

Ronald and King in battle for throne

by Joseph Krushinsky, Jr.

It never seemed to be more than a meager battle. Oh sure there have always been bits of terrorist activity like "King Fling" and "Shamrock Shake," but only now has it turned into full scale war.

The last major offensive was back in the dark ages of fast food chains when McDonald's launched their breakfast fleet. There was no contest. No one clearly remembers the details, but Burger King has never really retaliated for the early morning strategy of the "Egg McMuffin."

Matters seemed to settle for a few years but the McDonald's big-wigs had something in mind. McDonald's always seemed to be most organized. Why they even sold war bonds in the form of Christmas gift certificates. But now they were onto something truly big.

Meanwhile, both "McDonald's" and "Burger King" had taken to the water with their "Fillet-o-Fish" and "Whaler" sandwiches, but the blandness of the "Whaler" (which was



camouflaged with lettuce to the point where the Burger King himself couldn't find the fish), and the McDonald's minnow (which was sweet-sauced out of its wits) seemed to be equally ineffective. This time, they would take to the air with "McChicken."

Just when Mayor McChees was about to claim victory, the Burger King knew it was time to push the button. In an instant an entire fleet of specialty sandwiches landed on the Golden Arches. By sea, a new and supposedly improved fish sandwich; by land a chopped steak sandwich complete with onion rings;

and by air the Burger King specialty chicken sandwich.

The battle was almost as bloody as it was greasy. "McChicken" died in its own juices. Tasteless as it was, it was no match for the King's delicately spiced chicken. It was a more expensive form of air defense, but worth every cent.

The Grimace certainly was grim, for Ronald McDonald had nothing to fall back on but the old standard "Big Mac."

The only good news in McDonaldland was that the King's new improved fish had drowned while fighting its way through the seaweed-like lettuce. The Chopped Beefs were ap-

proaching fast and "Big Mac" knew that if they were anything like the "Whopper" the battle could be tough.

The battle, as it turned out, was not as tough as the chopped-beef. Tough, dry and stringy. The char-broiled stripes painted down the sides fooled no one. This sandwich was steamed!!

On the northern front, McDonald's picked up an easy victory by beating down the "Ice-burger" with a combo of sundaes and "Soft Serve Cones."

Kids seemed to be the way to the top, so the Hamburgler stole the young hearts by starting a birthday club and introducing

"McDonaldland Cookies."

Feeling better about the whole situation, Ronald sent a squad of "double-cheeses" to take on the King's last attack — The Ham and Cheese Specialty."

The Ham was not particularly good in battle. It lacked the necessary zest and crispness needed to be a victor. Instead it was a cold and soggy failure, but with a large side order of onion rings, it managed to end the battle in a deadlock.

Tired and out of ideas, the Burger King and Ronald McDonald agreed to call a truce. A treaty signing ceremony was held at the Pizza Hut and the two then traveled to Wendy's for a Hot 'N' Juicy. There they met Arthur Treacher, who took them to the Fast Food cemetery where they visited the grave of Carrol's." The Burger King shed a tear.

It's peaceful on the Fast-Food Front now, but how long will it be ... who will make the next move? Shall it be McShrimp or the King's marvelous magical salad bar? Only time will tell.

Stage company delights audience

"The Elephant Man," a play written by Sir Frederick Treves, was presented in the Highacres Commons on October 6. The play centered around the story of John Merrick, "The Elephant Man," as seen by Treves.

Working with minimal props, the six-member Commonwealth Stage Company gave a surrealistic interpretation of Dr. Treves work.

The play began with Dr. Treves portrayed as an elderly man reflecting back on the life of his famous patient, John Merrick. Treves then reappeared as he was at the time when he was treating John Merrick. At one point in the play, Merrick's inner feelings were revealed when Will Dennis talked directly to the audience. Near the end of the play, Dr. Treves answered a score of questions about his famous patient, "The Elephant Man."

A look at the past . . . through the eyes of today

The Stockton mine cave-in

By Jerry Trently

It was close to Christmas, eight days to be exact. It was what would have been nine-month-old Elizabeth Rough's first Christmas. Elizabeth, the rest of her family, and the Swank family lived in a double house in Stockton, a small mining-patch town that adjoins Hazleton.

As the Roughs and Swanks slept the night of December 18, 1869, the very ground beneath them was being swallowed up into the workings of a coal mine. So swiftly was the house devoured, that neither family had time to escape the ensuing catastrophe. The sinking of the house probably did not kill the families. Embers from hand-fired coal stoves in the house set the structure ablaze. Ten people, members of the Rough and Swank families, in-



Monument at Stockton.

cluding baby Elizabeth Rough, burned to death that night.

Mining regulations were not as stringent in 1869 as they are in modern day mining. Speculation has it that a mining operator extracted coal too close to the surface, resulting in the tragic cave-in.

Only three of the ten bodies were recovered. A marker bearing the victims' names now stands on the site where

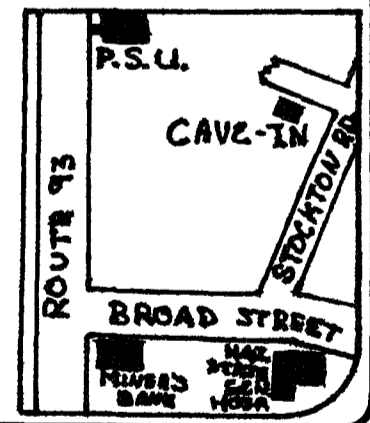
Elizabeth Rough would have seen her first Christmas, almost 112 years ago.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

"The Stockton Mine Cave-In" is the first in a series of articles appearing in "A Look At The Past . . . Through the Eyes of Today." Next issue, a turn to more recent history as "Look At The Past" takes a look at the filming of the movie, "The Mollie Maguires."

How to get there

A marker commemorating the cave-in can be located by driving east on Broad Street to Stockton Road. The turn for Stockton Road is a left turn off Broad Street near the Hazleton State General Hospital. At the first four-way intersection on Stockton Road, turn left. The monument is about fifty yards down the road, on the left side, about thirty feet from the roadway.



Highacres Harry

