

We have just completed the "Fifty Years Ago in Centre County." It is Saturday night, August 9, the family's God knows where and it's too hot to go to bed. There's some near something on ice in the refrigerator, but it is not nearly so near as some of the memories that pouring over the Watchman of 1880 make some of the incidents there recorded seem to us tonight.

That was the year of the campaign between Hancock and English and Garfield and Arthur. Then were the days when Democrats in Centre county had guts. Then the pioneer Fishers, Herrings, Ducks, Groves, Jamisons, Dursts, Emericks, Ripkas, Meyers, Smiths, Condos, Hosterms, Mussers, Mingles, and dozens of others we might name, were immune to such "bunk" as Roosevelt later seduced Penns Valley with and Pinchot lures them with now. They were Democrats. They believed, like we do, that temperance was a thing most to be desired, but it never occurred to them to make it a political issue. When the party called it was nothing for them to hitch up the spring wagon and haul eight or ten others from fifteen to twenty miles to Bellefonte, parade half the night and spend the rest of it driving back home. Penns Valley was the Gibraltar of Democracy then. Every township in it had three or four big, outstanding men whose lives were so clean and successful that they were oracles to the community in which they resided.

The campaign of 1880 was the first of which we have a really vivid recollection. There were the "Hancock Legion" and the "Garfield Guards." The Democrats paraded with blue and white capes and carried torches fashioned like a star. The Republicans wore red capes and had torches with a blow-pipe running down the handle so that any of them who didn't cheer all his wind away could blow in the pipe and make the torch flare. The campaign started in August and every week there was a big meeting somewhere. If it wasn't in Centre county it was in Tyrone or Lock Haven or even so far away as Williamsport and trains of flat cars, with just boards from side to side for seats, would be crowded with hordes of enthusiasts going to parade and show their devotion to political principles they espoused. Penns Valley always led the way, for there were real Democrats in Penns Valley then.

The late Hammon Sechler was the generalissimo of the Hancock Legions of our county and he recognized our attempt to organize a Junior Hancock Legion in the West ward of Bellefonte. He went so far as to give us two dozen of those wonderful star torches. We managed to get a snare and a bass drum and with such accoutrement had no difficulty in getting more boys than we had torches for. Because we were all such little fellows toting the base drum was a problem until "Pack" Crowdrick came down from his home up on east Linn street one night and joined up. "Pack" was a big boy for his age and he could carry and beat that bass drum like Josh Foulk never knew how it could be done. "Pack's" father had a brick yard out at this end of Coleville. That was probably the reason he suggested that we parade out there one night. However that may have been the Legion formed on the broad steps in front of the old United Brethren church and with torches flaring, drums beating and hearts racing it proceeded north on Thomas street. Everything went well until we got up along the old fair grounds and then from the hill just west of where the Bellefonte Central shops now stand came such a shower of stones as only a Vesuvius in most violent eruption could emit. Of course we Legionaries took to cover. All but "Pack." When a stone went through both heads of that bass drum he saw red and made for the hill. We are not quite clear about what followed, but we think the rest of us made for home.

Two days later we heard that "Pack" had licked every kid in Eggtown, but we couldn't react to that triumph of the Junior Legion because we were then cooped up in the "parlor" at home with a virulent case of diphtheria. Old Dr. Hibler was the family physician and we can see him now dipping that camel's hair brush down into a bottle of caustic, holding our mouth open and swabbing our throat with the stuff that fumed going down and smoked coming out.

We survived the diphtheria, but we have never gotten over the loss of the thrill that we missed when Mr. Sechler took our Junior Legion along with those grand old Penns Valley Democrats to Lock Haven to parade at a political meeting.

That was fifty years ago. Tonight we are wondering what the galaxy of Penns Valley's great Democrats of those days would think of their sons and their grandsons, their daughters and grand daughters who have fallen for Pinchot's "bunk."

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Fishing for Vare's Support

The expected negotiations between Gifford Pinchot and the Vare machine are already in progress. Last week Auditor General Charles A. Waters and his special deputy Sam Lewis visited Mr. Pinchot at his home. Two or three days later they held a conference with William S. Vare at his Philadelphia office. Neither the Pinchot emissaries nor Mr. Vare would reveal the subject of their conversations or the purpose of their mission. But it requires no unusual gifts in the art of deduction to solve the problem.

Waters and Lewis were ardent and active supporters of Pinchot and Grundy in the primary campaign. Previously Waters had been a servile follower of Vare and Lewis and an equally docile supporter of Grundy. In the mix-up which followed the appointment of Grundy to the Senate, Grundy and Waters announced themselves in favor of Lewis for Governor. When the Mellons and Governor Fisher declared war against Lewis the Auditor General and his special deputy turned in for Pinchot and Grundy. But there was no question of principle involved in the switching. It was purely a matter of sparring for personal advantage.

When the question of the nomination of Pinchot or Brown arose both these shifty politicians took the Pinchot side because it was obviously the most promising. Subsequent developments, however, cast a shadow of doubt upon the Pinchot prospects and Waters and Lewis conceived the idea of enlisting Vare in their force. They knew that there is only one way of reaching Vare and that is spilling of office and promises of future service. With this purpose in mind they went to Pinchot to get his consent to a deal with Vare and having secured that the conference with Vare followed, the result of which is still a mystery.

At the end of the conference Mr. Vare refused to give information concerning it and Waters and Lewis were equally secretive. Mr. Pinchot promptly declared that he had not sent the emissaries to Vare. He didn't have to. They volunteered for the sinister service. But he hasn't said that he didn't consent to their going or that he is not willing to ratify any bargain they are able to make with him, however corrupt it may be. He served Vare before and to secure a re-election to the office of Governor he would serve him again.

Senator Fess was very much opposed to second term Presidents some years ago. But that was before he got invitations to White House breakfasts.

Chairman Huston Out.

In fulfillment of his promise made several weeks ago to the President Claudius H. Huston has resigned the chairmanship of the Republican National committee. It wasn't a voluntary act or a cheerful service "for the good of the party." It was a sacrifice of personal pride and laudable ambition to save the party and shield other party leaders from popular indignation and just censure. His offense was a too literal acquiescence in the policy of the party. He did exactly what Calvin Coolidge wanted him to do, and what Herbert Hoover wanted done, and he was appointed to the office of chairman as a reward for the service.

Before he became chairman of the Republican National committee, and while he was an assistant to Mr. Hoover in the Department of Commerce, Mr. Huston became active in a sinister purpose of the Republican party to transfer the immensely valuable government property at Muscle Shoals to the power trust. That Mr. Coolidge was in sympathy with that service of Mr. Huston is shown by his pocket veto of the Norris resolution to prevent its consummation. That Mr. Hoover was of the same mind on the subject is amply proved by his recent letter to Congressman Reece, of Tennessee. But to save themselves from popular execration these eminent Republican leaders "nailed Huston to the cross."

We have no inclination to exonerate Huston from blame. As an official of the government at the time he wickedly and willfully betrayed the people of the country. And he deliberately misappropriated part of the lobby fund. But Herbert Hoover knew all about his malfeasances, and in full possession of the information not only urged him to accept the chairmanship but forced the committee to bestow it upon him. Huston's offense is the party's crime and though Huston for an unexplained reason has consented to be the goat, the perfidy attaches to all the party leaders and to the party.

Facts About Unemployment

The industrial commissioner of New York State has exposed the fraudulent statistics of unemployment throughout the country in a manner that may be understood by any one who takes the trouble to reason. The aim of the administration before and since the census figures were made public was to minimize the gravity of the industrial situation. As a medium of accomplishing this result the Department of Commerce recently issued a bulletin stating that the census figures show only four per cent of unemployment. But workers who have been "laid off," those "furloughed" with the promise of re-employment when conditions improve, are not included in the unemployed list.

It appears, moreover, that the four per cent scheduled in the census returns is not four per cent of the wage earners willing to work but of the population of the country including men, women and children of all ages. An unemployment roster on that basis would be something to be proud of in any industrial country. But it does not express, or even approximate, the unemployment that is and has been for some time a grave cause of complaint and concern to the industrial life of the country. The New York commissioner says: "When we speak of unemployed in percentages we mean as compared with the total number of workers in the community." That would express the actual facts.

Possibly an inclination to fool the public is a characteristic of the engineering mind. But that purpose is not likely to be achieved in this instance. The average man is too well informed to swallow such rubbish. Opinions differ widely as to the actual number of unemployed workers. The census figures place it at about two and a-half millions, while labor organizations and others interested in the matter estimate it at between four and six millions. But there can be no two opinions as to responsibility for the present condition. Neither the President nor Congress has taken any steps to remedy the evil though Democratic Senator Wagner pointed out the way.

One by one the auto speed racers are paying the death penalty of valueless hazard. Robert Whalon, of Chicago, president of the Automobile Racing association, is the latest victim.

Surprising Story of Grundy.

The most interesting and probably the most surprising development of the pending Senate investigation of the Republican primary election in Pennsylvania was the evidence of Royal C. Stevens, of Philadelphia, who testified that Senator Schall, of Minnesota, was offered \$50,000, "if he would cease his attacks on Senator Grundy of Pennsylvania over the tariff act." Senator Schall is a Republican representing one of the States which Grundy had described as "backward" and a member of the group whom Senator Moses, of New Hampshire, had stigmatized as "sons of wild jackasses." In resentment of those opprobrious epithets Senator Schall had indulged in some uncomplimentary references to Grundy.

According to Mr. Stephens the money to procure this service for Grundy would be obtained by subscriptions from the members of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association, of which Mr. Grundy had been president up until the time he was appointed Senator in Congress by Governor Fisher. Mr. Stevens informed the Nye committee, moreover, that "the story had come from Senator Schall himself," and asked that each of the 2700 members of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association be subpoenaed and interrogated. Chairman Nye promised to call Senator Schall and question him concerning the matter. It might be a good idea to call Mr. Grundy, also. It would give him another chance to slur the Senate.

The surprising feature of this development rests in the fact that Senator Grundy was, let us say "annoyed" by the strictures of his Senatorial colleagues. Those most familiar with his habits of thought had come to the impression that he is impervious to criticism and the press reports of his conduct at the time described him as smilingly indifferent to the animadversions cast upon him. But if he or his friends were willing to give up so large a sum of money to silence one critic it becomes necessary to reverse this widely diffused popular opinion of the Senator. He must be quite sensitive as well as free with his own money or that of other people.

Dry Communities Can Get Bellefonte Water.

Impressed by press reports from various sections of the State over the scarcity of water for domestic use Burgess Hardman P. Harris, through Charles E. Dorworth, secretary of forests and waters, made an official tender to Governor Fisher of water from Bellefonte's big spring for any community or communities in which the water situation has become a menace to health. The Sheffield Farms company has also tendered the free use of a number of its glasslined express cars for the purpose of transporting the water. These cars are 6000 gallons capacity and the water will be furnished f. o. b. Bellefonte.

Governor Fisher acknowledged the offer by telegram and stated that he would convey the information to suffering communities and also officials of the State Board of Health, so if the necessity for shipment of water to any community is deemed advisable they will know where an ample supply can be obtained.

As stated in the Watchman last week, the Bellefonte spring has not been affected in the least by the prolonged drought. It's normal flow is 11,500,000 gallons daily and, as local consumption does not exceed 3,000,000, it means that 8,500,000, at the very least, are flowing away every twenty-four hours. This would be sufficient to furnish many communities with water for domestic purposes. So far, however, there has been no call for any of the water.

A Spring That Flows Only During the Night.

The prolonged drought has focused public attention on water supplies everywhere. Springs, wells, cisterns and streams, such common place things under ordinary weather conditions, are being watched now with a new interest. Many singular conditions have developed in consequence of the drought. Strange as it may seem we know of lots of cisterns still holding out that have been dry at other seasons when the rainfall was apparently much greater than it has been for the past eight weeks. The freak case of all is a spring on the property of W. D. Kerstetter, in Sugar Valley, near Tyroneville. According to the memory of older residents of that locality the spring has rarely failed. Now, however, it is working only half time. During the day not a drop of water flows from it, but at night the flow is quite copious. In consequence of this unexplained performance the Kerstetter household has to draw water at night and save it for use next day.

West Penn Electric Co. Buys the Republic Electric.

The West Penn Electric company closed a deal, last week, for the purchase of the Republic Electric company, of Howard, subject of course to the approval of the Public Service Commission. The Republic Electric company was originally the Centre Electric company, which was organized and established by Howard business men, leaders among whom were the Webers. It was sold a year or two ago to the Republic Electric company, composed mostly of Coatesville capitalists.

The company has in the neighborhood of two hundred patrons, confined principally to Howard and immediate vicinity. As the West Penn already has service lines down Bald Eagle valley connecting up with the Howard circuit will be an easy job once the purchase is approved by the Public Service Commission.

It is also rumored that the West Penn either has or is about to close a deal for the purchase of the Renovo Electric company.

Hoover is aging rapidly according to press reports. Maybe it is worry rather than time that is deepening the lines on his face. Making promises impossible of fulfillment is a prolific source of trouble.

Fleischman, the yeast magnate, may have to "raise" \$100,000 because of his unfulfillment promise to marry Madge Mitchell, a movie star.

Senator Fess, the new Republican chairman, may depend on the sympathy of his predecessor in office, even if he gets no other reward.

Centre county's share of the gasoline tax for the first six months of 1930 was \$12,550.30.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items from the Watchman issue of August 20, 1880.

The first all county meeting of the campaign will be held here next Tuesday night. Among the speakers scheduled are Robert P. Dechert, our nominee for Auditor General; Lewis C. Cassidy, of Philadelphia; Governor Curtin, Hon. Milton Speer, of Huntingdon; Hon. W. S. Stenger, of Chambersburg, and Hon. Riley P. Allen, of Williamsport.

All Democrats having torches or lamps in their possession are requested to bring them in for the big parade, next Tuesday night.

There will be a meeting of all members who have recently signed the Murphy pledge at the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. this Friday evening. It is for the purpose of forming a permanent organization. The committee calling the meeting comprises R. A. Laird, R. J. Doak, J. M. Kephart, Theodore Deschner, John Powers, James Schofield, C. F. Richard and Robert McKnight.

Yesterday was a somewhat showery and gloomy day.

There were two political meetings in Gregg township on Thursday evening of last week, one Republican and the other Democratic. Gen. Beaver, of this place, managed the first and W. A. Kerlin, of Millheim, the other. The Kerlin meeting was far ahead and knocked the spots off the General's demonstration. The noted miller, Kerlin, himself addressed the Democratic meetings and they say he can beat Beaver all to pieces on a speech.

The outcome of the Francis Murphy temperance meetings here was a list of 555 who signed the pledge never to drink again. (Editor's Note—We are wondering what the sainted old apostle of temperance could do if he were to spend two weeks getting pledge signers in Bellefonte now.)

Market Reports from Pleasant Gap—The wheat crop is but meagre. Oats near a full crop. Corn is looking well. Butter is somewhat better and stronger. Eggs are mostly like the Republican party (rotten)! cabbage is going into head, but because of the dry weather most of it is like Garfield's—shows in signs of bustin'!

Wayne Station camp meeting opened on Tuesday last and is now in full blast. About 250 tents are occupied. Among the Centre countyans having tents are Mrs. Switzer and daughters, of Phillipsburg; Mrs. Sourbeck, of Bellefonte; and G. W. Gray and family, Buffalo Run. The Pine Station camp meeting closed yesterday. Joseph Baker and family, of Lemont, were the only people from Centre county having a tent there.

Mr. James Murray, who was the first cashier of the banking house of Humes, McAllister, Hale & Co., in 1854, has been in Bellefonte for the last week for a visit with friends and to assist Francis Murphy in his temperance work. Mr. Murray is a Democrat of Democrats and necessarily found much time to spend in this office.

Mr. George Weaver, of this place, a brakeman on the Snow Shoe railroad, received in one of his eyes a hot cinder from the loco-motive on Monday last. All efforts to remove it were unavailing. In the morning he came to town and consulted Dr. Dobbins who we believe gave him relief.

The Lock Haven school board has elected a female principal and assistant, to wit: Miss Agnes Reilly and Miss Sallie Rhoads.

A valuable cow belonging to Mr. W. S. Tripple, of Spring street, fell into ditch that is being dug for to convey water pipes to the house of Monroe Armor on Bunker Hill, on Tuesday night, and, being unable to get out, died right there. (Editor's note—While it is reasonably certain that this wasn't a cow with the crumpled horn that tossed the cat, etc., it is our belief that it was the cow that furnished the milk for the firm foundations of the local correspondent of the Altoona Mirror and we think Ruth should put a flag at half-mast next Sunday.)

Bellefonte fire companies were called out three times during the past week by grass fires on Half-moon hill, one on Tuesday burning over the entire south side of the hill before it was extinguished. It is rumored that all the fires were started by small boys just to create a little excitement. If this is correct the parents of the guilty lads should apply a paddle at the proper place, and that might be excitement enough to last until the next rainfall.

W. Harrison Walker was notified, on Wednesday, that he has been appointed a member of the Kiwanis International committee on the under-privileged child. Mr. Walker is now chairman of the State committee and his appointment on the international committee is in recognition of the interest he has always manifested in children in the under-privileged class.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Bounty claims paid by the Game Commission during July included one wild cat and 45 gray foxes.

Irvin Graybill, Middleburg, has resigned as chairman of the board of trustees of the State Colony for Epileptics at Selinsgrove.

Officers of the Game Commission brought 165 prosecutions during July. The majority were made for the possession of guns or dogs by aliens.

Forty food merchants in counties scattered throughout the State were prosecuted during June and July for selling all sorts of products—from cheese sticks to salad dressing—artificially colored.

Miss Louise Rouse, of York, Pa., will leave at the end of this week on a 9000 mile trip over land, sea and air to claim a husband in India. She is to become the bride of the Rev. Alexander Fohlinchtein, a missionary of the Lutheran church.

J. E. Brown and George High, of Lock Haven, were fined a total of \$600 by an alderman when they entered pleas of guilty to spot-lighting deer on the Jersey Shore-Coudersport pike. The men were caught in the act of shooting the deer by game protectors.

Auto tag production at the Western State penitentiary at Pittsburgh has been speeded up for the 1931 tags. The report indicates that the hunters' tags have been completed and shipped out of the institution and that all the efforts are now being concentrated on the auto tags to avoid a possible rush in the fall.

In an effort to kill a groundhog with the butt end of a 22-calibre rifle, Jesse Stover, 41, of York county, received the shot from the rifle in his stomach. Stover had wounded the animal and in trying to despatch it, struck the ground with the weapon, causing the shock to trip the hammer. The accident occurred Sunday in Carroll county, Maryland. He was admitted to the Hanover hospital, and his condition is critical.

Charles Gushall, a sergeant of police for the Pennsylvania railroad at Altoona, was at his home at Mount Union over Sunday and had retired for the night when he heard a noise at the rear door. He went down the steps and found a man halfway in a window. The intruder started to leave but was overtaken by the officer in the yard. The man was identified as Harry Varner, of Mt. Union. He was lodged in jail for court.

After working for several hours to lift off the heavy outer door of a 500-pound safe at the State House bakery in Reading, loading it on one of the company's own trucks and taking it to a suburb, where they smashed an inside door, thieves found it contained only \$3. The empty safe surrounded by a litter of paper, was found on Hill road, on Mt. Penn. Bakery officials said they banked their money every night and lock the inner safe door only to protect valuable papers.

Francis A. Witmer, of Sunbury, for years one of a group of Republican leaders in Northumberland county, has been dismissed by Auditor General Charles A. Waters, as inheritance tax appraiser in Northumberland county. Witmer in the primary supported the Davis-Brown ticket, and it is reported the appointment is to be given to a Shamokin man who was active in the Grundy and Pinchot campaign last spring. Witmer is a brother of the late Federal Judge Charles R. Witmer.

The outlook is more encouraging at the North American Refractories company's plant at Mount Union now than it has been for a number of weeks. There were more men called for work the past week than had been called for some time. This plant was formerly the United States Refractories Corporation, but was sold a few weeks ago to the North American Refractories company. It is one of the largest plants manufacturing silica brick in this section of the State.

Plans are being completed as rapidly as possible for the entertainment of the great army of American Legion veterans which will gather in Harrisburg for their annual encampment during the latter part of next week. It is understood that 10,000 coats have been secured through the National Guard headquarters and 5000 of these with other equipment will be placed in the spacious Farm Show building. The remainder will be set up in different halls so that the former soldiers shall be as comfortable as possible during their stay in that city.

Franklin P. McFarland, Hollidaysburg coal operator who died recently, bequeathed sums to various institutions and employees, according to the will filed for probate on Monday. His stenographer and housekeeper each receive \$2500 and a clerk receives \$1000. A bequest of \$5000 is given to Hollidaysburg Baptist church, \$1000 given to the Altoona hospital and \$500 each given to the Hollidaysburg Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. The sum of \$1000 is given to the Baptist orphanage, Pittsburgh. Thomas B. McFarland, Hollidaysburg, and Harry F. McFarland, Renovo, brothers, will divide the residue of the estate.

The title of the world's heaviest sleeper has been bestowed upon a traveling man who stopped at the Watson Inn, Watertown. Harold McNutt, Baltimore, slept for almost an hour unmindful of a fire in the mattress under him. When George Gare, night clerk, smelled smoke he investigated and found that it was coming out of McNutt's room. He knocked, but the man slept. Gare forced the door and found clouds of smoke rolling from the mattress. He yanked the man out of bed and tossed the sleeper admitted he had been smoking a cigarette when he retired.

Burglars broke into the Strouss Hirschberg Department Store, one of the largest in New Castle, forced open the safe, took out the inner safe, weighing about 400 pounds, and carted it away. It was discovered when the store was opened one morning last week. Persons who saw a truck drive out of the rear of the building did not suspect that a robbery was being committed. The burglars evidently used the elevator in the store to get the safe to the first floor, loaded it aboard an auto truck of the company in the warehouse in the rear of the store and drove away. The truck was found abandoned four miles from the city the next day. About \$500 in cash and checks were in the safe.