

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, SUNDAY, JULY 3, 1977

Luzerne Wonders: Who Killed Charlie?

By Art Hough
Frederick Writer

LUZERNE — Charlie Plucar's execution-style murder, less than two weeks ago, has left people of this little community somewhat uneasy, a lot more careful and completely bewildered.

Why would anyone kill Charlie Plucar?

The men and women this reporter talked to Wednesday, one week after the body of 74-year-old Plucar was found in a pool of blood, were reluctant to express any opinions as to why this man, who apparently hadn't an enemy in the world, was brutally killed.

The semi-retired handyman lived alone, with no telephone, electricity or running water, 3½ miles south and east of Luzerne and roughly four miles and a little north of Hannen lake.

Charlie was lying on the kitchen floor of his home when they found him, his hands tied behind his back. He had been shot twice in the head. His modest house had been ransacked, for what purpose one can only speculate.

Knew Plucar?

Was it money? "Where anybody got the idea he had any money, I'll never know," said Don Allen, manager of the grain elevator. Charlie was one of his customers. "He was just a hard working man."

Allen added that the "talk over town" was that it was someone Plucar knew, "but, there again, it's strictly rumor."

Luzerne has a population of about 435, many of whom are employed in

Cedar Rapids, Belle Plaine and other nearby towns, or reside on outlying farms.

There is no town marshal. Protection comes from the Benton county sheriff's deputies and the Iowa highway patrol.

Off Streets

Postmaster Effie Fountain, who talks with most of the people on their visits to the post office, sees the community as uneasy, adding that to keep off the streets at night "is about the best way, I guess."

Asked whether it was pretty wild to hear that a murder had been committed so close to Luzerne, she exclaimed:

"Oh, I know it. It scares the I don't know what . . ."

We went looking for Wilfred Duncalf, a farmer and a member of the town council, who lives at the west edge of town, stopping at the Bob Tomlin home to ask directions.

Mrs. Tomlin, a young housewife, cautiously answered the doorbell, after a moment or two.

We asked her reactions to the murder.

Happened Close

"Well, I haven't actually been too frightened," she answered, "but I try to be a little more cautious."

"Like me coming to the door?" we asked.

"Yes," she said, "I looked at the car and I could see from the way you were dressed that you were probably not that kind of a person."

"But," she reflected, "those aren't really sound conclusions."

The Plucar killing is still on her

mind, she admitted, "because it happened quite close."

"It really upset the community," Councilman Duncalf said. "The mail man, when I talked to him downtown the other day, said:

"You know when we go to the door, we're going to have to take a gun."

Anything for Money

There was talk of that right after the killing, mostly in the area near Plucar's home.

Duncalf didn't want to speculate about whether the killer was a stranger or someone Charlie knew, but he said, "You see a lot of guys go around buying junk. I'm kind of afraid of 'em. When people get hard up they'll do most anything for money."

"It's my guess that he probably had some money. I don't know how big a social security check he got."

It was reported that Plucar did not bank what money he had.

"I would think they could catch him. Somehow or other that guy came in contact and talked about him."

Doors Locked

Duncalf recalled that this is not the first murder in this area. He located the murder site about a mile north and a half mile west of Luzerne, but he said it was quite a few years ago and he couldn't remember the particulars or whether it was ever solved.

Marilyn Mittan is employed in the grain elevator's office and is also town clerk. She said she's keeping her doors locked, but added that she had generally done that anyway.

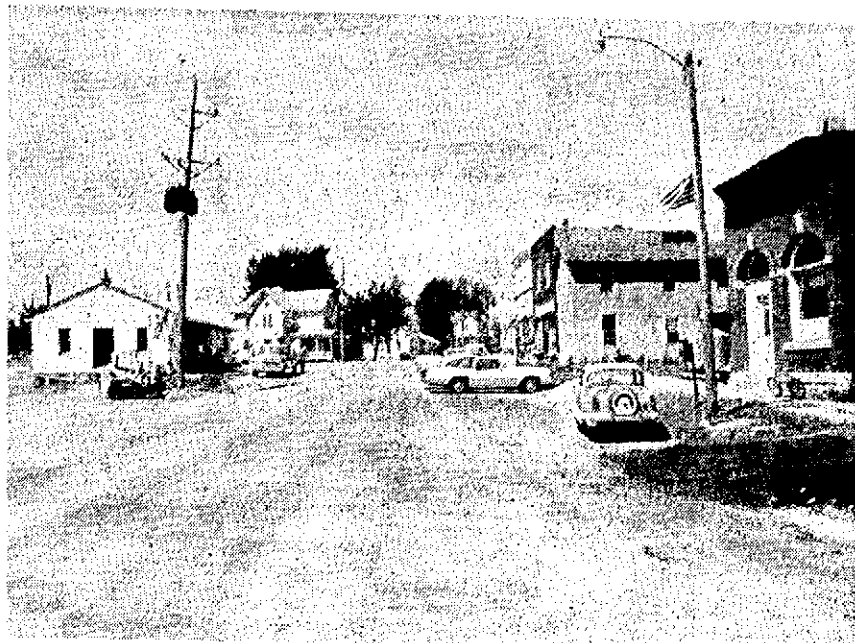


Photo by Art Hough

Luzerne's main street is quiet, but uneasy, following the execution-style murder there recently. Townspeople wonder why anyone would murder Charlie Plucar and are taking extra precautions for their own safety.

Posted minutes of the June 6 town council meeting said in part:

"Citizens were present to protest some local nuisances. There is trespassing, destroying of property and harassment of citizens. A letter will be sent to residents."

"Well, a person sure wouldn't be brave, would she?" said Gertie Junge, who operates the tavern with her husband, Clifford, when we inquired whether the townspeople are still a little skittish.

"I know we'd all be happier if we had a hold of that guy that did it and treated him as he treated this man."

"That's the chances that people have. And, if they don't get capital punishment back in Iowa, and all over, I think we're going to have a lot more of it."

"I think with our law it's not right because they protect the criminals. Any criminal that has done anything, the first thing they think of is that man's constitutional rights. But they

never think of the constitutional rights of the man or of the person that was hurt."

Clifford Junge thinks the murderer is someone around Luzerne.

"I think so. We feel it was someone that knew him, that he knew, or they wouldn't have had to kill the poor guy."

"I've seen those boys (Charlie and his brother, Mike) a lot. They'd al-

Please Turn to Page 2.

Abortion Ruling Dismays IC Women

By Ford Clark
Gazette Correspondent

IOWA CITY — In 1973, shortly after the United States supreme court ruled that government should not interfere with the right of any woman to have an abortion, 12 young women in Iowa City introduced something never before seen in the Midwest.

The 12 young women, using their own and borrowed money, started the Emma Goldman clinic, which offered birth control information, gynecological care . . . and abortion.

Last week the U.S. supreme court dramatically reversed itself. By a vote of 6 to 3 the courts said that state and local governments may not be required to finance abortion for untherapeutic reasons — in other words, conditions that do not endanger the woman's health.

Indications are that Iowa will continue to fund abortions through Medicaid or similar programs, but it is no secret that abortion foes in the state have taken heart from the latest supreme court ruling.

But if interviews with volunteer workers at the Iowa City clinic and recent interviews with Iowa City women are any indication, pro-abor-

tion forces in Iowa would wage a tough political fight against having Medicaid-financed abortions stopped by state action.

Sheer Lunacy

Deborah Nye, 27, one of the original founders of the clinic, said, "Of course we would fight this. The clinic would not suffer. We would still be able to fill every available time slot with women who could afford abortions. The person who could be hurt in Iowa by this supreme court hearing and future acts by congress are low income women. The supreme court is saying, in effect, if you are well-to-do, you can have a safe abortion; if you are a low income person, you either have to have the child or put yourself in the hands of some butcher."

Miss Nye estimated that "one-sixth of the women who have had abortions in our clinic over the past year have done so under title 19 . . . which is state funding. When you consider we have given approximately 4,000 abortions in the last four years, you can see the extent of the problem. Cutting off abortions for low income women is sheer lunacy. For years people have com-

plained about the expense of ADC and other support payments for low income mothers, and now the supreme court wants to force women into such a situation and force the taxpayer to pay for it."

A number of volunteer workers at the clinic referred to the dissenting remarks of supreme court Justice Harry Blackmun. Justice Blackmun called the ruling of his fellow justices as, " . . . alarming, almost reminiscent of, let them eat cake. There is another world out there, the existence of which the court, I suspect, either chooses to ignore or fears to recognize. And so the cancer of poverty will continue to grow."

Miss Nye noted, "We have had women from the age of 12 to 45 come to the clinic for abortions. How can you expect a young girl of a poor family to raise the money necessary for an abortion?" The Goldman clinic currently requires a \$180 fee, but this fee is adjusted in many cases if the woman is without funds.

Says Nye, "We would continue to give such abortions but the effect nationwide can only be disastrous."

Dark Ages

A women who used the counseling

service, said, "I'm pregnant, and after much thought, I decided to have the child. Other women should have the same right."

In the weeks following the supreme court ruling, The Gazette conducted a random sample of the opinions of Iowa City women on the supreme court decision. Out of 26 women of child-bearing age contacted in an Iowa City housing complex, 23 opposed the court decision. Of the three women who supported the court decision, two said they did so out of religious convictions and one opposed it "out of reverence for all forms of life."

Karen Fox, 23, said, "I can't believe this. I thought we had this dark ages controversy settled once and for all. No old man in a black robe is going to tell me I have to have a baby, whether I want to or not. I would steal, I'd sell myself, before I would bring an unwanted baby into the world. Bringing such a baby into the world would be a much worse crime than stealing or even selling myself."

The women in the housing complex, many of them college students, or wives of the university community, were equally bitter in their re-

marks concerning the supreme court action.

One woman referred to a paper released by the National Organization for Women (NOW) action center. The paper claims that Medicaid reimbursements for abortions is approximately \$50 million. If these women had been denied Medicaid and forced to carry unwanted pregnancies to term, the cost in taxes for public assistance for these births would be between \$450 and \$565 million.

Control Bodies

Volunteers at the clinic not unexpectedly said they would give all support necessary to any national campaign to prevent congressional action limiting abortion. However, out of the 26 women interviewed by The Gazette, a surprisingly high number, 19 in all, said they would also enter actively into such a campaign.

If emotion ran high — and it did — in these Gazette interviews, emotion is equally strong on the other side. Anti-abortionists have repeatedly, in the congressional record, stated that life begins at the moment of conception and that abortion is

therefore murder. The women interviewed by The Gazette insisted that terminating an unwanted pregnancy is a personal decision of the woman involved.

As Karen Leddy, 22, of Iowa City put it, "We want all women to have control over their own bodies . . . this is a logical first step in gaining control of their lives."

All of the volunteer workers at the clinic interviewed said they would be contacting national feminist organizations to fight any further efforts by congress to limit abortions. Out of the other 26 interviewed privately, four said they had already either telegraphed or written their congressmen regarding their displeasure over present congressional debate over the limiting of abortion.

Although The Gazette sampling is in no way conclusive, it does indicate that women of childbearing age in Iowa City are not only eminently opposed to this latest supreme court action but are willing to use whatever political clout they possess to see that congress does not further limit the availability of abortions to women.

Center Point's 'Computer' Retiring

By Sharon Hannen
Gazette Correspondent

CENTER POINT — People who want to know what's happening in Center Point ask City Clerk Harry Brookman.

But Brookman, the community computer, slipped up enough last week for Mayor Eileen Neenan and the city council to sneak in a surprise party for him after the last public hearing of his 17-year career as clerk.

He was given a framed certificate of merit, a gold key to the city and a surprise visit from his two daughters from Nebraska.

"I'm retiring because I'm too old to be tied down," said Brookman, who seems too young for his 71 years.

Part of his fountain of youth is exercise. He and his wife Emd are brisk and dedicated walkers, who faithfully walked five miles a day for several years while Brookman was recovering from back surgery.

Another is the enjoyment his job gives him.

Paper Blizzard

"One of the best parts was the personal satisfaction of knowing the job was done right," he said.

The job of a small town clerk also has variety, he added, including answering the phone, doing water bills, conducting a visiting lot to the bathroom and making out endless gov-

ernment reports.

Those reports for county, state and federal governmental agencies make up one of the fastest-growing parts of the clerk's job, said Brookman, who questioned the need for the paper blizzard.

Small towns are burdened not only by red tape from higher government levels, he said, but most importantly, by the budget crunch.

"Stretching your money to go around each year is the biggest problem for local government," Brookman maintained.

Who Makes Coffee?

Last year the Iowa legislature added to this problem, in his opinion, by putting a ceiling on local budget increases. He thinks the restriction should be lifted.

"A town like Center Point knows a lot more about what its expenses are than some guy sitting down in Des Moines," he said.

Brookman, who has remained clerk while mayors came and went, has worked the last four years with Eileen Neenan, Center Point's first woman mayor.

Most small town clerks are women and most small town mayors are men, Brookman said, but the role reversal has been no problem for Mayor Neenan and himself.

"We don't have coffee in the office so we don't have to decide who makes it," Brookman laughed.

Neenan said she had depended on Brookman's experience and that they were comfortable working together.

Continued Growth

"He hasn't treated me like one of the fellows; he's treated me like the mayor," Neenan said.

Brookman's replacement, Judy Wallace, formerly deputy clerk, has been training with him for six months and took over Friday.

Brookman will remain as deputy clerk-treasurer.

The retiring clerk has seen his town grow from a population of 865 in 1960 when he was appointed, to about 1,500 presently. The biggest accomplishments during that period, he felt, were the installation of the sewer system in 1962 and extensive street paving last year.

He expects continued growth for Center Point — 1,330 is to be completed to Center Point by the mid 1980s — but he predicts the town will remain essentially a residential area whose citizens commute to Cedar Rapids.

He is a believer in the virtues and future of small towns.

"We got all the advantages of Cedar Rapids without having to live there," he said. "Small towns will be

Please Turn to Page 2.



Gazette Photo by John Steyer

Harry Brookman (left), Center Point city clerk for the last 17 years, was honored last week in city hall with a citation presented by Mayor Eileen Neenan. Brookman has served as clerk under six mayors.

Did Lobbyists Miss Special Session?

By Roger Munns
Gazette Staff Reporter

DES MOINES — Boring as the extraordinary session of the legislature surely was, there was a remarkable non-event that ought to be noted — the lobbyists didn't do anything.

Where were they? They were around, of course. Listening, attending committee meetings, answering questions and following the way the state was handling the pioneer year of providing state employee benefits under a collective bargaining system.

But the lobbyists left no visible mark and, more significantly, did not even try.

The general rule dictates the reverse in such cases. Whenever a majority of legislators know or care little about a topic, lobbyists have their best chance.

Like Farming

That the majority of lawmakers know little about collective bargaining contracts goes without saying. And that most lawmakers were content to allow others to make key decisions is also evident.

"When I get home," State Sen. Milo Merrill (D-Osage) told United Press International, "I'm going to tell my constituents it's just like farming."

"You sit around and wait for it to

rain and when it rains, you sit around and wait for the fields to dry out.

"We just sat around for four days and waited for the fields to dry out." It's in this type of climate that lobbyists are known to thrive.

Ask anybody who remembers, a few years ago, the sudden and tremendous pressure by the banking lobby to allow experimentation with electronic fund transfer systems.

Anti-Bargaining Forces

The only resistance came from Rep. Arthur Small (D-Iowa City) and had it not been for him, the bankers would have gotten everything they wanted instead of most of everything.

As it turned out, they got everything, anyway, when Atty. Gen. Richard Turner stated, and a district court agreed, that "may not" (install more fund transfer systems) means "may."

So what happened in this special session? Why is it the leaders, in an unusual display of bi-partisan cooperation, made the key decisions without pressure from the lobbyists' lounge?

Particularly the anti-bargaining forces — why were they not trying to prevent the conclusion that nearly all observers have now reached, that the binding arbitration system has worked as a method for public em-

ployes to face the bosses and hammer out conditions of employment? One observer, when asked these questions, responded with a query of his own — "What happened to the Tories?"

Small Voice

The anti-bargaining folk have accepted their loss of 1974, when collective bargaining became law, just as the Tories assimilated themselves into the new, non-English government 200 years ago.

Jerry Bogan, veteran lobbyist for the Iowa Right to Work Committee, put it another way. "It's one thing to change a statute, quite another to change a union contract," he said.

"A lot of guys asked me about it, whether we were going to go for a high-pressure lobby attempt," Bogan continued. "But there was no reason to do it."

"There was some talk of people wanting to give the unorganized workers more than the organized people, but it was a small voice, I think."

"I gather the general attitude was, 'We're stuck with this, it's the law. I'm sorry I voted for this several years ago, but here it is,'" Bogan said.

"The feeling was," Bogan continued, "that most of what was going to happen was pre-determined by the leadership and the committees and

that we were going to have great difficulty changing anything at all."

Half Million Cost

State Sen. Cliff Burroughs (R-Greene), who is not in favor of collective bargaining, said there was an attempt to undermine the several contracts because there was no need to do so.

"Our point has already been made," he said.

"State employees gained approximately 1 percent more than they got last year (in average pay boosts). On the other hand, the arbitrator and this special session probably cost the state half a million dollars with no apparent attendant advantage to the state."

"Collective bargaining did almost nothing for the public employee and it cost the state half a million."

But would it not have been a mortal blow to collective bargaining, he was asked, if the legislature had decided to share the awards and, in effect, make the contracts "advisory" instead of "binding"?

New Benefits

Burroughs agreed, but he recited the homily about the courage to change the changeable, the patience to live with the unchangeable and the judgment to know the difference as a reason he did not become active.

"I, for one, do not prefer to play

Don Quixote and tilt at windmills," he said.

(The argument persists on whether collective bargaining netted pay boosts that would have been different without bargaining.)

Two years ago, the legislature gave raises of 10, 9 and 7 percent in an inverse proportion to income. Last year, the average was about 5.5 percent. The average this year is something over 6 percent. These figures exclude fringes.

(Without question, however, there are clear indications that certain indirect benefits were not in the cards and were acquired solely because of bargaining.)

(The most evident of these is the new policy that all state employees shall have full individual health insurance paid by the state.)

There are other explanations of why the lobbyists were less active than might have been expected.

The labor lobbyists were virtually compelled to speak softly.

After all, the purpose of collective bargaining is to avoid the necessity of public employees to lobby the legislature (collective begging, the unions call it). And since both Gov. Robert Ray and legislative leaders made it clear from the start they intended to honor the contracts, it would have been somewhat inconsistent if the unions had applied heavy pressure.

It should be noted that spokesmen for the main union of public employees, the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), were constantly on hand and frequently consulted.

And the business lobbyists found several reasons to be happy with the developments.

Said Bogan, the Right to Work lobbyist, business persons were "forced to admit the final draft that came out of committee was far superior to anything the governor presented."

In Reverse

For example, he said, he was pleased lawmakers did not accept Ray's suggestion to "ratify" the contracts and chose instead to merely provide funds for them. The impact is apparently the same but, "scores of guys out there wanted no part in ratifying a union contract," he said.

And Bogan said he was personally pleased the AFSCME contracts repeated a portion of state law which says "any public employee may meet and adjust individual complaints with a public employer" apparently without going through the union structure.

"There was a lot of lobby activity," said Rep. Don Avenson (D-DeWain), an assistant majority leader. "But it was in reverse."

"All the activity came from us asking questions."

Tongue-in-Cheek Maybe It's the Water

By Ford Clark
Gazette Correspondent

"And how is Johnson county doing these days?" the voice asked over the phone.

He always starts off that way. The man is a former editor of mine, the man who bought my two published novels as a matter of fact, and when he went from being an editor to becoming one of New York's best agents, he agreed to handle any future novels of mine.

But when he calls me from New York he does not talk shop, or my next good novel, which has not been forthcoming; he talks of Johnson county. This is because the last time I was in New York I told him a few TRUE happenings about Johnson county government and he laughed until he cried. So . . . two or three times a year, when he either doesn't have something to do or is depressed, he calls me long distance from New York. So then I tell him TRUE stories about Johnson county, which he does not believe until I send him news clippings to back up what I say.

Of course among the TRUE stories I have told him at one time or another is the one about the fellow who became constable of a local township by simply voting for himself, the one vote being enough because no one knew there was such an office as constable, seeing that no one had tried for such a township office since approximately the time of the Civil War. Next time around (and I'm sure my agent has told the story at more than one New York party) there was a rash of votes for constable so this individual would not re-elect himself again, whereupon the individual had a write-in vote (his own and his wife's if I remember correctly) and got himself elected justice of the peace of that township.

There was also the time that a Johnson county supervisor was arrested during a supervisors' meeting for nonpayment of parking fines and other little details of strange goings on down here in Johnson.

I might add that some people attribute all this to the fact that we are a college town here in Iowa City, so we thereby have a more adventurous spirit.

Others say it has something to do with the drinking water.

In any case, as I said, my agent and friend in New York calls me two or three times a year just to keep up with the goings on down here in the big city.

"Well, now, let's see," I told him, "what was the last bit of info that I passed on to you?"

"The last one I remember," he said, "is about you sitting in on a supervisors meeting some time ago, and what with all the goings on, you didn't think anything unusual about what you saw outside."

"And what did I see outside?"

"Some nut was climbing up the outside of the courthouse. Seems that he was a mountain climbing type that specialized in scaling public buildings."

Snakes on Ledges

"And if a person was going to do something like that of course he would pick Johnson county."

"That seems to be the pattern, all right," my New Yorker friend said. "So what is new down your way lately?"

"Not much, really," I said.

"I find that hard to believe," he said. "I feel rather let down, actually."

"Well," I said, trying to rally, "there is the matter of the snakes this past week."

"What snakes?"

"The supervisors decided, first off, to put snakes on the ledges of the courthouse."

Might Work

There was a long phase. The only sound was my New York friend breathing heavily. "Why?" he finally asked, "did your supervisors decide to put snakes on the ledges on the courthouse?"

"To scare off the pigeons," I said. Another long phase. "What kind

of snakes were they?" the New Yorker finally asked.

"Rubber."

"Rubber what?"

"Rubber snakes. On the ledges of the courthouse. To scare off the pigeons so they wouldn't do all over the courthouse, if you know what I mean."

"And is this expected to work?"

"Well," I said, "they've tried it in several other Iowa counties and it didn't work at all, but you never know about Johnson county. And then, of course, a few days later Lorada Cilek, one of the supervisors who voted in favor of the snakes, found a snake in her washing machine."

By Golly

"Ha," he said, "someone put a rubber snake in her washing machine, eh?"

"No," I said truthfully, "it was a live snake."

I could hear my New York friend breathing heavily again. "And what did she do when she found the live snake in her washing machine?"

"According to her, she went, 'By golly, and shut the lid.'"

"WASN'T SHE FRIGHTENED?"

"Not at all," I said, "seeing that one of her roomers has a pet boa constrictor."

I heard a strange sound over the phone. I sounded almost like someone falling off a chair. "ARE YOU TELLING ME THE TRUTH?" a voice finally said.

"But of course," I said simply. "You must remember, this is Johnson county, and we pride ourselves on doing things a bit differently down here."

"I'll talk to you later," my friend said, his voice sounding a bit strange. I then heard a sound like liquid being poured into a glass.

"Sorry," I said, "I guess I just didn't have anything all that interesting or unusual to tell you. I'll try and do better next time."

But I'll tell you, these New Yorkers are strange . . . cause he hung up on me without another word.

'Saloon Busters' Waged Whisky Battle in Jackson

By John R. Adney
Freemance Writer

IRON HILLS — "G'imme a big sort of 'Blue Grass,'" muttered the bleary-eyed drunk as he stumbled up to a bar in Iron Hills, in Jackson county, one day back in 1855.

Without batting an eye, John Scurlock, the bartender, obliged. Kentucky Blue Grass was a favorite brand of whisky and Scurlock's customers guzzled the potent product as if it were going out of style.

What was unusual about the whole thing was that the country was supposed to be "crackerbarrel" dry. Lawmen had cracked down in most places — but not in Iron Hills.

Scurlock, a Jackson county history says, thumbed his nose at law enforcement officials and turned a deaf ear to pleas by peace-loving citizens to stop the sale of intoxicating liquor. All opposition seemed only to increase his business and make him more defiant.

The revolting sight of rubber-legged drunks staggering on the streets, where every word heard was an oath, concerned mothers declared, was disrupting the morals of their children.

The outraged women of the community got their dander up and held a meeting in January, 1856, to resolve the matter.

Scurlock, hearing of this, made the brutal threat that he would "knock down and drag out" the first woman who attempted to smash a barrel or bottle of his whisky.

Then, one day, Amanda Breeden and her temperance crusaders rolled into town.

The fiery-tempered leader and her three co-workers had terrorized saloon-keepers in the county for many months; earning the reputation of "saloon-busters" in the river-front towns.

When the call for help came from the women of Iron Hills, the crusaders hurried to the scene, resolved to meet the braggart in his den.

The heroic quartet dismounted from their buggy, marched into the

saloon and reached the bar just as Scurlock was setting out a bottle of whisky.

One of the crusaders knocked the bottle to the floor with her parasol. Two drunks lost their footing in a puddle of firewater and crashed to the floor. Scurlock made a pass at one of the women and she slugged him with her parasol. A volley of whisky bottles narrowly missed Scurlock's head as he dived out a window.

Then, a mob of shouting women,

armed with clubs, carpetbeaters and clothes stompers, rushed into the saloon and rolled the barrels of whisky into the street.

Moments later, Scurlock's entire stock of Kentucky Blue Grass was gurgling from bashed in bangholes onto the dusty ground, which drank the firewater without disaster or disgrace.

An oldtime resident once said, "My grandfather recalled that the 'saloon-busters' didn't put old John out of business entirely, but they sure slowed him down."

Highway Patrol Fools 'Fuzz Busters'

By Fumela J. Huey

DES MOINES (UPI) — A device invented by the Iowa highway patrol means trouble for speeders and has treated interest among law enforcement officers nationwide.

The device — called "phantom radar" — was developed by technicians in the communications division of the patrol and is designed to give the illusion that a radar speed zone is operating when, in fact, it's not.

Maj. Jack Beaman, communications director for the patrol, said troopers report the invention is working well and causing motorists to slow down on Iowa's interstate highways.

The device emits a radar signal that is picked up by so-called "fuzz busters," which are used by many motorists to indicate they are passing through a radar speed zone.

"It's one tool we have to get compliance with the national 55-mile-per-hour speed limit," Beaman said. "It works so anyone entering that area (where the device is in operation) with a fuzz buster would think there is an officer around and immediately slows down."

According to Beaman, technicians went to work on the device at the request of Public Safety Commissioner Charles Larson, who has been concerned about the refusal by many motorists to obey the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit. Larson's chief deputy, Robert Holetz, said a number of other states have requested information about Iowa's "phantom radar" device since it went into operation two months ago.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police also has requested information about the device. Col.

Edward J. Dickinson, chief of the Iowa highway patrol, plans to brief an upcoming regional conference of the association in South Dakota on the invention, Holetz said.

"We're hoping to generate enough interest so a national group will go to work on it and make it better than it is now," Holetz said.

Holetz said the public safety department has been unhappy with the legislature for not enacting legislation to make "fuzz busters" illegal.

Larson's request for a machine to counter the "fuzz busters" was a reaction to legislative inaction and to increased use of the radar detecting devices, Holetz said.

Beaman said use of "fuzz busters" is growing almost as rapidly as the use of citizen band (CB) radios, and use of the two many times goes hand in hand.

"We've monitored CB conversations and it's very common to hear, particularly among persons in the trucking industry . . . the dogs are barking," Beaman said.

"The dogs are barking" is CB lingo to warn other motorists of a radar speed trap, Beaman said.

The Iowa patrol has four new "phantom radar" devices, which have been licensed by the federal communications commission and are about the size of four shoe boxes. They are portable and many times are placed on top of patrol radio communications towers.

The devices emit a radar signal down the highway several miles in either direction.

Beaman said the devices are used mostly on interstates, but plans call for use on primary highways in the future.

Continued from Page 1:

—Clerk Retires—

okay as long as they have good schools and good churches."

Good Schools

Brookman, a native of Center Point, is a qualified judge in both these areas.

He has been a timekeeper for the high school basketball games for 42 years and doesn't plan to give up that post anytime soon. He was originator of the school's Pointer dog symbol and has been sports Booster club treasurer since that group began. He has also been school board president.

The Center Point school is a good one. Brookman was not shy about pointing out.

"Kids from other schools have to catch up when they move to Center Point," he said.

Brookman has been an elder in the Center Point Christian church for 40 years, also doing his stint, of at least 20 years each, as Sunday school teacher, choir member and finance chairman.

Among other matters of record, Brookman is a retired volunteer fireman, the Golden Age housing treasurer, a Center Point Lions club charter member, fifty-year Mason, an Order of the Eastern Star mem-

ber, a Cedar Rapids Business college graduate and former Coe college student, a former Linn county conservation board member, a former co-owner of the Center Point Canning Company, which closed in 1944, and a past supervisor for the Farmers Hybrid Hogs Company.

He is also the grandfather of five children with whom he plans to spend an enjoyable portion of his retirement freedom.

'Mame Slated'

WEST UNION — The Palmer Memorial Women's Hospital auxiliary will present "Mame" July 29, 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. in the North high cafeteria. Mrs. Frank Kraft, director, said that casting is still continuing and rehearsals will be held each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at North high.

Graduate

David Garlock of Anamosa received a BGS degree from the University of Iowa. School officials said his name was inadvertently left off the complete list of May graduates provided to The Gazette.

ways come in together. They never bothered a soul."

Mike Plucar lives in a trailer house about a mile from Charlie's house.

Terry Lawrence, a young man who was scraping paint at the elevator office when we talked with him, said he lives in a trailer about a half mile from Charlie's place. He is concerned, but not running scared.

"If they're coming to rob anybody, they ain't gonna get any money from me," he said.

"A lot of people out there are keepin' their doors locked."

Lawrence is more concerned about vandalism.

Autopsy

"We've had our trailer broken into once and I've had a couple of windows broken out of the car. So we keep everything pretty well locked up."

"I've had one window shot out of the trailer."

Benton County Sheriff Ken Popenhagen said officers found a .22 caliber rifle in the Plucar house, which belonged to Plucar and was in its regular place.

Following an autopsy, medical authorities reported finding two small-

caliber gunshot wounds in Plucar's head.

Sheriff Popenhagen said he would not speculate on whether Plucar's rifle was the murder weapon until he received the ballistics report.

Sheriff Popenhagen said Thursday morning there were no prime suspects at that time.

Benton Appoints Conservator

VINTON' — The Benton county board of supervisors has created and filled a new position of county conservator, to assist persons in need of financial management.

Adalade Campbell was named to the part-time job. She will get \$10 per month per account, plus mileage, and will be under the direction of the social services department.

In other action, the supervisors approved a proposal to purchase a 16-passenger van to replace the existing bus used by the Benton county S.E.A.T.S. program. Federal funds will pay for \$6,160 of the cost and the county will provide the remaining \$1,540.

9,154 in UI Summer School

IOWA CITY — Enrollment in the University of Iowa's current summer session stands at 9,154, according to the school's registrar, W.A. Cox.

Open House

PALO — An open house will be held Sunday, July 10, in honor of Peter Gibney on his 37th birthday. It will be from 2 to 4 p.m. at his home south of here. Hosts will be his nephew, Lauren Gibney and family.

10 YEARS AGO —

Thousands of rampaging youths hurled beer bottles and fireworks at police in Lake Geneva, Wis.



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