

No Paper Next Week.

No paper will be issued from this office next week, in accordance with the old-time custom of giving the employees a week's holiday at Christmas time.

NEWS ABOUT TOWN AND COUNTY.

—65 ct. brooms at Gross' store. —"My Wife's Friend," a big musical show, will come to Garman's on Tuesday night, December 30th.

—Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Rumberger, of Unionville, will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary on December 29th.

—The tea given by Mrs. Lewis Daggett Saturday afternoon, was in compliment to Mr. Daggett's cousin, Mrs. Maynard Murch Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, who is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Wells L. Daggett at the Bush house.

—The holiday week amusement attraction, at Garman's, will be "My Wife's Friend," which will play here on Tuesday night, December 30th. It is a big show, with a strong cast of comedians and singers who are making a great hit on the road.

—The regular meeting of the Woman's club will be held in the High school building Monday evening, December 29th. From the program a very interesting meeting is promised, so that all the members are asked to make a special effort to be present.

—A civil service examination will be held at the Bellefonte postoffice on January 9th to fill a contemplated vacancy in the position of fourth class postmaster at Snow Shoe. The compensation of the postmaster at Snow Shoe during the past fiscal year was \$999.00.

—The Bellefonte public schools will close today for the holiday vacation which will extend two weeks or until the fifth of January. The Bellefonte Academy will give a three week's vacation and the Pennsylvania State College will close tomorrow for a vacation of two weeks.

—Don't overlook the fact that the scenic will be the one place in Bellefonte where you can get delightful entertainment every evening during the holiday season. Motion pictures appropriate to the season will be shown as well as many others which will interest and entertain you.

—Fire at the Alpha Delta Sigma fraternity at State College early last Friday morning caused about two thousand dollars damage, most of which was covered by insurance. The fire started in the stock room in the basement and the entire food supply, valued at four hundred dollars, was destroyed.

—Under the new law members of the reorganized National Guard will be paid twenty-five per cent of the regular soldier's pay, or \$7.50 a month for privates, with proportionate pay for commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Efforts are now being made to reorganize old Troop L with as many of the old men in the ranks as possible.

—Frank H. Towers, who succeeded Mr. Blakesley as manager at the Bellefonte aviation field, has resigned from the service and on Wednesday morning left Bellefonte for Chicago, where he will spend the holiday season with his family, going from there to Lincoln, Neb., about the first of the year to take a position with the Lincoln Aerial Navigation company.

—Commemorating the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of the death of George Washington, the members of Washington camp No. 387, P. O. S. of A., of Bellefonte, held a special meeting on Sunday afternoon. Clement Dale Esq., was in charge and appropriate addresses were made by Revs. M. DePue Maynard, E. J. Dunn and Wilson P. Ard.

—A victory dance was given at the Bellefonte Academy on Saturday evening in honor of the football team and as a compliment to the members of the victorious State College team the members of that aggregation were invited as honor guests. Twenty or more came down from the college, including Capt. Higgins, Capt. Hess and a number of the other leading members of the team. The dance was held in the big assembly room at the Academy and Penn State and Academy colors were blended in the decorations. Music was furnished by the Academy orchestra.

—Quite naturally everybody would like to have turkey for Christmas, as it has always seemed the most appropriate dish for the Christmas dinner. But there will probably be fewer turkeys served this year in Bellefonte than ever before, unless the price at which they can be bought is right. Turkeys are not exactly scarce, but the price some farmers have been asking for them makes them prohibitive to the average man, while many others will not pay more than the right price for them. A few turkeys were sold in Bellefonte at Thanksgiving at 40 cents a pound, but not any great number was bought at that price. One or two growers who brought turkeys to town at that time even offered them at 35 cents but found few anxious buyers. Just what price will be asked now has not yet been learned, but it is highly probable that there will be more chicken dinners in Bellefonte on Christmas than there are turkey.

STINE DAMAGE CASE IN HANDS OF JURY.

What was certainly the largest actual money damage suit that has been tried in the Centre county courts in many years was brought to a close yesterday, after a trial that extended for a week and two days when the court charged the jury and it retired. It has been deliberating since 11:20 yesterday morning and up to 5 o'clock last evening had made no finding.

The case was that of S. B. Stine, founder and machinist, of Osceola Mills, versus the Pennsylvania Railroad company and grew out of the destruction by fire of the complainants shops on the afternoon of October 25th, 1917. Mr. Stine's plant was located right at the railroad station at Osceola Mills. He did a general foundry and machine business, specializing in mine equipment and mine cars. Being located immediately alongside of the tracks of the defendant company it was subject to the hazard of fire from locomotive sparks just as all other property located within range of locomotives with imperfect spark arresters.

Both sides presented many witnesses and much time was consumed in detail so that the summing up of counsel for both sides was not concluded until Wednesday. It was so late when the plaintiff concluded that the court decided not to charge the jury until yesterday morning, feeling that had it been done at the conclusion of Judge Reed's address to the jury, Wednesday evening, the jury would have been in the box probably all night and as no time would have been saved and much inconvenience suffered thereby it was better for all to withhold the charge until yesterday morning and thus send the jury into daylight deliberation. The Judge spoke for an hour and ten minutes in delivering his charge.

Primarily the case hinged on the fact as to whether the plant caught fire on the inside or outside of the buildings and, if on the outside, was it from an engine spark and was the railroad company negligent in anything that would have prevented the spark from falling on the roof of the defendants' building. All of Stine's witnesses testified that when they first noticed the fire it was on the roof. All of the railroad company's witnesses, who saw it at all, testified that before they saw any flames at all they saw smoke curling up from under the eaves as though the fire was on the inside of the building. The next step in the development of the case was to establish the damages sustained through the fire. This included the physical loss on the property and the loss of business during the period the plant was being removed to reserve buildings that Mr. Stine owned on another location near by. The plaintiff presented witnesses to show a loss in plant and machinery of about \$113,000. The defense met this with expert testimony that did not vary much from the valuations Mr. Stine placed on his machinery but very greatly on other items. Of course all values were based on war time costs which made them much higher than they would have been in nominal times.

The plaintiff was represented by M. W. Fleming, assisted by Judge Reed who was participating in his last case before taking his new position on the Public Service Commission, and attorneys Boulton and Forsyth, of Clearfield. John Blanchard, resident counsel for the Pennsylvania Railroad company, defended the case alone. The jurors sitting on the case were C. H. Bierly and Ira Brungard, Miles township; A. K. Corl, Ferguson township; Lester R. Fink, Huston township; Charles A. Houtz, Union township; P. P. Leitzel, Millheim; Joseph Lutz, Centre Hall; W. S. Lucas, Gregg township; S. B. Miller, Bellefonte; O. P. McCord, Rush township; William Solt, Howard; S. H. Wigton, Philipsburg.

Funk Bungalow Badly Damaged by Fire.

The new bungalow of Edward Funk which was fast nearing completion on east Curtin street was badly damaged by fire on Wednesday night, and from all appearances the origin is in doubt. Investigations prove almost conclusively that the fire started on the rear porch and the flames had gained considerable headway when discovered shortly before midnight. Both fire companies responded promptly to the alarm but it naturally took a little time to get to the burning building, which is located on east Curtin street, but when the firemen got there they did good work and saved the home from total destruction. But the entire rear part of the building was badly burned and Mr. Funk estimates the damage of both fire and water at from \$3,000 to \$8,500 dollars. A portion of the loss will be covered by insurance, but the most calamitous feature of the fire is that it will set back the completion of the house indefinitely.

—Sugar is sugar these days and buyers cannot afford to be particular, so when a certain grocery store in Bellefonte this week offered cake sugar that was almost the color of chocolate at 15 cents a pound buyers took it. On Wednesday, however, the agent came to Bellefonte and Mr. Groceriesman asked him what kind of sugar that was that he had palmed off on him. The agent asked to see it and on being shown a cake discovered that it was the real, simple pure maple sugar worth 35 cents a pound. It had been shipped to the grocer by mistake and he was selling it out at 15 cents a pound.

Two in One.

It is not often that the opportunity to do two gracious things with one transaction presents itself. It is yours, however, if you act upon our suggestion to let the "Watchman" be your Christmas message of good will to some friend. In fact it would be fifty reminders of your thoughtfulness. And at the same time you are ordering such an acceptable gift for some one who does not get the paper you will be adding another name to our subscription list; a matter that we will appreciate greatly.

Real, practical, useful gifts are the kind that people are most delighted to receive and while the cost of this paper is only \$1.50 a year the recipient will value it far higher, for there is nothing that is more necessary in the well regulated home than a good home newspaper and the "Watchman" is all of that, even though it hasn't increased its price or decreased its quality.

Some of Those Who are Ill.

Charles R. Beatty is ill with pneumonia at his home on east Linn street, and for the reason that pneumonia is always serious, Mr. Beatty's many friends are very much concerned with regard to his condition.

Mrs. W. H. Wilkinson and C. T. Gerberich, both of whom have had severe attacks of acute indigestion within the past ten days, are slowly recovering.

The many friends of Mrs. D. G. Bush will be sorry to hear of a fall she had last Sunday, which resulted in the dislocation of her right shoulder. The accident occurred at the home of Mrs. Sides, at Jersey Shore, where Mrs. Bush has been since leaving Bellefonte early in November.

George E. Rhoads, head of the firm of Geo. E. Rhoads and Sons contractors of this place, had quite a serious attack of acute indigestion on Saturday. He responded to treatment promptly, however, and was able to be up by Monday.

John Steele, who has been ill with the grip at the home of his sister, Mrs. Bower Holter, on Pine street, for three weeks, is about able to go out again. John was severely gassed while overseas so that he is susceptible to the slightest cold.

Word was received in Bellefonte Wednesday of the serious illness of Frank M. Shugert, who had been taken to the Clearfield hospital, suffering from a blood clot on the brain. Although paralyzed and in a critical condition, Mr. Shugert's recovery is hoped for through the absorption of the clot.

—Women's \$15.00 shoes, new goods, latest styles, reduced to \$10.00 until Christmas, at Yeager's. 50-1t

Whitmer—Markley. — Samuel C. Whitmer and Miss Lulu A. Markley, both of Bellefonte, went to Greensburg on Tuesday of last week and were united in marriage at the United Brethren parsonage by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Knapp. They will reside on the bridegroom's farm near Bellefonte.

The wedding of Mr. Whitmer and Miss Markley is the climax of a pretty little romance. The bride was an orphan whom the Whitmers took into their home when only a child. She grew up and into the hearts of the family so completely that their relations were always most happy and the union of the son and the estimable girl is a fitting denouement.

Miller—Haney.—B. E. Miller, service man at the Beatty Motor company, and Miss Grace Haney, of St. Mary's, Ohio, were married in the latter place on Thanksgiving day. They will reside in Bellefonte.

State Highway Bids.

Bids were opened at the State Highway Department on Tuesday for the construction of 1720 feet of highway in Bellefonte borough, being the section from Allegheny street along Bishop, Spring and Pine to the borough line, the lowest bidder for which was Frank Murphy, of Altoona, whose bid was \$38,783.98.

Bids were also opened for the construction of 5326 feet in State College borough. Leo E. Kelly, of Brooklyn, was lowest bidder, his figure being \$154,878.45.

—Boy's \$8.00 shoes reduced to \$5.00 at Yeager's, until Christmas. 50-1t

—On Monday when Bellefonte people were shivering in the sudden cold snap pilot Frank A. Robinson flew from Heller field, N. J., to Bellefonte wearing B. V. D's, silk hose and low shoes, and when he got out of his plane at the aviation field said that the only parts of him that felt the cold were his hands and his heels. No plane was sent west that day owing to the terrific blizzard in the neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio.

—The best coffee at the least money at Gross'. 50-1t

NEWS PURELY PERSONAL.

—Miss Katherine Curtin returned Tuesday from a two week's stay in Syracuse.

—Fred Lane, of Ford City, is in Bellefonte for a vacation, visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John N. Lane.

—Mrs. Charles A. Morris has returned to Bellefonte after visiting for two weeks in Philadelphia and Washington, D. C.

—Col. and Mrs. W. F. Reynolds' Christmas guests will be their two sons, Frederick and Phil, both at business college in Philadelphia.

—Mrs. D. R. Foreman and Mrs. Gotlieb Strohmeler, of Centre Hall, were in Bellefonte Friday of last week, doing some Christmas shopping.

—Mrs. W. Harrison Walker's mother and sister, Mrs. Robb and Miss Helen Robb, of State College, will be Mr. and Mrs. Walker's Christmas guests.

—Miss Henrietta Sebring, a Freshman at Smith College, will arrive in Bellefonte Monday, to spend her vacation with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. John Sebring.

—Mrs. C. D. Tanner and her son Forrest will spend both Christmas and New Year's day in Hazleton, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh N. Boyle and their family.

—Miss Henrietta Quigley, from Vassar, and Hugh M. Quigley, from Williams College, will both spend the Holidays here with their parents, Judge and Mrs. H. C. Quigley.

—Miss Mabel Sheffer, from Miss Mason's school at Tarrytown-On-the-Hudson, and Miss Mary Taylor, from Vassar, will come to Bellefonte tomorrow for their Christmas vacation.

—Mrs. William Houser, of Meadville, and her two sons, will be in Bellefonte Sunday, to celebrate Christmas with the boys' grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moerschbacher.

—The family Christmas party to be entertained by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Showers will include Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, of Pittsburgh, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Showers, of Beaver Falls.

—Miss Dashiels, who left Bellefonte to take charge of the household arts department in the schools of Beaver, Pa., expects to spend her vacation here as a guest of Miss Katherine Allison.

—Miss Bell Lowry returned to her home in McKeesport, Tuesday, after a three week's visit here, as a guest of Miss Anne Keichline, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Keichline.

—Mrs. Sylvester A. Bixler, who has been a medical patient in the Bellefonte hospital for a month or more, will be discharged this week, and will return at once to her home in Lock Haven.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Butterworth, of Wilkesburg, will be among those to return home for the Christmas celebration. Coming next week to be guests of Mrs. Butterworth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Knisely.

—Miss Mildred Wagner, studying at the Broad Street Conservatory of music in Philadelphia, and Miss Della Beizer, at the Mary Wood College, at Scranton, will both be in Bellefonte tomorrow for the winter vacation.

—Mrs. George Dallas Dixon, of Philadelphia; Mrs. J. Gilbert McIlwaine, of Downingtown; Mrs. Strong and her brother, William Simpson, of Lock Haven, were in Bellefonte Saturday for the funeral of Miss Julia Curtin.

—Having suspended work on the state road for the winter, Mr. and Mrs. Michaels returned yesterday to their former home in Scranton, to remain there until the weather permits Mr. Michaels to resume work in Centre county.

—Wallace H. Gephart will arrive in Bellefonte a short time before Christmas, to spend the holiday with his family here and to make final arrangements for taking Mrs. Gephart and the children to New York, where they will make their home.

—Mrs. A. B. Cromer, who has been visiting with relatives in Sunbury since leaving New York two weeks ago, will spend Christmas here with her father, Homer Crissman and the family. Mr. Cromer coming to join her for the Holiday week.

—Martin Cooney and his daughters will make merry at Christmas time for the only grand-daughter and niece they have, Mary Elizabeth Stauffer, whom they had never seen until this week. Mrs. Ray Stauffer brought her daughter to Bellefonte Monday.

—W. Wilson Gephart, of New York city, with Mrs. Gephart and their daughter Elizabeth, are expected in Bellefonte next week, to be the Holiday week guests of Mr. Gephart's mother and sister, Mrs. J. Wesley Gephart and Miss Elizabeth, at their home on Linn street.

—Miss Grace Mitchell, instructor in the Westover school at Middlebury, Conn., and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Mitchell, of Burnham, will be members of the Mitchell family to celebrate Christmas here with their father, Isaac Mitchell, all to be guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Porter Lyon.

—Miss Elizabeth Parker, who has been a guest of her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ross Parker, since the first of October, will return to her home in Somerset next week. Miss Eleanor Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Parker's daughter, is expected in Bellefonte the day before Christmas.

—Mr. and Mrs. Silas Glasgow, their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Glasgow and their two children, who had lived in North Dakota until six weeks ago, are visiting with relatives in Centre county, a part of the time being spent with Mrs. Glasgow's niece, Mrs. Thomas Hazel, the Glasgow family came east with the intention of locating in central Pennsylvania, but up to this time have not definitely decided where.

—J. Elmer Röver, of Potter township, was a "Watchman" office caller on Friday while in Bellefonte on a business trip. Mr. Röver is now one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Pennsylvania and avers that the labor problem is just as much of a bugbear to farmers as it is to any other class, if not more so. This is because men demand of the farmer the same wages they can get elsewhere and then want their boarding in addition.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. Will Conley had as a house guest Monday night Mrs. Chubbuck, who was returning to her home in Altoona, from the western part of the State, where she had been called by the death of her father. Mrs. Chubbuck is better known in Bellefonte as Miss Margaret Harrison. Mr. and Mrs. Conley's Christmas guests will be Mr. and Mrs. William B. Wallis, of Washington, Pa. Mrs. Wallis will be with her parents for several weeks, while pressing business will permit Mr. Wallis to spend but a few days in Bellefonte.

—Mrs. Lucius Duncan will be a Holiday guest of her father, M. L. Altenderfer, and the family, coming from Philadelphia the day before Christmas.

—Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hart, of Toronto, Canada, will be Christmas guests of Mr. Hart's mother and sisters, at their home on Spring street.

—Miss Louise Hoffer will leave Sunday to spend her two week's vacation with her sister Anne, and her brother John and his family, in Philipsburg.

—Miss Hazel Lentz, in charge of the third grade of the Bellefonte schools, will leave tonight to spend her two week's vacation at her home in Harrisburg.

—Reuben Lucas, of Philipsburg, spent Saturday of last week in Bellefonte, looking after some business interests, leaving here to return home that afternoon.

—Mrs. Maynard Murch, Jr., of Cleveland, has been a guest during the past week of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Wells L. Daggett, at the Bush house.

—Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Twitmore are arranging to spend Christmas day and the week-end in Williamsport with Mrs. Twitmore's son, John Brachbill, and his family.

—Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Reiter, of the Bellefonte Academy, went to Loysburg Friday, called there by the death of Mrs. Reiter's mother, who died Thursday, of pneumonia.

—Miss Ida Weaver is a guest of her brother, Cyrus Weaver, and his daughter, Mrs. Wolfe, in Harrisburg, having gone down the first of December for a month's visit.

—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer, of Pottery Mills, were in Bellefonte on Monday doing some Christmas shopping and visiting friends, having made the trip here and back in the Lewistown bus.

—Mrs. Wayne D. Stitzinger and her small son will come to Bellefonte the day after Christmas to spend the Holiday week and New Years with Mrs. Stitzinger's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Johnston.

—Mrs. F. W. Topelt arrived in Bellefonte Sunday evening, coming here from Brooklyn to spend the Holiday season with her mother, Mrs. R. S. Brouse. Mr. Topelt will join Mrs. Topelt here for Christmas.

—Mrs. Henry Meyer, of Rebersburg, stopped in Bellefonte Saturday, spending the greater part of the day here with friends. Mrs. Meyer was on her way to Unionville for a visit at her girlhood home.

—Miss Lucy Miller, who has served a year and more in the telephone service of the government at Washington, will spend her Christmas vacation with her mother, Mrs. Della Miller, and the family, at their home on Phoenix avenue.

—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lukenbach, of Tyrone, and John D. Meyer, of Altoona, were in Bellefonte Friday, coming over for a dinner given by A. G. Morris and his daughter, Miss Lida, at which Mr. and Mrs. Lukenbach were honor guests.

—Miss Laura Holt, of Ithaca, N. Y., a niece of Mrs. J. Kennedy Johnston, came to Bellefonte Saturday for a short visit with Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, going from here to State College, then on to Reno to spend some time with another aunt.

—Betty Gates will be the guest of honor on Christmas at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gates, expecting to come over from Philipsburg with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Gates, on Tuesday afternoon of next week.

—Frank M. Kelly has been in Bellefonte for a week, stopping here on his way from Ford City to York, where he is going for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Kelly. W. T. Kelly, his brother, D. J. Kelly and the family, at York.

—Dr. Nell Meek, of the U. S. P. H. S., of New York city, will be home on the 22nd, for a week's visit with the family. King Morris, coming from Pittsburgh, will spend Christmas and the remainder of his vacation in Bellefonte with his grandparents, Mrs. P. Gray Meek and A. G. Morris.

—The John M. Keichline family, including Mr. and Mrs. Keichline, the Misses Daise and Anne Wagner Keichline, and their brother Edward, will drive to Petersburg Christmas to have their celebration with Dr. and Mrs. John M. Keichline and their family of little ones, and for a short visit.

—Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lutz, of Howard street, are preparing to entertain a holiday house party which will include Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Biddle, of Union county, and their four children; J. E. Ferguson and family; and Mrs. Holderman, of Altoona, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Scrabble, of Millilburg.

—Mrs. Robert Morris and her two sons, Alexander G. Morris III, and Robert Jr., who had been with their grandmother at Kennebunk Port, Maine, during the summer and fall, came to Bellefonte early in the month to spend the remainder of the winter with Mr. Morris at his father's home, on Linn street.

—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Donachy, of Kingston, with their two children, Sara and Charles, and Miss Sara Donachy, private secretary to Dr. Connor at Dickinson Seminary, will come to celebrate their Christmas with Mrs. Donachy's and Miss Shuey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Shuey.

—Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Boozer and son Shannon, of Centre Hall, expect to leave on Sunday for Chicago to spend the Christmas season with their son Ralph and family. During their absence Mrs. Boozer's father, Capt. George M. Boal, will go to Redsville to spend Christmas with his daughter, Mrs. Charles Meyer and family.

—The family of Mrs. Georgianna Dale, of Lemont, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Lingle, of Pitscain, and their son Walter; Rev. and Mrs. Louis Barber and Miss Nellie Dale, will divide their Christmas celebration between the Dale home at Lemont, and Mrs. Linn Bottorf's, at State College, Mrs. Bottorf being a member of the family.

—Mr. and Mrs. David Diehl, of Swissvale, who have been down at their old home at Wolf's Store the past two weeks, were Bellefonte visitors between trains on Monday. They have given up their home in Swissvale and on Monday afternoon left for the west, intending to locate wherever the best opening and living conditions are found.

—Mrs. George M. Glenn, who is spending the winter with her mother, Mrs. Isaac Gray, in Halfmoon valley, was in Bellefonte Wednesday doing her Christmas shopping. Mrs. Glenn's entire family is expected on the farm for Christmas. Mrs. Randolph Glenn and her two children coming from Williamsport; Miss Esther from Dickinson Seminary; George from Ohio Wesleyan, and John, from Wesleyan, Middletown, Connecticut.

—(Continued on page 4 column 5).