

1936 St. Patrick's Day Flood

(Continued from Page B27)

breakfast. The Williams family had spent the weekend at the family farm in Schellsburg, where there was plenty of vittles for all.

Ned and Al reached through the window of the flooded Williams cellar to retrieve a hose and began draining the water outside. Al, Ned and Mr. Valley used a broom and burlap sacks to mop up the mud.

Pearl added that they had escaped a lot of the smell of the flood waters because of the mud being removed so quickly.

That evening, Pearl used the large roast she had brought from the Schellsburg farm to make a beef stew, adding a lot of potatoes to make plenty for everyone.

It was the next morning, as the whole neighborhood began cleaning and scrubbing that the real scare came. The word got out that the dam had burst.

"Everyone began crying and

screaming. It was awful. I'll never forget it," Pearl says. "I was pretty scared but I said to Ned we may as well pack up and go to the farm as we were going anyway until the house dried out and water was safe to drink."

Packing what clothes they could find in a suitcase, Pearl filled her older son's Christmas wagon with toys and other childhood essentials, and they started for Schellsburg. Halfway to Geistown, they saw Ned's dad, John, and another man walking down the hill. They had come over to get them and would walk if necessary. They had been stopped by police and informed that the dam had broken and they were not allowed to drive any further.

Ned's dad was a long time farmer in Schellsburg and was one of the forerunners of getting Rural Electric to the farms in the area.

Thankfully, every-

one was to eventually learn that the dam had not broken.

Ned, Mr. Valley and yet another friend helped clean the Williams' cellar. Even the nails and screws in the workshop were full of mud, so they were dumped on screens to dry. They opened windows and burned two tons of coal in two weeks to dry out the house.

When Pearl and the boys returned from the farm she was horrified at what she saw.

The only livable room was a bedroom Ned had cleaned for them to use. He helped as much as he could, but business at Schenkemeyers was booming and with the Depression just over, money was a necessity.

A German lady next door had looked after their house when they were not there because looting had become a by-product of the flood.

Pots, pans and skillets had to all be taken out of the cupboards and sterilized and scoured. The stove was covered with muddy water but it still worked.

Helen, the Hungarian girl, was a big help with all of the hand cleaning and scouring.

"It took us a week to move everything back downstairs. It took only one night to move it up!"

"Helen is such a great helper that I am paying her \$3 a week plus her carfare over the weekend," Pearl wrote.

Helen was about to get a job at the Sanitary Dairy but stayed at the Williams' until she was called. Her efforts proved worth-

while as Pearl raised her pay to \$1 a day. The two painted and scrubbed the walls and Pearl found new curtains for the living room, kitchen, and bathroom.

It took her three days to write her letter to her sister who, thankfully, treasured it over the years and sent it to us upon her sister's death.

So, as the weather remains cold and the snow melts slowly, we are thankful. A slow melt will mean less chance of flooding. Even though my husband was very young, he remembers the fear and the hard work caused by the devastation of a flood.

An Auction House Built on Honesty

POTTERY Approximately 200 pieces by well known artisans including Stahl Seagreaves Breininger Russell Henry other pieces of contemporary and antique redware Also 2 Vernal Seagreaves water colors **ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES** Oak library table & washstand oak display case by F.H. Starling previously in store at 7th & Market St. Perkase pine drysink w/zinc lining Vict pcs Stuckley DR set 5 pc Depr style BR set 6 locomotive w/tender Pennsylvania 6064 (4 4 2) dated 1929 museum display formerly an operating amusement park train artwork including oils watercolors etchings lithos & prints gold GF silver & costume jewelry **FIREARMS** 22 cal rifles sgl bb shotguns half stock fowler misc ammo **BOOKS** 150 lots unlisted covering many topics & subject matters **TO BE SOLD AT 12 30** **CHINA & GLASSWARE** Wedgwood china Limoges dinnerware Lenox sculptured animals & birds J Beam bottles enamel glassware **TOOLS** Craftsman radial armsaw air compressor table router Delta 10 compound mitre saw Grizzly band saw & planer metal cutting band saw bench grinder drill presses wood lathe & tools hand & power tools assorted hardware Benwill TP 7 7000lb above ground automotive list

Preview March 19 5 7 PM & day of auction 7 9 AM Terms Partial Listing 10% Buyers Premium 215 393 3000 • More at www.alderferauction.com

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2 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
Fri. Mar. 21 & Sat. Mar. 22, 2003
9:30 A.M. Each Day

R.D 201 Orchard Drive Catawissa, Pa. Rain or snow, we will be under heated tent Lunch will be provided, but bring your chairs Take Bloomsburg exit off I-80 to Rt. 487 South through Bloomsburg to Catawissa, Pa. From Catawissa take Rt 42/487 South at split take 487 South 1.2 miles to Rohback's Farm Market, Turn at Auction Sign (Apple Road) go to stop sign & turn left onto Long Wood's Road Go 9/10 mile & turn at sign **Absolute** removal day of auction unless prior arrangements are made.

Antiques - Farm Equip. - 4 Wheelers - Golf Cart Toys - Collectables - Knives - Oak - Autos - Transits
Friday 9:30 A.M.

Tin wind-up Amos & Andy taxi cab, tin Bloomsburg bank, wood circus wagon & horses, Tin tiger cage toy, tin Mattel #503 "Farmer in the Dell" toy crank handle, tin friction San Francisco trolley car in box, child's scrub board, tin sm Doll buggy, "Chimp" cymbal smacking monkey, Child's Jaymar & Schoenhut pianos, **Cast Toys:** 20 mule team Borax wagon train, 2 cast Budweiser beer wagons with horses, fruit wagon, bakery wagon, train, motor cycle, Santa & reindeer, 2001 Hess truck, over 40 scale mod '40's & '50's cars & others, Child's Pacer pedal car, Tonka toys, Nylint Fire trucks, Lost in Space Robot B9; fire trucks, old tin windup Hercules Ferris wheel, Japanese cloth story books, silver "Presidents & First Lady" coins, 36 Franklin Mint 1973 1st Ed Proofs, lamps, nice old 7-1/2" maple corner cupboard glass top doors, wood bott. doors, 7' corner cupboard, painted, 8" Cherry corner cupboard 2 glass doors top & 2 solid doors bottom, Vanemden & Co child's candy mould, cherry drop-front sec. Cabinet, Halls tea pot, nice old 10 pc walnut dining-room suite, old rocking chairs, beautiful old oak "S" roll-top desk, 60" w with pigeon holes, child's roll-top desk, rockers, oak chests of dr., 4 drawer tiger oak dresser & mirror, beautiful 7 pc. maple waterfall bedroom suite, complete, 7-1/2' Grandmother's clock, Black Forest Coo Coo clock, Ingram & Gilbert mantle clocks, school desk, knife collection: over 50 Remington knives, also other nice brand name pocket knives, WWII Army bayonet, German Officers Suhl bayonet 11" blade, 6' wood airplane propeller, twin, full & Queen size beds, complete, beautiful old oak drop-front desk with mirror & door on side, fancy trim; oak treadle sewing machine, turtle-top trunk, old iron combination safe (have combination), marble-top table w metal stand, crocks & jugs, marbles, lg New oak curio cabinet, Oriental style lg. chest & sm curio cabinet; old National cast & brass cash register, 2 children's gas powered ride-on trains & track, doll cradle, leaded glass windows, Matchbox & Hot Wheel cars, cast pots, snare drum, Halls tea pot, lg 3-D Zepher "Iron Barque Schooner" plaque, nice blue velvet couch, 2 uph. caned-sides chairs, canes, salt & peppers; piano stool with claw feet, books, Emmett Kelly Jr train, sad irons, hanging scale; marbles; porcelain-top table, harmonica, coats with fur

Saturday 9:30 A.M.

1937 Oldsmobile car, "Country Doctor" by David Armstrong (#308/950) signed, "With Friends and Family" (#14/20) Artist Remarque, "Ellen Clark Bertrand Library (#18/50) Artist Remarque & "Spring House Garden" (#4/20) Artist Remarque all 3 by David Seybolt, Star Trek official collector shirt; 20 ct Kenmore S/S refri-freezer; lg Chest freezer, Kenmore auto washer & elec. dryer, 2 wood molding planes; microwave, Deacon bench, sewing machine, Imperial china serv. 12, binoculars, 20+ miniature lamps, kero & Dietz lanterns, set Hagen golf clubs & bag, 19" color TV, four 5,000 btu air conditioner, loveseat, couch & chairs, good useable toys & spring horses; 45 cal black powder pistol (repo.), office equipment & file cabinets, VCR, canes, umbrella stand, Occ Japan. books, Yamaha Moto 4 with special front mower, 2 transits, Curley Transit in org. wood case & Dietzgen Transit in case, barn full of old furniture, 1991 truck F150 XLT Ford Lariat 4 wh dr. 6' box & cap, Massey Ferguson Diesel two 8 gun cabinets, vac. cleaner, ladies & men's jewelry; Bentley electric guitar; 33 records; horse & cart brass weather vane, Stanley planes, many "new" tools, Sears power miter saw & table; 10 hp Snow Chief snow blower, like new, Dept. 56 Dickens Village, Snow Village & 17 porcelain houses from the North Pole series (from 1990 to 1994), signs & figures (apx. 65 pcs.), metal chicken feeders; baby buggy, scooters, tricycles; owl table & lamp; Kubota child's pedal tractor; sleds, all kinds hand tools, lg. Bolt cutters; wood planes; Sears 8" table saw; B. & D. work bench, gas weed whackers; 3 1/2 hp. Coleman power mate; 8 hp. B. & S generator; Ski-doo snowmobile H6690; Artic Cat snowmobile 1052 miles; Path Winder go-cart; 10 hp. Snow Chief snow blower; 8 hp Troy Bilt mulching mower; Big Bear 4-wheeler (.03 miles); Kubota tractor has (214 hours) w. front-end loader & backhoe TL240; gas E.Z. Go golf cart w. roof; Massey Ferguson tractor 275; Woods 8' brush hog; 3 Sears riding mowers; John Deere JD350C dozer; John Deere front-end loader & backhoe; farm use Ford dump truck, International tractor with front-end loader & 3 pt. hitch; 1988 G.M.C. Sierra 2 ton dump truck (20K), 1194 Case tractor with canopy; 6' brush hog, 25' & 26' trailers w. dual wheels, lawn & garden tools, Homelite chain saw; shop vac, Bostitch finish nailer & angle nailer & stick nailer, Dewalt cordless drill DW996K; 40' alum ladder, tow chains; 4-5 tons +/- wheat straw. Each day we will have many items too numerous to mention. Statements made day of auction take precedence over any previously written or stated material. NO credit cards or credit card checks Pay cash, Travelers Checks or good check, NO checks or out of state checks unless known by auctioneer Phone with any ?'s

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ANTIQUE AUCTION

WOOD NATURAL RESTORATIONS
18th & 19th CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL ITEMS
HARDWARE - WROUGHT IRON - ANTIQUE FURNITURE

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2003 AT 9 A.M.
PREVIEW MARCH 21, 5 TO 8 P.M. OR BY APPT.

Located North of Allentown, Penna., just South of Slatington, PA. From Allentown, take Rte 309 North to Schnecksville, at "Y" with Rte 873, take 873 North 4.1 miles. At church, turn right on Church Street, 50 yards on right!

HARDWARE: Over 500 pieces of hardware including German locks, box locks, strap hinges, pin-tels, thumb latches, butt hinges, blanket chest hinges, crab locks, Moravian spring locks and Victorian types. There are many pieces decorated with tulips, heart, rams head & bean motifs.

ARCHITECTURAL ITEMS: Over 200 batten doors, panel doors, shutters, barn Dutch doors, 10 Hex Signs, 20 mantels, 10 built-in cupboards, Victorian Gingebread & posts, lightening rods, Victorian carved lintels, 10 chimney cupboards, paint decorated doors, Federal style corner cupboard/reeded columns & bracket feet in old blue paint

WROUGHT IRON: Over 200 pieces of kettle chains, kettle hooks, shutter dogs, trammels, hasps, pump handles, pump spouts, foot scrapers, staples, slide keepers, snow catchers, anvil, feed bag holder crane, waffle iron, andirons, tongs, toaster, griddle, poker, rose head nails, some decorated-twisted-heart shaped. Blacksmith sign holder, 1751 stove plate.

ANTIQUÉ FURNISHINGS: Original paint red bucket benches, striped maple chest of drawers, decoated plank chairs, wood chests, night stands, spice & salt boxes, mortised bench, milk cupboard/yellow paint, tool chests, jelly cupboards, drop leaf table, primitive cupboards, slant top desk, walnut desk

NOTICE: For further items that may be added, or to see photos of items, check @ www.woodnatural.com All items are in excellent condition and have been kept under cover An auction will be held on April 26, 2003 in which other architectural elements, resawn wood, barn siding, beams, rafters, flooring, oak, cherry, & walnut lumber will be sold!

TERMS: Cash, Penna. check, or guaranteed funds, Visa & MasterCard with 2% handling fee. Out of state checks ONLY if accompanied by bank letter received prior to sale date with bank telephone number! Dealers bring current tax license to be copied!

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