

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.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of September 26, 1879.

Andy Schnell was the first "devil" in the Watchman office; the first boy who ever "rolled" the pages of this paper. Andy served only one week at the business, however, because the smell of printers ink made him sick and he concluded to seek his fortune in another channel. Since then he has been mayor of Junction City, Kansas.

A number of men in the employ of a Mr. Wertz, on Kettle Creek, Clinton county, came upon a den of rattlesnakes on September 5. They killed 106 of the "varmints" and fifteen or twenty got away.

The picnic at Unionville last Saturday was a great success. It was gotten up in the interest of the Baptist Sunday school, which is a small organization with a lot of energetic members, such as Messrs. Peters, Hoover, Eastman and Fleck. The Bellefonte band was there and in the evening Henry Hoover treated the entire organization to a wonderful supper at his home.

Mrs. Catherine Schnell, wife of Joseph Schnell, Esq., died at the family residence on Bishop street, Friday morning last, the 18th inst., in the 64th year of her age.

On the 18th inst., by Rev. W. W. Groh, Mr. Frederick W. Krummire and Miss Annie M. Garner, both from the vicinity of State College, were married.

Mr. John Bowers, formerly of Buffalo Run, this county, the man who set out the trees in the court house yard here, died on the 7th inst., at York Haven, York county, Pa.

On Thursday next, the big day of the county fair there will be a splendid military and civic parade in Bellefonte. Thirteen bands, all from Centre county, will be in the line of march.

At the Milesburg Normal school Mr. Lou Schaeffer, son of ex-sheriff Schaeffer, of Nittany, carried off first honors in mathematics. Lou was formerly a student at State College and expects to teach a school in Walker township this winter.

Mr. Joseph Ross and family, of Pleasant Gap, left on Friday last for Jefferson county, to spend a week or two. They are traveling in a big family wagon. That's the way to see the sights and have lots of fun.

John Kidd Shoemaker, who established the "Democratic Whig" in this place in 1840, and edited it for fifteen years, died at his home on Spring street, on Friday last, aged 68. He sold the paper to John T. Johnson, our present post master, who had been in partnership with him for about two years.

The new iron bridge over the Bald Eagle at Milesburg has been opened for traffic. It is a decidedly handsome structure and of great strength.

The Hi Henry minstrel show on Tuesday night drew an immense house, but the performance throughout was somewhat dreary. The minstrel business is about played out and people are getting tired of such coarse extravaganzas.

CONNECTICUT WAGES FIGHT ON MOSQUITO.

Nearly the entire Connecticut shore from Greenwich to Saybrook has been ditched in the fight of the State to eliminate the mosquito nuisance, according to the state agriculture experiment station which is directing the work. A ditch ten inches wide and twenty-four inches deep, dug at a cost of twelve dollars an acre, will remain effective for years if cleaned once a year, the station finds.

The inland town of New Canaan has ridged itself of mosquitoes by spraying oil on the inlets and coves of Five-Mile river, the one stream in the town, and then after cleaning up the stream bed, introduced small fish. The result was that the fish ate up all the larvae of the mosquitoes.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Clara T. Bateson to Thomas D. Decker, et ux, tract in State College; \$1.

H. E. Dunlap, sheriff, to Thomas J. Lee, et al, trustees, tract in Phillipsburg; \$10,000.

Marion M. Osman, et bar, to Alfred E. McGuire, tract in Taylor Twp.; \$3,500.

Lewis Stein to Mary Stein, tract in Phillipsburg; \$1.

Lloyd Stover, et ux, to Bert Poorman, et ux, tract in Spring Twp.; \$1.

William S. Gill, et ux, to Jacob Herwitz, et ux, tract in Phillipsburg; \$1.

C. N. Warlick to Elizabeth Witmer, tract in Potter Twp.; \$1.

The Chase and Capture of the Beech Creek Bank Robbers

Thrilling Stories as Told by the Men Who Followed the Bandits and Brought About Their Capture. An Accurate Recital of an Exciting Man Hunt. Shope and Kline Get 20 to 40 Years and Big Fines

At 11:45 Thursday morning, Sept. 19, bandits held up cashier J. A. Haugh in the First National bank at Beech Creek and fled with \$12,271 in cash. About 1:20 or 1:25 the bandit car was wrecked on a culvert coping north of Runville. Two of the bandits escaped from the wreck leaving a companion mortally injured in the car.

At 7:20 William Delaney, the injured bandit died of chest injuries in the Centre County hospital.

At 8:20 officer Frank Henderson captured the two who had escaped, in the railroad yard at Snow Shoe Intersection.

Last week the Watchman was the only county paper to give you the story of the robbery of the First National bank at Beech Creek. It was substantially correct in all but two details. We then said that three men had entered the bank, when as a matter of fact only Kline and Delaney held up Cashier Haugh and scooped up the cash from the counter and vault. Shope remained at the steering wheel in the Packard car they had stolen from Multon Sykes. Our other misinformation was to the effect that Dr. Tibbens had blocked the road in front of the Furl place with his car thereby forcing them into a culvert a mile above Runville where their car was wrecked. Kline and Shope escaping to the woods afoot and Delaney remaining in the car because of fatal injuries.

It was just 11:45 when the two bandits held up the bank. It was about 1:20 or 1:25 when their car piled up on the road culvert and it was all over but the capture of Kline and Shope. This is fixed by the telephone record of the call which Dr. Tibbens made to Beech Creek from Bennet's store in Runville. The record shows it to have been made at 1:05 and Frank Williams says it was five or ten minutes after the Doctor had started to the telephone that the bandits appeared and he shot, causing the wreck.

The Watchman has interviewed each one of the eye-witnesses and shall let them tell the story in their own language. In order to make it perfectly comprehensible, however, we make the following summary of it.

After the hold-up the bandits fled west on the Bald Eagle valley road. Just as they were entering Howard, at a spot between the milk station and the first house in the town, Dr. Tibbens fired on them with a Colt's automatic which he had borrowed from a motorist while he waited on the roadside. He broke the glass in the left rear window and one shot was fired back at him from the fleeing car. He says he felt and heard the bullet go past the point of his nose. The bandit car sped straight through Howard, where many people were out on the streets because of the news that they were headed that way had been telephoned from Beech Creek. At the extreme western end of the town Frank Williams, the man who later caused the wreck of the bandit car, was standing behind a tree in his own yard. He had a double barreled shot gun loaded with No. 6 shot but didn't shoot for reasons told in his own story published elsewhere.

After Dr. Tibbens had fired on the car he handed the automatic back to the stranger who had loaned it to him, jumped into his own car, turned about and drove into Howard calling for volunteers go with him on the chase. He procured a double barreled shot gun from Will Weber. It had both barrels loaded with bb shells and Will gave him five extra ones. Frank Williams was the only person who said he would go along. Accordingly Frank took his gun and dressed just as he is shown in the picture of him on this page, climbed into the automobile and they headed west.

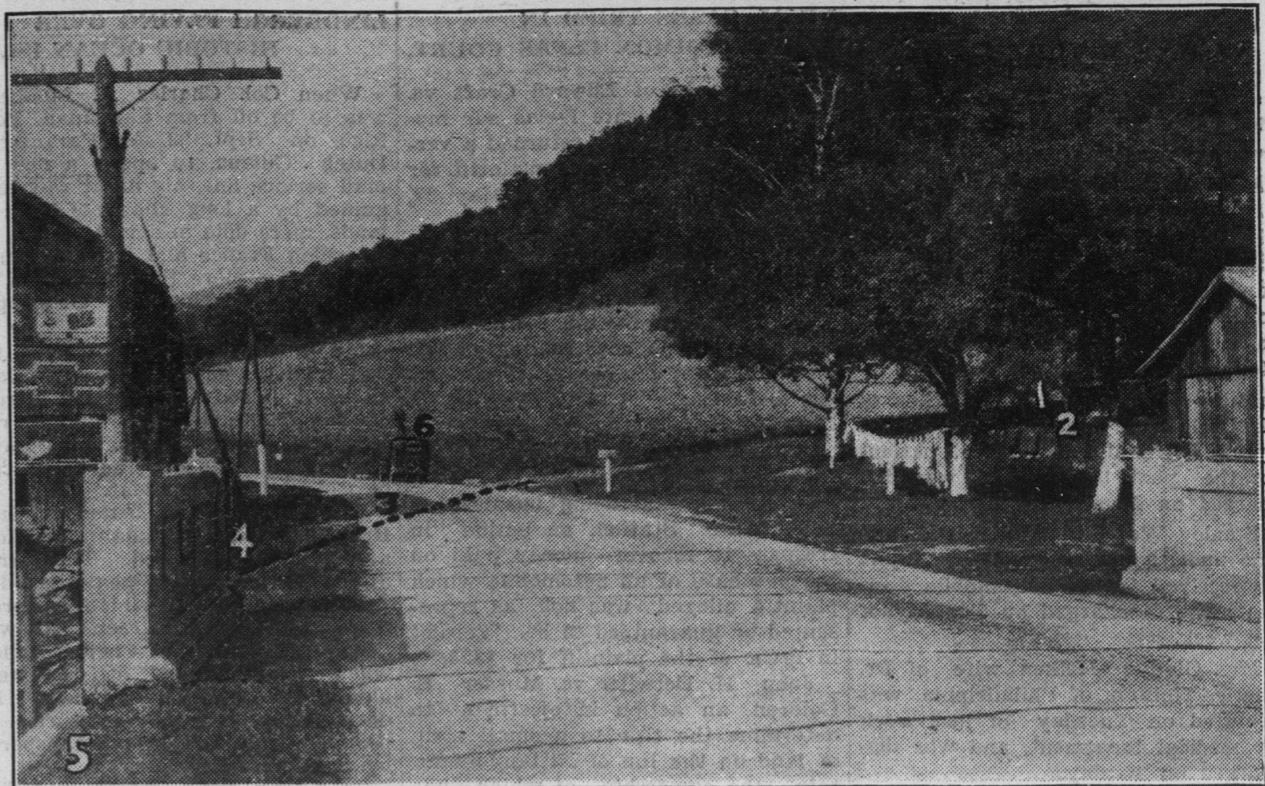
When they arrived at the forks of the road at the R. R. viaduct east of Mt. Eagle they were uncertain which way the bandits had gone. Dr. Tibbens says it was a "hunch" that led him into going right up the Valley road toward Milesburg. It was under construction but they raved over it. East of Milesburg a State patrolman told them the bandits had not gone that way, but again the Doctor's "hunch" led him on to Snow Shoe Intersection and up the road to Snow Shoe, for he felt that if his prey had turned into the Marsh Creek road at Mt. Eagle they would likely come out onto the highway somewhere between Runville and the top of the mountain. Knowing that state police were mobilizing from Snow Shoe, Phillipsburg, DuBois and other points north he thought outlets from the Marsh Creek road up there would be covered, so he and Williams stopped at the John Furl place, just nine-tenths of a mile north of Bennet's store at Runville and a little less distance south of what is known as the Dim Lantern tea room, now the home of Charley Reese. Just at the north side of the Furl house the Yarnell road comes down over a long hill and joins the highway to Snow Shoe.

Tibbens parked his car just north of the intersection of the roads, on the spot where the car shown in the picture published on this page is standing. The only people at the Furl place at the time were Mrs. Toner Furl and her babe-in-arms, Alfred Furl, Mr. and Mrs. Milligan Lucas, of Harrisburg, who were visiting there and Arthur Furl of about ten years of age. After they had been there a short time, about ten minutes according to Williams, Dr. Tibbens asked the boy where there was a telephone. Upon being told that there is one in the next farm house below he started off down the road afoot, leaving Williams on his watch.

Meanwhile the bandits were racing around on the ridge roads, getting lost every once in a while. They are said to have asked Mrs. Poorman at Yarnell the way to Rhoades Station. Rhoades Station is on the Snow Shoe railroad at the old Reese place on top of the mountain. They stopped at the John Barnes place at Fetzerstown and asked for directions. Again, at the Jos. Sepritz place, on top of "the Divide," they are said to have made inquiries. From there they got onto the Yarnell road and headed for the Snow Shoe highway, evidently with the intention of going south on it for ½ a mile where they would hit the Chestnut Grove road that runs west again, over the hill and down into Bush Hollow where they could have gotten out through the Elair place onto the old pike leading from Unionville to the Rattlesnake. At the latter place Leo, serving from Unionville to the Rattlesnake, was supposed to be waiting for them in their own old Studebaker car. He was with them when they held up Sykes east of Beech Creek on Thursday morning and according to their story he was sent on to "the Rattlesnake" to wait for them there. The story he was sent on to "the Rattlesnake" and complete the get-away intention being to abandon the stolen Packard and complete the get-away in their own car, the license plates of which had been coaxed while it was in the woods where Sykes was tied up.

Shortly after Dr. Tibbens had left Furl's place to find a telephone Williams took up a position at the corner of the Furl house. (Spot marked 1 in the picture.) From there he could see up the Yarnell road quite a distance. He thinks he watched about five minutes when he saw a car coming down which he recognized as the one he saw going through Howard. Then he jumped around to the front of the front porch, which is about four feet off the ground and took a position (No. 2 on the picture) slightly under the porch and at the north side of the steps leading up to it. The car came into sight, he saw the broken glass in the left rear window, two men in the front seat and one in the rear, and knew his prey was in range. Just why he didn't fire then is not known, for if the bandits had turned north toward Snow Shoe they would have been out of sight almost the instant they turned. As it was they turned south and Williams fired one shot just when the car was directly on a line between him and the barn. (Position 3 in the picture.) Williams made a good shot as is evidenced by the marks on the left front door of the car (see picture elsewhere). Someone from the bandit car, probably Kline from the rear seat, returned one shot. That bullet broke a glass in an upstairs window of the Furl house, perforated the blind and was later found lying on the bed in the room.

No one seems to know just what happened between the time Williams shot and the bandit car wrecked on the culvert coping. Mr. and Mrs. Milligan Lucas had started walking up the highway toward the Dim Lantern, the Furl lad had gone into the house and Mrs. Toner Furl was on the back porch between the house and the summer kitchen and it is not known just where Alfred Furl was. Accordingly there was no one but Williams to report just what did throw the bandits out of control of their car unless it was the unexpected shot from Williams gun.



SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY

Photograph by Sager of the highway in front of the Furl home. Taken from position marked 5 and looking toward Dim Lantern tea room.
(1) Spot where Williams peeped around the corner of the house and saw bandits coming down Yarnell road.
(2) Place under porch from which Williams fired. (3) Position of bandit car when Williams shot. (4) End of coping where car wrecked. (5) Where Shope went down into the field. (6) Spot from which Dr. Tibbens fired on the wrecked car. Just between the shadow of the culvert wall on the roadway and spot 3 is where Delaney laid after he rolled out of the car. Dotted line indicates course of the car coming out of the Yarnell road.

The distance from the intersection of the roads to the culvert is just 135 ft. The bandits had covered half of that when Williams fired, so that it is probable that Shope, who was driving, was so surprised by the shot that went so near his head that he lost control just long enough to be unable to right his car before it had run the sixty-seven feet remaining between it and the culvert.

When the car struck Kline, who was sitting in the rear, says he was pitched headlong out through the window of the right front door. Shope stepped out at the left, both Mrs. Furl and Williams saw him do that, walked over the culvert and went into the field. Delaney remained sitting in the car. Neither Williams nor Mrs. Furl saw Kline until they spied him running very fast across the field. Shope was following at a walk and both had disappeared in the woods beyond the railroad track when Dr. Tibbens and Gordon Tyson came racing back up the road.

They shot right past the wrecked car and came to a stop directly behind where the Doctor's car had been standing ever since he first arrived on the scene (position 6 in the picture.) They were in Gordon Tyson's Chevrolet and it was from the side of it that Dr. Tibbens fired on Delaney who was still sitting in the car.

From this point we shall let Dr. Tibbens, Gordon Tyson, Frank Williams and Schwemmer, the showman, tell you what happened. Read the stories as they were told to Watchman reporters.

Of course a great many state police, patrolmen and other officers were soon on the scene and a chase for Kline and Shope was organized. We shall make no comment on its efficiency other than to say that the bandits say they spent the whole afternoon sitting in the woods not more than half a mile away from the scene.

When darkness came they walked down toward Snow Shoe Intersection, crossed over the Snow Shoe railroad tracks and the highway, went down through Kohlbecker's woods and climbed onto an empty P. R. R. low steel car attached to extra 1830 freight west that was then standing on the eastern siding of the B. E. V. east of Snow Shoe Intersection.

R. R. OFFICER FRANK M. HENDERSON MAKES THE CAPTURE

Frank M. Henderson, of Osceola Mills, stationed at Milesburg, and who has been in the railroad police service for eight years, was at the Intersection station going over trains for hoboes. The flagman on No. 1830 had said something to him about seeing a fellow walking along the tracks who he thought might have gotten onto the train which was then up on the western siding west of the Intersection station.

Henderson started over the train and when he came to the empty steel car his flash light revealed two fellows huddled together down in the corner of the car. He says they blinked like owls when he threw the light on them and were all covered with "beggar lice" and burdock burrs. He made them get up and "frisked" them for guns. Then he took them off the car and marched them down to the tower at the Intersection.

On the way Shope said: "You wouldn't send us up for this. We were just going up to Tyrone to get a job. We have been up to Runville visiting an uncle of mine." He hadn't an idea who they were and thought probably they were just hobo train riders. However he put them up in the tower where John Talhelm, the operator, and his wife were sitting at the time, sent word in to the sheriff Dunlap and went back to the foot of the tower steps to stand guard until the sheriff arrived.

That was about 8:20. In ten minutes the sheriff was on the scene and it was while he was going over Kline for weapons that he felt something

large in Kline's trouser pocket. When he pulled it out and discovered it to be a roll of bank bills, he said: "Henderson I guess you've got the men we want." Then he slipped the "irons" on them and took them into the Centre county jail. Kline told the sheriff, however, that "three dollars of that money belongs to me."

When they reached the jail the money was counted and found to total \$275.00. This with the \$12,271 found on the person of Delaney at the wreck made every cent the bank claimed to have lost through the robbery.

Shope and Kline were turned over to the sheriff of Clinton county, on Friday. Just before noon yesterday Shope and Kline plead guilty before Judge Baird in Lock Haven and were sentenced as follows:

Shope got 10 to 20 years and a fine of \$5,000.00 on each of two counts. Kline got the same sentence given Shope.

FACTS INCIDENT TO THE TRAGEDY.

There were four in the bandit party: William Delaney, Raymond A. Shope, Hazzard M. Kline and the latter's 17 year old son, Leo.

The Kline boy is supposed to have left the party after they held up Sykes and took his Packard car. He is said to have driven to "the Rattlesnake" to wait for the gang there. Some people out on Marsh Creek section claim they saw him driving through that section. His whereabouts up to the time of our going to press remain a mystery.

William Delaney was a man of splendid physique about 5 ft 9 tall and weighed about 160 lbs. He was convicted in Clearfield county on February 13, 1919, of robbery with weapons and sentenced to a term of 5 to 8 years in the western penitentiary. He served the maximum sentence and was discharged Feb. 3, 1927. Not much is known of him. His hands were delicately formed and indicated that he had lived indoors and done very little manual work. In fact some say that the balls of his thumbs and fingers were filed off so that finger prints could not be taken. His body was turned over to undertaker Frank Wetzler, but a brother located in Beaverdale, Pa., having declined to claim it, it was shipped to the anatomical society in Philadelphia on Tuesday afternoon for dissecting room use.

It was likely Delaney who went back into the vault of the bank where most of the money was secured for on him most of it was found. And he was probably the master-mind of the enterprise.

Raymond A. Shope is said to be a son of Daniel Shope and was born on the Kohlbecker farm near Milesburg. He was once a trolley car motorman in Phillipsburg and also worked at Beech Creek. He and

Kline are brothers-in-law, having married girls by the name of Quick. He was convicted in Clearfield county on January 2, 1922, for robbing the Karthaus bank and sentenced to 7 to 12 years in the western penitentiary. He was paroled from that institution, January 2, 1929.

So far as is known Kline and his son have no police records.

The car used by the bandits was a Packard four passenger coupe owned by Milton Sykes, of Beech Creek. It is almost a total wreck and it is said the bank will make an effort to have the company that insured its money reimburse Sykes for his loss. In the car, after the wreck was found a pump shot gun, an empty half pint whisky bottle, a quart bottle about ¾ full and a qt. bottle of milk, untouched. The car was hauled into Poorman's garage in this place Thursday evening. It was while standing there that William Sager photographed it for the Watchman.

Two revolvers were found in the ditch below the culvert after the wreck. A .32 and a .38. The smaller gun had not been discharged. The latter had two discharged shells. This probably accounts for the one shot at Dr. Tibbens below Howard and the one at Williams at the Furl place. Delaney and Kline must have had the guns in hand for Shope was driving. It is likely that when the crash came the guns flew out the car into the ditch. It is possible that Kline might have had both guns in his hands and lost grip on them when he was jolted out the window, for they were lying just about where he must have alighted. The ditch is a dry water course about 6 ft deep and had the car gone into it instead of being wedged against the culvert coping all might have been killed.

Delaney evidently received the injury that caused his death by being thrown half-way through the windshield and striking his chest against the top of the panel board. There was a mark across his body indicating this. However, he must have recoiled from that position because when Mrs. Furl and Williams next saw him he was sitting upright in his seat.



Rear of car at which Dr. Tibbens shot two loads of bbs. from a distance of approximately 165 feet. It will be noted that the glass in the rear of the car is not broken.



Shope Kline Officer Henderson THE BANDITS, AS THEY APPEARED AFTER R. R. OFFICER HENDERSON HAD TAKEN THEM OFF THE FREIGHT CAR.