

MUD-PIES.

The Grown-Ups are the queerest folks; they never seem to know That mud pies always have to be made just exactly so. You have to have a nice back yard, a sunny, pleasant day. And then you ask some boys and girls to come around and play. You mix some mud up in a pail, and stir it with a stick! It mustn't be a bit too thin—and not a bit too thick. And when you make it into pies, and pat 'em with your hand. And bake 'em on a nice flat board, and my! but they are grand!

—St. Nicholas.

LEWIS THE ROBBER.

Through the courtesy of Frederick A. Godcharles, of Milton, the "Watchman" is permitted to publish two installments of the absorbing stories of Pennsylvania history that he has compiled, copyrighted and is publishing, from day to day, in several Pennsylvania dailies, among them the Philadelphia Ledger, Altoona Mirror and Williamsport Sun.

While we have read them all with exceeding interest the two that we are certain will have a peculiar interest to our Centre county readers are the ones that narrate the escapades of David Lewis, the robber.

The story of the escapades of Lewis and Connelly is one that has been handed down by word of mouth only in this county. Linn's history of Centre county tells some of it, but that valuable compendium is accessible to very few and now that the older generations are gone it is part of the education of the younger ones that they carry in memory some of the traditions of old Centre.

We observe that Mr. Godcharles has not associated Connelly with Lewis. Here the story has been that the two highwaymen were inseparable and worked together always.

We recall camping on the Rays-town branch of the Juniata back in the 90s. At that time our attention was called to a lot of excavating that had been done on the mountain side just where an old covered bridge spanned the river at "Juniata Crossings."

When we inquired as to the cause of it Sammy Shull, a native, replied: "It was done by the natives who were hunting for gold hidden hereabouts by Lewis and Connelly, the robbers. You know when one of them was being taken over this bridge to the Bedford jail he stopped the Sheriff and said: 'If you let me go I can take you to a spot not a hundred yards from here where I'll get you enough gold to make you wealthy.'"

Of course the sheriff didn't let him go and for years afterwards credulous folks wasted days digging among the rocks there to find the hidden treasure that the highwayman was supposed to have concealed.

David Lewis was the most notorious robber and counterfeiter in this country a little more than a century ago. He was born at Carlisle, March 25, 1790, of poor, but respectable parents, being one of a large family of children. The father died, when David was less than ten years old, and the widow had a hard struggle to raise her family. Be it said to the credit of David that he remained with her and assisted in raising the family, until he was seventeen years old. Then he worked at different occupations in and about Bellefonte until he enlisted in the army.

During the service he was punished by a sergeant for some offense and deserted, only to re-enlist a few months later, as a private in Captain William N. Irvine's company of light artillery, under an assumed name.

By this time he had formed vicious habits and he immediately planned to decamp with his bounty money, but he was discovered as a former deserter. The war of 1812 was imminent and discipline rigid, so that the sentence of his court martial was death. Through the efforts of his distressed mother, his sentence was commuted to imprisonment in a guard house, secured by ball and chain.

He served only one week of his sentence, for then he made his escape and safely reached a cave on the banks of the Conodoguinet creek, less than two miles from Carlisle. The very night he arrived in this favorite haunt Lewis began his long and varied career of robbery and lawlessness. This cave and another on Little Chickies creek near Mount Joy, Lancaster county, were the storehouses for the major portion of the ill-gotten loot of Lewis and his gang.

COUNTRY BANKS FIRST VICTIMS. The first victims of Lewis were the country banks, but recently established whose bank notes were easy to counterfeit and Lewis was quick to make the most of this condition. He journeyed to Vermont and there made enormous quantities of spurious bank bills, purporting to have been issued from banks in Philadelphia and various Pennsylvania towns. These were successfully passed in New York.

Lewis was captured and committed to jail at Troy, from which he soon escaped, with the assistance of the jailer's daughter, who fled with him and became his wife. His devotion to her was so genuine that it is strange her influence did not prove sufficient for him to have become a valuable member of society instead of one of the worst criminals on record.

Lewis was a man of unusual physical strength, handsome, and possessed a most pleasing personality. He was conscious of that fact and made many friends, not in crime, but those who would aid him in making escape or give him timely warning. The story is told of Nicholas Howard, a prominent landlord near Doubling Gap, who would display a flag from a certain upper window, when the coast was

clear and Lewis was thus advised of the movements of the officers seeking his apprehension. Food was often carried to him in his hiding place by those who never suspected they were befriending an outlaw.

RIDES WITH PURSUERS.

A Mr. Black, of Cumberland, Md., related a personal adventure with Lewis in the Allegheny mountains. Black had crossed the mountains on horseback to Brownsville, where he collected a large sum of money. He rode a speedy black horse. While in Brownsville he won another horse in a race and the following day started home riding the new horse, leading his own "Blacky."

In a lonely ravine a man suddenly appeared and jumped on Blacky's back and rode alongside Black and began to barter for the horse. The horse was not for sale and they rode together until a spring was reached, where they dismounted and quenched their thirst and ate a bite and drank some peach brandy. By the time a second spring was reached, Black and his new-found companion were on intimate terms. The stranger asked Black if he had ever seen Lewis, about whom there was so much fear and excitement. He replied that he had not. "Well, sir," replied the stranger, jumping to his feet, "Here is Lewis—I am the man."

Black further stated that Lewis told him he had seen the race in Brownsville and knew he had collected much money there, and that he had preceded him to waylay and rob him, but that Black had treated him like a gentleman and he would not harm him or take a cent from his pocket. At another time when a large searching party in Adams county in pursuit of Lewis met a well-dressed stranger on horseback, they asked him if he had "seen or heard anything of Lewis, the robber." He replied that he had not and joined in the pursuit. Later he had the audacity to send a letter, stating they had been riding with Lewis, and he was anxious to learn if they thought him agreeable.

ROBS CONSTABLE.

One of the best of his exploits took place in Mifflin county. Having failed in the execution of some plots to rob several wealthy farmers, his ready cash unaccountably low, he set out to replenish his finances. Coming across a fine, large house that stood back from the highway, he knocked at the door, which was opened by an elderly woman of respectable appearance. Lewis, to ascertain where her money was kept, asked her to change a five dollar note.

"That I am not able to do," replied the woman, "for I am unfortunate and have not a dollar in the house, and what is worse," she added despondently, "as she caught sight of a man coming through the woods toward the house, 'there comes the constable to take my cow for the last half-year's rent. I don't know what to do without her.'"

"How much do you owe?" inquired Lewis, hurriedly.

"Twenty dollars, sir," answered the woman.

"Have you no one to help you," inquired Lewis.

"No one," she replied.

"Then I will," said the robber, as he drew from his pocket the exact sum. "Pay that fellow his demand and be sure to take his receipt, but don't say anything about me."

Lewis had just time to make his escape, unobserved, when the constable arrived and proceeded to drive away the widow's cow, but she rushed forward, paid him the money and took his receipt.

He immediately set out upon his return, but had not proceeded far, when Lewis bounded into the road and greeted him as follows:

"How d'y'e do, stranger? Got any spare change about you?"

"No," answered the frightened constable.

"Come, shell out, old fellow, or I'll save you the trouble," retorted Lewis, as he presented his pistol. This argument convinced the worthy official that the stranger meant business and quickly handed over his money.

Lewis got back his twenty dollars and forty dollars in addition. He often afterwards boasted that the loan of that twenty to the widow was one of the best investments he ever made.

Next week we will publish the second and final installment of Mr. Godcharles' story of Lewis the robber.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE HAS HUGE TASK.

There are 200,000 applications for patents on inventions now pending in the United States Patent Office, according to a statement of the United States Civil Service Commission. To speed up action, Congress has authorized the appropriation which will permit the addition of 100 to the present examining force of 500.

The Civil Service Commission will hold examinations on May 7 and later dates for positions of assistant examiner in the Patent Office. The entrance salary is \$1,860 a year, and increases are provided up to \$5,000 a year.

Full information concerning the examination may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or the secretary of the civil service board at the postoffice or custom house in any city.

The Commission states that of approximately 80,000 applications for patents made annually, fully two-thirds of them relate to some phase of the automobile industry. The present system in the Patent Office of examination before issue was authorized by an act of Congress of 1836. The system has been copied by practically all large countries.

Fixing the Blame.

Gentle hands were lifting Pat from the wreckage of his automobile, which had just been struck at a grade crossing by a fast passenger train. "How did it happen?" asked a friend, who was with the rescue party.

"Begorra," fumed Pat, "'tis more than I can understand. Ye'd have thought that the engineer of the train could have seen me comin' in broad daylight!"—Everybody's Magazine.

TO DISTRIBUTE NINE AND ONE-HALF MILLION TREES.

Harrisburg.—Secretary Stuart, of the State Department of Forests and Waters, has announced that this spring approximately nine and one-half million trees will be distributed from the nurseries operated by the Department. This is a far greater number than have ever been shipped from the State nurseries in any one year. It is almost twice as many as were furnished to private land owners in 1923 and three times as many as in 1922. The trees are distributed to private land owners for timber production. The only charges made for these trees are for cost of packing and transportation. Officials of the department have figured out that this charge amounts to only about one cent for ten trees.

Secretary Stuart said that weather conditions have been favorable for nursery shipments this spring. Tree planting work is about two weeks later than usual. Shipments, he said, will start from all the State nurseries at once and nurserymen will be compelled to double their efforts in order to get all shipments made before the planting season, which is usually about May 10.

Most of the trees distributed this spring will be shipped from the Mont Alto nursery in Franklin county, the Clearfield nursery in Clearfield county, and the Greenwood nursery in Huntingdon county. The spring estimates show that over four million trees will be shipped from the Mont Alto nursery; almost three million from the Clearfield nursery and one and one-half million from the Greenwood nursery. White pine, pitch pine, red pine, Scotch pine, bank pine, shortleaf pine, Japanese larch, Norway spruce, white spruce, black walnut and white ash are the principal trees that are being shipped.

Forestry officials say that the trees distributed from the State nurseries this spring will reforest about 350 million board feet of fine lumber that is urgently needed by the people and industries of the State.

Getting Prepared.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones had been invited to a friend's for tea, and the time had arrived for preparing for the visit.

"Come along, dearie," said Mrs. Jones to her three year old son, "and have your face washed."

"Don't want to be washed," came the reply.

"But," said mother, "you don't want to be a dirty little boy, do you? I want my little boy to have a nice clean face for the ladies to kiss."

Upon this persuasion he gave way and was washed.

A few minutes later he stood watching his father washing.

"Ha, ha, daddy!" he cried. "I know why you're washing!"

Nowadays and Olden Times.

The automobile gets a lot of blame for things it can't possibly control. Those who accuse it of responsibility for getting parties forget the time when driving Dobbin with one hand was considered an art.—Portland Oregonian.

Marriage Licenses.

Leo R. Vail and Inez L. Fucart, Philipsburg.

William O. Houtz and Margaret Cori, State College.

Charles F. Bennett, Osceola Mills, and Irene C. Kunes, Blanchard.

Harry Nevin Kahl and Mary Elizabeth McCool, Rebersburg.

Wallace I. Davis and Olive S. Hartley, Philipsburg.

Jerry W. Miller, Flemington, and Gertrude Burd, Unionville.

James E. Allen, State College, and Alice C. Davis, Bellefonte.

Morris E. Witmer, Bellefonte, and Nellie E. Meyer, State College.

Jacob C. Hart and Ruth E. Varner, Berwick.

Robert G. Torrens and Millicent L. Hoag, Perry, N. Y.

MEDICAL.

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