

If it's for the Good of
Marysville and Union County
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The Evening Journal-Tribune

(Combining the Union County Journal and the Marysville Evening Tribune)

WEATHER
Turning colder Thursday, warmer Friday. Scattered showers likely Thursday. High 35-43; low 25 to 27.

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MARYSVILLE, OHIO — WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1956

By Carrier 90c a Week

BRUCE GAUMER DIES OF HEART ATTACK



BRUCE B. GAUMER

Services Friday For Publisher Of Journal-Tribune

Bruce B. Gaumer, publisher of the Evening Journal-Tribune, is dead.

Death's beckoning call came swiftly, silently Tuesday afternoon as the result of a heart attack.

Mr. Gaumer, who was 75 years of age, passed away easily as he sat in his favorite chair in his home at 271 W. Seventh st. His body was discovered about 6 p.m. Tuesday by his son, F. T. Gaumer. It is presumed he had died about 3:30 p.m., since he did not answer the telephone when his daughter, Mrs. W. E. Behrens, called him at 4 p.m.

Although he had complained since Sunday of not feeling well, no one had any idea Mr. Gaumer was seriously ill and his death was a shock to his family and friends.

Apparently he, himself, had no premonition of the end, because he was up and about the house as usual, and had talked to his son on the telephone about business affairs Tuesday noon. So swiftly did death come that he made no effort to get out of his chair.

Came Here in 1904
For more than half a century, Mr. Gaumer had been in the newspaper business and was a civic leader in Marysville.

He came to this community in August of 1904, having bought the Union County Journal in July of that year from the late A. J. Hare. He bought the paper in partnership with an uncle, the late J. S. Cone, of Coshocton, and this partnership continued for several years. The Journal was operated by Mr. Gaumer as a weekly newspaper until 1915, when he made it a semi-weekly publication.

He continued in active control of the Journal, operating it as a semi-weekly, until Jan. 1, 1931, when he purchased the Marysville Evening Tribune and consolidated the two as the Evening Journal-Tribune.

Active Until Last
Although in recent years Mr. Gaumer relinquished most of the managerial duties to his son and son-in-law, W. E. Behrens, he continued active control in an advisory capacity until the end.

The last time he was at his desk was Saturday, when he came downtown to transact personal affairs. He was of the second generation of a widely-known Ohio newspaper family.

His father, Dr. Thomas M. Gaumer, owned and published the Champaign Democrat, a weekly newspaper, in Urbana for many years in the 1880's. Upon his death, operation of the Democrat was assumed by a brother, Frank C. Gaumer, who built it into the only newspaper in Urbana at the time of his death in 1923. That paper still operates as the Urbana Citizen.

Influence Widely Felt
Two brothers of Dr. T. M. Gaumer were also in the newspaper business, owning newspapers in Zanesville, Mansfield and St. Clairsville. Another brother of Bruce Gaumer, Charles E., also owned the Middletown Signal.

Mr. Gaumer's influence in Marysville will remain for some time to come. Through the columns of his newspaper, and particularly in his younger days as publisher of the Union County Journal, he crusaded for many issues in which he believed.

Perhaps his outstanding achievement was the bringing of the Ohio Reformatory for Women to Marysville in 1916, working in conjunction with the late George M. Wilber.

He was also instrumental in having the first state-built National Guard Armory erected in Marysville in 1910, after the Legislature had passed a bill requiring the state to build armories for local national guard units.

Re-opened Schools
Another achievement by Mr. Gaumer was in having the Marysville Schools reopened in the fall of 1931, when they were closed by the Board of Education due to lack of funds.

The schools had been closed by the Board on Nov. 5, 1931 when a 3-mill tax levy for operating purposes failed to pass and all funds were exhausted. Acquainted with a seldom-used law which empowered probate courts to operate schools which had no money, Mr. Gaumer filed a friendly suit against the School Board, and the schools came under the jurisdiction of the Court. They operated that way until the schools again had their own money.

In Electoral College
Politically, Mr. Gaumer was a Democrat, although he was conservative by nature and in recent years withdrew from party politics. In his younger days, however, he was extremely active in Democratic party affairs and counted among his personal friends numerous state officials of a generation ago.

One of his closest friends was Governor A. V. "Vic" Dunahey, for whom he always had a very high regard.

Although he actively campaigned for the party and for other persons, he never sought appointment for himself. His principal political honor was being a member of the Ohio Electoral College of 1932, when the late Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to his first term as President.

Born in Adamsville, O.

Mr. Gaumer was born in Adamsville, Muskingum county, O., on Sept. 9, 1881. He was a son of Dr. Thomas M. and Eliza (Cone) Gaumer, both deceased. The family moved to Urbana while Mr. Gaumer was still a small child and he was educated in the Urbana schools, from which he was graduated in 1898.

Before coming to Marysville, Mr. Gaumer worked on the Terre Haute (Ind.) Gazette and the Newark, O., Advocate.

After coming to Marysville, he met Mary Dennis Kirby, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Kirby Sr., and they were married on Feb. 7, 1907 in the home where he died and where Mrs. Gaumer preceded him in death on Oct. 25, 1948.

Home Center of Life
This home was to be the center of Mr. Gaumer's life, although the family did not return to live there until 1919. It had been the Kirby home for years, and in 1910 Mr. Gaumer built a home in Edgewood Terrace, where his three children were born.

Surviving Mr. Gaumer are his son, F. T. Gaumer, and his daughter, Mrs. W. E. Behrens, and eight grandchildren, Tommy, Billy, Carol and Marita Gaumer; David, Daniel, Julie and Mary Behrens.

One son, David Daniel Gaumer, died in 1933 at the age of 18 months. Mr. Gaumer was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Marysville, which he joined shortly after coming to Marysville. He was also a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and a life-member of the Elks Lodge.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in the home, conducted by the Rev. David P. Thompson. Interment will be made in Oakdale Cemetery in charge of William H. Fulkner, funeral director of Marysville.

Friends may call at the Gaumer home after 7 p.m. Wednesday.