

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator BAILEY, Ansel K (inne

Served Howard and Winneshiek counties

1. Birthday and place 18 Nov. 1835, Wales, Erie Co., NY

2. Marriage (s) date place
Sarah Higham (c. 1838-1906), Utica NY in 1859

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Newspaper editor and publisher, printer

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession _____

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 23/24 GA 189-1893 SD 42, Howard & Winneshiek

6. Public Offices

A. Local Winneshiek Co. Treas. 1863-65; Co. Recorder 1863-1864

B. State _____

C. National Decorah Postmaster, 1869-1885

7. Death 20 Sept. 1909, at home, decorah, acute indeggestion. Bur Phelps Cem, Dec.

8. Children (1) Lizzie H. (Colville) (c.1859 -); St. Paul, Minn. (2) Charles T. (1862-1899); (3) Edwin C. (1869 -), Decxorah; (4) Alice W. (Stoddard) (1879 -), Decorah; (5) son, d. infancy

9. Names of parents Wesley (1828-1891), bVT, newspapers NY, Ia, d. Decorah; Eunice Kinne (1807-1869). Wesley rem Sarah H. ----, May 1869 or 1870.

10. Education ~~Utica NY schools, until age 13~~

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information ~~Father, son of Methodist minister,~~

~~edited newspapers in South Courtland NY 1837-1838; Fayetteville NY 1838-1841, and Utica NY 1841-1885. Abolitionist paper until 1848; temperance thereafter. A.K. became partner for his father at 13; bought the Utica paper in 1856, sold it in 1858~~

~~Father and son moved to Decorah in 1860 and as Wesley Bailey & Son started Decorah Republic 13 April 1860. Name changed to Republican. Firm name changed to A. K. Bailey & Bro, then to A. K. Bailey & Son. In 1900 census AK is listed as publisher. Son Edwin was publisher for a number of years after 1900.~~

~~In 23 GA he was chair of committee on Federal Relations. In 24 GA he did "valuable work" in formulating the Australian Ballot law.~~

~~Supt of Sunday School for over 25 years; 15 yrs continuous.~~

~~Was survived by older brother, E P. Bailey, who for 55 yrs was editor of Utica paper, and by younger brother Alvin Stuart Bailey (c. 1848 -), who had been associated with him in the Decorah Republican, but in 1900 was in Minneapolis.~~

DECORAH JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

HOLMES & BIERMANN, Prop'rs
F. E. BIERMANN, Editor

Entered at postoffice at Decorah, Ia., as second-class matter.

Subscription, in Advance \$1.00
Month in Advance .75
Single Copies 5c
Office—Corner Winnago and Main Streets.
Standard Telephone No. 132.

DECORAH, IOWA, Sept. 21, 1909

For Saturday Only.

We will sell Lot 9228 all worsted imported cravenette 'O' Coat at \$10.00. These coats are the greatest values we have offered in 34 years—Saturday as long as they last, ten dollars—Bears.

Supper Postponed.

On account of the death of A. K. Bailey, the supper to have been given by the ladies of the Congregational church on Wednesday, Sept. 22, has been postponed for two weeks.

Line Building to Postville.

Yesterday the Upper Iowa Power Company began building a line to Postville. The Waukon line is to be tapped near the Bell school house. The construction of the line will take about sixty days, it is expected. Postville then will be electric lighted by the latter part of November.

Drum Corps Benefit.

The Drum Corps is trying to raise much needed money for equipment. To that end they will give a concert Sept. 23 and 24 in Steyer's Opera House. They will have the assistance of the band and other local musical talent. The admission will be 25c.

Two Valder Teams

Valder College will do some foot ball playing this fall unless all signs fail. Two teams have been organized, to be known as Valder's Business College Foot Ball Team and Valder College Foot Ball Team. Correspondence has begun with various colleges in this and neighboring states and it looks as if Decorah will see some college games here this fall.

A New Song

The Marsh Music House have received copies of their first song published, "My Love for all Eternity" which is going to make a hit all over the country. The song is a ballad and is a fine one. Mr. Marsh has already received inquiries from houses wishing to illustrate the song for illustrated song purposes, which is evidence enough that the song is a good one.

The Piano Recital.

Last evening Decorah enjoyed one of those rare opportunities, to listen to classical music well rendered. A fair sized audience availed itself of the opportunity to listen to Monsieur Emiliano Renaud of the Indianapolis conservatory. The entire recital was by Monsieur Renaud unassisted by other music, vocal or instrumental. The result was, perhaps, the best entertainment, from a musical standpoint that Decorah ever has listened to. This city was fortunate in the opportunity to listen to a man of his musical ability. The appearance of Monsieur Renaud was brought about by the efforts of Miss Rosetta Olson, his pupil the past year in the Indianapolis Conservatory.

Mozes Into Ammer Building.

Otto Anderson has rented the Jacob Ammer building one door east of Fred Walter's furniture store and will begin business in it about the 25th of this month. During the past summer Otto has sold peanuts, popcorn, and cigars on the Decorah State Bank corner. The general testimony is that his peanuts have been unexcelled and his popcorn the best ever sold in Decorah. He will continue to sell peanuts and popcorn in his new location. Besides these articles he will sell confectionery, fruits, and a larger variety of cigars. Patrons of Mr. Anderson's new business should be given the most courteous treatment that his patrons in the past have enjoyed.

Hannah Arneson.

A LOSS TO THE COMMUNITY

A. K. Bailey, the Veteran Editor, Dies at His Home Monday Afternoon. Sept. 20th. at 2:10 o'clock.

Harrow spread over Decorah yesterday when it became known that A. K. Bailey had died at his home on Vernon street at 2:10 o'clock. On the faces of young and old as they heard the news of his death were looks of genuine sorrow that came from a feeling of real personal loss. Since 1893 Mr. Bailey had suffered from diabetes. A strong constitution a strong will power, and strict dieting, have enabled him to fight off the disease during sixteen years. His death was not caused by diabetes, but by acute indigestion caused by a tumor and a bronchial cold. He was taken very ill Thursday evening, but on Sunday was much improved. Yesterday he realized that the end was near and so told the loving relatives about him. He faced death with the calm, Christian, fortitude, that had been so marked a characteristic of the man during his entire residence in Decorah.

To give an adequate description of the services of Mr. Bailey to this community would be to write the history of Decorah during nearly a half century. In that time no worthy enterprise, no work of progress, was undertaken without Mr. Bailey assisting. Every undertaking for the betterment of this community in a moral or a material way has been able to count on the assistance of Mr. Bailey.

As an editor, it is doubtful whether A. K. Bailey had an equal among Iowa's weeklies. He left school at thirteen but his studies continued as long as life. His deeply studious habit gave him a trained mind and a fund of knowledge that made him a writer who was a tower of strength to a cause he espoused and an opponent to be reckoned with by a cause he did not approve.

In nearly a half century of active editorial work, he was engaged at times in hard fought political contests. From every one he emerged with the respect of both friend and foe. His most bitter opponents give him credit for rare ability, sincerity and a desire to be fair. During the time that he has edited the Decorah Republican it has been a model from an editorial and mechanical standpoint.

With the death of A. K. Bailey Iowa journalism loses one of her most talented members, a man of unusual moral courage, and one who supported his position with argument, the result of sincere desire to arrive at justice and right.

Last evening a friend of Mr. Bailey told us that, although he looked upon him as a man of exceptional ability and rare capacity for work, it was not his ability nor the products of his labors that most excited his admiration. It was the character of the man. Through life a devout Christian, he endeavored to practise in his every day living the precepts of the founder of his faith. He leaves behind him a record of deeds well done, a life well spent. He earned the respect of all who knew him and the affection of many.

Decorah feels her loss deeply. We are sure we express the sentiments of the entire community when we extend to the bereaved relatives sincere sympathy.

Honorable Ansel Kinne Bailey was born in Wales, Erie county, New York, November 18, 1835. He was the second son of Wesley, and Rufice (Kinne) Bailey. Both his parents were of New England stock. Wesley Bailey was born in Readaboro, Vermont, in February, 1808, the son of Elder Elijah Bailey, a Methodist minister. Rufice Kinne was born in Onondago county, N. Y., in 1807, the eldest daughter of Prentice Kinne, a native of Connecticut. Wesley Bailey in 1837 and 1838 edited the South Cortland Luminary and Intelligencer

Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.
Talum
Excellence.

In 1838 the paper was moved to Fayetteville, N. Y., and its name changed accordingly. The Luminary and Intelligencer was an abolition paper. In 1842 Wesley Bailey was in Utica, N. Y., editing the Liberty Press, another abolitionist paper. In 1848 Mr. Bailey changed the name of his paper to The Utica Teetotaler and its nature from an abolition paper to a temperance journal. In 1856 he relinquished the Utica Teetotaler to his son Ansel K. Bailey and George W. Bungay, the poet.

The education of A. K. Bailey began in the public schools of Utica, N. Y. At the age of thirteen he left school and entered his father's printing office. When twenty-one years of age, he gave his note for \$500 to his father and became sole proprietor of the Utica Teetotaler. Two years later he sold it to George W. Bungay. In 1860 the family of Wesley Bailey, with the exception of E. P. Bailey, his oldest son, moved to Decorah. On April 13th, 1860 Wesley Bailey & Son issued the first number of the Decorah Republic. Later the name of the paper was changed to the Decorah Republican. The firm name has changed successively from Wesley Bailey & Son, to A. K. Bailey & Brother, to A. K. Bailey & Son.

In 1863 Mr. Bailey was elected treasurer and recorder of Winneshiek county. In 1869 Mr. Bailey was appointed postmaster of Decorah by President Grant. The office he held during sixteen successive years. In 1889 he was elected state senator for Winneshiek and Howard counties and served in the twenty-third and twenty-fourth general assemblies. In the twenty-third he was chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations. In the twenty-fourth he did valuable work in the formulating of the present Australian ballot law, whose present form is due largely to A. K. Bailey.

Throughout his life Mr. Bailey has been a devout and earnest Christian. He held the position of superintendent of the Congregational Sunday School in Decorah more than twenty-five years—continuously from 1860 during fifteen years.

In 1859 Mr. Bailey married Miss Sarah Higham of Utica, N. Y. She preceded him in death by a little more than three years. Her demise occurred February 5th, 1906. Throughout his married life was happy and harmonious. To them five children were born: Lizzie, Charles, Edwin, Alice, and a son who died during infancy. Of these the following survived: Mrs. Lizzie B. Colville, wife of David P. Colville, a professor of music in St. Paul, Edwin C. Bailey, the junior partner in the firm of A. K. Bailey & Son, and Alice W. Stoddard, wife of L. M. Stoddard, groceryman of this city. Two brothers, E. P. Bailey (the eldest in the family) who during fifty-five years has been editor of the Utica, N. Y., Observer, and A. S. Bailey of Minneapolis, a younger brother, survive the subject of this sketch.

A short funeral service will be held at the home tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. This will be followed by services at the Congregational church. Rev. Williet will officiate.

Mott & Co. Moving.

The dry goods firm of Mott & Co. is moving into its new location on the corner of Water and Washington streets. They expect to have their moving completed by Saturday.

Conigleky, Optician, Winneshiek Bldg.

John C. Hexom sells shoes.

WILL BUILD STORAGE PLANT

H. J. Hutchinson buys Old Grow Property and Will Erect Cold Storage Plant and Warehouse.

H. J. Hutchinson has purchased the two A. W. Grow buildings on Washington street. He will tear both of them down. The site of the upper one will be fitted for building lots. The lower one Mr. Hutchinson will replace with a cold storage plant and a warehouse. This structure will abut the Milwaukee tracks and extend from the sidewalk on Washington street to the beer warehouse westward. Mr. Hutchinson has been buying produce and fruits in car lots of late years.

Two years ago he shipped fourteen cars of apples, eight cars from Decorah and six cars from the Preston branch. This method of purchase has given him a practical lesson in the advantages Decorah would derive from a cold storage plant and warehouse. The proximity of the tracks will make the location of Mr. Hutchinson's proposed cold storage plant and warehouse a good one.

The hailstorm of last year has lessened the supply of apples for this year. In spite of that fact, however, Mr. Hutchinson has purchased seven hundred bushels of fine apples from Mr. Kratz of Ridgeway.

We believe that Mr. Hutchinson's building is evidence that he intends to handle goods in wholesale as well as retail lots.

Not only will a new and needed institution be added to Decorah's business by the enterprise of Mr. Hutchinson, but the appearance of Washington street will be improved greatly.

Court Convened Yesterday

The court for Winneshiek county convened yesterday, judge Hobson presiding. Yesterday was given over to admitting wills to probate, hearing other probate matters, and dealing with old cases.

Important Railroad Position

P. C. Hart of Seattle has been appointed general superintendent of the new coast extension of the Milwaukee railroad from St. Paul to Seattle. Mr. Hart is a brother of Mrs. T. C. Hutchinson of this city.

Advertised Letters

E. Ruserberg, Mrs. C. C. Freeman, Dr. Ira Woods, Howerth, James A., Urmy.

Don't forget the student's dance in Steyer's Hall Friday evening.

Fall "Kodakery".

If you take your camera and stroll in the fields and woods these days you will find beauties in plenty to photograph. Soon the evenings will be cool and then will be the time to make flashlight photos of groups, interior of rooms, etc. We can supply everything in photo supplies—goods that will never disappoint. We are also agents for the best cameras made. No lower prices anywhere than ours.

Brunt & Parman.

Homeseekers' To the Dakotas

October 5 and 19, 1909
December 7 and 21, 1909

On October 5 and 19, November 7 and 21, low fare on sale to stations in the new line to the Pacific Coast to Seattle and Tacoma. Tickets are good twenty days and are good for stop-over. Excellent opportunity for of this new country and other opportunities. Vast areas of fertile lands of acres of HOMED for diversified farming through the construction.

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul

Thousands of enterprising men are being attracted along this new line. If you intend to now farming and wish to not make a trip through these days you will find beauties in plenty to photograph. Soon the evenings will be cool and then will be the time to make flashlight photos of groups, interior of rooms, etc. We can supply everything in photo supplies—goods that will never disappoint. We are also agents for the best cameras made. No lower prices anywhere than ours.

Complete information re service, and descriptive literature, apply to F. A. General-Passenger Agent.

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul

MOTT & CO

WE are moving into our new building in the old Goddard and Neish quarters.

S. E. Tubbs succeeded M. P. Hathway, in 1870, and was re-elected in 1872.

A. W. Brownell was elected in 1874.

F. B. Hutchinson succeeded A. W. Brownell, in 1876.

The following persons have filled the office of County Treasurer for Winneshiek County :

A. K. Bailey, 1863.

G. N. Holway, 1865 and 1867.

G. T. Lomen, 1869 and 1871.

Edwin Klove, 1873, 1875, 1876.

A. K. Bailey was born Nov. 18, 1835, in Wales, New York. Wesley Bailey, his father, through his abolition principles, became publisher of a newspaper, with the avowed object of doing his share towards educating public opinion in the interests of the downtrodden slave.

A. K. Bailey, at thirteen years of age, entered his father's office as an apprentice. He acquired a thorough knowledge of the printer's trade, which has since proved invaluable to him as a publisher. He came to Decorah in March, 1860, and commenced the publication of the *Republican*, April 5, 1860, in partnership with his father. Mr. Bailey, as County Treasurer gave universal satisfaction, and filled his office with credit to himself and the county. In 1868, he was appointed Postmaster of Decorah, which official position he has ever since filled with efficiency. His position as publisher has compelled him to take an active part in politics. Mr. Bailey has many warm friends and some bitter enemies. His enemies, generally, are those who have been thwarted in political schemes. He is an honest, sympathetic, generous and benevolent christian. Mr. Bailey is a politician, not a schemer, and a man of strong character, whose word is its worth in gold.

In 1864, the Recorder's office was separated from the Treasurer's, and that same year John E. Powers was elected as the first independent Recorder. He was re-elected, 1866.

Cyrus McKay was elected Recorder in 1868, 1870 and 1871.

Chas. Steen succeeded C. McKay, in 1874, and was re-elected in 1876.

Henry Toye was elected County Superintendent in 1871.

G. N. Holway succeeded H. Toye, in 1873.

Nels Kessey was elected County Superintendent in 1875.

W. C. Adsit was elected Surveyor in 1869, 1871, 1873.

J. L. Cameron was elected in 1875.



A. K. BAILEY

CHAPTER XI

THE NEWSPAPERS

Winneshiek county has never been overburdened with newspapers. While there have been a sufficient number to represent her wealth and progress, and to chronicle the daily doings of her inhabitants, she has been singularly and happily free from a large number of weak and struggling publications, such as mark some counties not far distant where railroad towns have sprung up and grown to proportions that demanded newspaper representation, yet were not able or willing to accord the support necessary to build up strong, substantial papers.

Decorah, as the county seat, naturally attracted the early-day disciples of Guttenburg and Faust. Here in 1855 a man named Tracy established the Chronicle. The story of this publication and its successor is briefly told in the following item taken from the Decorah Republican of Oct. 26, 1905:

"In looking over some of his father's papers recently, H. P. Nicholson, Jr., of Military township, came across some papers that bore light upon the early-day newspapers of Decorah and their efforts at existence. They also indicate that Mr. Nicholson was then, as he has always been since, a believer in publicity and an interested follower of the news of the day. The papers above referred to are—all but one—receipts for subscriptions. The first is dated November 23, 1855, and calls for a year's subscription to the Decorah Chronicle beginning with Vol. 1, No. 4, and running to Vol. 2, No. 3. Tracy & Co. were its owners and this was probably the first paper of Decorah. A little over a year later—December 6, 1856—another receipt calls for a year's reading of the Republican, of which B. F. Jones was then editor, from Vol. 1, No. 35, to Vol. 2, No. 34. This indicates that Tracy & Co. didn't any more than last the year out. June 15, 1858, is the date of the third receipt which was issued by F. Belfoy for one year of the Decorah Gazette, beginning with Vol. 1, No. 1."

The Gazette was the immediate predecessor of the Decorah Republic. In the fall of 1859, Wesley Bailey, of Utica, New York, grandfather of this historian, came to Decorah and purchased the plant of the Gazette, engaging Mr. Belfoy to remain and hold the field until spring, when, in company with his son Ansel K. Bailey and their families, he returned to Decorah and assumed control of the paper, the firm being Wesley Bailey & Son. Its name was changed

to the Republic and the first number under the new management was issued on April 13, 1860. In March, 1866, the name was changed to the Republican and it has so remained during the intervening years. Because of failing health, Wesley Bailey disposed of his interest in the paper to his sons Ansel and Alvin Stewart Bailey in 1869, the firm name being changed to A. K. Bailey & Brother and remaining so until 1885. In that year Charles T. Bailey purchased the interest of A. S. Bailey, and the firm became A. K. Bailey & Son. Two years later E. C. Bailey purchased the interest of his brother, and in 1906 the business was incorporated, the name remaining A. K. Bailey & Son. On the death of A. K. Bailey in September, 1909, E. C. Bailey assumed the complete management of the business in both business and editorial departments.

The Decorah Journal is the second oldest newspaper in Winneshiek county. Its history begins back in 1866 with the establishment of The Winneshiek Register by George W. Haislet. Alexander's History says the office was destroyed by fire in November of that year. A new office was purchased, but in the spring of 1869 the paper was compelled to suspend. "August 25, 1869, he (Mr. Haislet) re-issued his paper under the name of Register & Ventilator, afterwards dropping the first half of the name. Several years later W. N. Burdick became a partner with Haislet, and soon bought him out entirely, and in 1874 was sole proprietor, and changed the name Ventilator to Winneshiek Register. In November, 1874, Mr. Burdick sold out to A. A. Aiken and Henry Woodruff. Early in February, 1875, the Saturday Bee was issued as an extra from the office of the Register. In the latter part of 1875 the Register establishment absorbed the Independent (which was started by Ed. Wood and S. S. Haislet in the summer of 1874), the combined paper taking the name Independent-Register. In January, 1876, Mr. Aiken sold out his interest, Henry Woodruff becoming editor and manager of the Bee, which continued without change till January, 1879, Ed. Wood taking the Independent-Register, and soon dropping the word Register from the name. About the first of June, 1879, Mr. Wood sold out and gave place to J. F. Meagher, who, in the latter part of July, stepped down and out, Mr. Woodruff of the Decorah Journal becoming its purchaser, and its subscription list was united with that of the Bee. In January, 1879, the regular publication of the weekly Decorah Journal commenced, it being virtually the successor of the old Register and Independent, and the Bee office soon dropped its separate character and became part of the Journal establishment." Mr. Haislet spent several years in Cresco, after leaving the Register, but in August, 1875, returned to Decorah and started the publication of the Ventilator, but it suspended in a short time, its editor going to Dubuque, where he remained until the fall of 1876, when he once more engaged in business here, starting the Decorah Radical. Mr. Haislet died March 6, 1881, but his widow continued the paper until May 1, 1882, when Charles H. Craig purchased the plant and changed the paper's name to the Decorah Pantagraph. On November 15, 1884, W. E. Alexander bought out Mr. Craig and the paper's name was changed to the Press, but after a few months he sold out to Mr. Woodruff of the Journal. In 1891 C. C. Coutant, who had been located at Calmar for several years, bought an interest in the Journal and two years later acquired his partner's interest also. He continued in ownership until about six years ago, when he sold out to Charles Meyer of Leaf River, Illinois, and thereafter followed three partnerships—Meyer & Mead,

South side of Water Street Block #5
 Block #11 on the plat.
 Originally consisted of 4 lots.
 Located between Winnebago and Court Streets.

		Lot #2 and #3-----				-----Lot #3 and #4		
98 ft	12 ½ #8	22ft	22ft	22ft	22ft	22ft	22ft	22ft
Lot #9		Lot #7	Lot #6	Lot #5	Lot #4	Lot #3	Lot #2	Lot #1

BLOCK #5 SOUTH SIDE OF WATER STREET

#1 Building #201 West Water St. Ben Bear Building

The Decorah Republican of April 1860 in a listing of businesses on Water St. stated C. E. Dickerman now occupied Dr. John M. Green's store. Later the Decorah Republican indicated that J. D. Wheeler's general store was now at this location. July 29, 1866 there was a transfer of this property from C. E. Dickerman to Cyrus Adams. However records indicate that Cyrus Adams built the original building circa 1865 where he conducted his leather store. The Decorah Republican of 1866 listed Cyrus Adams & Co. as selling boots and shoes in the Dickerman building. This building would come to be known as the Ben Bear Building. Ben Bear came to Decorah in 1876, and rented part of the building from Mr. Adams. On November 29 1877, which was Thanksgiving Day at 11 PM, a fire started in the small Coleman and Tayers' drug store located in the south end of the Adams building next to the alley.

In one half-hour all was destroyed. When the Adams' block burned, and Bear lost his complete stock of merchandise. The Decorah Republican reported that merchandise from the Ben Bear store was scattered across the street from the Rastetter's saloon to the Montgomery Drug store. Following the fire, Ben Bear moved his business temporarily to the Asselin building located at 214 West Water Street. There were several other business burned at this time including, Coleman & Toys Drug Store, J. C. Meuser's jewelry store, Newton's grocery which was located in this building and faced Winnebago St., a wood shed and other tenants located on the upper floor. S. Muller doing business as a barber in a section of this building employed Charles Trzcinski who came to Decorah March 12, 1877. The barbershop, in a 11 foot by 21 foot room was located facing Winnebago St.

After Mr. Adams rebuilt his building, Bear Clothing Store returned to this location. On March 23, 1883 Cyrus Adams transferred this property (lot #1) to Newton Adams. Ben Bear took possession of the property from Newton Adams on August 19, 1887. Before Ben Bear acquired the Heively building and lot, at 203 West Water Street, the November 10, 1871 edition of the Republican listed Forest and Dodge operating a shoe store in what is now the west half of the Ben Bear store. On December 18, 1880 Ben Bear purchased from Mary P. Heively original lot #2 & #3. Ben Bear replaced the frame building with the brick building which is still standing at this location. The building

covered both lot #1 & lot #2. On May 27, 1939 Ben Bear remodeled the building, and put on a new front. His brother Edward Bear joined Ben Bear in the business circa 1890.

Ed Bear served as head usher at the Grand Theater after its opening in 1892, for many years. Ed Bear had great interest in the theater, and from 1892, he saved the programs. In 1933 he had the programs bound into two volumes, and presented them to the Luther College Library.

After the death of Ben Bear, Ed Bear continued to operate the Ben Bear Clothing Store until his death. Ben Bear was very interested in civic affairs. He worked for the good of the community, and was involved in activities, such as the building of the Winneshiek Hotel, the Grand Opera House, one of the banks, and the Winneshiek County Fair Grounds. The Ben Bear Clothing Store operated at this location for 75 years. In 1953 the business moved across Water St. to #124 West Water St. in block #3. In 1969 it was moved again to a building in the fourth block to #210 West Water Street, and continued at that location until 1989. During this time it was under the ownership and management of Vernon Finholt, and after his death, by his son Mark. After the death of the Bears, the company was moved across the street.

In 1926 Decorah's first radio station started broadcasting from the south end of the second floor of the Ben Bear building, with Charles Greenley the announcer. Charles Greenley had been an employee of Ben Bear in various capacities. He was put in charge of the new radio station, known by the call letters KCGA. In the early 1930's Luther College formed it's own station known as KWLC. KCGA passed through several owners and has been known for the last 50 years as KDEC. The Firestone Tire Co. moved into this location circa 1956. There was a large door cut into the building from Winnebago St. side so cars could be brought inside for servicing. Dave Worthington managed the Firestone store. Dave also was involved in the sale of stock in a mining machinery rental business.

When the building was sold to Donlon Drug Co. they moved from the old Parman building to their present location. This was the third building in which they have done business. At the same time the Firestone store moved to a location on Washington Street

Several dentists occupied the second floor through the years. Dr. C. L. Topliff was the first and one of the last was Dr. Luce. On the Winnebago St. side of the building were two small shops. In the office next to the alley was the Western Union office. In 1947 the Western Union office was closed. The Jefferson Bus line office moved to this location on the closing of the Western Union. Emma Nesheim for many years had a millinery shop, known as Mode Millinery located north of the Western Union, at #105 Winnebago. Later Horace Lowery managed a watch repair business at this location. These shops were closed when the Firestone Co. remodeled and needed the spaces to install a large door to bring in vehicles for service.

#2 #205 West Water St.

In the Decorah Republican of 1860, this building was called the Heively building.

It was occupied by John W. Hard's jewelry store. Ben Bear purchased this lot on December 18, 1880. There has been no evidence who built the building. In 1877, at the time of the Adams' block fire, one of the occupants was Coleman & Toye's drug store. One of the earliest occupants in the replaced building was the Wilson Grocery Store. In March 28, 1905 the Decorah Journal announced that Linnevold & Peterson had rented a vacant store room in the Bear block adjoining Mr. Bear's store to the west, and would be moving their restaurant and confectionery store to that location. Linnevold & Peterson did not stay long at this location. The June 5, 1906 Decorah Journal announced that Honan's Café was opening for business in the first door west of the Ben Bear store.

On September 30, 1915 this building became the location of the Republican Paper, owned by Ed Bailey.

The Republican paper had a long history in Decorah, extending back to the 1850's when it was the first paper published in Winneshiek County as the Decorah Chronicle. At that time the publisher and editor was a man named Tracy. In 1856, very soon after establishment of the paper, Judge M. V. Burdick became the editorial writer. The paper had financial problems through the years and Wesley Bailey and his son bought the paper in April 1860, succeeding B. F. Jones who had been publisher of the renamed Decorah Republic. The first paper published by the new management was on April 13, 1860. On March 15, 1866 the Decorah Republic became the Decorah Republican, and was published by A. K. Bailey and his brother. In 1912 Ed Bailey wrote the early history of Winneshiek County, but failed to include any information about himself or the Republican Paper. On September 30, 1915, after 33 years of publishing in the basement of the St. Cloud Hotel located on the corner of Winnebago and Main Street, the Decorah Republican was moved to 205 West Water Street. At that time Ed Bailey was the last of the Bailey family living in Decorah.

A very interesting item was printed in the Decorah Republican on April 1, 1905 The article related to a trip from McGregor to Decorah that happened over 50 years ago. A. K. Bailey and his family left McGregor at 8:30 AM on the stage. The driver of the stage was Bill Cobb, listed as one of the best in the area. A four-horse team pulled the stage. Mr. Bailey rode most of the trip sitting by the driver. The distance traveled was 45 miles. The team was changed four times and at 4:30 PM the stage arrived at the Decorah House on the corner of Washington and Water Street having traveled the 45 miles in nine hours.

Circa 1930 the Decorah Republican, was sold to the Decorah Public Opinion and relocated. The building was remodeled, for John Schimming who operated a drug store and soda fountain.

In 1936 Ed Shima purchased this building.

The next occupant was Tom Donlon, who moved here from Elkader IA. Donlon Drug Co was later moved to the Parman building, and then back to the Bear Building.

There is no record as to the arrival of J. E. Borlaug. J. E. Borlaug was one of Decorah's early photographers, and occupied the second floor of this building.