

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., February 16, 1923.

P. GRAY MEEK, Editor

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

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A sample copy of the "Watchman" will be sent without cost to applicants.

## ENGLISH AS IT IS SPELLED.

From The School.

A stranger in our land was he:  
He tried to learn our spelling,  
He thought it would be easy,  
As buying or as selling.

He tried to write, but couldn't quite  
Learn when to write or write.  
He couldn't tell just where he stood,  
When using good, or wood, or shod.  
He had to stand a lot of flogging,  
When cruel people started laughing,  
Then other things confounded him so,  
As doe and dough and roe and row,  
Our mail and male and sail and sale,  
And many more that turned him pale.  
Said he, "I left my wife and daughter,  
In other lands across the wafter,  
I wanted much to bring them here,  
But they will have to stay, I fear,  
And I must leave you." With a sigh  
He added, "Else I'll surely die."

## How Centre County Farms Were Leased Eighty-two Years Ago.

George Musser, of Boggs township, has an Article of Agreement in his possession that is dated December 25, 1840. It is in a splendid state of preservation and is an interesting instrument because it shows how farms in Centre county were leased in the days of the pioneers.

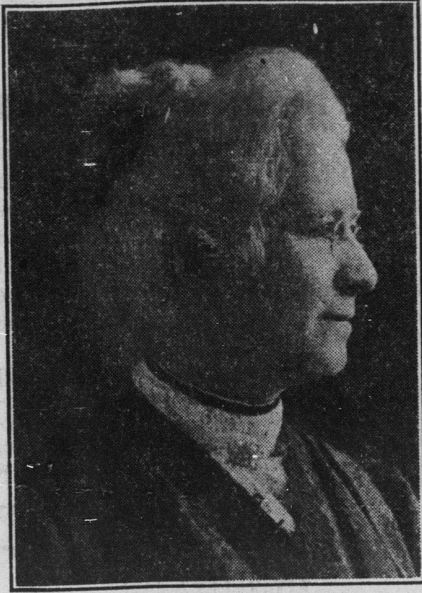
The agreement is one by which James Gordon leased his farm on the back road below Pleasant Gap to Andrew Musser. Mr. Gordon was then living on his other farm at Hecla, the one that is now occupied by his grandson, Leslie Gordon. "The upper farm," as this one was known in those days, comprised four hundred acres and for twenty-five years the elder Musser, who had come to this side from Pennsylvania farmed it. He had the help of four sons who stuck, which is something the farmer of today doesn't often enjoy. The property has since been divided into the four now known as the White, Coldren, Smeltzer and Beezer farms; the original tract having been bounded on the south by Green's valley, on the west by the Andy Swartz farm, on the north by the Rocky and Rothrock farms and on the east by the Stewart Lyon, now a Gentzel farm.

The lease will make interesting reading to both owners and tenants of present day farms so we publish it as follows:

"Article of agreement made and contracted this 25 December 1840 between James Gordon, of Spring township, and Andrew Musser, of Haines township, of the other part. Whereas the said James Gordon doth rent on shares the farm he now lives on for the term of three years as follows: A Musser is to give the two-fifths of all the grain in the bushel to be hauled to any place of deposit within seven miles, where Gordon chooses, free of charge, to till the ground well and keep it in good order and put his grain in in good season. As for fall grain not to sow any before the 10th of September nor later than the 10th of October; not to put out more than the one-half in one season for less than the one-third of the plow land. As for the meadow hay he is to give the two-fifths of it and haul it five miles, if wanted, free of charge. The clover hay Musser is to have with the exception of the field east of the little barn which Gordon reserves. Musser is to have seventy-five cents for each and every hundred rails he makes, the rails to be made where Gordon directs. Musser is to keep all the fences in good repair and to pick and haul off the principal part of the stones of the fields to sow in clover seed and keep in clover all the land that he has not in grain, not to raise more clover seed than he uses on the farm, not to sell any clover-seed, or hay, or straw nor take them off the farm. Not to cut any green or standing timber suitable for rails for fire wood or suffer any other person to cut timber, to pay twelve dollars yearly for the house B. Hess lives in, to pay all taxes, to keep two cows for the old lady as his is kept, summer and winter. Musser is to have half of the stone house near the barn."

After a perusal of the above those familiar with present leases will agree that in the principal items there has not been much change in the manner of leasing farms. Of course we all have a photo of the tenant farmer of today splitting rails for 75 cents a hundred.

An old weather-wise resident of Bellefonte stated last Friday that the snowfall this winter, up to that time, aggregated sixty-five inches. Since that time we have had at least twelve inches more, counting the snows of Friday night, Saturday night and Monday night, so that if the weather-wise individual is correct in his statement the total fall up to this time is about 6 feet, 6 inches.



MISS SUSANNA OHNMACHT.

OHNMACHT.—Miss Susanna Ohnmacht, for more than half a century identified with the musical life of Bellefonte, passed away last Friday, at her home on Logan street, as the direct result of a stroke of paralysis sustained two days previous. She had been in failing health for a period of eight years and of late had been quite feeble, so that her death was not unexpected.

Living a great portion of her life alone, Miss Ohnmacht was a character so distinct from the ordinary woman that now that she has passed away her life story can be told, in part at least. Always delicately secretive in regards to her age and early life there is no known record of the date of her birth but the few who knew her intimately are satisfied that she was long past the four score mark. She was born in Speyer, Germany, of noble lineage and descent. Her parents dying when she was quite young most of her girlhood life was spent in Heidelberg in the home of her aunt. She was given the very best of educational advantages, making music her specialty, however. With her natural gifts of grace and bearing and the additional accomplishments of education and music she doubtless had all the expectations of a happy normal life, but a tragic romance changed the entire current of her existence and was the cause of her coming to America while yet a young woman.

While living with her aunt in Heidelberg she made the acquaintance of a young bank clerk with the result that a strong affection sprang up between them. But the bank clerk was not the only one who courted the favored of the gifted Miss Ohnmacht, who was the reputed heiress of her aunt, and among the number was a man of noble birth, whose cause was espoused by the aunt but rejected by the young woman at every opportunity. The bank clerk while poor, was evidently an eligible party, because of the fact that the daughter of the president of the bank endeavored in every way to appropriate him as her own, with the open consent of her parents.

Miss Ohnmacht finally won over her aunt but about that time the bank clerk was sent to Spain on an ostensible mission for the bank but more likely in the hope of breaking up his attachment for Miss Ohnmacht. The latter quietly made arrangements to join him in Spain but almost on the eve of her departure she received word of his illness and three days later his death. Naturally she was well nigh prostrated by the blow and shortly thereafter, when the noble suitor again laid siege to her heart and hand she left the country and fled to America.

In Heidelberg she and her aunt had been rather intimately acquainted with a professor and Mrs. Arthur, who had come to America some years previous and located in Lock Haven, and when Miss Ohnmacht landed in New York she naturally came to Lock Haven to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur. Not wishing to be a burden upon them she decided to turn her musical education to her own profit and at once engaged in teaching. Her proficiency in the art brought her many students. After spending a few years in Lock Haven she came to Bellefonte and for several years made her home with the Pugh and Valentine families, finally going to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Blanchard where she remained a few years then established a home for herself in rooms over the W. F. Reynolds & Co. bank. She was living there when that building was destroyed by fire in the latter eighties and everything she owned was burned with the exception of the contents of a small iron trunk she had brought with her from Germany.

Shortly after coming to this country Miss Ohnmacht's aunt died in Germany, leaving her all her money, which was supposed to be upwards of fifty thousand dollars. As it was in German investments she allowed it to remain there but regularly received the dividends. As the years went by the dividends grew less and during the world war they stopped entirely. Since the war payments were resumed but the depreciation of the German mark so affected the value of the dividend that the one last December was worth just 32 cents.

Miss Ohnmacht was not only a teacher of music but an enthusiastic lover of the art and it was she who was instrumental in organizing the first orchestra in Bellefonte composed of Dr. A. Hibler, F. Potts Green, Louis Doll, Evan Blanchard, William Dersine, the Bierly's and one or two others, a musical organization that became renowned throughout the cen-

tral part of the State. In fact it was through Miss Ohnmacht that Bellefonte gained notoriety in a musical way. All her time was not devoted to teaching, however. She accepted the agency for a well known piano and thus was the pioneer business woman in Bellefonte.

After being burned out in the Reynolds bank building she became the first tenant in Crider's Exchange which was just being completed after the disastrous fire which destroyed the Humes block. During the past twenty-six years she had made her home with Miss Jennie Morgan but continued her musical work until compelled to give it up eight years ago on account of failing health.

Such was the life history of the woman so well known in Bellefonte and yet about whom so little was known personally. Living chiefly for the charm of her musical work she passed away peacefully in the quiet of her little home, but her work in Bellefonte will long be remembered by those who knew of her ability. Simple and impressive funeral services were held at her late home on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. W. P. Ard, of the Lutheran church, of which she was a member and of which she was organist for many years during her active life. Burial was made in the Union cemetery.

STRAYER.—Mrs. Mary Ann Strayer, wife of John G. Strayer, died at her home at Gatesburg last Friday of diseases incident to her advanced age. She was a daughter of John and Elizabeth Rumberger Kridler and was born at Gatesburg on April 20th, 1849, hence was almost seventy-four years old. In June, 1872, she married Mr. Strayer and all their life was spent at Gatesburg. In addition to her husband she is survived by four children, Daniel, at home; Rider Strayer, of Juniata; Robert and Mrs. Rider, of Gatesburg. She also leaves one sister and a brother, the latter Rev. Isaac Kridler, of Duncansville. She was a zealous member of the Lutheran church at Gatesburg for sixty years and Rev. J. S. English had charge of the funeral services which were held in the church at that place at ten o'clock on Monday morning, burial being made in the Gatesburg cemetery.

SPEASE.—Thomas Spease, who for the past dozen years has lived in the vicinity of the Morris quarries of the American Lime and Stone company, died yesterday morning as the result of a stroke of paralysis sustained on Thursday of last week. He was seventy-three years of age and was born at Curtin, where most of his life was spent. He is survived by the following children: Mrs. William Young, of Coleville; Mrs. Fannie Emehizer, of Marsh Creek; Mrs. Elizabeth Long, of Snow Shoe; Harry, Thomas, John and Joseph, all of Coleville. Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made.

SHAWVER.—Isaac Shawver, for many years landlord of the Old Fort hotel, died at his home in Millheim at noon on Tuesday as the result of a stroke of paralysis sustained over eight years ago. He was born in Troxleville and was 69 years, 9 months and 9 days old. He was a member of the Spring Mills lodge K. of G. E. He married Miss Margaret Gill who survives with one daughter, Miss Ida, at home. He also leaves two brothers living in Snyder county. Funeral services will be held at 9 o'clock this morning and the remains taken to Milroy for burial.

JORDAN.—Mrs. Laura Jordan, wife of Stewart Jordan, who lives on the farm of the late William Rishel, near Tusseyville, died on Saturday evening following an illness of about a year with a complication of diseases, aged about forty years. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Bottorf and was born and raised in Pennsylvania. In addition to her husband she is survived by two sons, Boyd and Andrew. She also leaves her father and a number of brothers and sisters. Burial was made in the Zion Hill cemetery on Wednesday morning.

BIERLY.—George Miller Bierly died at his home in Altoona last Thursday morning following a week's illness with pneumonia. He was born at Jacksonville, this county, and was not quite twenty-three years old. The family moved to Altoona six years ago where the young man was employed as a plumber. He is survived by his parents and three sisters. Burial was made in Fairview cemetery, Altoona, on Saturday afternoon.

ULRICH.—Mrs. Sarah Jane Ulrich, widow of Aaron Ulrich, died at the home of her son Charles, in Penn township, last Saturday, aged 78 years, 1 month and 14 days. Her survivors include the following children: Mrs. A. M. Harter, of Coburn; Mrs. John R. Zerby, of Gregg township; and Charles Ulrich, at whose home she died; also one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Hogan, of Unionville. Burial was made in the Millheim cemetery on Tuesday morning.

KING.—Charles King Jr., the six month's old child of Charles and Myrtle King, died at their home at Coleville on Sunday following a brief illness with pneumonia. In addition to the parents four brothers and three sisters survive. Funeral services were held on Tuesday by Rev. Reed O. Steely, after which burial was made at Curtin.

TWITMIRE.—Dr. Thomas Caldwell Twitmire, a former resident of Bellefonte and a cousin of Wilbur T. Twitmire, of this place, died at his home in Juniata last Friday morning as the result of a stroke of apoplexy.

He was a son of H. H. and Nancy Caldwell Twitmire and was born at Milesburg on April 11th, 1858. The elder Twitmire was a blacksmith and moved from Milesburg to Centre Hill and shortly thereafter his wife died and Thomas was left an orphan. Thus, while yet a small child, he was taken into the home of his aunts, the Misses Caldwell, who lived in the house now occupied by Miss Mary McQuiston, where he grew to manhood. As a young man he learned the saddlery trade with James Schofield but later took up the study of medicine and in 1886 graduated at the Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, and was awarded his diploma. Shortly thereafter he located at Gallitzin for the practice of his profession and it was while living there in 1887 that he married Miss Mary Arrowsmith. She died in 1891, and several years later, while practicing at Glen Ritchey, he married Keziah Rowles. During the past twelve years he had lived at Juniata. He is survived by his second wife and their one daughter, Mrs. Nellie Goodman, at home, and one daughter by his first marriage, Mrs. James G. Wallace, at Milesburg.

He was a member of the Blair county medical society and the Juniata Presbyterian church, the pastor of which, Rev. J. O. McCracken, had charge of the funeral services which were held at his late home at eight o'clock on Saturday evening. The remains were brought to Bellefonte on the Pennsylvania-Lehigh train on Sunday and taken direct to the Union cemetery for burial.

JOHNSON.—The death of Joel H. Johnson, at the home of his son, Milton R. Johnson, at six o'clock last Saturday evening, was the passing away of Bellefonte's oldest resident, a man who had lived to the age of four score and eleven years and whose entire life, up until the past few years, was one of rugged activity.

A son of John Curtis and Elizabeth Coldren Johnson he was born at Chester Hill, Union county, on December 14th, 1831, hence had reached the age of 91 years, 1 month and 27 days. The early part of his life was spent on the farm in Union county but fifty-five years ago he moved his family to Centre county and settled on a farm east of Bellefonte. They lived there five years then moved to Ferguson township and located on a farm near Pine Grove Mills. Many years ago, however, he quit the farm and located in Bellefonte and this had been his home ever since. He was a life-long member of the Methodist church and a devout, christian gentleman.

Mrs. Johnson passed away many years ago but surviving him are five children, namely: Mrs. William Hendricks, of Coon Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. H. B. Mallory, of Atotona; J. Curtis and Milton R. Johnson, and Mrs. W. C. Coxe, of Bellefonte. He was the last of his generation of the Johnson family, a brother, Daniel Johnson, passing away last August.

Funeral services were held at the M. R. Johnson home at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon by Rev. E. E. McKelvey, assisted by Rev. C. C. Shuey, burial being made in the Union cemetery.

SMOYER.—Charles William Smoyer, a highly esteemed resident of Runville, passed away at his home in that place last Friday morning following an illness of some weeks with a complication of diseases, aged 67 years, 11 months and 11 days. He was a son of William and Susie Smoyer, near where he spent his entire life. He was a farmer by occupation and a good citizen. Surviving him are one brother and seven sisters, namely: James Smoyer, Mrs. Tillie Woods, Mrs. Amanda Ostrander, Mrs. Ellen Baney and Mrs. Dora Rine, of Bellefonte; Mrs. Alice Yeager, of Jersey Shore; Mrs. Mary Schenck, of Mount Eagle, and Miss Lucy, at home.

Rev. G. A. Sparks had charge of the funeral services which were held at 10 o'clock on Monday morning, burial being made in the Advent cemetery.

WILKINSON.—John Wilkinson, a life-long resident of Potter township, died at his home at Potters Mills on Sunday morning following a brief illness with pneumonia. He was 76 years, 9 months and 6 days old and was a son of John and Rachel Kremer Wilkinson and was born at Potters Mills. He married Ella Hartman, who survives with the following children: Mrs. H. B. Spangler, of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Frank C. Carlson, of Potters Mills; Mrs. A. L. Bubb, of Reedsville; Mrs. J. P. Cameron, of Chicago, Ill., and Mrs. P. P. Henshall, of State College. He also leaves one sister, Miss Alda Wilkinson, of Harrisburg. Rev. Catherman had charge of the funeral services which were held on Wednesday afternoon, burial being made in the Sprucecreek cemetery.

Word was received in Bellefonte last week of the death of Miss Theresa Steinkerchner, of Williamsport, who died at the home of her brother, the Rev. John Steinkerchner, following a stroke of paralysis. Miss Steinkerchner was well known in Bellefonte, having a number of relatives in this locality.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

## Business Men's Banquet an Enthusiastic Gathering.

Just one hundred and twenty-six covers were filled at the annual banquet of the Associated Business Men of Bellefonte, held at the Brockerhoff house last Thursday evening, which included the members of the organization and a number of specially invited guests. The Academy orchestra furnished the music for the gathering and the menu offered by Mine Host Lansdy was all that could be desired.

Robert F. Hunter officiated in the capacity of toastmaster and the principal speaker of the evening was Charles Schmidt, of Harrisburg, national field representative of the Kewanis club. Naturally the speaker portrayed the advantages of the organization he represents as a financial date association of business men and featured some elements that appealed to Bellefonte people, especially the bi-monthly luncheons, at which the members gather not only in a social way but for the purpose of discussing business questions of interest to their town and community.

Local speakers who made very enthusiastic talks on what the association has already done for Bellefonte and what might be done by a little more persistent and concentrated effort included Col. J. L. Spangler, Col. W. Fred Reynolds, Dr. George P. Bible, Father Downes, Rev. M. DePui Maynard, Irving Warner, Ray Brown, of Shamokin, an engineer of the Eagle Silk Mill company, and Thad Hamilton. It was a very enjoyable occasion from beginning to end and every man was very optimistic and enthusiastic over the future of Bellefonte.

## Methodist Conference to be Held in Harrisburg.

The annual sessions of the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Episcopal conference will be held in Grace church, Harrisburg, beginning March 13th. On Tuesday evening there will be a program especially for young people, with Rev. E. C. Keboch presiding. Wednesday and Thursday evenings great speakers will present the post-Centenary program of the church. On Friday evening Dr. F. F. Shannon, of Chicago, will lecture. Saturday evening, Dr. J. M. Gray, of Scranton, will be the speaker. Sunday evening Rev. J. W. Skillington, of Osceola, will preach the missionary sermon and the memorial service will be held.

On Friday morning Governor Pinchot will address a joint session of the ministers and laymen and the laymen will then continue their sessions until Saturday evening. Saturday morning at 11 o'clock when the bishop addresses the class of young ministers just admitted to the conference, the laymen and older boys who are holding a conference, will be guests of the annual conference. The whole program promises to be one of the best held in Central Pennsylvania. Bishop W. K. McDowell will be the presiding officer.

## Farm Meetings Well Attended.

During the past two weeks the first two of a series of farm meetings which are being held in five different communities throughout Centre county met with very good success. The attendance has been very good, generally, and the discussions which follow the talks very beneficial to those attending. During the first week Mr. E. J. Walters discussed corn and legume crops. Last week E. M. Christen discussed hogs. During this week Prof. E. B. Pitts talked on the dairy problems of Centre county. Most every farmer in the county has a few dairy cows and were interested in these meetings. Mr. Pitts has just recently come to Pennsylvania from the State of Oregon where he made an enviable reputation in dairy production.

The last meeting this week will be held at Howard, at the Furnace school, at 7:30 o'clock this evening. Similar meetings will be held next week at the same places as this week, at which time G. F. Miles will discuss problems in potato production. The potato crop in Centre county has been increased at least fifty per cent. in the past few years, hence these meetings should be of interest to all farmers, especially potato growers.

## Friends Quarterly Meeting.

Friends quarterly meeting will be held at the church of the society in Unionville, February 17th and 18th, with little variation in the regular program. On Saturday at 2 p. m., First-day school conference. Subject for consideration: "The Mission of the Sabbath School in the Community and in the Church." 3:30 p. m. Saturday, ministry and council business meeting. Sunday, 10 a. m., quarterly meeting business meeting. 2 p. m., meeting for worship.

The public will be mostly interested in the 2 p. m. meetings of Saturday and Sunday. Isaac Wilson, a minister from Adams county, will attend these meetings.

—Just as a matter of precaution in pre-empting the dates T. H. Paul, secretary of the great Milton fair, announces the time for the big exhibition in that place this year as August 28-31, inclusive.

—Flashes of lightning were visible in the southern skies on Tuesday night between nine and ten o'clock. Wednesday morning showed a decided change in temperature.

## Y. M. C. A. Boys to See China.

The members of the boy's division are to be given a treat to see pictures of life in China which were taken by Mr. Donald W. Carruthers, son of the State secretary Y. M. C. A., who will tell the boys of his experiences while there a short time ago. The pictures will be shown on Monday evening at 7 o'clock, in the community room. Members will be privileged to bring one boy friend with them to see the pictures. This will be the first of a series of travels which will be given the boys every two weeks during the balance of the winter season.

The wrestling class opened on Monday evening with an enrollment of ten members and the prospects are that the number will double for the next class. Much interest is being shown by all the classes. Instructor Sarson expects to have the men in shape to put on a wrestling tournament in a month or so.

Interest in radio has reached such a degree amongst the boys that there is talk of organizing a club for those interested. If enough members apply, a room may be set apart for demonstration and practical work under an instructor. A short term of eight sessions will be held.

The board of directors are arranging to have a member's supper in the gymnasium on Tuesday, February 27th. The Women's Auxiliary will have charge of it, assisted by the Y. W. girls. Interesting reports will be given and speakers of note secured. Plans for the work of the second year in the re-modeled building will be given.

The bowling league interest is keeping up in good shape. The last game of the second series was played on the alleys on Wednesday evening. Standing of the leagues will be given next week.

## Boy Scouts Celebrate Anniversary.

The thirteenth anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America was celebrated by the members of Troop No. 1 by a "father and son" supper at St. John's parish house Tuesday evening of this week, at 6:30 o'clock. The supper was financed by the men of the parish, served by the ladies of St. Mary's Guild, and rendered otherwise pleasant by good speeches. A notable feature was the music of the Academy orchestra, adding much to the enthusiasm of the occasion. Thirty Scouts sat down at the tables, each one accompanied by his father, older brother, or some older friend. John Blanchard Esq., chairman of the Troop committee, acted as toastmaster, and called upon the following to speak: Rev. David Evans, Mr. Irving Warner, Judge Quigley, John B. Payne, Mr. Charles Cook, Mr. Nathan Iekovitch and the Rev. Malcolm Maynard. Carl Gray, senior patrol leader, responded for the boys, making a very good speech on scouting from the boy's standpoint.

It is hoped that as a result of the present interest in the Scout movement new troops will be established in our town. The boys are only waiting for adult leadership to pour into the ranks of this great character-forming, citizenship building organization. The exercises closed with the recitation of the Scout oath and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

## Veterans Appeals Will be Heard.

The Williamsport sub-district office of the United States veterans' bureau has been notified by the manager of the Philadelphia district office that the board of appeals will convene in Williamsport for several days, commencing Tuesday, February 27th, 1923.

This board has full power to hear and adjust immediately all legitimate appeals regarding both compensation and vocational training. This plan has proven to be very successful, particularly because personal contact is established between the claimant and the board, which is a helpful factor in adjusting the claim.

All ex-service men desiring to present an appeal to this board are requested to write to the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, Postoffice building, Williamsport, so that proper action may be taken.

—Officials of Bellefonte Castle, No. 357, Knights of the Golden Eagle, request all members to be present next Tuesday evening, at 7:45 o'clock, in the I. O. O. F. hall, as grand chief J. N. Cratzer, of Johnstown, will be present.

—The result of the Near East relief field day in the churches of Centre Hall Sunday, February 4th, came in the very encouraging financial report of cash and pledges amounting to \$910.00. Centre Hall always goes over the top in this drive.

## Keller, the Magician, Says, "The Hand is Quicker Than the Eye."

It is remarkable how easily a good magician can deceive you and make you see things entirely different than they really are.

This is deception and does no harm to your eyes, but people who cannot distinguish their friends across the street or read fine print without blurring are taking great chances in wearing glasses not suited for their particular defect. If in doubt consult me.

Dr. Eva B. Roan, Optometrist. Licensed by the State Board. Bellefonte every Wednesday afternoon, and Saturday 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Rooms 14 and 15 Temple Court building.

State College every day except Saturday. Both phones. 68-1