Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., July 1, 1927.

Beginning to Plan for Annual Grange Encampment.

The committee which has in charge the annual Grange encampment at Grange park, Centre Hall, have already begun work in preparation for this year's exhibition, which will be held the week of August 29th. Improvements already made this spring include the planting of numerous trees. More than three thousand young trees secured at the State nursery at Rockview penitentiary have been planted on the north side of the park. These include 1000 Scotch pine, 1000 white pine and 1000 European larch. One hundred and fifty larger trees, eight to twelve feet in height, have been planted to the west of the present grove. These trees are sugar maple, red oak, American elm, tulip and European plane.

Two new buildings will be erected, one to house a complete electrical exhibit and the other an up-to-date stock barn. Improvements will also be made to the auditorium and headquarters building. For the convenience of campers attending from a distance a number of camp stoves will be erected under cover which can be used during the week at a nominal fee.

How Willis Reed Bierly Earned His First Dollar.

Everybody in Brush valley knows Willis Reed Bierly, born and raised in that locality. The Harrisburg Telegraph is publishing stories of how various men earned their first dollar and notes that Mr. Bierly did it in 1859 laboring in the rye fields of Centre county, and here is the gentleman's own story:

"It was a few years after the weevil had destroyed fields of blue stem and silver stem wheat," Mr. Bierly reminisced, "The farmers had to cradle their rye as they did wheat but good cradlers were few.

"I was 12 years old. But in those days farmers' boys had less than four months in the old red schoolhouse and at 12 boys did the work of men and men received one dollar a day and it was work and not play. I had learned to swing the light Leidy cradle, made at Salona, Pa., and to deliver the grain in regular rows, which was an art as well as to reap with the sickle without cutting off my fingers.

"A neighbor was in need of cradlers of rye and I responded to the call early in the morning and we raced that day. As usual, if a mere boy cradled they put him in the middle of a row of four or five and those back of him 'bored in' and he was obliged to reach forward the whole length of the scythe or to get 'cut out.' Oh, it was fun."

"And that was the day I earned my first dollar. Now I am 80, but I rise at half past five and do a day's work as of yore."

PLEASANT GAP.

Mrs. Maurice Yeager spent the past few days with Mrs. Harry Bilger and W. H. Nolls.

Fred A. Clemens and family have moved from our town and will locate in Harrisburg or Wilkes-Barre.

Wm. Noll and wife, of Pitcairn, with his daughter and husband of Pitcairn, were callers at the J. T. Noll home on Sunday.

The Loyal Workers of the Lutheran church were entertained very pleasantly at the home of the president, Mrs. Harry Ishler.

Mrs. Jack Noll and Mrs. Edna Kirkwood were entertained at the Faust-Leitzel home, on Thomas street, Bellefonte, on Tuesday.

The Methodist Sunday school held their Children's day services on Sunday evening and quite an elaborate program was well rendered.

Keep in mind the carnival to be held by the Pleasant Gap Civic club, July 15th, in Noll's grove, with all the carnival attractions and every good thing in the eating line.

Mrs. Edna Miller Kirkwood, of New Castle, is visiting for an indefinite time with her sister, Mrs. Jack Noll, and on leaving here will make a trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she will spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Beulah Clark.

JACKSONVILLE.

George Ertley is able to be around again at this writing.

Miss Lucille Yearick is visiting friends in and about Altoona.

The Jacksonville baseball team expect to hold a festival in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. William Resides, of Altoona, visited in this section last week.

Callers at the Harry Hoy home on Sunday were Mrs. Nancy Miller and friend, from Howard, Mr. Clark Korman and family.

Officers elected in the Reformed church, on Sunday evening, were E. E. Vonada, elder for 2 years; Mervin E. Hoy, deacon for 2 years; and Deimer P. Ertley, deacon for one year.

Straw Once a Waste Product is Now Being Utilized.

When the scientist can convert a waste by-product, such as straw, into a "board that is impervious to moisture, heat, cold and sound that is highly fire resistant. virtually indestructible and make it a commercial commodity of primary importance, at the same time giving the farmer a source of revenue that he hardly dared to dream of, the possibilities of laboratory research and its potential and actual influence on mankind are barely glimpsed by the layman."

FIJI, A WHITE MAN'S LAND IN THE TROPICS

Many Misconceptions About Pacific Islands.

Washington.—A recent prophecy that the Fiji islands will one day be the center of a British "Island Dominion" in the Pacific seems bizarre to the average reader chiefly because of misconceptions about Fiji, says a bulletin from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"The Fiji are tiny South Sea islets.

"They are typical tropical islands, hot and unhealthy.

"The Fijians are savages.

"These are some of the many errors abroad in regard to the Fijas," continues the bulletin. "In reality the Fijis are the largest islands situated well out in the Pacific. Only New Caledonia, the Solomon islands, and the Bismarcks, all relatively close to Australia and New Guinea, are larger. The total area of the Fijis is greater than that of the Hawaiian islands; and Viti Levu, the main island of the Fiji group, is almost exactly the same size as Hawaii, the giant of the northern islands. Fiji is, in fact, often referred to as 'the Hawaii of the South.'

"Although Fiji is well within the tropics, having a south latitude corresponding to the north latitude of Jamaica, it has an unexpectedly temperate climate. This is due chiefly to the considerable size of the islands, and their mountains which intercept the clouds and cool air currents and bring them to lower levels. Suva, the capital, situated on the largest island, has its tennis and cricket addicts who play in comfort. Most European residents dress lightly as elsewhere in the tropics, but the few who cling to tweed suits and felt hats, do so without inconvenience.

Mosquitoes but No Malaria.

"On the score of healthfulness Fiji stands particularly high. It is said to be the most healthful tropical land in the world. The rearing of children by Europeans, fraught with difficulties in most other tropical lands, causes no anxiety in Fiji. One surprise is the utter absence of malaria in the islands. Mosquitoes are present, but they do not transmit this and other diseases from which Europeans suffer in other tropical lands. Fiji is truly a 'white man's land.'

"When first well known to Europeans, in the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth centuries, the Fijians were the most blood-thirsty and savage cannibals in all the South seas. Cannibalism was not only indulged in when enemies had been killed. These people actually slaughtered relatives and companions for meat. They quickly came under missionary influence, however, and the entire native population became Christianized.

"The natives are predominantly of Melanesian stock, that is, of the dark, negroid, kinky-haired type of islanders. There has been, however, an admixture of Polynesian blood (like that of the Hawaiians and Marquesans) which has given the Fijian a better physique and a handsomer appearance than those of the full-blood Melanesians. The Fijians are particularly race-conscious; and although Europeans have been on the islands for a century, and although East Indians have made up a large part of the population for many years, there are practically no half-breeds.

"So large is the East Indian population that it was thought a few years ago that the islands would eventually become virtually a colony of India. There are now about 60,000 Indians, 85,000 Fijians and 4,500 Europeans in Fiji. During the past few decades sugar production has been Fiji's chief industry. The Fijians do not take kindly to plantation work, so thousands of East Indians were imported to work in the cane fields. They were brought in on the 'indenture' system, binding themselves to work for five years.

Only Fringe Developed.

"Most of the valleys and hills and mountains of Fiji are blanketed with luxuriant vegetation. As in Hawaii, however, the lee sides of the islands have fewer trees and are covered with long grass. Only the fringe of the islands and the river valleys have been developed. Roads are few, transportation depending chiefly on boats and launches. A surprising feature of the Fijis, especially to those who have thought of them as small islands, are the many large, broad rivers. The Rewa river near Suva is navigable for 50 miles.

"Like most South Sea capitals, Suva is cosmopolitan. If one stands on the Victoria Parade of an afternoon the passing show speaks of many lands. There are the young Fijians in 'store' clothes, their shocks of bleached hair standing out from their heads. Behind them are Indian coolies and traders with their women. The latter are dressed colorfully and jingle with heavy necklaces, bracelets, and anklets. Scattered in the passing groups are people of other Pacific lands: Solomon Islanders, Samoans, New Caledonians. Conspicuous, of course, are the Europeans, the men usually in spotless white. In passing automobiles are the women of the European colony.

"Fiji has the distinction of greeting each new day earlier than practically all other lands in the world. It lies just west of the international date line. Sunday is born there when it is still early Saturday morning in the United States and Saturday in England."

Modern Society Slow to Forgive Criminal

Can a criminal come back to society?

No. In all my experience I have never known a case of a thoroughly successful comeback, when a former criminal was allowed to take his place in society and be received into it. It is not so much the failure of Christianity as the fact that human nature and society have not reached the stage of enlightenment or willingness to accept the ex-criminal. Human nature and society, constituted as they are, are such as to prevent an absolute comeback, and this is more in evidence because of the fact that the modern teachers of Christianity have failed in their mission of forgiveness, and also because it is invariably found that those who profess deep faith and a Christ-like spirit are the first to shun and scorn the really conscientious unfortunates, or innocent victims of circumstances, who are genuinely desirous of completely blotting out their hideous past by sincere service in the cause of humanity at large.

But everything is not lost. Many prison workers and deep students of criminology feel that a spirit of understanding will sooner or later overcome these obstacles in the way of the ex-criminal.—Theodore Dreiser in the Smoker's Companion.

Impaired Vision No Handicap to Genius

Strangely enough one of the world's great astronomers had such poor sight that he could not more than see the stars. He was John Kepler, a German, whose fame sprang from the discovery of these three astronomical laws:

That all the planets travel around the sun in elliptical orbits, with the sun at one of the foci.

That the radius sector joining each planet with the sun traverses equal areas of the plane of orbit in equal periods of time.

That the square of the time of revolution of each planet around the sun is proportional to the cube of the mean distance from that luminary.

To overcome the handicap of impaired vision, he obtained the services of Tycho Brahe, who was not a great reasoner, but an admirable observer. It was upon his perfect observations that Kepler, a master generalizer, reached his conclusions. His three laws are included in his book, "The New Astronomy," published in 1609 at Prague. He died 19 years later.—Kansas City Times.

Talleyrand and Burr

After James Buchanan gave up his post as minister to Russia in 1833 he made a brief sojourn at Paris before returning to America. In the French capital he was introduced to the famous Prince Talleyrand, then in his eighty-fourth year. The aged diplomat, after asking a number of questions about America, inquired particularly about the family of Alexander Hamilton. He told Buchanan that when he was French minister for foreign affairs Aaron Burr came to Paris and sent his card to him. He returned the card with a message that he had the portrait of Hamilton in his parlor. It will be recalled that when Talleyrand was an exile from France he came to America where he met Hamilton. At that time he came to the conclusion that Hamilton was the greatest of all the Americans he had the pleasure of meeting.

Courtship of Spiders

In the behaviors of courting spiders recognition and stimulation come into play in various degrees. The males, as in most animals great and small, despite Bernard Shaw, begin the cycle of events by an active search for the females. They recognize her finally by sight or smell or by a combination of these senses. The female recognizes them apparently by sight or by some tactile message, and when recognition has taken place, restrains her customary swift ferocity. According to the more recent authors, the antics and ornamentation are not an appeal to the esthetic sense of the females and do not, therefore, come into the theory of sexual selection.

First Electric Lights

Soon after the first electric light system was built in New York city in 1882, the idea of lighting by electricity became so popular that the shares of the Thomas A. Edison company, whose par value was $100, were quoted at $3,500. However, the new enterprise required a great deal of money. The cost of sinking cables underground along the streets was one of the heavy expenses. In those days many people insisted upon pole lines even though they did destroy the beauty of a street. Mr. Edison's pet remark to them was: "Why don't you lift water and gas pipes up on stilts too?"

Albino Types

An albino is defined as a person having a congenital deficiency of pigments of the skin, hair and eyes. Albinos occur among all races of men; in extreme cases they have skin of a milky color, extremely light hair and eyes with a deep red pupil and pink or blue iris. The lack of dark pigment in the eyes admits light in excessive amount, and through other parts beside the pupil, and their vision is consequently poor, especially in strong light. There might be an albino type in any kind of an animal.

CUTS TELEGRAPH LINE TO SAVE LIFE

Trapper Loses Right to Hunt by Act.

Ottawa, Ont.—Old Benny, who has roamed the northern marshes of British Columbia for fifty years, setting his traps and tending his nets, will trap no more.

The remote and inaccessible defiles of the northern Rockies will never again echo and re-echo with the crack of his rifle.

Old Benny will not hunt or trap again because the Indian department will not permit him to tramp the forests alone. When the piercing north wind drove even the wild animals to shelter Old Benny, stricken with a sudden illness, came face to face with death. Without strength to reach his log cabin and with no human beings within a hundred miles, he struggled on until he came to a narrow ravine—Telegraph creek—and there he collapsed.

However, Old Benny was not yet through. Lying in the snow, he saw a thin strand of copper wire—the telegraph line maintained by the Canadian government between British Columbia and the Yukon. Summoning his remaining strength, he cut the wire in the hope that the federal government "trouble shooters" would find the break and come to him before he perished.

Last Christmas day the trouble party set out with a dog team. Christmas night they found the break and Old Benny. He was badly frozen and semiconscious, but was carried back to civilization and now has fully recovered.

The Indian department has ruled that Old Benny's trapping days are over. He must live on a reserve within reach of medical attention and will be maintained out of government funds.

Dog Does Vanishing Act When Census Time Comes

Biddeford, Maine.—Fidus Achates is a canine with a name, though he fails most lamentably to live up to it. The reason, perhaps, is that his family "wasn't much."

Fidus Achates—Fidus for short, but never Fido—came to the home of Police Chief Ernest H. Robbins looking like anything but a faithful companion. He was a little nobody from nowhere. Chief Robbins' daughter, then a high school girl deep in her Vergil, took him in and named him after the Fidus Achates, who was the loyal comrade of Aeneas.

But she might as well have called him plain Fido, for all the effect the name had on him. Every year, about the time the dog census is taken, Fidus Achates succumbs to his old wanderlust and is nowhere to be found. A general alarm has to be sent out. By the time he is returned the chief is a dollar ahead in taxes, though the Robbins family agrees that the financial gain is more than offset by the mental strain of their little mutt's disappearance.

Woman Fails to Shoot Bandit; Aid Is Killed

San Diego, Calif.—Assigned to a man's job—that of shooting a holdup man after he had been lured into a death trap—Mrs. Rena Wright, a policewoman, failed to carry out her part as scheduled at the critical moment and Charles R. Harris, a policeman, her coworker, fell before the bandit's gun as a result.

The two officers "planted" themselves in a park to bag a holdup man who had been using that part of the city for his operations. It was agreed that Harris would throw up his hands and the woman would open fire.

Mrs. Wright's story was that neither she nor her colleague had a fighting chance. Contrary to expectations, the holdup man approached from the rear of the car. He flashed a powerful light in her face and, glimpsing Harris, opened fire instantly. The blinding light prevented Mrs. Wright from seeing him. In spite of the turn of things, Harris managed to whip out his own gun and fire five shots in the direction of the blinding light. Then he died at the side of Mrs. Wright.

Traffic Suggestion

New York.—A boulevard on the housetops is the latest suggestion to relieve traffic. The project would cost $660,000,000.

Etiquette Problem

London.—There's quite a discussion as to whether men should tip their hats to women in these emancipated days.

Cat Comes Back and Saves Lives of Couple

Washington.—Whitey, a large Angora cat, returned home after a week's absence and saved the lives of his master and mistress from a fire which destroyed their dwelling.

The cat, which had been given by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Baxter, to a friend, returned in the early morning hours, and, jumping through a first-floor bedroom window, clawed at their bed covering when the flames were sweeping through the house.