

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., October 15, 1920.

MESSAGE TO BRUSHVALLEY

By C. C. Ziegler.

My dear old friend Bill,
Visitor from our dear native Brushvalley
To which you are about to return,
Please greet for me the few surviving
friends
And tell them that, barring a little rheu-
matism,
I am hale and hearty at sixty-six,
And working steadily with a good appet-
ite.

I am cultivating good-will
Toward everybody on earth.
Except the new profiteering landlord
Who jumped my rent
From fifty-seven to one hundred dollars
And so compelled me to move away
Into a strange environment.

Tell them I still believe—nay, I know
That our earth is very, very old—
At least fifty million years old.
Perhaps a hundred million;
(A few million too few or too many
Cannot budge the general fact).
And our human race is very old—
At least fifty thousand years old—
And we had better make this truth
A part of our mental furniture.
All things considered, our race has made
Astonishing progress.
But I firmly believe
That little additional advance is possible
Unless along the lines laid down
By Jesus of Nazareth.

This is my message.
O my beloved Brushvalley!
For whose fields and woods and people
My heart has been yearning all through
the years.
There may my bones be resting—
In the old valley,
Under a singing pine-tree—
(If the greedy ax
Has left such a tree standing).
St. Louis, Mo., Sept., 1920.

A Postal Inspector Charged With Holding Out Departmental Mail.

Ever since the temporary discontinuance of the postoffice at Smulton, early in 1918, there has been a controversy over the justice of the act as well as over its reopening with a new postmaster.

Herbert H. Stover, now an auditor of Centre county, was postmaster at the time and it appears that his wife was an applicant to succeed him. She was competent and highly recommended by the patrons of the office but her application was apparently juggled in the mails. She charges the inspector who was at work on the Smulton office with having held it out until the application of another party got precedence over hers. Here is what she has to say about the affair:

After the removal of the office from our place, May 21st, 1919, we began an investigation of things; and I, as the wife of Mr. Stover, feel it my duty, in justice to him, to explain to the people just how the matter was worked out and the real reason why the postoffice was ordered discontinued.

First, let me say that when it became apparent that Mr. Stover would be removed, some of the prominent people of the town requested that I should apply for the postmastership, and I accordingly made application through George W. Daily, postoffice inspector of Williamsport, according to instruction placed in the post-office by him. I wrote for the proper blanks and received these under date of November 21st, 1918, together with instructions how to proceed. I executed the papers and sent them in the following day. Nothing was heard in regard to the matter of my appointment or non-appointment, and some time in February of 1919, Inspector Daily visited the office, tore down the paper he had posted in the office asking for applicants. My husband then asked whether the matter was settled or not. Daily asked if I had applied, and when informed that I had, he asked what we had heard from the Postoffice Department, and receiving a negative answer, he said he had taken the paper, asking for applicants, from the office. That was all the information we received.

We naturally thought that as there were no other applicants, the office would remain where it was. The surprise came when in March the postmaster was notified that the office would be discontinued March 15th. The citizens of the town got busy, handed in the name of S. A. Walizer on the 11th of March. As an applicant for postmaster, I followed his application with my second one, but Walizer was appointed, although my application had been properly executed four months previous. After his appointment it entered our minds that Daily never had sent my first application to the Department, and the matter was taken up with the Department. We received the information that, as Walizer stood first on the list he was appointed. This showed plainly that Daily had not sent in my application, and I took up the matter with him and he wrote me and said he had no explanation to offer for not sending my application to the Department. The next step was to find whether he had sent in my second application, and the Department wrote me under date of May 22, 1920, informing me that he had reported as applicants for appointment as postmaster of Smulton, Scott A. Walizer and myself, in the order named.

Will the reader please pause here, and he will see into the whole matter. If I was not eligible when my application was made four months before, and when I was the only applicant, why was I eligible four months later, but placed second on the list when I was first applicant. To the good thinking person this should need no further explanation. I am bringing this before the people not because we lament the loss of the office, for we would have been better off if we had never had it, but to show how the game was played against us. My husband has been patriotic and loyal to his country; if not, I wish there would be pointed out one more so in this place. It was he who spent his time in the interest of the W. S. S. and the Liberty Loan movement. He was interested in securing a large American flag for the town and in the paying over to the Red Cross a nice sum of money and did what he could to help his country. We have been turned down, which again proves that a whole lot

of the good that we do in this world is not appreciated. I personally wish to thank the voters of both parties in Centre county for giving my husband the support they did last fall, by electing him as one of the County Auditors; and further wish to say that the people of the county will find him to be anything but what he was pictured in this postoffice muddle. Further I wish to state we can verify everything we say in these lines.

We took the postoffice nine years ago when it was given up by another party, not because we wanted it, but solely to save it for the town. We have been misrepresented, mistreated, lied about, and we should show a very decided weakness to again place ourselves in such a position. We are well and happy, enjoying God's pure sunshine—and what more can be wished for. Many more things in connection with this matter could be brought to the attention of the people, had we space to do so.

Very truly yours,
Mrs. HERBERT H. STOVER.

Fall Pruning.

Shade trees may be pruned any time between the fall of the leaves and early spring before growth begins. Boxelder and maple trees are apt to "bleed" if pruned after the last of February. Do not leave long stubs, but cut close above a side branch when pruning large limbs. Try to avoid leaving upright forks of crotches which are apt to split apart and injure or ruin the tree later. Long, tender branches should be shortened, if retained, so as to encourage greater stiffness and resistance to wind and the weight of wet snow. Of course, the natural characteristics of the trees should be taken into account in pruning, and no attempt made to greatly alter the natural form. Evergreens are seldom pruned close to the ground.

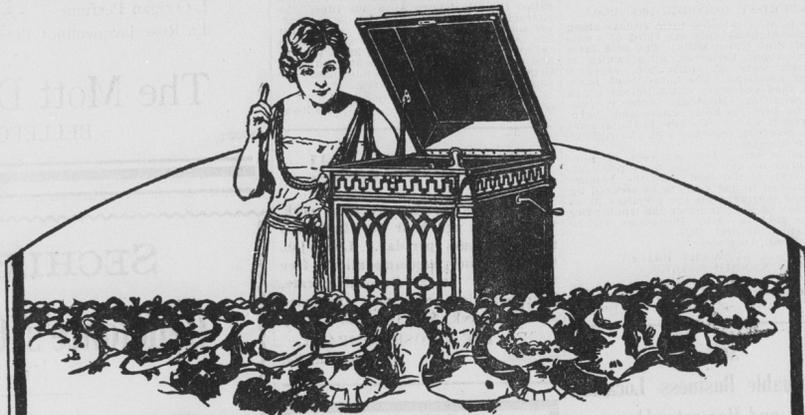
No Words Wasted.

"What's the trouble?" asked the man in the barber's chair.

"No trouble, I hope sir. Everything seems all right."
"But you don't while away the time with news and comment as you formerly did."
"Against the rules to do so, sir. If you want a lecture it will be charged for extra the same as bay rum or hair tonic."—Washington Evening Star.

—The Kenyon committee did its best in an effort to whitewash the Republican machine, but there is a bad smell left.

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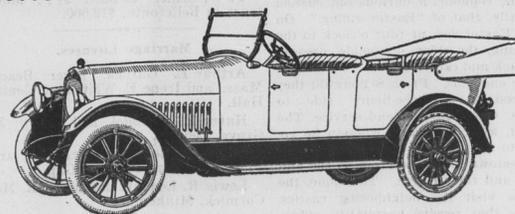
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