

INTERESTING SIGHTS IN THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.
Dr. North Graphically Describes Native Life and Scenes in Western China.
Chengtou, Sze., West China, December 16, 1923.
Dear Home Folks:
I have been going to write ever since we reached here nine days ago...

and feet long, walking perhaps ten or fifteen feet, then in turn leaving the end of the cable and going back to a place behind the rear man, just as we used to do at home when we passed a medicine ball down a long line to the last man who had to run with it to the front of the line, except that here the order is reversed.
Another interesting feature of this boating is their boatman's chant. Especially when they come to a hard pull in the river you will hear them strike up a chant that sounds most beautiful at a distance. By the rhythm they manage to pull together and probably forget the muscular strain to a considerable degree. This chanting, is not, however, all pleasant. On a cold, rainy day a tracker feels the discomfort, even though he is hardened to it. Then too, it is at times almost impossible for the tracker to pull against the current. He gets down almost on all fours. Boys hardly in their teens are put at the business and do their share—perhaps more than their share. They tell me that the boatmen are a hard lot. I presume they are, but they are also a good-hearted crowd, and live up to their lights. I presume, much better than some Chinese with better manners and education.
One of the features that impresses the newcomer is the lack of worry about clothes. Most of the men are barefoot or wear only straw sandals. Their clothing consists of a coat and pants—little more. Most of them take off their coats when the weather is at all warm, and when they have to wade they roll up their trousers or remove them entirely. We saw numerous Adams on our journey. Can you imagine any one walking around in the States in his birthday suit at Thanksgiving time—supposing, of course, that he dared to brave public opinion?
After this dissertation on boatmen, I must hurry on to say that we had comfortable beds and good food. We had folding cots with plenty of bedclothes. In Chungking Sarah and I bought from Dr. Laura Jones—Arminius Jones' daughter—a perfection oil heater. This kept us cozy during the cold days. We ate on Havermale's boat. At night we would pull up to shore at some large town where bandits are not known and sleep peacefully—except when some heathen funeral ceremonies kept us awake. At Niu-fudu, one of our night stops, some one had had the misfortune to die near the boat landing. Drums, Chinese fiddles, Chinese flutes or fifes, and a whiskey tenor made night so hideous that every time that I have heard one since, I have shuddered. Next morning at breakfast I told the crew that the sounds were hellish. They all agreed, although they professed to have been afraid to use the word.
As I said before, we reached Tzechow, Havermale's station, about 1:30 on Saturday afternoon. Apparently about all the Christians in the city were down at the river bank to greet us. First there were the school children, in their uniforms—all school children in China wear uniforms; then, too, the native church members; and lastly the foreigners—Mr. Starrett, the district missionary who has been doing Havermale's work while he has been home on furlough; Dr. Hill, the physician in charge of the hospital; Miss Proctor, Miss Griffith, Miss Nelson, Miss Householder, Miss Fosnot, of the W. F. M. S., Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard, Miss Burdeshaw, of the W. F. M. S., and Mrs. Fung, of the Chinese Y. W. C. A., along with us, and company, had four boats to our credit—or discredit. The Havermales had one, the Blanchards one, the ladies one, and we one. The whole journey from Luchow to Tzechow up the Lu river, a distance of some 400 li, I believe, took us from early Saturday morning, November 24, to Saturday afternoon on December 1. One can figure about three li to the mile, although it seems that with the Chinese a li is a relative term. They have "long" li and "short" li. As in almost everything they are not famous for accuracy in measurement of distances. We passed through bandit country, but no bandits bothered us. When we reached Tzechow we found that the trackers on Blanchard's boat were ex-bandits whom the loapan, or captain, was trying to reform. One of them was very bellicose, having two or three violent encounters with rival trackers in the course of the journey.
The method of travel is most interesting. The boats are pulled or towed by trackers who walk along the river banks. Well worn paths along the banks show where for centuries the Chinese have followed the methods of their ancestors in the propelling of river boats. When one side becomes too steep or otherwise disadvantageous for tracking, the trackers jump into the boats and row to the opposite bank, there getting out and tracking again. Boats the size of ours have two or three trackers, generally. Some of the large freight boats have many more. At difficult passages in the river, where rapids or swift currents make tracking difficult, are found trackers' stations, where men wait to help pull these boats to a safe point above the rushing water. Sometimes as many as twenty or thirty men will be found pulling one boat. Once or twice we passed points where the rapids occurred at a bend in the river, so that it was necessary for the boat to cross, and therefore for the trackers. In such a case the cable, which is made of woven bamboo strips, is passed across the stream and attached perhaps to a very long cable on the opposite bank some distance upstream. It is most interesting to watch the crew of trackers straining at a cable perhaps a thou-

and feet long, walking perhaps ten or fifteen feet, then in turn leaving the end of the cable and going back to a place behind the rear man, just as we used to do at home when we passed a medicine ball down a long line to the last man who had to run with it to the front of the line, except that here the order is reversed.
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IRVIN.—William H. Irvin, one of the last of the old-time furnace men in this section of the State, passed away at his home at Pennsylvania Furnace at five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, as the result of complications and general debility.
He was a son of Richard and Elizabeth Meyers Irvin and was born at Pennsylvania Furnace on August 22nd, 1844, making his age 79 years, 8 months and 7 days. His entire life was spent in the neighborhood of his birth and when he grew to manhood, following his school-boy days, he went to work for Lyon, Shorb & Co., who then operated the Pennsylvania furnace, one of a number of charcoal furnaces then in existence in Centre county. He is probably the last to pass away of the old-time employees of that iron-making industry. Following the shut-down of the furnace he became manager for the Tyrone Iron and Manufacturing company at the Juniata ore mines, but for a number of years past has lived a retired life. He was a member of the Spruce Creek Presbyterian church at Graysville and an exemplary citizen in every way.
His wife passed away a number of years ago but surviving him are the following children: C. P. Irvin, of Greenwood; G. P. Irvin and Mrs. W. H. Brown, of Pennsylvania Furnace; Mrs. J. M. Wilson, W. W. Irvin and Mrs. B. H. Brennen, all of Altoona.
Funeral services will be held at his late home at 10:30 o'clock this (Friday) morning, and burial will be made in the Graysville cemetery.
STRAW.—Uriah Straw, for a third of a century a well known blacksmith of Blue Ball, Clearfield county, died on Monday following two year's illness with dropsy and other complications.
He was a son of John and Frances Weaver Straw and was born at Centre Hall on September 10th, 1851, hence was in his seventy-third year. When he was a boy his parents moved to Julian where Mr. Straw grew to manhood and learned the trade of a blacksmith. Thirty years ago he located at Blue Ball and that had been his home ever since. In 1873 he married Miss Harriet Fahr, of Julian, who passed away eleven years ago, but surviving him are two sons and two daughters, Blanchard and Allan Straw, Mrs. Lester English and Mrs. Forest English, all of Blue Ball. He also leaves the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Daniel Lindsay, of Blue Ball; Daniel W. Straw, of Julian; A. M., of Youngstown, Ohio; Andrew N., of Zanesville, Ohio; John J., of Marion, Ohio; J. E., of Pittsburgh; Mrs. Michael Murphy, of Julian; Mrs. Anna Johnston, of Braddock; Mrs. Isaac Holt and Mrs. Emory Beals, of Julian.
Rev. Ira Fisher, of the Methodist church, had charge of the funeral services which were held at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, burial being made at Blue Ball.
BAKER.—From the Modesta, Cal., Herald we learn of the death at Ceres, Cal., on March 31st, of James McClay Baker, a native Centre county. He was born in Howard on July 25th, 1851, hence was in his seventy-third year. When sixteen years of age he went to Illinois and two years later went to Iowa. In 1876 he returned to Centre county and a year later married Miss Lida A. Knox. Shortly thereafter they returned to Iowa where they lived until 1886 when they moved to Nebraska, but returned to Iowa in 1897 and located in Des Moines. In 1908 they moved to Ceres, Cal., where they occupied a ranch ever since.
Mr. Baker was for many years a member of the Masonic order and a past master in the organization. He is survived by his wife and one son, James Hiram Baker, of Allen, Nebraska. Mr. Baker's remains were buried on April 9th at Modesta, Cal.
BUCHER.—Abbott G. Bucher, a son of the late Judge Joseph Bucher, of Lewisburg, and who was well known in Belleville through his frequent trips here as a traveling salesman, died at his home at Andover, N. Y., on April 22nd, as the result of heart failure. He was forty-eight years old and is survived by his wife, who prior to her marriage was Mrs. Roberta Smith, for a number of years a resident of Belleville; two brothers and one sister, John W. and J. Casper Bucher, of Lewisburg, and Mrs. Harry W. Chamberlain, of Milton. The remains were taken to Lewisburg where burial was made last Thursday afternoon.
McELHATTAN.—Mrs. Sarah E. McElhattan, widow of William McElhattan, died at her home on Beaver street, last Saturday, following an illness of ten years. She was a daughter of George and Susan Rohrabough Wagner and was born on May 29th, 1847, hence had reached the age of 76 years, 10 months and 27 days. She had been a resident of Belleville most of her life. Her husband died many years ago but surviving her are a number of children. Burial was made in the Union cemetery on Monday.
MILES.—Reed King Miles, of Martha Furnace, died at the Belleville hospital on Tuesday morning following almost four week's illness with pneumonia. He was a son of John B. and Martha Eberts Miles and was 16 years, 3 months and 18 days old. The young man was a second year student in the Belleville High school and quite popular among his fellow pupils. In addition to his parents one brother survives. Burial was made in the Williams cemetery yesterday afternoon.

YOCUM.—Mrs. Catherine Yocum, widow of the late David Yocum, and one of the oldest and most highly respected women of Nittany valley, passed to her reward at the home of her son, L. H. Yocum, of Hublersburg, last Friday, as the result of a stroke of apoplexy.
She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Deitz and was born in Marion township on June 1st, 1841, hence had reached the advanced age of 82 years, 10 months and 24 days. Sixty-four years ago she married David Yocum and the greater part of their married life was spent on the farm in Walker township. She was a consistent member of the Reformed church from childhood, an earnest worker in the Sunday school and took a leading part in the activities of the missionary society. Notwithstanding her advanced age she enjoyed remarkable health up until her late illness and always enjoyed the companionship of her many neighbors and friends who loved to gather at her fireside.
Her husband passed away twenty-two years ago and of her three children only one survives, L. H. Yocum, with whom she has made her home. She leaves, however, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Funeral services were held at her late home at 2:30 o'clock on Monday afternoon by Rev. Harry Hartman, pastor of the Reformed church, and burial was made in the Hublersburg cemetery.
WALIZER.—Samuel Walizer, a native of Centre county, died last Friday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Upton Haines, at Graysville, following a protracted illness. He was seventy-seven years old and is survived by three children, Walter Walizer, of Seward; Mary, of Trenton, N. J., and Mrs. Haines, of Graysville. Burial was made in the Graysville cemetery on Sunday afternoon.
KANE.—Herbert Kane, four months old son of Joseph and Treca Yergar Kane, died at the family home on Railroad street last Saturday night following a brief illness with broncho-pneumonia. Burial was made in the Catholic cemetery on Tuesday morning.
Futile Attempt to Blow Up Rev. Elmer Williams Family.
A dispatch from Chicago states that an attempt was made there at an early hour on Monday of this week to blow up Rev. Elmer L. Williams and family, and while the act proved futile so far as injuring any of the household is concerned six members of the family were hurled from their beds, while most of the windows in the house were broken and the front porch damaged.
Centre countyians will be interested in this item because of the fact that Rev. Williams was born and raised near Martha Furnace, this county, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. George W. Williams. He was one of the prime movers in instituting the Williams family reunion association and most every year returns to Centre county for that big event.
In Chicago he is chief of law enforcement for the Chicago Better Government Association and he characterized the act of the bombers on Monday as "an appeal for light wines and beer." He evidently is not frightened from his work as he promptly stated that he will open "such a drive in Chicago against viciousness and booze as the city has not yet seen."

"Buck" Taylor Dead at West Chester.
William Taylor, better known in Centre county as "Buck" Taylor, died in the Chester County hospital, at West Chester, on Monday, following three week's illness with a complication of diseases. He was a Texan by birth and probably close to seventy years old. Reared on the plains of his native State he naturally drifted into the life of a cow boy. Standing six feet seven inches in his stocking feet and weighing almost three hundred pounds he was a figure to attract attention wherever he happened to be.
In his life as a cow boy he became a proficient rider and one of his great stunts was to pick a dime from the ground while riding a horse at top speed.
His proficiency in the saddle finally attracted the attention of William F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," who induced him to join his wild west show and for a number of years he was one of his star riders. Later Mr. Taylor took a band of cow boys and Indians to England and gave a wild west show which attracted large crowds. Returning to this country he decided to retire and coming to Centre county about ten years ago he purchased a farm on the Branch, near Boalsburg, where he lived a number of years. He finally sold his farm and for some months lived at the Bush house in Belleville but later drifted east and located in Chester county. Many people in Belleville and Centre county very distinctly remember Mr. Taylor and naturally will feel regret over his death; especially because of the fact that during his stay here he became a member of the Belleville Lodge of Elks, and had always maintained that he would come back to this county to round out his life.

Clinton County Detective Awarded Carnegie Hero Medal.
As a recognition of his bravery in saving the lives of John M. Reynolds and Harold E. Reeder county detective W. H. Myers, of Lock Haven, has been awarded the Carnegie gold medal and \$1,000 in cash. Mr. Myers' act of heroism occurred during the ice flood of 1923, at Lock Haven, when John M. Reynolds, an aged man, and Harold E. Reeder rowed out in a boat in an attempt to cross the fields east of that city. They were swept from their course by the swift current, and as the boat was being carried past a small tree, near the point where Bald Eagle creek enters into the Susquehanna, they managed to grasp the branches and cling there for eight hours. All attempts to rescue them failed until Mr. Myers and Ellery Reeder, father of one of the water-imprisoned men, risked their lives and succeeded in reaching the men in a boat and effecting a rescue.
A letter from the Hero Fund Commission to Mr. Myers states that the medal will be forwarded to him at an early date and the cash will follow as soon as he designates the purpose for which it shall be used as the award states that he is given the sum of \$1,000 "to use for some worthy purpose which shall be approved by an executive committee," which is the customary string tied to all such awards.

Girls' Gymnastic Closing Exhibition.
Twenty-four members of the younger girls' gymnasium class, which has been conducted by Mrs. Robert S. Walker during the past season, gave a very pleasing demonstration of their work before a good and appreciative audience in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium on Monday evening.
The calisthenics and wand drill were very well performed, the folk dancing was graceful and pleasing and the recreation games provoked lots of enthusiasm, both amongst the spectators and the performers, and the competition ran close.
During the evening the girls presented Mrs. Walker with a beautiful bouquet of red roses as a small token of their appreciation of her faithful attendance and leadership of the class.
Mrs. Louis Schadt presided at the piano. The music for part of the exercises was supplied by an excellent school viciola, which was kindly loaned by a local store.
This will close the classes for the season and the girls will anxiously await the reopening next fall.

Faculty Play a Money Maker.
Thursday afternoon and evening of last week the High school faculty gave a short drama entitled, "Come Out of the Kitchen," in the Moose Temple theatre. The characters were very well portrayed. Mrs. Maurice Krader and Ellis O. Keller carried off the principal roles, while a great deal of credit is also due to all the other members of the cast for the excellent manner in which they handled the various amusing and complex situations which confronted them. The play was directed by Mrs. Krader. In the afternoon the play was given for the school pupils, and in the evening a public performance was held. Over three hundred dollars were realized, which was turned over to the Athletic association.

Two Electroconvulsions on Monday Morning.
Two electroconvulsions took place at the Rockview penitentiary on Monday morning, the first being that of Willie N. Morgan, the young Texan who brutally murdered six year old Lillian Gilmore, of Philadelphia, on February 23rd, 1923, then threw the body into a creek near Morgantown. Efforts were made to save Morgan's life on the grounds of insanity but both the Supreme court and board of pardons declined to intervene.
The second man to go to the chair was Albert Platt, of Crawford county, who killed Robert Ellis McGowan, a nineteen year old school teacher at the McGowan home near Meadville. The crime was committed on February 7th of this year, Platt was convicted on February 18th, and paid the penalty on Monday morning, just eighty-one days from the date of the commission of the crime. The bodies were both buried in the penitentiary cemetery.

According to a report reaching this office yesterday there are a number of cases of scarlet fever on east Curtin street and residents up there are blaming the spread of the disease on a small dog belonging to a family where the fever was prevalent some weeks ago, and which has been allowed to run at large.

Official Count Showed Few Changes in Primary Vote.
The official count of the vote cast at last week's primaries was completed by the commissioner's clerks on Tuesday and the result showed only minor changes from the totals published last week. For President 857 Republicans voted instructions for Coolidge, 15 for Johnson and 39 for Pinchot, while 329 Democrats voted for McAdoo and 69 for Smith. The highest vote cast on the Republican ticket was 1969 for W. I. Fleming for county chairman. W. H. Noll received 42 Republican votes for Assemblyman while Holmes received 87 Democratic votes. Following is the vote cast for all the candidates on the Democratic ticket except the delegates-at-large and alternates, which vary very little from the totals published last week:
Superior Court: Kingsmith 807
State Treasurer: Ermentrout 855
Auditor General: Collins 854
Congress: Benson 851
Swoope 8
Assembly: Noll 347
Holmes 87
Zoe Meek 43
H. N. Hoy 10
District Delegates: Foster 909
Short 900
Alternates: Gates 837
Paul 896
State Committeeman: Redding 128
Gray 149
County Chairman: Gray 936

Do Night Crawlers Eat Onions?
Several years ago ex-sheriff W. Miles Walker gave us a story about the big, black night crawlers pulling up his little onions and piling them up on top of the ground, and we published the same with a feeling of considerable reservation. But we are now willing to take off all reservations.
In addition to pushing the pencil in the "Watchman" office we have always laid claim to some ability as a gardener. Last Friday we dug our first garden for this year and put out a nice bed of onions, feeling somewhat proud of the job when finished. Then came the rain of Monday night and Tuesday morning about five per cent. of our little onions were lying on top of the ground; and most remarkable of all was the fact that they were in little piles of three, four and five. Naturally we harked back to Mr. Walker's story of the night crawlers and in re-sticking the onions the same day we took particular care to trace to its source the cause of the onions being pulled up and piled up, and underneath each pile was found a hole about the size of a lead pencil. In fact in several instances the sprouts on the onions had been pulled down into the hole as far as possible. That the depredations were due to night crawlers is unquestioned, and now we are prone to wonder if it was an act of pure devilishness on their part, or whether they really eat onions.

William Hall Again in Trouble.
William Hall, the man who escaped from the western penitentiary at Rockview several years ago and took a shot or two at Harry Whiteman down near the Red Roof when he attempted to recapture him, is again in trouble at Altoona, which he has adopted as his abiding place. After serving his full term Hall was discharged from the penitentiary last December and returned to Altoona where he has been living in a shanty. Recently a number of burglaries have been committed in that city and the police became suspicious of Hall and on Tuesday morning several officers decided to search the shanty in which he lived.
Hall was in the shack at the time and received the officers with a shower of bullets. Two men were wounded, though not fatally, and Hall promptly took to his heels and made his escape to Brush mountain. In the evening he returned and officers again tried to capture him but he made his escape a second time, and up to this writing has not been captured. Hall is fifty-six years old and almost half his life has been spent in prison.

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