

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., April 7, 1922.

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To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

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Paid strictly in advance - \$1.50  
Paid before expiration of year - 1.75  
Paid after expiration of year - 2.00  
Published weekly, every Friday morning. Entered at the postoffice Bellefonte, Pa., as second class mail matter.

In ordering change of address always give the old as well as the new address. It is important that the publisher be notified when a subscriber wishes the paper discontinued. In all such cases the subscription must be paid up to date of cancellation.  
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## ON THE TRAIL IN ALASKA.

Dr. Meek Tells of Being Held Up Two Days by Warm Weather.

(Concluded from last week.)

The morning was clear and, for breakfast, Mr. Birgland gave me three fresh eggs fried, bacon, mush and—and I don't remember what else, but all delicious. The team started off with a rush, I on top and Mr. M. on the brake. The bank was steep, we struck a snag and over I went into the soft snow with the sled on my side. I scrambled up and onto the sled as it was straightened, for those dogs weren't going to wait for a mere two-legged animal.

The flat, smooth surface of the frozen river was a decided change after the ups and downs of the portage trail and our team struck a rapid gait, covering six and a half to seven miles an hour. Teams will do much better than this on good, smooth trails and with a not-too-heavy load but the river was covered with a foot of soft, light snow. We met a Russian Priest who was making pastoral calls with five dogs and a nice sled as his outfit. Then a long yellow team came into view, traveling so fast that almost immediately they were passing. It proved to be the fur-warden of this section with a team of eleven big yellow dogs, almost perfectly matched, and they could travel! He stopped to say that if I was the woman doctor for Akiak he had left a letter for me below. But I have never yet come up with that letter!

From that day, the seven-day's run was an unending succession of changes. A soft day was our next run and the river became covered with three or four inches of melted snow. To feel the ice bend under one's feet or to hear a crackling sound issue from seemingly all sides, is a sensation I do not care to often repeat. The third day the weather tightened a bit and we had the joy of glare-ice on which to travel for half a day, but two days before Christmas a soft, warm rain and mist greeted us when we went outside and that day we found much open water and late in the afternoon Mr. M. dropped through the ice into water up to his arm pits. Fortunately he had hold of the sled so the dogs pulled him out. There was only a half-hour run after that and I refused to move until the river froze again and as a result we spent Christmas day at Kaskagamute with a German resident, whose native wife and children were away for a week. We had a nice dinner and he gave me a box of good candy for a Christmas present. We left there on Christmas afternoon, making a short run to a native village, ten miles away, where we spent the night in a native cabin and watched our two hosts eat Eskimo "ice cream"—tallow worked into smoothness, then mixed with blueberries. I wish you could have seen how they smacked their lips! One plate piled and with two spoons stood between them—"And they licked the platter clean!" The cabin was clean and we had to wait until the gasoline-light was put out before we could put down our wall of Buhach—so no intrusive visitors would leave the brown skin for our white ones.

During the first few days, the scenery had been wild and rugged, but the nearer we got to the mouth the wider became the river; there were more islands and the country, from all sides, looked flat. I will hurry over the last three days and land at Akiak on December twenty-eighth, a month later than I had expected. It was a delightful trip and I never felt better in my lifetime.

This is a small government hospital of ten beds, intended as a sort of headquarters for the entire section; hence somewhat of a dispensary station. Built three or four years ago, not what one would call a complete hospital as compared with those outside but yet very nice and of use to the native Eskimos. The government supports it and no native pays for anything unless, perhaps, for food when confined to bed, providing they are able. There is one nurse, myself, a young man and his wife who do the cooking, run the Delco-lighting system, bring the wood to fire the furnace, etc. Not a big staff, but enough. A two-story, square frame building in the midst of the native village of about twenty cabins. This is one of the missions belonging to the Moravian church and has been under that denomination for ten years so there is a little church and a Missioner and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Kilbuck, near the hospital. The district superin-

tendent of government schools and reindeer service with his wife and brother-in-law live just beside us while, across the river, which is about a mile wide, there is a village of nice white people with probably twelve cabins; thus we are not alone. Bethel, the headquarters of this same mission, is twenty-five miles lower down the river, is about as large as Milesburg and one of the largest places I have seen here.

February 1st.—Your nice, long letters came in yesterday and I think they have all arrived up until the middle of November for one dated November 20th speaks of a grate fire being all the heat that is necessary at home. As this letter has grown to such proportions I will reserve my knowledge of Alaska for future writings and answer some of your comments.

First, about the mail.—Your informant is mistaken about the winter mails. All the eastern part of Alaska, where Anchorage and Healy are located, have a weekly mail the year around and, this winter, Iditarod and Flat, from where I sent your letters, have a weekly mail brought from Anchorage by dog-teams over the Rainy-Pass trail. You will find the Rainy-Pass trail marked on your map. The only restrictions being that second-class material is pushed back if enough first-class stuff is to be moved and I'll probably be receiving your candy and newspapers some time next spring. I am not certain that I shall stay here after the spring but will send you a wireless if I move. The revolver came quite right; reached me while at Ruby and the Marshall gave me a permit to carry firearms as well as buying me several boxes of cartridges.

A strange thing here this winter are the flies—dozens and dozens of big, blue, buzzing ones and, although we kill and kill, still they come. We have double windows on the entire house and I have counted eighteen or twenty flies dead on the window sills. It is February and the winter almost over—a warm, unusually soft season. So mild at times that other girls are wearing thin dresses with a sweater when they go outdoors. Today is fairly cold—19 degrees above zero—and is, thus far, the coldest day there has been here.

We get our mail once a month, via Anchorage, then to Tenana, thence down the Yukon to Holy Cross where the carrier from here picks it up and brings it over the portage by dog-teams. The break-up of the river comes along in May so, for a month at that time, we will get no mail until the boat comes up the Koskokwim river in June from Seattle. Then for three or four months we have mail by boat but the best service is in the winter.

ELOISE.

## Penn State Debaters Start Trip to Coast.

Ready to present a strong argument on either side of two questions, the Pennsylvania State College debating team of four men left this week for a western invasion that will take them to the Pacific coast. They will meet the debaters of eight colleges and universities, the tour lasting three weeks. The four men selected to represent Penn State have all had two or more years' experience on the college debating teams. The leader is E. E. Overdorfer, of Johnstown, president of the Senior class and head of the student governing bodies. Others are R. S. Adams, of Reading; W. E. Romig, of Harrisburg, and R. C. Kramer, of Philadelphia. With the exception of Romig, all are members of the Senior class.

The itinerary for the trip follows: April 7th, Marquette University; 10th, North Dakota Agricultural College; 12th, Montana State College; 13th, Montana Wesleyan; 17th, University of Washington; 18th, Oregon Agricultural College; 24th, Colorado Agricultural College, and 25th, University of Wyoming. The Japanese exclusion law and unemployment insurance for employees of American corporate industries, are the questions to be debated.

The residents in the neighborhood of Allegheny and Howard streets are at present very much concerned over the proposed garage to be built by the Krader Motor Co., on their lot facing Howard street. This property, which was recently purchased from the Curtin estate, is in the midst of some of the oldest and most attractive homes of the town, and aside from the lack of civic pride, the building of an unsightly garage in this locality would display, it means both a great annoyance to the residents from unavoidable noises and a depreciation in the value of the properties. The protest being made by the residents of the town against the putting up of the building on this property is very general.

The musical service given last Sunday evening in the Lutheran church was largely attended, extra chairs being carried in for the seating of the congregation. The program was a splendid one, and elicited much favorable comment from those who heard it. The solos by Miss Mildred Locke, Mrs. J. A. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Fitzpatrick were exceptionally good, while the organ numbers by George A. Johnston showed his wonderful ability and skill as an organist. Mr. Thomas Quinn's rendition on the violin of "Traumeri" was great, while the choir rendered two very beautiful anthems.

VALENTINE.—Henry Clay Valentine, better known among his many friends as "Harry," died very suddenly while in the vault of the county commissioner's office in the court house, shortly before nine o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Valentine, who was a clerk in the office usually went to work about eight o'clock and did so yesterday morning. Persons who saw and talked with him found him cheerful as ever with no premonition of the end of his span of life. He was seen working in the office between eight and nine o'clock. Shortly before nine Mrs. Harriet Ray Smith, stenographer in the office, went to work but failed to see Mr. Valentine as she entered the office. She removed her coat and hat, arranged her desk then went to the vault, the door of which was standing open. As she stepped inside she saw Mr. Valentine lying face down on the floor of the vault. She ran across the corridor to the treasurer's office and told chief clerk H. W. Irwin and recorder W. H. Brown and they ran to the vault. A hasty examination showed Mr. Valentine to be past all help but a physician was summoned who stated that death had been caused by an attack of angina pectoris, the result of sclerosis.

Mr. Valentine was a son of Abraham S. and Clarissa Miles Valentine and was born in Bellefonte on January 14th, 1848, hence had reached the age of 74 years, 2 months and 22 days. He was educated in the public schools of Bellefonte and at Miss Petrikin's private school. When he grew to manhood he naturally turned to the iron industry in which all the older generations of the family were at that time engaged, those being the days when the old Valentine furnace was in full bloom and they mined their own ore in Centre county mines. Mr. Valentine probably filled every position of trust in connection with the company, even to superintendent. After the Valentines disposed of their interests in the furnace property to the Nittany Iron company Mr. Valentine had charge of their ore mining at the old Gatsburg and Nigh banks. Later he went with Mr. William Burnside to Scotia and assisted in the development of that valuable ore property.

Mr. Valentine was staunchly Republican in politics and at one time served as a member of the borough council from the North ward. He also served one term as postmaster of Bellefonte, having been appointed by President Taft. When the present board of County Commissioners went into office in January, 1920, Mr. Valentine was appointed second clerk and had charge of the books. He was an expert bookkeeper and always kept his books checked up to date. Even on Wednesday evening he went into the county treasurer's office to check up his ledger with the books there.

Mr. Valentine married Miss Sarah Burnside, a daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Burnside, who survives with three children, Stanley, of Syracuse, and Misses Helen and Rebecca at home. He was one of a family of ten children and the only one surviving is a sister, Miss Mary Valentine, of Bellefonte. Mr. Valentine was a member of the Society of Friends and of the Bellefonte Lodge of Elks. No arrangements for the funeral had been made up to the time the "Watchman" went to press.

WERT.—James C. Wert, a well known resident of Gregg township, died last Thursday morning as the result of a stroke of paralysis, aged 62 years, 10 months and 2 days. He was a son of Elias and Sarah Musser Wert and was born in Penn township. He was a farmer by occupation and a member of the Evangelical church for more than forty years.

Surviving him are his wife and the following children: Mrs. A. P. Burrell and Mrs. John Brungart, of Kaneville, Ill.; William M., of Patton; W. M. and J. A., of Rebersburg; Paul, of Millheim, and Ralph, at home. Funeral services were held at his late home on Monday afternoon, after which burial was made in the Fairview cemetery at Millheim.

BENNETT.—Sherman Bennett, a well known resident of Runville, died on Tuesday last week at the home of his brother, E. C. Bennett, following an illness of two years with a complication of diseases. He was a son of William and Mary Bennett and was about fifty years old. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Ella Emel. One son survives as the result of this union, William, of Tyrone. His second wife was Miss Laura Haines, who survives with one daughter, Miss Nellie. He also leaves two brothers, E. S. Bennett, of Runville, and Harry, of Barnesboro. Funeral services were held last Thursday by Rev. J. C. Erb, assisted by Rev. G. A. Sparks, burial being made in the Advent cemetery.

ARMOR.—Mrs. Margaret M. Armor, widow of the late Col. David M. Armor, who was in command of the 101st Pennsylvania volunteer infantry during the Civil war, died at her home in San Diego, Cal., on Monday, March 20th. She was attended during her last illness by her sister, Miss Malvina C. Backofen. Mrs. Armor was a daughter of John G. Backofen, one of the pioneers of Pittsburgh. She is survived by one son, George Grant Armor, of New York, and two grandsons, midshipman Howell Armor, of Annapolis, and Morris Howell Armor, of Minneapolis. The remains will be brought east this month for burial in Pittsburgh.

GARDNER.—Mrs. Sarah Gardner, widow of the late Wilson Gardner, passed away last Saturday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas M. Gates, in Altoona, after a brief illness with acute indigestion.

She was a daughter of Peter B. and Sarah Long Keichline and was born at Boalsburg on August 17th, 1844, making her age 77 years, 7 months and 14 days. When she was a young girl the family moved to Ferguson township and she was educated at the old Pine Grove Mills Academy. She later taught in the public schools and was very successful in her educational work. In the spring of 1865 she married Wilson Gardner and they located on the old and well known Gardner farm at Rock Springs. Mr. Gardner passed away in 1896 when Mrs. Gardner took charge and conducted the farm until 1905 when her son William took charge. She retained, however, several rooms in her old home and regularly spent the summers there. She was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church and a woman who was loved by all who knew her. Surviving her are four children, Harry E., of East Orange, N. J.; William G., on the home farm; Robert, of Knoxville, Pa., and Mrs. Gates, of Altoona. She also leaves two brothers and two sisters, John M. and Peter F. Keichline, both of Bellefonte; Mrs. Margaret Meek, of Altoona, and Mrs. Susan Goss, of Pine Grove Mills.

The remains were taken from Altoona to her old home near Rock Springs on Monday where funeral services were held at 10:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning by Rev. J. O. C. McCracken, after which burial was made in the Graysville cemetery.

RANK.—Mrs. Jennie M. Rank passed away just before noon last Saturday at the home of her brother, C. T. Gerberich, on north Thomas street, as the result of an attack of the grip and an embolism, following an illness of one week.

She was a daughter of George and Nellie Alberts Gerberich and was born at East Hanover, Lebanon county, on March 24th, 1850, hence was 72 years and 8 days old. About thirty-two years ago she married David Rank, of East Hanover, who passed away eleven years ago. Most of the time since then she spent in Bellefonte with her brother, coming here two years ago to remain permanently. She had no children but is survived by two step-daughters, Mrs. Harry Schools and Mrs. Harvey Stine, both of Lebanon county. She also leaves two brothers, C. T. Gerberich, of Bellefonte, and F. F. Gerberich, of Maysville, Ky.

During her earlier life she was a member of the Lutheran church but since coming to Bellefonte she attended the Reformed church. Funeral services were held at the Gerberich home on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by Rev. Dr. Schmidt and on Monday afternoon the remains, accompanied by Mrs. Ella Hoffer, of Phillipsburg; Mrs. L. C. Wetzel, of Windsor, Canada, and Mrs. Annie Gerberich, of Shamokin, were taken to East Hanover, where final services were held and burial made at 1:30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

DENNIS.—Word was received here last week of the death of Samuel Bloom Dennis, which occurred at his home near Iberia, Ohio, on Sunday, March 26th. He was a son of John and Margaret Bloom Dennis and was born in Potter township, Centre county, on July 16th, 1833, hence was in his 89th year. His early life, however, was spent at Pine Grove Mills, where he learned the carriage making trade. When the first call was made for soldiers in 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil war, he came to Bellefonte and enlisted for three months in Capt. Snyder's company. In August, 1862, he reenlisted in Company D, 148th regiment, under General Beaver, and served until the end of the war.

At the close of the war he located in Ohio and engaged in the furniture business, later going to Michigan but finally moving to Tennessee. His wife, who was a native of Ohio, died in 1917, and shortly thereafter he returned to Ohio to spend his declining years. He is survived by one brother, David L. Dennis, of Pine Grove Mills. Burial was made at Iberia, Ohio, on Wednesday of last week.

BROWN.—Mrs. Margaret Bell Brown, of Tyrone, died at the Masonic home in Elizabethtown, Sunday, as the result of asthma and heart disease. She had been an inmate of the home but about two weeks. Deceased was a daughter of George and Margaret Borland Bell and was born at Rock Springs, Centre county, about 73 years ago. Mrs. Brown early in life became a member of the Presbyterian church and an enthusiastic mission worker. In fact she spent several years as a teacher at the Freedman's school in South Carolina. Later she married Dr. James Morrison Brown who passed away in 1905. Since then she had made her home in Tyrone where funeral services were held in the First Presbyterian church at one o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, after which the remains were taken to Graysville for interment.

KATEN.—Mrs. Susan Katen died last Thursday at the home of her son Charles, at Curwensville, aged almost eighty-six years. Her maiden name was Susan Dillen and she was born at Martha Furnace. Most of her married life was spent in Phillipsburg.

Her husband, James Katen, died in 1900, but surviving her are two sons and one daughter. Burial was made at Phillipsburg on Sunday afternoon.

LUCAS.—Mrs. Mary Belle Lucas, wife of Cyrus Lucas, passed away at the home at Runville last Friday evening, following an illness of some weeks with dropsy, aged 62 years and 11 months. She is survived by one son, Milligan Lucas, at home; one daughter, Mrs. Harry Brown, of Corning, N. Y., and a sister, Mrs. D. F. Poorman, of Runville. She was a member of the United Brethren church, a Christian woman and kind neighbor, and will be greatly missed in that community. Funeral services were held at her late home at 1:30 o'clock on Monday afternoon by Rev. G. A. Sparks, assisted by Rev. J. C. Erb, after which burial was made in the Advent cemetery.

MEESE.—George Thomas Meese died on Sunday at the home of his brother, John Meese, following a long illness. He was a son of John H. and Annabelle Harrison Meese and was born in Bellefonte on June 30th, 1878, making his age 43 years, 9 months and 3 days. He is survived by the following brothers and sisters: John, Scott, Euphemia, Mrs. Fannie Martin and Mrs. Elmer Sager, all of Bellefonte. Burial was made in the Pleasant Gap cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

## One of the Ways in Which Your Tuberculosis Christmas Seal Money is Spent.

Elizabeth Meek went to Cresson yesterday with Albert Mulbarger, who has been admitted as a patient to the Cresson sanatorium. When the school medical examination several weeks ago revealed that he had incipient tuberculosis he was taken out of school and placed under the care of Miss Daise Keichline, volunteer nurse of the Woman's club. Through her interest he was supplied with all the eggs he could use, two quarts of milk daily, donated by Mrs. Philip Beezer, and the outfit needed to enter the sanatorium. He was twice taken to the Lock Haven State Dispensary by the Red Cross nurse, the expenses for this and his trip to Cresson borne by the Tuberculosis committee. As a matter of interest, it might be added that he gained nine pounds in four weeks under this care. It is for such work as well as the preventive educational program that the sale of tuberculosis Christmas seals is yearly maintained.

## Fire at Rockview Penitentiary.

The large two story frame building at the western penitentiary at Rockview, occupied as a tool house and chapel was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night. The flames were discovered about 8:15 o'clock and originated in the chapel part of the building. Defective wiring is believed to have been the cause. The building was 30x132 feet in size and sheathed with iron, with an iron roof, which made it almost impossible to fight the fire from the outside. Much valuable machinery and many costly tools were stored in the building, most of which were ruined. The loss is placed at thirty thousand dollars, all covered by insurance.

The time for the rummage sale has been set for the early part of May and as this is a double benefit, every householder is asked to put aside all unused clothing or furnishings which might in any way benefit some less fortunate person. The proceeds from this sale always go to the hospital, which also is at present very much in need of your help. Help others by riding yourself of this accumulation that means labor.

The Harrisburg papers on Tuesday announced the engagement of Dr. George E. Hawes, pastor of the Market Square Presbyterian church of that city, and Mrs. Samuel High, of Philadelphia. Prior to going to Harrisburg Dr. Hawes was pastor of the Bellefonte church.

J. O. Heverly, dealer in automobile supplies, last week purchased the block known as the Curtin property on the northeast corner of the Diamond and extending along Allegheny street to Pike alley. The price paid was about \$24,000.

If you expect to go fishing remember that you must have a license, if you are over twenty-one years of age, and that you dare not take trout under six inches in length.

Robert Crothers, of Philadelphia, was in Bellefonte this week looking up the prospects of moving his auto assembling plant here from Gloucester, N. J.

Miss Hazel Hurley has resigned her position in the office of Dr. David Dale to accept the position of stenographer for the Emerick Motor Bus company.

Harry McCullough, of Valley View, was committed to the Centre county jail on Wednesday on the charge of stealing a watch from Fred Reitz.

Academy Road Fund.  
Amount previously acknowledged, \$2071.00  
Logan Hose Co., 50.00  
Total, \$2121.00

## Doings at the "Y."

The Sunday afternoon meetings have been well attended and the last one of the season will be held next Sunday when Rev. David Evans, the new pastor of the Presbyterian church, will give an address. There will be no meeting on Easter Sunday. The bowling interest has continued strong in the past month and very keen competition has developed. The American Legion still holds the first place with the Titan Metal giving them a hard chase.

Hikes will be planned each week during the spring and will be generally held on Thursday afternoons. Occasionally one will be held on Saturday.

Preparations are being made by the physical director to put on a closing exhibition of the work the latter part of this month. All classes are showing a great deal of interest and a good exhibition is assured.

During the month of April merit contests are being conducted for all around work among the boys. Those reaching the required number of merits will be awarded the Association letter.

The acting board of directors have appointed a nominating committee to work up the matter of appointing a permanent board and trustees. It is expected that the election will take place some time this month.

Encouraging reports have been heard from all the different parts of the Association work. The Women's Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. has been at work during the few weeks that have passed since organizing. The campaign for members is still on—if you have not joined, do so and help boost the Y. The goal set for membership has not been reached. The library is growing, but is still far behind what it ought to be. Send your contribution and help complete it. The kitchen is pretty well equipped and efforts are being made to fit a number of rooms to be used for dormitories. The meetings of the Auxiliary are held the second Friday of each month, the next one will be held in May.

The first annual Country Fair held at the "Y" last Saturday evening was a very successful social event. The bad weather prevented many of the rural people attending, but about four hundred enjoyed the various shows during the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thumb attracted a great deal of attention among the side shows. The delegation from the State College Y. M. C. A. extension work put on some wonderful entertainment, including two wrestling bouts, which were enjoyed by the audience.

The women of the Episcopal church will hold an Easter food sale in the parish house, Saturday afternoon, April 15th. Cakes, pies, bread, rolls, desserts and candy will be on sale.

## PINE GROVE MENTION.

Most of the sick in this section are now on the mend.

D. L. Dennis spent Tuesday with the J. M. Kustaborder family on the Branch.

Miss Lucy Krebs has returned from a several week's sojourn in the Mountain city.

Guernsey cattle at the J. I. Thompson sale last Saturday sold at from \$40 to \$143.

L. K. Strouse is suffering with an affected hand, the result of a slight injury to one of his fingers.

Henry McWilliams, who has been housed up several weeks with the flu, is able to be up and around the house.

After spending a month with relatives at State College, Miss Hazel Thompson returned home on Saturday.

Edward Hoffman, of Pittsburgh, is visiting his nephew, Prof. Edward Grapp, at the well known Kepler home.

"The Old Flag," rendered in the I. O. O. F. hall here last Saturday evening by home talent, was a pronounced success.

Harry Bechtel and wife, of Pennsylvania Furnace, were Sunday visitors at the James Kustaborder home east of town.

Public sales and fittings are over for this spring and farmers are already turning up the earth for the spring crops.

W. W. Keller was here from Pittsburgh this week spending several days with his invalid father, whose condition is quite serious.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Fleming, with their son, Joseph Fleming and wife, transacted business at their old home near Belleville last Saturday.

The new officers of the Pennsylvan Lodge No. 276, I. O. O. F. will be duly installed tomorrow evening. Officers from State College will officiate.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fortney, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Musser and Mrs. Annie Reed motored to Tyrone Wednesday on a trip of business and pleasure combined.

Home talent from Franklinville will give a play in the I. O. O. F. hall here this (Friday) evening for the benefit of the Methodist church. The public is invited.

Rev. J. Max Kirkpatrick has been at Osceola Mills this week assisting Rev. Lewis hold evangelistic services. He will return in time to hold Sunday services as usual.

Harold Fisher, of Fleming, spent Tuesday night at the A. C. Kepler home in the Glades. Mr. Fisher is in the bucksterning business, disposing of his produce in Altoona.

Among those from a distance who attended the Mrs. Gardner funeral on Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Ross Gililand, of Altoona; Dr. John Keichline, of Huntingdon, and Edward Keichline, of McKeesport.