

## Uncle Mike's 80-Year Collection Going, Going! — Far from Gone

Slackwater, Pa. — Michael Bender, when he died in February 1955 at 79, perhaps knew his lifetime collection of odds and ends, and antiques might throw any auctioneer into a spin.

Today, perhaps it has from the 12-room double house, from two huge basement rooms, is flowing an endless assortment of items.

When Parke Schaub, the auctioneer, wrote the sale bill, he was modest. Parke listed 25 guns. So far, 165 have been found and sold. How many more remain in rooms stacked to the ceilings? No one's willing to guess. Already three public sales have made only a dent in the mountains of what Parke can call "lots and lots not mentioned."

**Wall to Wall — Floor to Ceiling**  
Mike, according to his nephew, David C. Lefever, executor of the estate, once made the statement "I hope you have as much fun disposing of this as I did collecting it." By the time he passed away, his collections reached every wall, stretched to every ceiling. In some rooms, a passage-way was left there, like one

upstairs room, can be entered only by a ladder from the backyard. The backyard has been cleared, for the overflow of collections grass, into outbuildings, into spread like an avalanche into the Mike's old blacksmith shop. Staffordshire china; dishes, bureau knobs and countless other items of milk glass, pieces matched and unmatched, swords, bayonets, arrowheads — an arsenal from primitive and modern war — is seeing the light of day again for the first time in decades. Even a periscope has been unearthed.

In the first sale, 864 sales were listed, the second totaled 810, the third 79, and perhaps three more sales, the next at 29, will be necessary before the 12 rooms are cleared.

**"Check Every Cigar Box"**  
Buyers are coming from near and far. One lady from New Jersey is coming back for the next sale. One buyer is satisfied, but his curiosity may be challenged again, although his half dozen tulip goblets are complete now after finding two at the Bender sale. "Sold" at \$8 apiece!

"Check every cigar box," Uncle Mike warned his nephews — and the number of cigar boxes is apparently endless. Boxes of buttons, boxes of bullets, boxes of arrowheads, boxes of thungamajigs. Uncle Mike picked up as one of the best "nickel bidders" in Lancaster County sale history today are selling fast.

But Parke's finding there's more to come. What he first listed as a "mystery sale" is becoming a deeper mystery. He is as surprised as any bidder when he appears at each sale, to take his place atop a stand 6 feet wide, 60 feet long, that is loaded with knickknacks.

**Has His Prediction Come True?**  
David, meanwhile, is itemizing other items in this endless strange collection by the nickel bidder: already 150 pocket knives, 25 or 30 watches, 30 revolvers — many true antiques. But today the nickel's not worth as much as it was in Uncle Mike's day, and some items that might have cost Mike a nickel are selling for that sum a thousandfold.

## Wenger Ayrshires Go On Honor Roll

Two registered Ayrshire cows owned by Noah W. & Elma K. Wenger at Manheim recently completed 305-day records that placed them in the National Honor Roll. The total of these records equals 11,716 quarts of milk.

Four-year-old Home-Ayr Belle led the group by producing pounds of butterfat 13,353 pounds of milk and 516

across the road, the old race of Slackwater Creek rolls on the creek and the nearby covered bridge alone might be able to tell what Uncle Mike had in mind, building up an inheritance of relics into one of Lancaster County's most fabulous, most voluminous collections.

Uncle Mike? He's probably smiling that his prediction has come true, providing Lancaster County with one of its longest, most extended, most astounding auctions!

## LANCASTER COUNTY SALE DATES

### NOVEMBER

4 — Peach Alley, Household Goods, Elizabethtown.

5 — Aaron Good Holstein disp., one mile east of Maytown, two mile south Donegal Springs.

5 — Sarah Lindemuth, household goods, antiques, 12:30 p. m., 252 N. Market, Elizabethtown.

5 — New, used farm equipment, Atglen Farm Supply, West Valley Ave. — 12 Noon.

5 — Calra E. Miley, household goods, Lititz, 12:30 p. m.

5 — Mrs. Annie H. Musselman 122 No. Roberts Ave., New Holland, real estate, personal property, 1 p. m.

5 — Stella Heinaman, Talmage, real estate, personal property, Talmage 12:30 p. m.

5 — Mrs. Rebecca Stauffer, 5 Donegal Street, Mount Joy, personal property, home, 2 p. m.

5 — Louis J. Kilby, two tracts of land, household goods, 1/4 mile west of Rawlinsville, 1 p. m.

7 — E. R. Kraybill, 55 acres, mile west of Donegal Springs.

8 — R. F. Sterling, 65 acres, Back Run School House five mile west of Manheim.

8 — Ivan H. Nolt, 48 acres, 1-4 mile north Voganville 2 p. m.

10 — Leroy Landis, Laura K. Landis, 22 acres, between Elm and Penryn 2 p. m.

10 — Daniel G. Eshelman, 35 acres, between Route 241 and Manheim Road.

10 — Clyde E. Keener, Intersection 72 and 230, Lancaster 11 a. m.

11 — Morris G. Spickler, purebred Holstein cow-heifer dispersal, one mile east of Rheems, near Landis Stone Meal Plant.

11 — George A. Styer, 67 acres, one mile south Churchtown 1 p. m.

11 — C. P. Brantly, 60 x 120 lot, 212 N. Pitt St., Manheim 7 p. m.

11 — Mrs. N. H. Smith 224 College Ave., Elizabethtown, carpenter tools, paper hanging, painting outfits, 6:30 p. m.

11 — R. C. Shea, White Horse, general hardware and welding equipment, 10:30 a. m.

12 — Norman E. Hershey, household goods-antiques, Florin

12 — Alice Z. Hoover, 1 mile south of The Willows, household goods, 12:30 p. m.

12 — Frank A. Showalter Est., Grace C. Duck, adm., 531 W. Main, New Holland, personal property 12:30 p. m., real estate 2 p. m.

12 — Annual Auction, Lancaster Chapter, American Business Club, benefit of cerebral palsy.

Complete list of household goods, equipment, furniture, electrical goods, etc., Lampeter Sales Barn, Lampeter, 12:30 p. m.

12 — Landis Buchen Est., woodworking equipment, tools, lumber, furniture, etc., Farmersville 10 a. m.

17 — William Juzi, sale mgr for PGBA, Guernsey Sale pavilion, Lancaster.

## SUBSCRIBERS BONUS!

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## USDA Offices Combine; New Weather Man

Bernard N. White, 51, meteorologist who has served with weather stations at New Orleans and Milwaukee, has moved to second floor offices at 144-150 North Duke St., Lancaster. Here he has set up the new agricultural weather station.

Soon a moderate amount of equipment will be moved in, enabling Mr. White to record local weather and to interpret Harrisburg and Washington weather reports as they apply to the Lancaster County farm situation. He will make no original forecasts, but will issue special storm warnings for the local area, and will maintain weather records.

Two offices of the United States Department of Agriculture in Lancaster are now combined at Union Stock Yards today as a result of establishment of the U. S. weather station to serve Lancaster County agriculture.

Frank G. Fitzroy, supervisor of the Lancaster district office of the

Packers and Stockyards Branch, USDA, has moved into a new office at the Yards with David S. Lorenson, reporter for the USDA federal-state livestock market news office.

A full time clerk will serve both the market news and Packers Stockyards offices.

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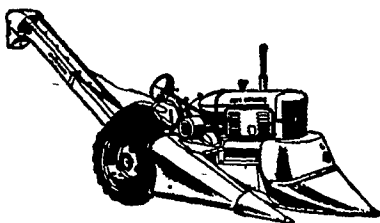
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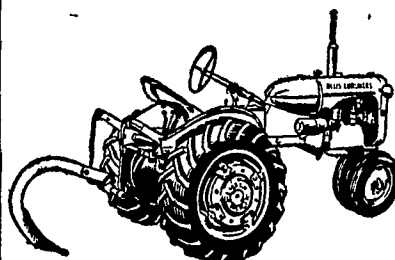
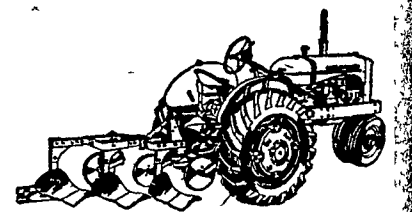


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