

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, - - - Editor

A Week of Rest.

The thirty ninth volume of the DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN is concluded with this issue and its readers will not see it again until it begins the fortieth year, on the morning of January 4th, 1895. As is the custom all hands will rest next week the holiday season the better to enjoy.

We have tried to give you a paper upon which you could rely and when we look back over the year's work we feel that our efforts have not been fruitless. The WATCHMAN has always enjoyed a reputation for frankness that has had much to do with giving it prestige as a reliable journal. For local news it has a record for accuracy and scope that knows no equal, while its editorial, telegraphic and literary departments have been far above the high standard of former years.

Wishing you all a bright and joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year we bid adieu to '94, with the hope that its successor will bring mutual blessings and prosperity.

The Gazette Trying to Excuse Itself.

In the last issue of the *Keystone Gazette* appeared two letters, the text of which were intended to relieve that paper of all responsibility for the release of Mr. THOMAS BENNER from the mail carrier service in Bellefonte. In giving a news account of Mr. BENNER'S release, in a previous issue, the WATCHMAN had stated that it was made on account of complaints of irregularity in the mails at the *Gazette* office.

We had no idea of causing any reflections on the *Gazette* for complaining about the mail service and only published the action as a matter of news, relying on the editor of another town paper for the correctness of our story. Now whether the *Gazette* did complain or not, the rumor on the streets was that it did and when we come to look into the circumstances there is every reason to believe the rumor true. The *Gazette* is the only paper in town on Mr. BENNER'S route. He carried his mail and had nothing whatever to do with the mail relations of any of the other papers. It was the *Gazette* that complained to this office that it did not get its regular quota of two WATCHMANs and we made the same complaint to the *Gazette* office, because we did not receive two papers regularly from it. We did not consider it ill grounded to publish the story as we did, under such circumstances, and are surprised to see the *Gazette* making such strenuous efforts to get out of it. There is nothing for it to be ashamed of. If it did not get its mail regularly it had a perfect right to complain.

We Will Have to Vote on the Poor House Question.

The question as to whether Centre county shall have a poor farm, at which all her paupers will be given a home and the township overseer system done away with, or whether the manner of supporting the poor will continue as in the past, has at length taken definite shape. It has been agitating the minds of some ever since the scheme was voted down at a popular election twelve years, and largely through the efforts of Mr. JOHN B. LONG, of Rush township, it is to be brought up again for public consideration. He has studied the matter thoroughly and believes it both practicable and advisable for the county to unite in the establishment of a poor farm. Under the act of Assembly of June 4th, 1879, if a majority of the poor overseers of a county petition to the court to submit the question to an election, it must be done. A majority of the names of the overseers were found on a petition submitted to the court last Saturday and in response to their prayer, it ruled that at an election to be held the third Tuesday in February, in 1895, the people of Centre county can decide by ballot whether they want to abandon the old system and take up the new.

The districts petitioning for the election are: Walker, Boggs, Spring, Bellefonte, Milesburg, Phillipsburg, Rash, South Phillipsburg, Taylor, Worth, Union, Unionville, Liberty, Howard, Huston, Snow Shoe, Curtin, Howard, Walker, Patton, Benner, Half Moon, Fergusson, and Colledge.

Heavy Withdrawals of Gold.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The treasury department is informed that \$1,800,000 in gold was withdrawn from the sub-treasury at New York to day, thus reducing the gold reserve to \$91,554,909. The treasury gold reserve to day stands \$8,500,000 below the reserve limit of \$100,000,000. The rapidly with which the gold has been withdrawn from the treasury, since the second bond issue on Nov. 24, has given the officials at the New York sub-treasury so much work in handling and counting the money that extra force has had to be employed and worked over time. Since Nov. 24 last the treasury has lost \$25,500,000 in gold by withdrawals, two-thirds of which have probably been exported.

The Inquirer in Its New Home.

What may be definitely considered as one of the most notable and important events in the recent history of American journalism was the formal opening of the splendidly equipped new building of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, which took place last Saturday evening, in the presence of thousands of distinguished men from all parts of the United States. The *Inquirer* has long since come to be recognized as one of the leading newspapers of Pennsylvania, and its final settlement in its new and magnificent home, at Eleventh and Market streets, in the very centre of Philadelphia's business section, give it prestige among the greatest of the metropolitan dailies of New York and Chicago.

"The Only" is King.

The *Pittsburg Daily Post* gives all the latest news of the entire world for one cent. It is in the front rank of journalism. It is pre-eminently a family paper. It devotes a department daily to women and their doings. Its markets are complete and accurate. It is admirably illustrated and the best printed. In short, it is bright, clean, newsy, and costs only one cent, and is read by many thousands of people daily.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

—Within four weeks Mr. Reuben Watkins, of Mt. Eagle, and four members of his family have died from typhoid fever.

—Wardner Willard, a son of Mrs. Nan Willard, of Reynolds avenue, fell off the vaulting horse in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, on Monday, and fractured some of the bones of his wrist.

—Electric cars are running on the streets of Lock Haven now. On Saturday, the first day, between seven and eight hundred fares were rung up. One car on Sunday picked up over a thousand nickels.

—Mrs. Amelia Harper was found dead on the floor of her home in Aaronsburg on Tuesday morning. She had suffered with cancer but she was able to do about, as she had apparently been doing her morning work when death overtook her. A few friends who happened in found her shortly after life had fled.

—A pleasant way to spend Christmas evening will be to go to the opera house and see Diehl's stereopticon exhibition. The views will be instructive as well as amusing. You can see more of the world in an hour up there than you can in years of travel. Many views have been added to the well selected list. Among them the celebrated "Ten Night's in a bar-room" series.

—CEDARS' HOLIDAY DAINTIES.—The best candies, clearest toys, the freshest cakes and breads, the largest nuts and the greatest variety of ices are to be found only at Cedars' Allegheny street bakery and confectionery. Special attention is being paid to the holiday trade up there and you can buy more good things at Cedars' this year than ever before, and for less money. Call and see for yourself.

—The *Karlsruhe Times* says deer are so plenty in West Keating township that a lady caught one and put it into an outbuilding and kept it until Deacon Jones came home and killed it on Monday of last week. The deer dressed about 100 pounds. He ran against a wire fence on the old Jones' farm turning somersaults and landing in the yard on his back. Before he could regain his feet Miss Jones caught the deer and banded him into the meat house and closed the door.

—Boys and girls grain shoes, solar tip 60 cts., 55 cts., 70 cts., 75 cts., 90 cts., and \$1.00. Lyon & Co.

—Holiday goods at Green's pharmacy.

—AID THE LOGANS.—The fair which the Logan Steam Engine Co. intends holding in Temple Court all of next week will be wholly dependent for its success or failure, on the good feeling of the people of the town. If you are disposed to help them a little present some trinket suitable for such a sale. It will not cost you much, but it will mean a great deal to the firemen, who have been trying to get their apparatus paid for. They can do it in this way without much expense to anyone and as it is wholly to the public interest their work is directed the firemen should receive every encouragement.

NEWS FOR PENSIONERS.—By the issue of December 5th Oliver P. Wilson, of Hublersburg, was granted a pension and George M. Fransler, of Port Matilda, was awarded an increase.

A FAREWELL BANQUET.—The Bellefonte lodge I. O. O. F. had a social session in their rooms in the Exchange annex last night, the object being a farewell banquet to their brother Odd Fellow Rev. Miles O. Noll. Rev. Noll expects to leave for his new field of pastoral duty, at Carlisle, before the first of the year and the fraternal spirit that has always manifested itself in his relations with his brothers of the order found his response in the testimonial given him last night. During Mr. Noll's stay in Bellefonte he has made friends of everyone and his departure will leave a sphere unfilled that will be noticed in more ways than one.

BIERLY'S FESTAL DAYS.—The latest musical compilation by Prof. Alfred Bierly, of Chicago, Ill. is out under an attractive cover and the caption "Festal Days." It is especially adapted for singing classes, musical conventions and societies in that it begins with the rudiments of music and ends with the highest grade of choral music. The frontispiece is a handsome full page picture of the composer and publisher, whose music has become so popular in this section.

The book contains more than one hundred choice selections, is printed on good paper and should prove a ready seller.

TWO OF THE TRIPLETS DEAD.—The trio of baby girls that has been the centre of attraction at the home of Robert Bosough, on east Bishop street, this place, for the past fifteen months, is broken and little Ruth, the prettiest of the triplets is dead. Several weeks ago the babies all took the measles, that is epidemic in the town, and were getting along fairly well until Ruth was prostrated with pneumonia. She died on Tuesday evening.

Yesterday at noon another of the two died but the third was on a fair road to recovery. It is too bad that after having lived this long, with every promise of growing up into strong healthy children those interesting triplets should fall victims to disease. The two will be buried in the same coffin this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

MARRIAGE LICENCES.—Issued during the past week taken from the docket: Franklin E. Scantling, of Blanchard, and Mamie Jackson, of Lock Haven. John S. Dale and Caroline Summy, both of Lemont.

John T. Watson and Laura E. Conner, both of Boggs Twp. Geo. B. Lee and Kate C. Moyer, of Potter Twp. Chas. E. Cowdrick, of Bellefonte, and Emma J. Ross, of Spring Twp. John B. Ruble, of State College, and Sarah Hoy, of Lemont.

John H. Fogelman, and Sarah E. Mechtly, both of Patton Twp. Elmer E. Bartley, of Bellefonte; and Ella M. Stover, of Aaronsburg.

—Two thousand heavy flannel shirts worth \$1.50 are selling at 50 cts. Lyon & Co.

—A half hour spent in looking over our assortment will give you a fair idea of the popular styles, and we can only hope that it will be as much pleasure for you to see as for us to show our goods.—Samuel Lewin's.

—Shaeffer the photographer is offering some great endurances until Jan 1st, 1895.

FOSTER STILL TALKS WEATHER.—My last bulletin gave forecasts of the storm wave to cross the continent from 16th to 20th, and the next, which was due in Japan about Dec. 8, will reach the Pacific coast, near the Columbia river's mouth, about the 20th, cross the western mountains by close of 21st, the Mississippi valley and upper lakes 23d, Ohio valley, east gulf and lower lakes 24th, eastern states 25th, and Newfoundland 26th.

The path of this storm center will lie along the northern boundary of the United States, causing unusually warm weather all over the country preceding and during the passage of the disturbance, only moderately cool weather following.

Rainfall from this disturbance will be limited to small areas and excessive evaporation will cause drouth in many parts of the country. Better rains may be expected from the next disturbance. Warm waves will cross the western mountain country about the 20th, the great central valleys about 22d and the eastern states about the 24th. Cool waves will cross the western mountain country about the 23d, the great central valleys about the 25th and the eastern states about the 27th.

My forecast of a dry November has been wonderfully well verified, not more than half the usual amount of rain having fallen during the past month.

WHY CHILDREN HANG STOCKINGS—

The custom of hanging stockings on Christmas eve, like that of preparing the Christmas tree, is derived from the Germans, who have a fable that while the stockings of good children are filled with toys and sweetmeats by Kris Kringle, a corruption of Christ Kindlin, or Christ child—those of bad ones receive nothing but a small rod or switch, which is placed in them by another personage, known as Pelsnichol, literally Nicholas with fur, meaning St. Nicholas dressed in fur. It is a rare sight on Christmas morning in a German household to see the expression of abject misery and broken heartedness on the face of some poor little wight who, having been disobedient or otherwise naughty on Christmas eve, finds in his stocking only a small birch rod, while the hosiery of his brothers and sisters is filled with bonbons and playthings. The dread of getting the rod, from old Pelsnichol on Christmas, keeps many a German child in order throughout the entire year.

WEDDING BELLS CHIME FORTH.—

A pretty wedding ceremony was solemnized at the palatial country home of Mr. Joseph Ross, near Pleasant Gap, on Wednesday evening, at 7 o'clock. The colonial stone homestead was thronged with merry people who had assembled to witness the nuptials of the daughter of the family, Miss Emma Ross, to Mr. C. E. Cowdrick, the youngest son of contractor Morris Cowdrick, of east Linn street, this place. Rev. J. C. Young, of the Methodist church pronounced the ceremony after which a reception was held and a sumptuous wedding supper served. The bride is a charming young girl who will make a loving and practical wife. Her husband is a brick layer and a young man of good habits and kind disposition. Their union will prove a happy one, no doubt, and the WATCHMAN extends its hearty congratulations.

Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Cowdrick, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Garman, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cowdrick, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Riddle, Miss Mable Cowdrick, Mr. Christ Dale, Misses May Eckenroth, Nettie Gill, and Mamie Dolan, Messrs. T. P. Cowdrick, Role Miller, Ammon Kerstetter, Will Harrison, Harry Hile, Mr. and Mrs. William Ross, and Mr. and Mrs. Potter Tate.

Many useful and costly presents were received and the Pleasant Gap band rendered a delightful serenade shortly after the ceremony.

Holiday goods at Green's pharmacy.

—Those fine enameled photos of Shaeffer's greatly slaughtered in price until Jan. 1st, 1895.

MORE NOTORIETY FOR BELLEFONTE.—Bellefonte or some of her people seem to be continually gaining notoriety in one way or another. Last week it was the dedication of the new armory that attracted attention from all parts of the country. This week the town of Bellefonte is being talked of because of the escapades of one of her former sons.

Charley Valentine, oldest son of Mr. Abram Valentine formerly of this place, now of Atlantic City, N. J., was arrested in El Paso, Tex., one day last week, while eloping with a Mrs. Mulvaney, whom he had met at the seaside resort and who had grown tired of her ancient husband.

The story runs as follows: The Mulvaney were wealthy and Charley met them at the shore. Mrs. Mulvaney, young and pretty, had married for money and was consequently little in love with her husband. When he fell from a carriage last September and broke his wrist, the doctors advised a western trip for recuperation. They decided to go but the Mrs. insisted that her husband should have a nurse and as Charley Valentine had nothing in particular to do, the wife thought it would be just the plan. Well Charley was just looking for that kind of a job, so the party set off, with San Francisco as their destination. The nurse kept the old man's nerves up by liberal doses from a "black bottle," but by the time they reached Omaha, Neb., such a metamorphosis had transpired that Valentine had become Mulvaney, while old Mulvaney was known as Valentine. The patient was in a stupor and was put to bed at a hotel, where Charley left instructions that he and his wife were going away for a day and the old man should not be disturbed.

Immediately upon their departure the suspicions of the hotel people were aroused and going to the old man's room they found him lying on the bed fully dressed. When he regained consciousness he would not believe that his wife had gone off until he missed \$10,000 in cash and \$7,000 worth of jewelry. Warrants were issued and the elopers were promptly furnished cash bail for the two, but they were held on other charges.

Charley Valentine is well known here and this escapade is a great surprise to those who knew him. It is not thought here that he drugged old Mulvaney with the intent of putting him out of the way, as the city papers assert.

HOW CURTIN WAS TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OFF.—

A short time after the death of the lamented Andrew G. Curtin, the WATCHMAN published a clipping from Kate Field's *Washington*. The story that article told was of a plan which the confederate soldiers had concocted to capture and carry off Curtin, who was then one of the central figures of the North, and whose sojourn at Bedford Springs brought him within a single night's march of the rebel lines.

The article, as it appeared, was incorrect as to the date of the proposed carrying off of Pennsylvania's Governor and as it reached the eye of a friend of the rebel General, who had planned the capture, he sent a marked copy to him asking for his confirmation or correction of the story. The officer in question was none other than the daring General Imboden, who was campaigning and recruiting in the Shenandoah valley at the time, and his answer which appeared in a recent issue of the *Everett Republican* is especially interesting to Centre countyans who will be surprised to learn how narrowly Curtin did escape falling into rebel hands. The letter is as follows:

DAMASCUS, VA., November 23, 1864.

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to see your handwriting once more in a letter addressed to me. The accompanying newspaper, the *Everett Republican*, also has come to hand.

I inclose you a letter from Mr. Parthemore referring to the same matter. He also sent me Kate Field's mention of the incident. It has some foundation in fact, but there are some errors in it—especially as to the date of my intended raid, and as to my telling Governor Curtin that "if he had stayed in Altoona a couple of hours longer he would have been captured and carried off."

I have promised Mr. Parthemore to send to him a condensed statement of the facts on the Confederate side for Gov. Curtin's biographer writing in the Government's publication of the "Records of the War," of which some 95 volumes have been issued, that will fix accurately the date of my "raid." All my military papers were lost or burnt after the surrender of Gen. Lee's army in 1865.

Typhoid fever so prostrated me in the Fall of 1864 that I got a temporary transfer to light duty in Georgia, to terminate April 1st, 1865. But at that time General Sherman and Stonewall Jackson had so completely cut off communication between Virginia and Georgia that it was impossible for me to reach the former State from the latter.

When Gen. Lee surrendered my brigade was scattered on detached duty in the Shenandoah valley, from Harrisonburg to Fincastle, in Botetourt county. Hearing of Lee's surrender the officers disbanded my men, who went to their homes in the mountains of Virginia, taking their horses and arms along, and I suppose secreted or burnt my official books and papers. At least all efforts on my part to recover them have failed. The present Governor of Virginia, Lieut. Col. O'Ferrall of the 23d Virginia cavalry of my brigade, marched a fragment of the regiment to Winchester and surrendered formally.

So you see I have no records to fix dates and events, except by reference to General Lee's records or those of the War Department at Washington, and they are far from complete as to my little command in the Valley and North-west Virginia.

In 1862 I was withdrawn from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army at Yorktown and sent by President Davis to the Virginia mountains to enlist, from beyond our then occupied lines all the men I could "stir up!" Jackson dislodging Schenck, Milroy, Fremont, Banks and Shields from the Valley in May and June, 1862, (in which I took a humble part with only about 200 men I had secured in 2 or 3 weeks), greatly facilitated my recruiting. In fact men came in so fast I had difficulty in arming them, and by October of that year I had over 2,000 mountaineers in rank, and by January, 1863, a full brigade, including a gun company of horse artillery. Of my command 200 or 300 were Marylanders, so that I had a command embracing men who were admirable guides to go where I wished, and they all had left friends at home whose deepest sympathies were with us.

My aim and duty were to cripple the B. & O. R. R. as often and as much as possible. My information of affairs on that road from Harper's Ferry to Cumberland was as accurate as they had at Washington, and I was thus enabled to strike it many a disastrous blow, with little loss on my part. I nearly always surprised the road guard by night marches of from 30 to 50 miles. Such was my success on the B. & O. that I conferred with Gen. Lee to try to get him to send a co-operating cavalry force of 2,500 men whose movements I would mask in an effort for them to reach Pittsburgh via Fairmount and the Monongahela river, whilst I crossed the Potomac below Cumberland, would make a dash at Altoona and burn all the shops there and blow up the engines, and take such a course for re-treat into the Virginia mountains as would enable me to unite with the *thru* retreating column from Pittsburgh.

This scheme made a deep impression on Gen. Lee, but with McClelland in his front he did not feel safe in detaching the force I deemed necessary to certain success. I had plenty of men with me to send in little squads a day or two in advance, who, with the aid of their friends at home, could have cut and kept cut and unserviceable all the wires that could betray our movements. That big raid was never undertaken, but my "heart was set on getting a lick" at Altoona. I kept him going away at the B. & O. during the Summer of 1862, and thinking much about the Pennsylvania road, but never saw an opening that I deemed safe, and Gen. Lee had cautioned me against rashness.

I think it was August, or early in September, 1862—not 1863, as Kate Field has, nor 1865, as the editor of the *Everett Republican* has it, but in 1862—that I heard via Cumberland that Governor Curtin, Hon. Simon Cameron and Col. A. K. McClure were at Bedford Springs for a brief period of rest; and I thought that possibly where these important public and brainy men were others of note would be about. So I sought more positive information to reach me at Hancock, and to be governed by it, and set out to cross the Potomac there with about 1,000 men, sending detachments up and down the B. O. road to do what damage they could, and to join me at H'n. cook; intending, if the information justified it, to make a night dash on Bedford, "bag the big game," and, if the wires were cut on the Pennsylvania road, send my prisoners back to Virginia and go on to Altoona.

I remember my plan then was to fire up

every locomotive, put on a forced draft, chain down the safety valves, and wait at a safe distance, covering all entrances to the shops with our rifles, till the explosions began, then retire as we came 'till after night fall and make for the Potomac where we might be least expected. I waited an hour or two at Hancock in vain for the positive information I wanted, and for lack of which I turned back to Virginia, except to do some "work" on the B. & O. which being done it was natural we should go back to our camp at Moorfield. But for some imprudence on the part of some one—perhaps an over-eager inquiry for Governor Curtin exciting suspicion—I might have gone and captured him and his friends, who would have proved a "big card" in our hands to force changes there in a muddle. The truth is I should have pushed right on. It has been said that "the woman who hesitates is lost." So I am convinced that in war the commander or who hesitates, where the chances are even and the object to be achieved is important, commits a great blunder. Hoping for another opportunity I kept this scheme very quiet, but no such chance ever presented itself again.

To show what cool daring may accomplish I need only refer to the capture of Generals Crook and Kelly, at Cumberland, a little over two years later, by Captain Jesse McNeill of my brigade, where, with 40 men, he took them out of their beds late at night when their army of 8,000 men lay asleep all around and in the city, and sent them to Richmond.

In 1876 I became intimately acquainted with Governor Curtin and often discussed this affair with him. He was a great and noble man, and I am proud to have numbered him among my warm friends, and often told him how much I regretted not forming his acquaintance at Bedford and showing him chivalrous hospitality in my mountain camp—an honor I surely should have had that night but for some one's blundering or my lack of nerve to push on. He told me he and his friends were amusing themselves in a pleasant game of cards, which was summarily ended. How he felt they got away I do not remember. Truly your friend,

J. D. IMBODEN.

P. S.—A later letter from Gen. Imboden fixes the date of his intended raid on Bedford as in August or September, 1862.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OLD.—The Young Men's Christian Association of this place celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization by a joint meeting in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches last Sunday night.

In the former a male quartet, with full orchestral accompaniment, lent at tractiveness to the services, while in the latter church a male choir, accompanied by Mr. Meyer on the pipe organ, led the singing.

State Secretary Hurlburt, Assistant State Secretary, Gilbert A. Beaver, J. W. Gephart Esq., and Mr. F. H. Cota, secretary of the local association, were the speakers who entertained the people with the facts of the objects and remarkable work and growth of the Y. M. C. A. all over the world.

To most of those present Mr. Cota's report for the year was a revelation. Very little attention is paid, by a majority of our people, to the stone house, on north Allegheny street, which affords an asylum for all kinds of men, where a wholesome christian atmosphere pervades a cheerful reading room, a cosy parlor and an attractive game room, and where a fully equipped gymnasium and clean baths afford a means of physical development and culture. The eighteen thousand men, who visited the place during the year just closed attest, however, what such a place means to them. Many of them with no homes, find there a bright, cosy place where they are always welcome and the result is, they frequent it. Others without employment improve their idle moments in the reading rooms and every night parties of young men are kept off the streets by the attractive gymnasium.

During the year 2,000 young men attended gospel meetings in the rooms, 1,500 young men confessed Christ there, 1,500 attended receptions and entertainments, 600 took baths and 140 attended educational classes.

Is this not a record that should inspire a generous support? The association has never done such good work and its secretary is to be congratulated on the zealous manner in which he has labored for its success.

Help your own son, by helping such a telling work.

BOROUGH BUSINESS TRANSACTED.—

Council met as usual on Monday night and transacted the following business: Upon a petition presented by Jas. I. McClure the matter of laying a board walk out to the Brown row, at the car shops, was referred to the Street committee with power to act in requiring property owners to build same. Petitions from residents of Curtin street for another arc and several incandescent lights for that thoroughfare and from residents of Howard street for another arc light were referred to the same committee.

The Street committee reported that the end of the Curtin street fiasco is in sight and recommended the payment of \$280.54 for two week's work thereon. The water committee reported the lowering of pipes on Curtin street at a cost of \$220.

There were no further reports and council adjourned after instructing the Street committee to confer with the County Commissioners for the immediate erection of the new bridge over Spring creek, at the foot of Lamb street, which was recommended by the grand jury some time ago.

—Notwithstanding the strike we have received two hundred Misses coats from \$2.00 to \$5.25. They are really worth from \$4.00 to \$9.00.