a Eaptist minister. When he was a Small child the family came west welling near Irving. He face that the family was only a coincidence the Jamily having no connection with giving the town is

CAME TO JACKSONVILLE

He lived there unfil he was sixteen years old when, both purents having ded, he west to Jacksonville to live with an uncle. Henry Irving, who was a contractor and did some cabinet making and Joining. While still going to school the boy worked with his uncle a good deal and thus acquired that trade, with all the skill that was needed to make a good carpenter.

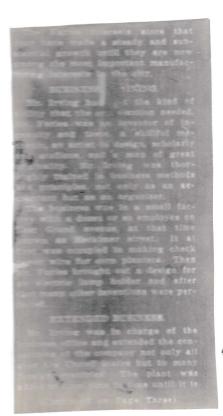
After going through the Jacksonville schools, he went through Illinois college, graduating in the class of 1884, heing the youngest member of the class but having the next to the highest average.

TAKES POSITION IN DECATUR.

After graduating from lilinois college, he taught for a year and a half in country schools in Kansas and Illinois, and then in business colleges at Peoria and Jacksonville. At Jacksonville he became principal of the Brown's Business college. G. W. Brown, the founder of the school was then establishing a chain of business colleges and one of the school brught was the business college of Horatio Nelson in Decater. That school was bought in 1859 and Mr. Irving came in the fall of that year to take the position of principal.

WENT TO FARIES CO.

The school grew rapidly under his direction until 1834, when consolidation was effected of it and the Decatur university, up to that time under the management of H. M. Owen Mr. Irving retiring to enter the office of the Farles Manufacturing company. From that time he was identified with the Paries interests and upon the death of the president, the late Robert Farles, was elected president.



He was me of the officers and retive members of the Christian Endeaver society that was organized
soon after he became a member of
the church When he was in Jacksonville before moving to bewas a member of a Christian Endeaver society at a time when there
were only a han ful of Endeave

Desides being connected with the Sunday school. Mr. hydrag was a deacen in the Congregational church and had been in that position for many years. At the annual meetings of the church he was nearly always called on for some duty, usually for an addition.

FAITHFUL SERVICE,

The Sunday school, however, has been the place in the church where he was the most conspicuously faithful. It is doubtful if there has been since he became superintendent in 1892 more than two or three Sundays that he was in Decatur when he was not in the Sunday school.

DIRECTED PICNICS

Early in the school's history it becan having annual picnics at Fairlew park and he saw to the arrangement of the tables, contributed
the den cream and was always on
hand from the beginning to the end
of the picnic. The oldest member of
the Sunday school can not remember
a picnic until the one this summer
when he was not able to be present.

The the first and the control of the

HIS FARHA

Mr. Irving on June 13, 1808, manning Miss Florence Pernice Farles durishter of Robert Parles. To this union were born four children Florence Edwins. Florence Jane, Marv Frances, and a son Alabert, who died Dec. 5, 1301, aged five years.

Although Mr. Irong was a life member and direction of the Country club the leading social organization of Dentiur, it is lifely that no one ever thought of him except as a steady business man, He was always too hisy to have much time for social affairs of many kinds of recreation.

BOWLING ONLY RECREATION.

The one recreation, which he had longest and took part in regularly and frequently wasto meet with the Tuesday night bowling club at the Country club. For years he tried to keep Tuesday night clear that he might go to the Country club for the weekly supper followed by bowling

WAS- MASON

Mr. Irving was a member of Stepher Decatur lodge, 979, A. P. and A. M. hot was never very active in the louge, due to the fact that he has so many business and community welfare meetings to attend an duries to look after He became member of Macon looke No. 8 man

the state of others by the state of the stat

Not so aft Irving Once he had begun he stayed He would be of time. Inservaluation house that couldn't be been used elsewhere, but always do his part with a national echorful, thoughtful spirit that some times would read imply his portistence bring in the en success where it appeared that they was going to be only fallure.

WORKED QUIETLY

He worked so quietly that it was saidom that his name was saidous constitution of meetings and achievements of public or semi-public bodies and yet those that knew how those achievements had been attained were aware that a hig part of the success had come through the efforts of Mr. Irving.

GREAT AID TO HOSPITAL

Dr. Will Barnes in the last tive eix years when telling of belp in had been given in the building of the December and Macon County hospitalists

"The not fail to give Ed Irvin credit for being a big help in putting is over He has been my right had all the time, and I do not know ho

Hears al Report

duate

Seger Lawyers Reviewing Life Of Condemned

die in the electric chair Friday of next week for murder, won the right today in the Macon county circuit court to produce evidence back to the date of his birth in sup-port of the allegation that he is now tasane.

A jury finding that he is insane would halt plans for Seger's execu-

Next Monday, Curtis Chapman, IN of White Hall, who is under death sentence for the same murder will have a trial under a similar petition contending that he is insane.

OFFICER DIES



'Pop' Bridges, Policeman for Years, Dies

HE MARRIED G

Mrs. Irving, Decatur Park Founder, Dies

es Manufacturing Co., secrey of the Decatur and Macon mity hospital board from 1906.
I his death in 1923, president of
Water Supply Co., which was
ned to build and manage Lake
atur, a member of the board of agers of Millikin university, d a director of the Citizens Na-

MRS IRVING has maintained an active interest in the organizations in which her husband was interested. In 1923 she gave \$25,000 to the Decatur and Macon County hospital's endowment fund. She was an active member of the Congregational chusch. In 1924 she gave a section of land in Manitoba, Canada to James Millikin university.

Mrs. Irving and her sister, the

ds to James Millikin university

Mrs. Irving and her sister, the
late Mrs. Luther P. Walbridge,
were instrumental in the creation
of the Decatur park district. In the
spring of 1924 they offered Faries
park to Decatur on condition that a
park district be created to admininter it and the other parks of the
city. The park, of 153 wooded acres
on upper Lake Decatur, had been
purchased a few years earlier by
Mr. Faries and developed as a public referention area. It had been Mr.
Faries wish that the park be offered to the public. His daughters explained that, because of the park's
distance from the city, it should be
taken over by a separate park district.

In the fall of 1924 the people of Decatur township voted 13 to one to create such a park district, making possible acceptance of the Faries park gift and the subsequent development of Decatur's park system.

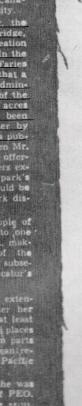
MRS IRVING traveled extensively, both before and after her husband's death. She made at least six trips to Europe, visitings places of interest from the northern parts of Russia to the Mediterrangan region, and at least one Pacific cruise.

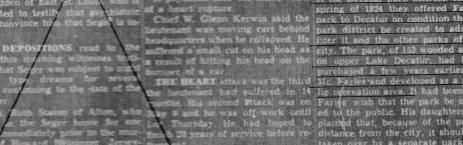
For a number of years she was member of BC chapter of PEO.

a member of BC chapter of PEO.

The living home at No. 2 Millikin place. designed by famed
architect Frank Lloyd Weight has always been recognized as an out-standing example of his work. It was built in 1910,

children. They are William Irv and Florence Elizabeth, children Mr. and Mrs. W. McLean Furial Decatur: Laurens Irving. Marand Wendy Jane children of and Mrs. L. W. Cook. Jr. of Heard Woods. III. and Edward Richard Hendrickson. children Mr. and Mrs. W. Lyrin Hendrich Mrs. W. Lyrin





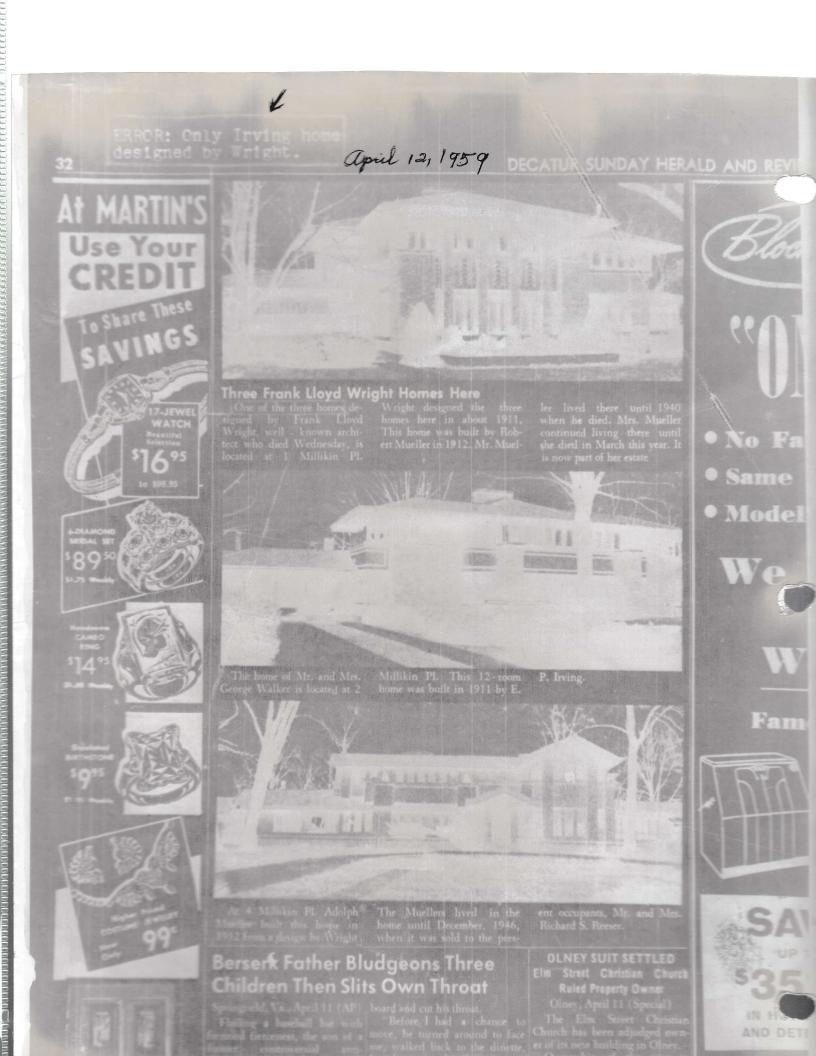
34 Pints During Week

aug. 13, 1950

Irving Home on Millikin Place Sold to Frank Beaman

Sunday Herald

aug. 13, 1950



Robert Faries

City directories 1884-1893 list Faries as a machinist and owning a machine shop. No 1824 directory

1845 city directory lists Faries as president of Faries Manufacturing Co. Clarke history of Macon County, p. 184. says business was incorporated in 1894. Richmond history. p. 352, says Faries Mfg. Co. was organized in 1894: it probably shouldhave said incorporated in 1894.

Charke lists officers of Decatur Refrigerator and Manufacturing Company on p. 100: Robert Faries, president, W. E. Surface, vice president, E. P. Irving, secretary and treasurer.

1905 city directory lists "Walrus Manufacturing Co. (successors to The Decatur Refrigerator and Mfg. Co.)"

1010 city directory lists Decatur Bridge Co.
Thomas L. Blackburn, presidnet, George A. Caldwell,
vice president and superintendent, W. M. Wood, treasurer
and chief engineer, Edgar B. Tyler, secretary.

Obituary of W. M. Wood, <u>Decatur Review</u>, July 28, 1956, back page, says Wood was one of four founders of Decatur Bridge Co.

The Faries Manufacturing company was organized in 1894. Robert Faries had started years before as a workman, then opened a small shop on Herkimer street, as East Grand avenue was then called. Additions were made from time to time. When the Faries Manufacturing Company was organized, he ROBERT FARIES



Richmond, Mabel & Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, Decatur Review, 1930, p. 354

DECATUR IN THE '90s

p. - 355

became the president, W. E. Surface vice-president and superintendent, and E. P. Irving secretary-treasurer. Many of the articles manufactured by this company were inventions of Mr. Faries.

Fixtures of various kinds, lamp holders, boiler tube cleaners, gun cleaning rods, check rower wire, and various other articles were made by the firm.

PAST AND PRESENT OF MACON COUNTY.

ate, where their ancestors day in its history. The in Conewago township, 1844, and was engaged in Faustown for some time. ived a good practical eduimon schools of his native was a student until he aty, though in the meantime upon his business career, rs in a dynamite manufacquehanna river near Mt. ving school he assisted in of the oil lines from West delphia, Pennsylvania, bed for eight months. Durtwo months he worked on and then went to Middleere he spent one month. his father was killed while Mr. Shettel returned home of the farm for one year. and he removed with his Pennsylvania, where he illmire & Small dar shops first as a horseshoer and lder. In the spring of 1893 iois and for four months n a farm near Bearsdale, as on Mrs. William Montirm for a few months. He employ of John Barron, a arrensburg and three years he shop which he has since ood success. He also deals gricultural implements and f his husiness he has also

ras married February 21, ma (Taggart) Keister, who by 13, 1868, a daughter of largaret J. (Hanks) Taggarthip, where she was educe school. This union has one child, Catherine, born Mr. Shettel owns a nige

home and business location and the success that he has achieved is certainly well merited, being due entirely to his own industrious efforts and good management. He is a good reliable business man, and his fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability have elected him alderman of the second ward, which office he is now filling. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and he is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 17, of Decatur.

ROBERT FARIES.

Robert Faries was born in Shelby county, Ohio, March 4, 1837. He lived on a farm near Middletown, Ohio, from the age of six to eighteen years, going to school nearly all the year round until the age of ten, after which he went in the winter time only Having shown a mechanical bent by maj ing many playthings, such as wagons, sleeb, etc., and culminating in a working station. ary steam engine and boiler, complete an every detail, it was decided that he should learn the machinist's trade and to that end he got work in the old Madison Railroad shop at Indianapolis, Indiana, remaining there and at the shops of the Indianapoles & Cincinnati Railroad until the spring of 1859, when he went with a party across the plains to Colorado, known then as Ithe a Peak, starting about the middle of Mare and going from St. Joseph, Missouri, by acteams. They arrived at a little cluster of sod-covered log cabins, called Denver energy the 21st of June, remaining in this vicinity until fall, when he joined a blacksmith its a trip to Taos, New Mexico, going with some Mexican teamsters who had broader up a load of flour and were going has empty. They stayed there until March 1800, when they went back to the man Having tried mining at first without thus success, he made his living and other s

penses at gun repairing in the company of, but not in partnership with, his blacksmith friend.

In the fall of 1860, with a company of others, who like himself, had failed to make a fortune in the short time that they had been in this new country, and had concluded that it would never amount to anything anyway, he went back to what they were in the habit of calling "The States." Arriving in St. Joseph late in October flat broke, he worked in a livery stable for a few weeks and later as an engineer in a planing mill. Business was dull in consequence of the political excitement which had just culminated in the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States. The mill shut down and he went back to Indianapolis, working for small wages in a machine shop through the winter. He enlisted in the fore part of March in Company H, Eleventh Indiana Volunteers for three months, Lew Wallace, colonel. After seeing some pretty rough service in Maryland and Virginia, the company was mustered out of service at Indianapolis, in July, after nearly four months' service. While most of his company re-enlisted for the three years' service he had become too deaf to hear the word of command and went to work again in the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Railroad shops, where he remained most of the time during the war.

In 1864-5 he invented and patented a cast iron steam boiler similar to some of those that are used now for steam and hot water heating, but as this manner of heating had not come into use at that time, he had little other use for it than to generate steam for steam engines. He built several of these boilers and put them into use in different places and at first they seemed to promise spaces and he got some good testimonials from the users of them. But later they developed some faults that caused their fail-

to Decatur for the use of the new firm of Greely & Brodt, who were starting a furniture factory on Mason street (now Wabash avenue) in the building which is now used for the Hard Plaster factory.

This brought him to Decatur in the spring of 1866. His boiler and this firm soon failing, he got a position with the Central Iron Works (now Union Works) who, together with mill and elevator work, built steam engines. He set up the engines they sold and worked in the shop between times. He remained with them about three years. He then, in 1870, went to work as foreman of the machine department of the Decatur Agricultural Works, where he remained until it went out of business in 1872. He got permission to put up a small engine here and run part of the machinery on plow and other farm machine repair work, he paying a per cent of the income as rent for the use of · building and tools. This arrangement lasted only about one year when Chambers & Quinlan bought the property and Mr. Faries worked for them for about another year. In 1875 he bought the Wilson Boiler shop, which is now a part of the Decatur Novelty Works on Morgan and Williams streets, and, bringing the plow repair work with him, did general plow, machinery and boiler repair business and sheet iron work. In 1877 he took William L. Oakes into partnership with him in this business and in 1881 sold out his interest to Mr. Oakes. He then put a small engine and a lathe into the basement of his residence and did some special machine work in the winter and spring of 1882. In the spring and summer of this year he built the nucleus of the present Faries Manufacturing Company's plant and continued the manufacture of special machinery such as box fastener, hog-ring and checkrower wire making machines. During the winter and spring of 1883 he made some checkrower wire for the firm of Kaylor, McClelland & Fisher and having

found that there was more money to be made by running machinery than in making it for others he continued to do this and has gradually worked into a manufacturing business, the chief of which has been checkrower wire. This got him into a patent law-suit, which lasted for over twelve years, costing a great deal of work, worry and money, and although he lost in the lower courts and finally compromised by paying a considerable sum, it was not all loss for the suit tended to deter others from going into the business in competition with him. In 1890 he built the first addition to the factory and among other improvements put in an electric lighting plant and in putting up fixtures for holding the lamps he devised an adjustable bracket for shifting and holding the lamp where put. He had before this been doing considerable brass work in the way of store window display fixtures and working lamp fixtures in with these and by continually adding to them, the company has worked up a very large electric and gas fixture business. Most of this fixture business has been worked up since the business was incorporated in 1894. Since the beginning twenty years ago, Mr. Faries and the Faries Manufacturing Company have made several important special machines, the chief of which are automatic checkrower wire machines and machines for spinning lamp shades.

A couple of years ago, 1900, Mr. Faries got up a little device for automatically tripping of a camera shutter and which he calls an "Autopoze," by the use of which the photographer is enabled to take his own picture, or include himself in "the group." While this is of not much importance in any way, a good many amateurs, and especially tourists, find satisfaction in the use of it. By putting themselves in the picture they can prove that "they were there."

In September, 1901, Mr. Faries, in company with others, started the Decatur Re-

frigerator & Manufacturing Company, but as factories are to be written up separately little need be said about this here.

Mr. Faries was married in Ohio in 1867 to Lena Bender. He has two daughters and one son, all grown up and the daughters married. Mr. Faries says he was born and raised a Democrat and has always been one. but as the party of that name has always been on the wrong side of the issue ever since he has been of the voting age he has always voted the Republican ticket.

JOHN CROCKER.

The name of John Crocker is a familiar one in grain and banking circles throughout the state and Maroa owes much of its business activity and consequent prosperity to his efforts and enterprise. The enterprising spirit of the west, which has lod to the rapid development of this section of the country, is perhaps his strongest characteristic.

Mr. Crocker is one of Illinois' native sons, his birth having occurred in Vandalia, in 1857, his parents being/John H. and Louisa V. (Philbrook) Crocker, who are mentioned on another page of Mis volume. The family removing to Maroa during the early boyhood of our subject, he was educated in the public schools of this city until he had mastered the common branches of learning, after which he continued his studies in Illinois College at Jacksonville, Alinois. Later he became a student in Dartmouth College, at Hanover, New Hampshire, in the class of 1881. On his return to Maroa he joined his father in the banking business and in the grain trade. This association was continued until the death of the father, February 10/ 1890, since which time John Crocker has continued in the conduct of extensive and important interests. He is a member of the firm of Crocker & Company, bankers, one of the soundest financial institu-

CLATY, ILLINOIS, CHICAGO, S.J. CLARKE PUB CO., 1963

PAST AND PRESENT OF MACON COUNTY.

meed of repairs the other can be brought into use; there are four regular firemen and one can be below the street grade line. F. H. Whitmen is the manager.

The R. S. Bohon Company was incorpomaned about Six years ago with a capital stock of Sixoon. The firm is located at the corner or North Broadway and East Eldomano smeets, in one of the best arranged three soors business blocks in Decatur. Three moons, a large basement and a balcindes clothing, dry goods, notions, hats, caps and carpets. The officers are: R. S. Bohon, president: S. C. Bohon, vice-president: F. P. Roach, secretary and treasurer; R. S. Bohon, manager.

The Race Clothing Manufacturing Company, established in 1856, located over the Race clothing store, makes farmers' and mechanics' shirts, overalls, jackets, duck coats and covert coats. Over one hundred power machines are constantly running in this factory and over one hundred persons are employed; seven salesmen are kept on the road. They not only supply the home demand, but ship goods to Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indian Territory, as far east as Indiana and as far north as Michigan. The officers are: J. W. Race, president and treasurer; Frank Elwood, secretary. Directors, L. L. Race, Frank Elwood and James W. Race.

The Decatur Extract Company, located at 243-47 South Water street, manufactures flavoring extracts, baking powder, perfume and toilet articles. The products are sold directly to the customers through local agents. The company was established over six years ago at 725 North Water street, but in 1898, on account of the growing business, they moved to larger quarters and better shipping facilities. The business has shown such a flattering increase

that a few years ago they were compelled to build a large two story brick structure in addition to the spacious one already occupied. The officers are: C. W. Hastings, president; C. M. Goltra, secretary and treasurer. Capitalization, \$10,000.

The Decatur Packing & Provision Company, formerly the Levy Packing Company, was incorporated in June, 1900. They have a modern slaughter and packing house located south of the city. They carry dressed meats, lard, tallow and other meat products and manufacture sausages, and deal in hides. The company is incorporated for S10,000. The officers are: A. Wait, president: M. Levy, vice-president; C. A. Wait, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors are: A. Wait, M. Levy, C. A. Wait, Arthur Wait, and Felix Levy.

The Decatur Refrigerator and Manufacturing Company occupies a block of ground bounded by the Wabash Railroad, Morgan street, Wabash avenue and North Broadway. This company was organized in 1901; it manufactures butchers' coolers, blocks, racks, show cases and fixtures. In the latter they make all kinds of store and bank fixtures. Their goods are shipped in car-load lots to the jobbers, covering a very large territory. The officers are: Robert Faries, president; W. E. Surface, vice-president; E. P. Irving, secretary and treasurer; John Schweinbold, manager and superintendent.

The Akers and Wilson Furniture Company, consisting of a system of stores, located in the following towns: Decatur, Clinton, Lincoin, Bloomington, Streator. Pontiac, Canton, Champaign, and Mattoon, has been in business during the past twelve years. The Decatur store is located in the 300 block on North Main street and carries a complete stock of house furnishing goods. From one store, judiciously managed, has sprung this vast volume of business. From the time the first outside store

28.20,1916 Will Have to Hurry to Keep Up.

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SOAP HALLER HAS ONE

The Parit Wester company on Chris-

stanger strapped on the grimy wrist of the real hauter, with the statement that he had a little present for him which he wished him to wear.

"Why, say I'll hast that thing wide oren the sirst thing I do," the coal man

That will be all right if you do,

But the gang down at the coa chaft will murder me sure if they so me wearing that watch?

"You look like you'd be a trifle hard to kill, and when they are through with the effort to put you out of the way. I want to see what sort of the that watch is keeping."

That ended the argument and the coal hader went away wearing the watch. Several weeks later the manager again hunted up the coal man to kern how the watch was perfectly wearing it.

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