

# Farner guilty of arson

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

It took a Carroll Circuit Court jury a little more than an hour last Wednesday afternoon to find Larry Farner, 62, of Delphi, guilty, as charged of one count of arson.

Farner was arrested after allegedly setting fire to a replica canal boat at the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center Aug. 31.

The jury heard and saw evidence collected at the scene presented by chief fire investigator and Carroll County Sheriff Department Sgt. Dennis Randle. Evidence was also presented by individuals who Farner had contact with the night of the arson.

Court appointed defense attorney Patrick Manahan moved for a directed verdict outside the presence of the jury, according to court documents. However, Judge Donald Currie denied the motion. In the presence of the jury

Manahan rested the defendant's case and presented a closing argument.

Farner was in court again Monday for a bench trial to answer charges of being a habitual offender filed by county prosecutor Tricia Thompson for the State. Deputy prosecutor Christine Smith presented the evidence and executed the closing argument.

According to court documents, the charges were based on four convictions of felony operating while intoxicated with a prior conviction between February 1992 and June 1993. He was also convicted of battery with a deadly weapon in Carroll Circuit Court in February 2004.

Smith said Tuesday the court took the habitual offender charge under advisement. A decision in the form of a court order is expected on or before sentencing for the arson conviction scheduled for Jan. 30 at 4 p.m.

# Best Buy

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School, Marion County; North Harrison High School, Harrison County; Rushville Consolidated High School, Rush County, and Signature School, Vanderburgh County.

All data used in the Best Buys report was collected from Indiana Department of Education databases.

"While preferably the report would focus on expenditures, which districts can control, rather than revenues that are determined largely by the Indiana General Assembly, this will provide a more accurate and consistent benchmark than the available expenditure

data," Brinegar noted.

This latest edition of Indiana's Best Buys continues to include a broad range of school performance data and an emphasis on high school graduation rates for the calculation of each school's quality index. The AP measures and ISTEP+ Pass+ rates are an attempt to give schools additional recognition for their attention to higher performing students.

To view the report and learn which high schools are among Indiana's Best Buys, visit [www.indianachamber.com/bestbuys](http://www.indianachamber.com/bestbuys).

# Changing

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County and a part-time position for Samaritan Helicopter Flight Services in Fort Wayne. Durr said although he holds multiple positions, he is able to complete Carroll County paperwork while working at another job, which is standard procedure.

"People need to know they are still getting an Advanced Life Support ambulance and we are still providing excellent services," Durr concluded. "By calling the county E911,

our department will respond."

Durr said to begin analyzing funding options for increased services, he will meet with Burlington Township Trustee Alan Jackson Wednesday. He said a member of the Jefferson Township Advisory Board also indicated a willingness to discuss possible funding options.

The outcome of those meetings and the establishment of the funding advisory board will appear in next week's *Comet*.

# Ambulances

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when claims exceed premiums.

Finkenbinder was directed to pursue a 2009 contract with current provider United Healthcare. It was determined the package would be amended to accommodate the 2009 budget appropriation for the county contribution.

## County road extension

After learning the design phase for the county road extension to SR75 project would be have to be initially totally funded by the county, commissioners hesitated to sign a nearly \$2 million contract with the Troyer Group to provide the services. Although the Indiana Department of Transportation awarded the county \$1.2 million for an 80 percent match, the match money will be realized as a credit with the state against the county obligation for 20 percent of the construction costs.

Troyer Group representative Mario Pasarel said INDOT agreed to move an at-grade Hoosier Heartland crossing and tie it into the new county road in the area north of Camden.

"We'd be fools not to take advantage of this," Brown said.

However freshly-appointed highway superintendent Couts asked Pasarel to declare the amount of money needed for 2009 design work, given budgetary constraints.

"That (information) would be critical to me," he said.

Pasarel was directed to provide an estimated cost for

2009 services before a contract was signed.

## Park board

Commissioners requested residents interested in serving on the Carroll County Parks Board to contact one of the commissioners or county auditor Beth Myers.

## Other business

Sheriff Tony Burns was granted permission to proceed with a purchase of four replacement department vehicles with \$80,000 from the cumulative capital improvement fund, pending council approval.

Kathaleen (Kathy) Zink was named to a four-year term to the Delphi Public Library Board of Trustees.

The 2009 county extension contract with Purdue University was signed.

A 12-day county employee holiday schedule was approved. Holidays include:

- New Year's Day - Jan. 1
- Good Friday - April 10
- Memorial Day - May 25
- Independence Day - July 3
- Martin Luther King Day - July 6
- Labor Day - Sept. 7
- Columbus Day - Oct. 12
- Veterans' Day - Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 26
- Lincoln's Birthday - Nov. 27
- Washington's Birthday - Dec. 24
- Christmas Day - Dec. 25

Carroll County YMCA will use the courthouse Feb. 8 for a big band dance from 5 to 8 p.m. as a fundraiser.

Delphi resident John Neumann was recognized for his work in cleaning the courthouse cannon after it was

## Lee. F. Flora

Lee F. Flora, 97, formerly of Delphi, died at 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008, at Westminster Village in West Lafayette.

Born Aug. 15, 1911, in Rockfield, he was the son of the late Arvel and Jesse Kennedy Flora. His marriage was on Feb. 23, 1935, in Rockfield, to Helen E. Jones, who preceded him in death Nov. 27, 2005.

Mr. Flora was a 1929 graduate of Rockfield High School and a graduate of Indiana Business College in Fort Wayne.

He retired from farming in 1990.

Mr. Flora was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi for over 50 years. He served as a church trustee, deacon and elder.

He also was a member of the International Order of the Odd Fellows #28 and Farm Bureau, serving as a past president. He was a member of Producers Marketing Association, Carroll County Agriculture Hall of Fame, and the Good Sam Club and Supper Club.

Mr. Flora served as a Carroll County Commissioner for three years.

He donated over 13 gallons of blood to the American Red Cross Blood Bank.

He enjoyed playing euchre, croquet, camping and traveling. He and his wife had wintered in Phoenix for over 19 years.

Surviving are two sons, Thomas Flora (wife: Pat) and Carol Flora (wife: Jan), both of Delphi; a daughter, Phyllis Shoff (husband: Dean) of Florida; 15 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Sharon Sue Flora, in 1952.

Services were held Monday at Davidson Funeral Home in Delphi. Pastors Bill McLean, Alvin Grumbling and Todd Ladd officiated. Burial followed at Masonic Cemetery in Delphi.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Westminster Foundation or St. Elizabeth Hospice.

Online condolences can be sent to [davidsonfh.com](http://davidsonfh.com).

## Silas V. Parks



Silas V. Parks, 72, of Lafayette, formerly of Delphi, passed away Dec. 12, 2008, at Clarion Arnett Hospital in Lafayette following an extended illness.

Born Nov. 20, 1936, in Tazewell, Tenn., he was the son of Lincoln D. and Bonnie Lambert Parks. His marriage was on June 12, 1961, to Zelma Brown, who preceded him in death April 1, 2004.

Mr. Parks retired from farming in 1981.

Surviving are two sons, Michael Parks (wife:

Robyn) and Douglas Parks, both of Lafayette; a daughter, Theresa Walker (husband: Wade) of Lafayette; a brother, Arthur Parks (wife: Lucy) of Tazewell; five half brothers Lloyd Parks, Kastel Parks, both of Delphi, Clayton Parks, Junior Parks and Wheeler Parks, all of Claiborne County, Tenn., and three half sisters, Ruth Brooks of Talbott, Tenn., Mae Brooks and Ellen Noe, both of Tazewell; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday in Delphi. Burial followed at I.O.O.F. Memorial Gardens in Pittsburg.

Memorials may be made to the Lafayette Urban Ministry.

## Mabel E. Yater



Mabel E. Yater, 97, of Kokomo, died at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, at Golden Living Center Sycamore village.

Born May 9, 1911, in French Lick, she was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Kellman Brown. She married Earl Yater on Aug. 16, 1930. He preceded her in death on Feb. 10, 2001.

A homemaker and farm wife, Mrs. Yater had worked some at the Value Dress Shop in Kokomo.

She was a member of Poplar Grove United Methodist Church, the Ladies Aid Society, Bunco Club, Rebecca Lodge and the Home Circle Club.

Mrs. Yater enjoyed playing cards, crocheting, fishing, mushroom hunting, and babysitting her grandkids,

## Other Death Notices

**Jane W. Marzoli**, 62, of West Lafayette, died Dec. 15, 2008, at Home Hospital in Lafayette. Among the survivors is a sister, Robin Allbaugh (husband: Rex) of Delphi. Services will be Dec. 20 in Lafayette.

## Hospital Notes

Scott Ayres of Flora underwent a kidney/pancreas transplant at the I.U. Medical Center on Nov. 24. He is recuperating at the home of his parents, Bill and Sue Ayres.

## Births

Brenton and Kendra (Fife) Peters of Bringhurst are parents of a 7-pound son, Cale Wesley, born Nov. 26 at Home Hospital, Lafayette. Grandparents are Joe and Marian Fife of Bringhurst and Lynn and Sharon Peters of Bringhurst. Maternal great-grandmother is Betty Fife of Lafayette. Paternal great-grandparents are Charles and Mary Helen Skiles of Bringhurst.

## Leroy A. Smith



Services for Leroy A. Smith, 78, of Lafayette, formerly of Radnor and Delphi, were held Monday at Hippensteel Funeral Home, Lafayette. The Rev. Dr. Jacob H. Hoffman officiated. Burial followed at Tippecanoe Memory Gardens, Lafayette.

He died at Clarion Arnett Hospital on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008.

Born in Colburn on May 22, 1930, he was the son of the late Lester D. and Hazel (Fetherhoff) Smith. He was a graduate of Delphi High School and served in the Navy from June 1948 to May 1952. He married Helen L. Allen on June 7, 1953, in Delphi and she survives.

Mr. Smith was a lineman for Public Service, now Duke Energy, for 40 years before retiring.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He was also a member of IBEW 1393, where he served as president from 1964 to 1989, served on the United Way Board, the Community Foundation Board, and Northwest Central Labor Council.

He was a member of the Masonic Order of Masons and Eastern Star, and was Assembly Pop for Rainbow for Girls.

He enjoyed gardening, taking care of his yard and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Surviving with his wife are three sons, Lee A. Smith (wife: Karen) of Lafayette, Loren J. Smith (wife: Dawn) of Logansport, and Neil A. Smith of Brookston; a daughter, Jennifer J. Frazier (husband: Jim) of Lafayette; a brother, Duane Smith (wife: Marty) of Lafayette; eight grandchildren, Rhett B. Edwards (wife: Naomi), Ryan J. Edwards, Alicia N. (Edwards) Sanford (husband: Jeff), Tyler I. Frazier, Aaron Smith (wife: Keanna), Lindsey Hernandez (husband: Antonio), Keenan Smith (wife: Amanda), and Zane Smith; and seven great-grandchildren, Brisa N. Sanford, Brice J. Sanford, Hailey Smith, Taylor K. Smith, Lucas A. Smith, Rayne Smith, and Xavier M. Smith.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Robert, Max, and Leon Smith, and a sister, Florence Pearson.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Heart Association and/or Kidney Foundation.

Hippensteel Funeral Home was entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at [www.hippensteelfuneralhome.com](http://www.hippensteelfuneralhome.com).

**BAIL BONDS**  
**JOE MOSS, AGENT**  
**765-564-2226**

# Senior Reminder

For those of you age 65+, please remember that the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period is now open and runs through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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12/17/08	10 a.m. 2 p.m.	<b>Best Western Brandywine Inn</b> 728 S. 6th Street, Monticello, IN
12/30/08	10 a.m. 2 p.m.	<b>Holiday Inn Express</b> 4788 Nesbitt Drive Rensselaer, IN
12/30/08	9 a.m. 12 p.m.	<b>Wabash &amp; Erie Canal Conference Center</b> 615 E. Washington Street, Delphi, IN
12/30/08	10 a.m. 2 p.m.	<b>Clinton County Neighborhood Center</b> 259 S Third Street, Frankfort, IN
12/30/08	10 a.m. 2 p.m.	<b>Best Western Brandywine Inn</b> 728 S. 6th Street, Monticello, IN

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