

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., March 27, 1925.

F. 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.

BIG MERGER OF

TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

Bell Company to Take Over the Penn State Organization.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Penn State Telephone company was held at the head offices in Lancaster, on Wednesday of this week, to consider the proposition of the Bell Telephone company of Pennsylvania to take over all the property, right, title and interest of the Penn State company. This is in line with a general movement all over the State to do away with competing organizations. In fact it has already been done in the Johnstown district. There the independent organization took over the Bell interests and proceedings have already been started by the independent company in the Ridgway district to take over the Bell interests in that section of the State. The Huntingdon and Clearfield Telephone company is now in process of reorganization after having emerged from a receivership, and as it is much stronger in the district it serves than the Bell company, it follows that in due course of time it will also take over the Bell interests within its territory.

If the unification of the Penn State company with the Bell Telephone company of Pennsylvania goes through, and there is a likelihood that it will, forty-two communities will be ultimately able to call any telephone subscriber in their community through one system. Under the plan about 12,000 Penn State subscribers and about 55,000 Bell subscribers in ten counties will be able to communicate with each other. It also will give the subscribers greater long-distance connections.

The proposed merger will affect ten counties: Chester, Lancaster, Northumberland, Union, Lycoming, Lebanon, Schuylkill, Blair, Centre and Clinton counties.

Exchanges of the Penn State are now operated in Altoona, Annville, Ashland, Bellefonte, Bellwood, Centre Hall, Christiana, East Petersburg, Ephrata, Girardville, Gap, Hollidaysburg, Lampeter, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lewisburg, Lititz, Lock Haven, Mahanoy City, Manheim, Millersville, Millheim, Milton, Minersville, Mount Carmel, Pottsville, Palmyra, Quarryville, Schuylkill Haven, Shamokin, Shenandoah, Snow Shoe, State College, Strasburg, Sunbury, Tamaqua, Tremont, Tyrone, Jersey Shore, Coatesville, Honeybrook and West Chester.

Of course it will probably take a year to effect the change. Should the stockholders of the Penn State company vote favorably upon the proposition of the Bell company the matter will then have to be submitted to the Public Service Commission for its approval. While no mention has been made of the financial stipulation involved it is understood to be in the neighborhood of a million dollars.

The consolidation of the two companies would ultimately mean the abandonment of all Penn State exchanges and the tearing down of some of its lines. So far as long distance service is concerned, it is understood that an inter-relation agreement will be made between the Bell company and the independent whereby a unified long distance service will be established to all points in the State, with connections all over the country.

As the unification will not be completed for some time, and as the property covers such a large area, changes among the employees are not contemplated in the near future.

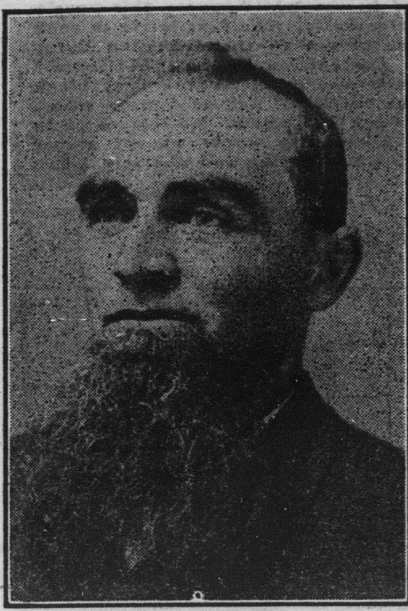
The merger was officially ratified at Lancaster on Wednesday. The American Tel. and Tel. will assume the mortgage indebtedness of \$461,500 of the Penn State Co., and pay \$363,500 in cash.

—\$1.00 down, balance in small weekly payments, delivers any Hoosier kitchen cabinet during club sale at W. R. Brachbill's. 13-1t

Wants Death House Moved.

Representative Alexander, of Delaware county, has introduced a bill in the Legislature providing for the removal of the death house at the Rockview penitentiary from its present location to a point at least one thousand yards from any of the existing buildings on the grounds. The bill carries an appropriation of \$100,000 for the work.

—Last showing of "The Covered Wagon," Moose Temple theatre, Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28. 13-1t



JACOB B. SOLT.

SOLT.—Jacob B. Solt, a native of Centre county, died last Friday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles N. Daugherty, in Frederick, Md., following an illness of ten days.

He was a son of Peter and Mary Haupt Solt and was born at the Summit, near Lemont, on April 7th, 1845, hence had reached the age of 79 years, 11 months and 13 days. His early life was spent on the farm, his first venture for himself being as a sub-contractor in the grading of three miles of the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad about fifty years ago. Later he embarked in the mercantile business at Centre Hall, where he lived until 1889, when he sold out and moved to Frederick county, Md. Later he moved to Gettysburg, Pa., where for several years he was employed as a battlefield guide, but eventually he returned to Maryland and following the death of his wife in 1917 followed in the city of Frederick and embarked in the grocery business. He sold out a year ago.

He was a member of the Calvary Methodist church, at Frederick, and the leaders' bible class. Mr. Solt was one of the oldest subscribers of the Democratic Watchman, having read it continuously for about sixty-four years. His survivors include two sons and one daughter, Calvin F. Solt, of Gettysburg; James E., and Mrs. Daugherty, of Frederick. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Kane, of Belleville; and three half-brothers, Cyrus Solt, of Belleville; James and Conrad, of Williamsport. Funeral services were held at his late home in Frederick at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, after which burial was made in the Mt. Olivet cemetery, in that place.

REED.—John Thomas Reed, a well known retired farmer of Spruce Creek valley, died on Sunday at the home of his son-in-law, Benjamin Everhart, at Franklinville, following an illness of several months as the result of a complication of diseases.

He was a son of William and Rosa Hanna Reed, early settlers of Patton township, Centre county, where he was born on May 4th, 1850, hence was almost seventy-five years old. For thirty years he farmed in Buffalo Run valley, later moving to Peru and eventually moving onto a farm he purchased near Graysville. In 1913 he bought the McWilliams farm, at Rock Springs, where he lived until his retirement in 1916.

He was twice married, his first wife having been Miss Mary Confer. One daughter by this union, Mrs. Frank Houck, survives. Following the death of his first wife he married Miss Sofia Elizabeth Crust, who survives with the following children: Robert W. Reed, of Rock Springs; Mrs. Samuel Everhart, of the Branch, and Mrs. Ben Everhart, of Franklinville. He also leaves one brother, David Reed, of Kansas.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon by Rev. H. D. Fleming, of the Presbyterian church, of which he was a life-long member, assisted by Rev. Norris, after which burial was made in the Graysville cemetery.

GRAZIER.—Miss Jennie G. Grazier died last Wednesday at the home of her niece, Mrs. H. A. Leitzell, at State College, following an illness of some months with asthma. She was a daughter of David and Nancy Grazier and was born at Warriorsmark a little over seventy-two years ago. Surviving her are two sisters and two brothers, Mrs. G. H. Hubbard, of Lock Haven; Mrs. G. A. Walker, of Scottsdale; Frank Grazier, of Bedford, Va., and Harry L., of Warriorsmark. Funeral services were held at the Leitzell home at 1:30 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, after which the remains were taken to Warriorsmark for burial.

LOVE.—Miss Jane Gray Love, secretary of Judge Thomas J. Baldrige, of Blair county, died at her home in Tyrone on Monday night following a brief illness. She was a daughter of Harry S., deceased, and Mary McKee Love, former residents of Centre county, and was in her thirtieth year. Her mother, two brothers and two sisters survive. Burial was made in Tyrone on Monday.

MOTTERN.—Mrs. Annie Mottern, mother of Mrs. W. A. Manning, of Belleville, died at the Geisinger hospital, in Danville, last Wednesday, following a protracted illness. She is survived by five children, two sisters and three brothers. Burial was made at Danville on Saturday.

HOCKENBERRY.—Harry Hockenberry, a life-long resident of Spring township, died at his home at Nigh bank at 12:30 o'clock on Sunday night, as the result of a stroke of apoplexy sustained at 12:30 o'clock on Friday night.

He was a son of Simon and Catherine Wertz Hockenberry and was born near the old Valentine furnace on June 13th, 1860, hence was 64 years, 9 months and 10 days old. He was a laborer by occupation and a good citizen in every way. His entire life was spent in the vicinity of Belleville. He married Miss Lida N. Chapman who survives with the following children: Simon F. Hockenberry, of Nigh bank; William E., of Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Miller Sholly, of Belleville; John, of Pleasant Gap; Robert, of Tyrone; Harry, of Pleasant Gap; Herbert, Arthur and Albert, at home. One son, Roy Hockenberry, died some years ago. He also leaves one brother and four sisters, John Hockenberry, Mrs. Calvin Hall and Mrs. Sadie Garrett, of Belleville; Mrs. Charles Caldwell, of Milesburg; and Mrs. Annie Brown, of State College.

Funeral services were held at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, burial being made in the Union cemetery Belleville.

KLING.—Peter Percival Kling, a native of Centre county, died at his home in Altoona last Saturday morning following an illness of some weeks. He was a son of the late Joel and Albertina Kling and was born in Marion township, Centre county, on August 8th, 1865. As a young man he located in Altoona and for many years has been engaged as a lumber inspector for the Pennsylvania Railroad company. He was a member of Logan lodge No. 490, F. and A. M., of Altoona; the Jr. O. U. M., D. of A., Illinois Commercial Travelers' association and the railroad relief.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carrie Kling, and one daughter, Elizabeth, at home. He also leaves the following brothers and sisters: Elmer E. and Samuel R. Kling, of Altoona; Oscar M., of Juniata; J. M., of Scottsdale; Calvin, of Lock Haven; Mrs. D. B. Matern, of Altoona; Mrs. W. H. Yearick, of Howard; Mrs. Earl Yearick and Mrs. George Ertley, of Belleville. Burial was made in the Rose Hill cemetery, Altoona, on Tuesday afternoon.

ENGLE.—Mrs. Annie B. Engle, widow of the late Andrew J. Engle, died at the home of her son, Andrew J. Jr., on east Lamb street, Belleville, on Friday last week, where she had been making her home since the death of her husband some years ago. She had been in poor health for over a year but her condition did not become serious until six weeks ago.

She was a daughter of A. J. and Catherine O. Brookbank and was born in Cambria county on April 4th, 1856, making her age 68 years, 11 months and 16 days. Most of her life was spent in Altoona and vicinity. Her only survivors are two sons, Andrew J. and Joseph F., both of Belleville.

Funeral mass was held in the Catholic church at ten o'clock on Monday morning by Rev. Father Downes, after which burial was made in the Catholic cemetery.

CAMPBELL.—Warren L. Campbell, since 1910 station agent at Coburn on the Lewisburg and Tyrone railroad, died last Thursday evening as the result of an attack of acute indigestion, aged 55 years. He is survived by his wife, one son, Charles R. Campbell, of New York city, and two daughters, Dorothy M. and Janet A., at home. Burial was made in the Fairview cemetery, Millheim, on Monday.

A charming dinner set, Dexter domestic service set and crystal glassware set given free with Hoosier kitchen cabinets during Hoosier club sale at W. R. Brachbill's furniture store. 13-1t

Austrian Found Dead at Sandy Ridge.

Michael Grabic, an Austrian, was found dead in his shanty at Sandy Ridge, last Thursday. On passing the shanty in the morning Harold Cassidy noticed Grabic lying on the floor, but he gave the matter little thought at the time. Returning from work in the evening he noticed that the man was still lying there, apparently in the same position. Notifying a number of other men they went to Grabic's shanty and an examination disclosed the fact that the man was dead. Coroner W. R. Heaton, of Phillipsburg, was summoned and after a careful examination decided that the man's death was the result of a cerebral hemorrhage, a perfectly natural cause.

Grabic was about 60 years old and had lived and worked at Sandy Ridge for thirty years. He was unmarried and his only known relative is a sister living in New Jersey. Among his effects was found a policy for \$500 in the Prudential Life Insurance company.

On Friday evening, March 27th, an illustrated lecture will be given in the Evangelical church by Bunyon's pilgrim band on Pilgrim's Progress. Also a large selection of pictures pertaining to the life of Christ will be given. All passes issued for other locations on former occasions will be honored.

—Fifty-five pieces of chinaware, cutlery and glassware free with each Hoosier cabinet sold during club sale at Brachbill's furniture store. 13-1t

Punishment Meted Out to Transgressors of the Law.

At a special session of court, on Monday, Toner Hastings, of Snow Shoe township, pleaded guilty to felonious assault with intent to rob and was sentenced to from two and a half to five years at solitary confinement and hard labor in the western penitentiary.

J. F. Hall, of Hubersburg, was haled before the court by his wife for assault and threats and was required to give bond in the sum of \$1000 to keep the peace for two years.

Walter Kerstetter, a former Centre county, but now working at his trade as a barber in Shamokin, was the defendant in a case for desertion and non-support preferred by his wife. The court ordered him to pay \$30 a month toward the support of his wife and child, payment to begin on April 15th and to be made regularly the 15th of every month.

Martin Blaze, of Phillipsburg, pleaded guilty to violation of the prohibition law and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$300 and serve from two to four months in the county jail.

A rule was presented in the non-support case against John McCartney requesting that the court order of \$25 a month be reduced, but the court refused to do so.

Simon Seigfried, of Phillipsburg, was brought before the court on a charge of non-support and after hearing the evidence the court ordered him to pay \$25 a month beginning with the first of April, the money to be deposited to his wife's account in the Moshannon National bank, and to give bond in the sum of \$1000 to keep the peace.

In the case of the Commonwealth vs. Robert Walker, a surety of the peace case, the defendant was discharged.

Ralph Orndorf, of Miles township, was before the court on the charge of stealing a ham from his grandfather and selling it to S. A. Bierly for \$6.00. The court paroled the young man in the custody of his father, George Orndorf, for a period of two years, during which time he is to make a monthly report to the court, and he was also ordered to return the six dollars to Mr. Bierly paid him for the ham.

—\$1.00 down enrolls you in the Hoosier kitchen cabinet club now forming at W. R. Brachbill's furniture store. Balance in small weekly payments. 13-1t

Social Doings Within the Week.

Miss Katherine Allison entertained with five tables of bridge and five hundred, Tuesday afternoon, in compliment to her house guest, Miss Anne Dashiell.

Tuesday night a dinner dance was given at the Nittany Country club, by Mrs. Bent Leonard Weaver, the honor guest being her daughter and a school-mate, Miss Helen Weaver and Miss Uptman, both students at the National Park seminary. Twenty-four covers were laid for the dinner.

Mrs. Harry Keller was hostess at a card party yesterday afternoon, at which the young married set and school set were her guests. The party was given for her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Ellis Keller, and Mrs. John G. Love, both recent brides.

A series of family parties was given within the past week, by the H. K. Hoy family, in Belleville, their mother, who will be ninety years old in May, being the honor guest at each. Dinners were given by Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Hoy, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hoy, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Hoy, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton E. Royer and by the Rev. and Mrs. William Wagner, at Boalsburg. Mrs. Grant Pifer, of Wilkesburg, the Rev. and Mrs. George Eley and Geo. Jr., of Arndtsville, and the Rev. and Mrs. Wagner were all in Belleville and guests at these functions.

Forestry Planting.

Under the direction of the agricultural extension bureau two forestry planting demonstrations were held on Thursday last week at the farms of J. K. Alexander, at Unionville, and R. F. Glenn, of Waddle. The trees were secured from the State at no cost except express charges and a slight charge for crating. The total cost amounted to approximately \$1.00 per thousand. There are very few farms in Centre county that do not have at least an acre of waste land that can be farmed at profit. Over a period of years an acre of young forest trees planted will return approximately six per cent. on the total investment.

A number of different varieties can be secured, such as white pine, red pine, Japanese larch, black walnut and various other good varieties. One man can secure up to 100,000 trees; however, the supply for this spring's planting has been exhausted. In order to secure trees for next year's planting applications should be made soon. Application blanks and additional information can be secured at the county agent's office.

—Hoosier, the world's finest kitchen cabinet, delivered for \$1.00 down, balance in small weekly payments, sold at the regular cash price during club sale at W. R. Brachbill's. 13-1t

—Mr. and Mrs. H. Frank Moore, of Nittany, are mourning the death of their three day's old child, born last Thursday and passing away on Sunday. Burial was made in the Schenck cemetery, near Howard, on Monday.

Dr. Glenn Witnessed the Big Fire.

West Palm Beach, 3-20-'25.

Dear "Watchman":

There was some excitement here yesterday when the Breakers and the Palm Beach hotels, both exclusive resorts, were burned to the ground. They say the conflagration that destroyed seven millions in property value started from an over heated curling iron on Milady's dresser. We could see the flames very distinctly from our porch directly across the lake. Many of the guests of the hotels are said to have lost all they had there, but that means little to them for those who could stay at such swell hostleries as the "Breakers" and the "Palm Beach" must have plenty left at home. Both hotels are to be rebuilt at once, finer and larger than ever. Many of the guests found quarters at other hotels, but a lot of them started for home by the first train out. Such a crowd I never saw at a fire. It looked as though the entire State of Florida had jumped into motors, stepped on the gas and arrived before the great fire was really started.

The police finally got to functioning, stopped all cars from crossing either bridge and searched every one of them. We drove over yesterday to see the ruins. Both hotels are completely destroyed but the pretty Casino and pier at "The Breakers" were not even scorched as there was a sea breeze on at the time which fanned the flames landward. I think the two great hotels had forgotten God for so long that He called a halt to give them time to think.

Our nice weather continues. It is 90 degrees in the shade now, but a cooling breeze is going and the nights are fine for sleeping. We go driving somewhere every day, always seeing something new.

Just back of Lake Worth, the other day, we discovered a lot of wonderful truck farms that were producing splendid crops from the black muck soil. They tell us everywhere we go that oranges are scarce, some orchards having none at all. They attribute this to the long, hard rains last fall that beat the blossoms off and rotted those that resisted the deluge.

The Tourist club meeting last night revealed that there are many motor nomads here yet. The entertainment was put on by the Ohio crowd and was very good. Next Thursday's program will be the last for the season.

The boom in buying and building continues. Nearly every one seems to think that he or she needs a winter home here in this wonderful climate and they're getting them as fast as they can. Most of the realty activity is in the southern half of Florida, the northern section being more or less uncertain as to frosts. With all the buying, however, there is a lot left for every family in the United States and Canada and then some.

It will be many, many years before this sunshine land will all be taken up because the process of draining the Everglades is always bringing new territory into the market.

All well and still enjoying it immensely.

W. S. GLENN.

This is the sixth of the series of letters Dr. W. S. Glenn, of State College, is writing for the Watchman while sojourning in Florida.

Penn State Grange to Hold Banquet at University Club.

The annual banquet of the Penn State Grange of State College, will be held at the University club on the evening of March 27. Extensive preparations have been made for this affair and it promises to be the feature event of the activities of the order for this year.

The committee in charge of the banquet have been especially fortunate in securing P. H. Dewey, Master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, as the principal speaker for the occasion. In addition it is planned to have president John M. Thomas and Dean R. L. Watts present at the banquet. There will be a dance following the banquet and the ticket for the banquet will also give admission to this. The price of tickets has been fixed at \$1.00 per plate.

Attention is called to the fact that the banquet is not restricted to members of the Penn State Grange alone, but any Granger is eligible to attend. The committee is anxious that as many of the Grangers of the county as possible will avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing the State Master, and at the same time enjoy the dance which accompanies it.

Lawrence VanOlinda escaped from the Rockview penitentiary on Sunday night by cutting through the wire stockade. He was sent up from Erie county in November, 1924, for two and a half to five years for receiving stolen goods. VanOlinda was one of the prisoners housed in tents and at eight o'clock he was in his tent listening to a radio concert. It was after that hour that he made his escape. None of the other prisoners in the tents made any attempt to escape. Two other attempted to escape on Monday night. They had cut through the stockade when discovered by a guard who captured them. The men were well supplied with sandwiches which they had gotten hold of in some way.

—Among the appointments made by Governor Pinchot last week were Irvin C. Korman, of Belleville, as a motor patrolman, and Edward G. Lantz, of State College, a technician in the department of state police.

—The two day's old child of Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Yearick, of Walker township, died last Friday and was buried in the Zion cemetery on Saturday.

—Get your job yord done heree.

That Baby.

How unpromising a man's beginning! Of all the animals on earth There is none, in its infancy, So pathetically helpless As the human infant. All the others can wriggle their way, Or swim, walk, run or fly, But baby man can't do anything But cry, cry, cry: He knows scarcely enough To find the maternal breast: As Tennyson says: "But what am I? An infant crying in the night: An infant crying for the light, And with no language but a cry."

But this very helplessness Issues in a strength immense: It calls forth the mother's love and care— That bond of sympathy Knitting the generations together— That budding altruism Which, full grown, shall enfold the whole world.

In its mighty and loving arms The mother-love teaching the baby Is the start of Education— That illustrious process

Which finally outruns with lightning speed! The slow-footed instincts of the brutes. St. Louis. PLINTHOURGOS.

Spencer Coming.

Spencer, the man of mystery, and his Bombay Seance, opens a three day engagement at the Moose Temple theatre, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The show of mystery, under the title of "A Night in India," will hold the boards in conjunction with the regular motion picture program. Speaking of the seance, Mr. Spencer says:

"Theatre patrons have the privilege of writing any questions concerning their past and future on their own paper or the paper furnished.

"You may write at home if you so desire in any language in which you do your natural thinking. You may seal them up in your own way, sew them up, solder them in tin cans, braze them in gas pipes, cement blocks or arrange them in any way you desire.

"You may ask concerning business changes, travels, mines, mortgages, deeds, whom or who is false or true, and whether lover, husband or sweetheart can be depended on."

Safety, Not the Speed, the Real Problem.

The paramount question now before the experts of the automobile world is not how fast the racing machines travel in the 250-mile championship classic at the famous Altoona speedway on June 13, but how to safeguard the pilots toiling their mounts around the giant oval at a gait close to 140 miles an hour.

This year, the last before the engines are reduced to motorcycle size, has already developed such terrific speed on the Pacific coast board track, with Tommy Milton, Bennie Hill and Harry Hartz breaking all records up to 135 miles an hour, that officials of the bowl here have called in experts of the country to aid in protecting the drivers.

A huge steel band is being placed against the mammoth timber supports at the outer rim of the big saucer, with double strength at the ends of the turns, where the cars, after dashing around the extremely banked turns, swing for the straight-aways. Almost every bad crash of the disastrous 1924 season came at these points.

The tremendous momentum force of the cars as they wind out of the turns has been analyzed with slow motion pictures, showing the wheels veering almost to the side walls of the track as the driver throws the steering wheel over again. The keenest skill and strength is needed to control the hurling machine, with the even present chance that fate in the form of a worn tire will dash them to death against the bulwarks. This combination, worn tire and side swing, caused the death of the valorous Joe Boyer last fall.

The excessive wear on tires caused by this vicious skidding and slipping at the turns blackens the boards with burned rubber before the race is fairly started, and though tire manufacturers have conducted intensive laboratory tests for years, rarely does a casing withstand the punishment even for the 250 miles. With extreme summer heat forecast for June 13, the rubber firms have placed special crews experimenting and making the expensive racing tires. With the highest speed in the history of the sport certain, tires will be subjected to their most grueling test.

P. R. R. Will Close Shops at Sunbury.

The Pennsylvania Railroad hit Sunbury a body blow today when it announced that it will permanently close the Sunbury shops, an industrial mainstay for half a century. Five hundred and fifty men are employed. The statement said that all will be taken care of at other points where shops are working.

The reason for closing the shops is given as a shortage of small locomotives. The local property is equipped only for repairs on small engines, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to assemble these here, it is declared. The shops were built shortly after the Civil war at a cost of \$225,000 on land given to the railroad by J. A. Cake.

Drilling Holes in Glass.

One of the newest and quickest ways to drill holes in glass is to use a brass or copper tube with thin walls instead of a triangular file. The tube is placed in a brace and drilling is accomplished with powdered carborundum as a cutting agent. A guide of wood keeps the tube perfectly centered.

Marriage Licenses.

Bruce R. Vonada and Sarah J. Korman, Aaronsburg. James Eugene Cowher and Maude Reese, Port Matilda.