

AT THE TURN OF THE ROAD.

Where the rough road turns, and the valley sweet... Smiles bright with its balm and bloom...

Evidence of Earlier People that Indians Found in Berks County.

Proof that a people antedating the American Indian lived within the present borders of Berks county, was recently established by Dr. Walker Lewis Stephen...

Dr. Stephen, who has delved considerably into early Berks Indian history, plant life and folklore, was accompanied by Congressman Esterly...

Heavy Losses Shown by Churches in United States.

Philadelphia, July.—An "alarming" falling off in church membership in Protestant communions at the rate of 500,000 a year is noted in the report of the continuation committee...

The report of Dr. H. K. Carroll, Plainfield, N. J., the committee secretary, has been issued in anticipation of a movement in which all the churches affected by the losses are expected to join in an effort to relieve the situation.

"In 13 communions with a grand total of 15,160,170 members," the report summarizes, "the losses aggregate 268,065. As the total of evangelical membership is upward of 29,000,000, the total yearly loss, if other communions besides the 13 were included, would approximate about half a million."

Gas and Electricity Detectors of Hooch.

The citizen who carries the tell-tale aroma of liquor in his breath is laying himself open to new hazards if recent reports are true, comments the Pennsylvania Public Service Information Committee. It is reported that the United States Bureau of Standards is perfecting a method of analyzing the human breath similar to that employed at present to analyze gases in industrial plants.

How Insect Foes of Men are Being Exterminated.

Belief that insects may gain the upper hand over mankind was termed far out of the realm of probability by Dr. R. R. Weppert, entomologist from Texas A. and M. College.

"Every insect that has threatened mankind has been exterminated or brought under control," Weppert said. "It is times when insects are causing huge financial damage that some persons think they are getting the upper hand."

"These bugs are imported into pest infested areas and it is not long until the pest is gone. A few years ago some ladybugs were imported in South Texas and they made such quick work of the pests that they soon starved to death."

Early Uses of Walnuts and Walnut Trees.

"Wolnis" the Pennsylvania German word for the walnut, is a corruption from welsch-nuss (walled nut), the high German designation for this product of the Walnuss-baum (walnut tree).

Time was when walnut trees of huge growth dotted the entire State. Berks county had its share of giant representatives, particularly west of the Schuylkill and throughout Oley Valley.

From both sections trees were cut down to supply the requirements of Philadelphia cabinetmakers and shipbuilders. The former employed the wood to fabricate many existing antique pieces of furniture.

Local farmers firmly believed that walnut trees planted near barns would deflect lightning. This custom was responsible for an almost forgotten Pennsylvania-German idiom, blitza-leiter (lightning conductor), as the tree was occasionally described.

The botanist refers to the walnut tree as juglans nigra. Juglans is a contraction of jovis glans (nut of Jupiter). Mythology states he cracked walnuts with his teeth when angry.

Nigre, from the Latin niger (black) refers to the hulls assuming a blackish-brown color after drying. Walnut lumber darkens and hardens with age on account of the presence of a high percentage of organic iron.

To Raise Beavers on a Large Scale.

Walla, Walla, Wash.—One hundred and fifty years ago beavers thrived on every lake and waterway throughout the United States. The animals were counted in the millions, the Indians depended on them for food in the winter, and to the early settlers the pelt had constant market value that made it standard for prices on merchandise and supplies.

Now it is planned to have States set aside regions on a big scale where beaver may multiply. Thousands of acres of lake, river and woodland is necessary for a beaver preserve and the constant protection of the fur bearers from poachers. But once the land is available nature can be counted upon to do the rest.

The Watchman publishes news when it is news. Read it.

Early Tobacco Users Had Weed Sweetened

In the early Sixteenth century, a few adventurous Spaniards discovered to their amazement that the habit of chewing tobacco was generally prevalent among the Indian tribes in the New world. The chewing tobacco was apparently in cake form, but whether originally flavored or not is not known.

Evil Spirits Invoked to Aid Devil-Doctor

A cadaverous-looking individual, clothed in a variety of colors, seated in the shade of a tree surrounded by low jungle and numberless heaps of house refuse—such is the devil-doctor of Ceylon.

This dissimilar and uncanny collection placed in front of him on a trellised framework, he begins his incantations to all the devils and spirits in pandemonium.

From time to time he peeps into the book, probably to revive his memory. His communion with the powers of darkness ended, he gets up with a self-satisfied smile, consigns the precious heap before him, except the mirror, into the nearest bush, and enters the patient's house to communicate to the anxious relatives the oracle, which in almost all cases is a favorable one, but the obstinate patient falsifies the prophecy by joining the majority.

Then Look at Your Watch

To tell time by the stars, explains an Iowa professor, "First look at the North star and the two points in the Great Dipper which are on a line with it. Imagine that in the sky there is a huge clock face with the hour hand pointing to these pointers. Read the time to the nearest quarter hour. To this figure add the number of months since January 1. Double this and subtract the result from 184. If the result is more than 164, subtract it from 404. The result is the time in hours, after noon. If the time is greater than 12, it means that it is after midnight, so subtract 12 and you have the time in hours, the forenoon."

Long List of Disasters

The greatest disasters from 1906 to the present time arising from natural causes include: St. Pierre and Martinique, volcanic eruption, May 8, 1902; San Francisco, Calif., earthquake, April 18, 1906; Sicily and Calabria earthquake, December 28, 1908; China earthquake, December 16, 1920; Japanese earthquake, September 1, 1923; Santa Barbara earthquake, June 29, 1925; Shenandoah wreck, September 3, 1925; Lake Denmark, N. J., explosion, July 10, 1926; mine disaster at Ishpeming, Mich., November 3, 1926; snowslide near Bingham, Utah, February 17, 1926.

"Cheap" Only in Name

American visitors to London learn of their sorrow that Cheapside is "cheap" only in name. Cheapside was the principal London street market, when retail trade was carried on around St. Paul's cathedral. The names of many of the thoroughfares leading into the western end of Cheapside as, for instance, Milk street, Broad street, Wood street and Honey lane, are reminiscent of this period.

Timing the Doctor

The doctor had received a hurry call from the home of the Robeys, who had their first baby. Arriving the doctor found the young father on the doorstep, watch in hand. "What's the trouble?" asked the doctor. "Nothing this time, Doc. My wife just wanted to see how quickly you could get here in case the baby was taken sick suddenly. You made it in four minutes this time."

Emblems of Authority

Lictors were the attendants of the magistrates of ancient Rome. They carried axes, around the handles of which were bound a bundle of rods. Those represented law and order and the power to punish offenders. The lictors preceded a magistrate, such as a consul or a praetor, in the streets of Rome, a sort of bodyguard to protect the magistrate and to emphasize authority.

Brian Boru Recognized as Ruler of Ireland

The O'Briens and many other distinguished Irish families claim as their ancestor Brian Boru, king of Ireland from 1002 to 1014. This warlike monarch, says a writer in the Kansas City Star, is regarded as the popular hero of early Irish history and the stories told about his reign have led to its being regarded as a sort of golden age.

Evidence That Tigers Select Human Victim

Man-eating tigers of the Indian jungles sometimes appear to single out a certain person and go after him, ignoring all others until they get him, points out Gen. William Mitchell, the noted flying officer, in an article in Liberty. The general tells a story to illustrate his point.

"A native became separated from his companions in the jungle and was chased by a tiger," he writes. "He succeeded in climbing into a tree, while the tiger remained on watch below. 'After a while,' General Mitchell continues, 'his companions, noting his absence and suspecting that a tiger might have killed him, returned, making a great racket by beating drums so as to keep the tiger away.'"

Thunderstorm's Beginning

The thunderstorm is owing to the rapid vertical convection of air containing a large amount of water vapor. The lower air must, therefore, be rather warm, say 70 degrees Fahrenheit or over, else it would not carry the requisite amount of water vapor, and the temperature must decrease rather rapidly with increase of height, else there would be but little or no convection. In the summer time the humidity in Oregon and Washington is rather low. Hence thunderstorms generally are improbable.

Ravages of Hurricane

A West Indian hurricane means days of anxiety to the inhabitants of the southern coast cities. The government gets reports of the approaching storms long before they reach the American coast. When the storm strikes it may demolish sea walls, tear down telegraph and telephone wires, and destroy buildings and ships at anchor in the harbors. Galveston, Charleston and other cities have paid dearly in the past for their unpreparedness.

Building Note

A colored cook came home after midnight from a revival meeting shouting at the top of her voice. Her employer, letting her in, said: "Aunt Mandy, this is all foolishness. Religion shouldn't be so noisy. Tell that preacher of yours to give a sermon on the building of King Solomon's temple, which arose without even the sound of a hammer. And remember that real religion is quiet and peaceful."

Good Manners

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Manners go deeper than etiquette. Though they begin there they end in morality. They are established on the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you." If there had never been a book of etiquette published, or a code written down, humanity would have needed nothing more than that rule by which to train the children of the race in gentleness.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

—Our belief in others betrayeth what we faint would believe in ourselves. Our longing for a friend is our betrayal. Zarathustra.

FALL COLORS AND FABRICS.

Gray is coming more and more to the fore, and I predict that we shall see a great deal of this lovely neutral shade this fall. Many warm shades of cloud gray are seen wherever the world of fashion gathers today—gray with a cloud—pink touch, gray more somber with a tinge of blue, divine shades of lavender gray, smoke gray—all are represented. Often two shades are used in the same costume.

For evening, black and white will continue to be used, and, for the sake of variety, blue, always a favorite with the House of Worth, and a few other colors to be announced later. I shall feature new velvets, soft, fragile, delicate, in colors which in themselves are symphonies. I shall also use printed velvets in small patterns for ensembles.

Then there is a very lovely new woolen in dark blue with bits of gold threads woven in a chevron pattern. A Barre lame, which comes in a soft tan crepe silk with narrow stripes of gold, will also be seen in my fall collection. Diagonal lines, as seen in many cities, are extremely flattering. Perhaps that is why so many women have chosen this style. The long, graceful lines of the surplice closing is continued in the pleats at the same side of the skirt. There's a chance for a seasonal light touch in the vest.

The bag, as shown by these reports, is an oblong envelop, neither too large nor too small. The number of different materials it may be bought in is gratifying to the woman who is matching up accessories. They include all the leathers—suede, kid, watersnake, lizard and glazed alligator—velvet, finely woven straw and moire silk.

Semi-sheer crepes, a number of important stores are convinced, are here to stay. A frock of georgette crepe that is put on like a coat is fastened with a bow at the waistline. It also has the flattering diagonal, though on a much more acute angle, and the shirring fullness in the skirt. Here the shirring continues across the back as well. Many women choose this tiny print. Sometimes the whole frock is printed, and there are many of them in one solid color.

Every second youthful face, especially in Eastern cities, is shadowed by a felt hat with a three-inch brim. The brim is slightly narrower in the back. The crown is low and moulded to the head. The band may be the color of the hat or a much darker shade of the color.

After three successful years the jumper frock is about to begin the new season—with the confidence of an "Abie's Irish Rose." This particular vision with its smart box-plaited skirt, collarless neckline, its bows and snug hips has been chosen by many thousands of smart Americans. It is a practical as well as a smart frock. The straight skirt is hung on a bodice top and the plaits are only in the front, where they will not be missed. This is the sort of frock that is often chosen to wear beneath the straight, fullness coat.

Every smart woman everywhere, it would seem, owns a rope of pearls. She wears them wound three times around her throat, two close to the neck and the third hanging to the waistline. The pearls are about the size of a pea and the color of rich cream and there is a knot between each two pearls. Sometimes they are baroque, but more often they are smooth and round.

An adaptation of the famous Vionnet neckline, these telegraphed reports from great stores indicate, is being worn by more than 100,000 women all over the United States—and shows no signs of waning. This frock also follows the vogue for bows—a vogue that is well established in the mode. The ever-present skirt fullness is here across the front with rows of shirring. This frock is worn now in tiny prints and lovely pastels. These summer colors will soon give way but the frocks will continue in the deeper tones of fall.

So many of the stars of the summer fashion world seem to be concentrated in one constellation—that of the Great Dipper. If your afternoon or evening frock doesn't dip some place, if it doesn't betray some whimsicality of hemline, then it might almost as well be languishing among the moth balls of the cedar chest in the attic.

FARM NOTES.

—Watch the bags of the cows about to calve, and make sure they don't become so congested as to be injured. Better to milk out a little than to have a caked bag.

—The cow which freshens during the fall may be expected to produce from 10 to 20 per cent more milk than does the cow which freshens during the spring months.

—Dahlias are Heavy Drinkers.—Dahlias require plenty of water and close cultivation. Remove surplus buds to insure beautiful blooms. A dressing of bone meal also will prove beneficial.

—Sow Clover Crop.—Sow the clover crop in the cultivated orchard now. Crimson clover, crimson clover and oats, mammoth clover, rye and vetch are all good. Only remember that if rye is sown it should be turned under early next spring.

—Calves should have fresh water even though they are receiving milk. A small amount of ground limestone in the ration of a dairy cow, one-half to one per cent of the ration, can be fed to advantage, especially if alfalfa is not used.

—Keep Milk Flow up.—July and August are the danger months for the dairy herd. Pastures get short and many dairymen do not realize that their cows need extra feed. The herd should be watched carefully and if milk flow shows a marked decrease or the cows begin to lose flesh, give green feed or hay with grain.

—Protect the Pullets.—An ideal range will provide natural shade where the young birds may find protection from the hot summer sun. Many poultry flocks do not have this natural protection, say poultry specialists of the Penna. State College, so some means of protection must be provided. Moving the colony houses near a cornfield makes ideal range conditions. Sunflowers planted around the colony house also will provide satisfactory shade. If the colony field and sunflowers are not used, some form of artificial shade should be provided. Old feed bags placed on a frame about two to three feet above the ground will give the needed protection.

—On many farms where a few stands of bees are kept to furnish a home supply of honey, considerable losses are experienced during the winter months on account of failure to understand the habits of this insect. When going by a hive of bees in the winter time we often note the incessant humming and buzzing of the bees. The colder it is the faster they hum. They do this in order to keep up the temperature sufficiently to keep them alive. The harder they have to work the more likely they are to exhaust their vitality and be unable to gather honey the following summer. Windbreaks around the hives, together with other protection in the way of making the hive close and free from all drafts will pay back returns.

—Once a blackberry planting is made it will last for many years, but the canes last only two years. These canes grow from the crown in the spring and they live until after the fruiting season of the following year. When they die, other canes are ready to take their places, these new ones having grown from the crowns during the spring.

—Since berries are borne only on canes which are in their second season's growth, it will be necessary to govern pruning accordingly. Usually blackberries are planted just as early in the spring as the land can be prepared, preferably on fall-plowed land. The earlier the plants are set, the more chance they have of living, and the better will be their growth. Usually rows are kept about eight feet apart, and the plants are set in the rows from two and one-half to four feet apart.

—The grape crop is borne on current season shoots arising from one-year-old wood. This year's shoots automatically become next year's canes. Therefore, the pruner is, of necessity, most interested in the past season's shoots or canes for the coming year. Canes vary in their ability to produce fruit. Partridge, at the Michigan station, and others, have shown that Concord canes with a diameter of one-fourth inch or over and with internodes averaging about five inches are the most productive type. It is not always possible to secure enough of the most desirable canes, since no two vines are exactly alike. It becomes necessary at times to use the overvigorous, much branched, or "Bull" cane. Rather than remove these branches, and depend on the weak auxiliary buds at the base of the laterals, it is recommended to spur the branches to at least three buds.

—Among the valuable sidelights on profitable pork production that have been brought out in the swine sanitation work pushed throughout Illinois during the past few years by farm advisers and the college of agriculture, University of Illinois, is the fact that pigs raised in large pastures do better than those confined to a small area. The average area of pasture allowed for one sow and litter on 160 farms which reported was nine-tenths of an acre. Many sows were kept on a still smaller plot of ground.

—Altogether 9,421 pigs were raised in pastures of less than one acre a litter. The number of runts in these small pastures averaged on runt to each 71 pigs. In pastures a little larger, ranging from one to two acres a litter, there were 2,827 pigs raised and the number of runts was one to each 77 pigs. In pastures of two or more acres a litter there were 1,204 pigs raised and the number of runts was only 1 to 100 pigs.

—These figures bear out the common observation that infestation of pigs with worms or germ disease is usually worse when they are confined to small areas, according to E. T. Robbins, live stock extension specialist of the college. Where pigs have a considerable range to roam over they are more likely to keep healthy. Probably in such cases any infestation which may be present is so scattered that the pigs do not get much of it.