

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

Terms of Subscription.—Until further notice this paper will be furnished to subscribers at the following rates:

Paid strictly in advance - \$1.50
Paid before expiration of year - 1.75
Paid after expiration of year - 2.00

Published weekly, every Friday morning. Entered at the postoffice, Bellefonte, Pa., as second class matter.

In ordering change of address always give the old as well as the new address.

It is important that the publisher be notified when a subscriber wishes the paper discontinued. In all such cases the subscription must be paid up to date of cancellation.

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

BIGELOW.—Dr. W. S. Bigelow, one of the oldest and best known physicians of Phillipsburg, died at his home in that place at two o'clock last Friday morning, following an illness of less than two weeks.

He was a native of Boylston, Mass., where he was born on July 28th, 1853, hence was in his seventy-third year. He graduated in medicine in 1883 and shortly thereafter came to Pennsylvania and located in Phillipsburg, where he has practiced his profession ever since. His wife passed away thirty-two years ago but surviving him are four children, William S., of Rush township; Misses Nancy and Ruth, at home, and Mrs. Harry Klaas, of Denver, Col. He also leaves one brother, James Bigelow, of Upton, Mass.

Funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church of Phillipsburg at 2:30 o'clock on Sunday afternoon by Rev. R. P. Miller, and private interment was made in the Phillipsburg cemetery.

HANSEN.—Mrs. Ivar Hansen died suddenly at her home in Porsgrund, Norway, on Friday, February 15, heart failure having been the cause.

Deceased was the daughter of Marcus and Maren Ruyerson and was born at Porsgrund on Sept. 1, 1865, making her age 60 years, 5 months and 19 days. In 1887 she married Ivar Hansen and to their union two sons were born: Edward H., of Oslo, Norway, and Marcus C., general manager of the Sutton-Abramsen Engineering Co's operations in this place.

Mrs. Hansen spent the winter of 1923 in Bellefonte with her son and his family. Those who came to know her through that visit will remember her as a lovely Christian woman, devoted to her family and interested in the welfare and happiness of all about her.

Interment was made in Porsgrund on Wednesday.

SAYRE.—Mrs. Ella J. Sayre, beloved wife of Harry S. Sayre, died at her home at Elizabethtown, Pa., on Monday. She was a daughter of Samuel and Margaret Rote and was born at Coleville on July 6th, 1859, hence was 66 years, 7 months and 16 days old. She was educated in the public schools of Spring township and at the Bellefonte Academy, her entire girlhood life having been spent in this section. In addition to her husband she is survived by one daughter, Mrs. E. M. Moran, of New Kensington, and a grandson, Roger Murtaugh, also of New Kensington. The remains were brought to Bellefonte for burial in the Union cemetery at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, Rev. W. C. Thompson officiating. Mrs. Moran and Mr. Murtaugh came to Bellefonte from New Kensington for the funeral.

WETZLER.—Charlotte, the four year old daughter of John E. Wetzler, of Milesburg, died on February 16th, after a brief illness, at the home of her aunt, Mrs. John Slicker, of Juniata. The remains were brought to the home of her father in Milesburg, where funeral services were held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in charge of Dr. Clarence Adams, of State College, burial being made in the Curtin cemetery. In addition to her father, her mother having died January 6, 1924, she is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Lewis, of Bellefonte; Isabel and Louise, at home, and Dean, who makes his home with the F. L. Wetzler family.

VAIL.—Matthew E. Vail, a native of Phillipsburg, died in Pittsburgh last Wednesday, where he had resided the past three years. He was a son of Orin and Caroline Vail and was born in Phillipsburg about forty-six years ago. His entire life was spent in that vicinity until moving to Pittsburgh three years ago. He married Miss Nellie Rhea, of Osceola Mills, who survives with one daughter, Mrs. Arthur Bartley, of Pittsburgh. He also leaves three brothers and one sister, Howard, Allen and Edward Vail, and Mrs. J. W. Beals, all of Phillipsburg. The remains were taken to Phillipsburg where burial was made on Friday afternoon.

The Catholic daughters of America will give a card party in their club rooms in the Lyon & Co. building, on the evening of St. Patrick's day, Wednesday, March 17.

Fifteen prisoners who were becoming very undesirable at Rockview were taken back to the western penitentiary, at Pittsburgh, on Wednesday.

HAZEL.—Mrs. Sarah M. Hazel, widow of the late William Hazel, passed away last Wednesday at the home of her son, A. J. Hazel, at Boalsburg. She had been in her usual health during the day but shortly before eight o'clock in the evening became violently ill and passed away before a physician could be summoned.

She was a daughter of John and Mary Y. Zubler and was born at Zeiglersville, Mifflin county, on September 29th, 1839, hence was in her eighty-seventh year. When she was but nine years old her parents moved to Madisonburg, Centre county, and there she grew to womanhood and in the spring of 1865 married William Hazel. Their entire married life was spent in the vicinity of Madisonburg but since the death of her husband in 1912 she had divided her time among her children. She had been a member of the Lutheran church for seventy-four years and always took an active part in all branches of church work.

Her surviving children are A. J. Hazel, of Boalsburg; Albert, of Unionville; Will and Byron, of Bellevue, Ohio; Edward, of Youngstown, Ohio; Norman, of Aaronsburg; Mrs. Kate Kling, of State College, and Mrs. Sara Swartz, of Millheim. She also leaves one sister, Mrs. Frank Emerick, of Centre Hall.

Funeral services were held at the A. J. Hazel home at eleven o'clock on Saturday morning and in the afternoon the remains were taken to Madisonburg where Rev. William McClellan officiated at the burial in the Madisonburg cemetery.

WINING.—John Wining, for almost forty years a resident of Worth township, died on February 11th at his home near Port Matilda, as a result of an attack of indigestion.

He was born in Jefferson county on September 28th, 1844, hence was in his eighty-second year. When but eighteen years of age he went to Curwensville where he took employment as a teamster for the elder John Irvin, lumberman and storekeeper, and for years made regular trips between Curwensville and Phillipsburg. In 1886, when the lumbering business began to fall off, he moved to Worth township and engaged in farming. He was quite successful and in due time became the owner of two good farms.

Fifty-five years ago he married Miss Lucinda Woodring, a native of Port Matilda, who passed away thirteen years ago. Surviving him, however, are three children, Miss Nannie M., Wilbur H. and Budd, and one foster daughter, Miss Helen Ammerman, all of Port Matilda.

Funeral services were held at his late home on February 13th by Rev. Oakwood, of the Presbyterian church, of which he was a member, burial being made in the Presbyterian cemetery, at Port Matilda.

POWELL.—From the Times Record of Fort Smith, Arkansas, of February 15, we learn that Judge Robert Thomas Powell, widely known jurist and realtor of that city, died on the evening of the 14th, after a long illness which recently necessitated the amputation of a foot; the shock of the amputation having precipitated his death. He was in his seventy-third year.

Judge Powell was quite a prominent man in Arkansas. He was an able lawyer and several times was specially appointed a Circuit Court Judge in that State. He was a real estate operator, as well, having built and owned several business blocks in Fort Smith and Greenwood.

On June 30th, 1907, he married Miss Caroline Lingle, of Phillipsburg, this county. She is a daughter of the late Lycurgus Lingle of that place, and a niece of the Hon. W. C. Lingle and of Mrs. Edwin F. Garman, of Bellefonte. She survives with his four sisters and two brothers.

GOODRICH.—David W. Goodrich, who for a number of years was track foreman on the Lewistown and Tyrone railroad at Scotia, died on Sunday at his home at Point Lookout as the result of a stroke of apoplexy. He was born in Clearfield on July 15th, 1870, making his age 55 years, 7 months and 5 days. When a boy his parents moved to Point Lookout and all his life was spent there with the exception of the few years he worked at Scotia and a brief time at Snow Shoe. He never married but is survived by one brother and a sister. Burial was made in the Phillipsburg cemetery on Wednesday afternoon.

GROVE.—Miss Verna Grove passed away at her home in Bush's Addition, last Thursday afternoon, following a lingering illness. She was a daughter of Michael (deceased) and Ida Poorman Grove and was about twenty-three years old. In addition to her mother she is survived by one brother, Willis Grove. Another brother, Earl, passed away in November. She was a member of the Lutheran church and Rev. C. L. Arnold had charge of the funeral services which were held on Sunday afternoon, burial being made in the Union cemetery.

HALL.—Richard Hall died at his home on Halfmoon hill on Monday afternoon following an illness of some months with gangrene. He was a native of Huntingdon county and was 78 years old. He married Miss Nancy Shay, who survives with one son and two daughters, Frank Hall, of Bellefonte; Elizabeth, of Wall, Pa., and Lida, in Ohio. Burial was made in the Curtin cemetery on Wednesday afternoon.

WE ADMIT THAT IT IS A STARLING. Though Still Fortified with Plenty of Discrepancies in Expert Testimony Presented We Yield to the Preponderance of Opinion as to the New Bird.

It seems that we started something, two weeks ago, when we asked for help in identifying a bird relatively new to this section which had just come under our observation. It seems, also, that more people are interested in birds than we had any idea of. From all parts of the country have come letters from amateur ornithologists, all of them interesting and some revealing a very intimate knowledge of the subject under discussion.

While we feel that everyone of our correspondents knows more about birds than we do and since the preponderance of opinion is to the effect that the one in question is the English Starling we are, nevertheless, unable to reconcile the specimens we have seen with the descriptions of the starling by our correspondents. Without exception they refer to the plumage of the bird as being a glossy, greenish black. Miss Fletcher, whose letter appears below, gives to it minute white spots.

Sunday morning we noticed our family cat sitting, looking intently at a copy of the Watchman that had been spread on the kitchen floor for the reception of dripping rubbers and goshes. For a long time "Snip's" eyes were glued to the paper, then he got up and gave his usual sign of wanting out. It wasn't half an hour until he was back with one of the moat birds in his mouth. We're not trying to make anyone believe that the cat actually read the bird article in that issue, but it was a darned funny coincidence, to say the least.

We examined the dead bird carefully. There was no lustre, whatever, to its plumage and no minute white spots. It was a dull black, just about the shade of a tarred roof after the gloss has left it. Head, body, wing and tail feathers were all exactly alike as to color.

Notwithstanding the discrepancies referred to we are ready to accept the ideas of our correspondents and until proven to be in error will regard the starling as another of our bird acquaintances. Just now a large flock of them are congregated about the east ventilating window of the Methodist church in this place, with evident designs on nesting there and if they are as dirty and pestiferous as some of our informants believe them to be something ought to be done about it.

Among the many verbal opinions we have received that of Mrs. Horatio Moore has gone a long way toward adding to our conviction that it is the starling, for she has seen the bird for several years and backs up her opinion with an authority from New York to whom she wrote after becoming interested in the discussion.

A few of the more illuminative letters we received are published herewith because of their apparently well informed views:

A REAL BIRDOLOGIST WRITES FROM HOWARD.

Howard, Pa., Feb. 22-'26

Editor Watchman:

Having seen your articles in the Watchman about the black bird or starling I want to say that the bird called the starling is an European product introduced into New York a few years ago and then having spread through New Jersey and localities in Connecticut.

While spending a few days at camp Dix, a number of years ago, I was awakened one morning by the notes of a bird that was strange to me. From my window I saw it and its plumage was metallic green and purple, heavily spotted all over with fine white dots. Upon asking about it I was told that it was the English starling or "Sturmes vulgaris." It is at least four years since they made their appearance in and about Howard. Just in pairs at that time, but now to the extent of hundreds in summer and only by pairs in the winter.

They promise to become as abundant as the English sparrow. In the cities they build their nests about buildings, while in the country it is usually on trees. They lay from four to six pale blue, unspotted eggs. It was a matter of conjecture as to which would become master, the sparrow or the starling, as both are fighters, but the latter seems to be conquering and driving our native song birds from towns and cities.

They are a seed eating bird and just now are living on the tender buds of the fruit and other trees and shrubbery. Ornithologists do not say they are kin of the black-bird as the only comparison that can be made is as to the square cut tail of the cow black-bird, which is smaller and has a different shaped head entirely. It is a native of Central America and lives with cattle, catching its food—the flies that torment the animals.

It does not winter in this climate, as I am sure the bird under discussion is the starling.

EMMA R. PLETCHER

THE STARLING AN ALIEN PEST.

Miss Pletcher enclosed the following from the Chicago Evening Post which indicates that all should be interested to the point of exterminating the starling before it exterminates us.

The starling is a prolific species raising usually two broods of three to six young a year, and its rapid increase in numbers requires constant reaching out for new food supplies and nesting places. The undesirable qualities of the starling appear to raise from its choice of nesting sites in buildings, which it defaces, and its proneness to drive native birds from the vicinity of houses.

In the Old World the starling is harmful. Its habits so far as its choice of food is concerned have improved a bit in the New World, but taking it all in all the bird is an undesirable alien.

OHIO SUGGESTS THE COWBIRD.

Medina, Ohio, 2-19-26.

Editor Democratic Watchman: I was much interested in the description you gave in the Democratic Watchman of Feb. 12th of a new bird observed for the first time by you and several others.

The description you gave answered very closely to that of the cow-bird, "molothrus ater," male glossy, greenish black, with a brown head; female and young dull gray." It is early for cow-birds, as they are scheduled to come north in March, but two or three flocks have already been reported in the vicinity of Medina, so it is entirely probable that they have arrived in your locality also. During my sojourns in Pine Grove Mills I have never happened to see any cow-birds and they might not be common in your section.

We will watch with interest for the opinion of the other bird observers. Yours, JOHN D. DANNEY.

A FLORIDA IDEA.

Writing from Florida another interested woman says:

I have just finished reading your account of the new (?) bird that has appeared in Centre county. I think you will find it to be an "English Starling," another no-account bird intro-

duced into this country a few years ago for a purpose it has failed to perform; but having found this new habit much to its liking has proceeded to multiply and grow fat.

Apparently you did not notice that in flight they are very clumsy, using a fluttering movement of the wings instead of the long, pure sweep that other birds of that size generally make. The East has been pestered with them for some years and now they are evidently starting to annoy the hinterland.

A SYRACUSE BOY SCOUT'S OPINION.

Syracuse, New York

Editor of Watchman:

In reading last week's Watchman I happened to see an article about birds. From the description I should judge them to be starlings.

English starlings were introduced into America in 1909, when a flock of fifty were let loose in Central Park, N. Y. They were first seen about here in 1919. Their appearance is somewhat like a simple grackle, except that they have not that shining color and are more spotted. It is supposed that they eat corn and, therefore, are a pest.

This morning a half dozen were out on our cherry tree croaking away and they chased off some sparrows that came near them. Don't give me credit for most of this information, as my biology teacher wrote a little bird book and that is where I got most of my information.

Yours truly, WM. WOODCOCK, Troop 1, B. S. A.

ORNITHOLOGY AT PORT MATILDA.

Port Matilda, Pa., 2-19-26

Dear Editor:

I was much interested in the Watchman's discussion of a certain kind of bird that you have noticed lately about Bellefonte. Evidently members of the same family have been seen about here. They have a very pretty mottled plumage of greenish black hue.

I first noticed them in 1917 when a flock of seven wintered near this place. They seem to be increasing rapidly and apparently many, but not all, migrate south in the fall. Those that winter here lived on rotten apples that hung on the orchard trees. They are distinct from our variety of black-bird because no member of that family would winter in this county.

I have never discovered a nest of these birds and am of the opinion that they go further north in the spring.

Yours truly, C. H. REESE

PREACHERS AND EDITORS ALIKE LONG ON KNOWLEDGE—SHORT ON CASH.

Benton, Pa., February 23, 1926

The Democratic Watchman, Bellefonte, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your inquiry in the last two issues of the Watchman regarding certain birds you have seen in Bellefonte this winter brought quite a reaction in this household. First, we had seen a flock of birds similar to those you had seen and immediately set about finding out what they were, when we saw your inquiry we immediately thought about setting you right in the matter, but then remembered that we had not paid our subscription for some years so we had to wait until we could save the backing for a check before we wrote you.

The name "RUSTY BLACKBIRD." Size—A trifle smaller than the robin, rather dumpy as to shape.

Male—In full plumage, glossy black with metallic reflections intermixed with rusty brown that becomes more pronounced as the season advances. Pale, straw-colored eyes.

Female—Duller plumage and more rusty, inclining to gray. Light line over eye. Smaller than male.

Range—North America, from Newfoundland to Gulf of Mexico. The breeding range is mostly north of the United States.

The European Starling is described as smaller than the meadow-lark, and is brown finely glossed with black, with pale tip to each feather.

Hope this is the answer you want but please don't make any more inquiries about birds until I can save

enough more to send you another check.

Very cordially yours, LOUIS V. BARBER.

Police Chief Yougel, of State College, Catches Check Forger.

Sherlock Holmes, if he were alive today, would have little or nothing on chief of police A. E. Yougel, of State College. When that official sets his nose on a transgressor of the law he invariably lands him. His latest exploit was the capture of a former college student, William Casper Uhl, and he landed his man behind the bars of the Centre county jail last week, even though he had to go to Philadelphia to make the capture. The young man is charged with passing a number of forged checks on State College merchants, on or about February 4th, and after making a general cleanup leaving college and returning to his home in Philadelphia. The checks he passed ran anywhere from \$3.50 to \$50.00, and all were made out in different names. Some time prior to the passing of the forged checks Uhl was arrested for stealing an automobile jack but when the implement was returned the case was dropped.

Gasoline Tax Runs Into Big Money.

According to a statement issued on Saturday by State Treasurer Samuel S. Lewis the gasoline tax for the year 1925 amounted to \$10,574,412.48, quite a big sum of money. At two cents a gallon this would mean that the automobile and truck owners of Pennsylvania burned during the year 528,720-624 gallons of gasoline.

A certain per cent. of this tax is returned to the counties and Centre county's share of the rebate was \$16,660.77. This would indicate that centre county dealers during the year sold 833,083 gallons of gas, which would mean a business of approximately \$200,000 a year.

Coming to the scenic theatre, Colleen Moore in her greatest success, "Irene."

HOMAN.—Robert M. Homan, of Zion, died at the Centre County hospital on Wednesday morning, following a month's illness, aged 72 years.

He was twice married, his first wife having been Miss Sarah Lesch, who died nine years ago. He later married Miss Emma Kunes, who survives with one brother and two sisters, William Homan, of State College; Mrs. Emma Feidler, of Aaronsburg, and Mrs. Maggie Musser, of Loganton. Burial will be made at Zion tomorrow morning.

Condemned Man Cuts Throat with Razor, Unaware of Respite.

Unaware of the fact that Governor Pinchot had granted him a respite George H. Prescott, of Pittsburgh, scheduled to die in the electric chair at Rockview on Monday morning for the murder of Mrs. Fern Thase, cut his throat with a razor blade about 6:30 o'clock on Saturday morning, in his cell in the Allegheny county jail, as the sheriff was making preparations to bring him to Rockview.

How he got the razor blade is a mystery. His clothing were thoroughly examined on Friday and a guard placed in his cell. At 6:30 o'clock Saturday morning Prescott drew the blankets up over the lower portion of his face and told the guard he wanted to sleep a few minutes longer. Five minutes later the guard became suspicious and pulling down the blankets found Prescott bleeding from three gashes in his neck. He was rushed to the Mercy hospital where every effort will be made to save his life.

A short time after Prescott attempted suicide a message was received from Harrisburg that he had been granted a respite until March 29th so that his case could be heard by the board of pardons. A peculiar coincidence in Prescott's attempt at suicide is that it took place in the same cell in which Mike Ruminski strangled himself on January 27th, 1899, on the eve of being hanged for the murder of his wife, and also the cell from which the Bidde brothers escaped some years ago and were shot to death by a posse at Butler.

The ladies of the Bellefonte Methodist church will give a play in the lecture room of the church on Friday evening, March 5th. It will be entitled "Sewing for the Heathen." Refreshments will be served and admittance will be 35 cents.

A tea, for which three hundred and fifty invitations were issued, was given yesterday afternoon, at the home of Mrs. R. L. Watts, at State College. Mrs. Watts, Mrs. J. A. Ferguson, and Mrs. S. W. Fletcher were the hostesses.

William Hettinger, a well known Gregg township farmer, was painfully injured a few days ago by being kicked in the face by a horse. His nose was split, jaw fractured and face badly cut and bruised.

The few days of soft weather this week brought out the sucker fishermen on the Bald Eagle creek.

Studebaker Prices Reduced Supreme One-Profit Value now Made Even Greater by Important Reductions. STANDARD SIX SEDAN (Wool Trimmed) Was \$1395 Now \$1295. STANDARD SIX SEDAN (Mohair Trimmed) Was \$1495 Now \$1395. BIG SIX SEDAN (5-passenger) Was \$1995 Now \$1895. BIG SIX SEDAN (7-passenger) Was \$2245 Now \$2145. BIG SIX BROUGHAM Was \$2195 Now \$2095. BIG SIX BERLINE Was \$2325 Now \$2225. BIG SIX CLUB COUPE Was \$1750 Now \$1650. All prices freight and war tax extra. No Reductions in Quality. Beezer's Garage NORTH WATER STREET BELLEFONTE, PA. Telephone—Bell 244