

# Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., March 20, 1931.

## NEWS ABOUT TOWN AND COUNTY.

The new system of numbering automobile license tags is said to save the State \$65,000 a year. It is that much less expensive than the old one.

Alpha Tau Alpha, an honorary fraternity for men showing promise as rural educators, has installed a chapter at the Pennsylvania State College.

Robert J. McKnight, one time well known resident of Belleville, died unexpectedly at his home in Philadelphia, yesterday. Particulars will be published next week.

Research chemists at the Pennsylvania State College have announced their success in distilling a gasoline fuel with a knock rating of only 3, where gasoline used in the experiments had an original rate of 9.

Among the high scorers as judges of livestock and poultry in the agricultural feature courses at State College is Ray D. Shoemaker, of Pine Grove Mills, who ranks first among the students who have taken only one year in sheep judging.

Senator Scott is sponsor of the free bridge bill recently passed by the Senate. If it becomes a law the Highway Department will have to take over all toll bridges in the State and that would end stopping to pay at the entrance to any bridge in Pennsylvania.

Contrary to the belief of a number of people George Gray Barnard, noted sculptor who was born in Belleville, did not design the bronze figure of Governor Curtin, which adorns the monument in the Diamond in this place. W. Clarke Noble was its sculptor.

According to an opinion recently handed down by the Superior court an assistant county superintendent of public schools is "a public officer as distinguished from an employee," and therefore is not covered by compensation insurance carried for protection of school employees.

John McCoy is not satisfied with the \$500 award given him by the road viewers for property taken in rebuilding the state highway between Belleville and Milesburg, and through his attorney, James C. Furst Esq., on Saturday, filed an appeal. Mr. McCoy asked \$13,000.

Not one in ten automobile drivers strictly observe the rubber "stop" signs at the intersection of cross streets with through streets. Instead of stopping back of the sign they invariably drive past it onto the crossing before stopping, thus rendering it dangerous for pedestrians.

The dwindling natural water supply has no more terror for Centre Hall. The last of the wells drilled by the water company that supplies the town has come in with an abundance of water and it is now being pumped into the reservoir and kept at storage up to the point where there is no longer need for saving water.

The appropriations committee of the House of Representatives was at State College yesterday and last night. The members were guests of the students in home economics at a luncheon served in the women's building, attended the student mass meeting last night and later attended the intercollegiate boxing tournament in the recreation building.

Since being brought home from the Graduate hospital in Philadelphia, Tuesday of last week, Mrs. W. F. Reynolds' condition has become so critical, that little hope is felt for her recovery. Her two sons, Frederic and Phil, the former of Canada and the latter of New York city, and her younger brother, Randolph H. Hoy, of Crafton, have been in Belleville for a week.

Shortly after noon, on Monday, as Clarence McCafferty was backing his Studebaker car out of the garage at the George A. Beezer home, on east Curtin street, the machine caught fire, and a quick alarm called out the fire department. The flames were extinguished and the car saved from total destruction though it was damaged considerably. Imperfect wires caused the blaze.

Patrick Laughlin, of Altoona, celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary on Tuesday. Mr. Laughlin came to this country from Ireland in 1860 and located in Belleville. When Lee's army invaded Pennsylvania in 1863 he enlisted for service in the Civil war and was present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Court House. Returning from the war he lived in Belleville a few years then located in Altoona.

Tony Picarra, who has been so long in the employ of Angelo Genoa in his shoe shop in the Bush Arcade, will embark in business for himself on April 1st. He has rented the Clarence Rine room on west High street, formerly occupied by Thomas Fleming, and will have it equipped with all the tools necessary for speedy and satisfactory shoe repairing, shoe shining and dyeing. Tony will appreciate any work given him and his reputation is such as to justify the statement that it will be well done.

## HEEL PRINT IN SNOW BRINGS DOWNFALL OF BURGLARS.

A frozen heel print lying in the Dix Run road led to the capture of two burglars, on Tuesday afternoon, who broke into and robbed the J. H. Turner store, at Julian, on Monday night, of various articles to a value of upwards of one hundred dollars. The men arrested are Francis C. Watkins, 27 years old, and Charles Burns, 23 years old, both married and living on Dix Run, north of Unionville.

When Mr. Turner went to his store, Tuesday morning, he found a broken window and an open door. The interior of the store showed that it had been burglarized. As luck would have it, a light snow had fallen in that section during the night and in it Mr. Turner found the tracks of two men and trailed them some distance. Later he called county detective Leo Boden and sought his aid.

Detective Boden responded and in the snow followed the tracks of the men to the Dix Run road, thence out that road toward the mountain. One of the men walked with a shuffling step, shown by a slight drag of the footprint in the snow. Going out the road the county detective found a frozen ball of snow that one of them had kicked off of the heel of his shoe, and on it the imprint of the heel was as plainly marked as if photographed. He carried the evidence with him. The trail led to the Watkins house. Watkins was at home but denied having been out during the night or knowing anything of the robbery. Confronted with the heel print in the snow which corresponded to the heel on his shoe, he admitted his guilt and implicated Burns. Watkins was brought to Belleville and later in the day Burns was arrested.

In a written confession Watkins stated that Burns had committed a number of robberies in that section during the past several months, and that he had been with him on one trip before the robbery of the Turner store Monday night. Regarding that robbery he stated that they had hidden in the school house until about midnight, Monday night. They went to the Turner store just as a freight train was passing and the noise of the train drowned the crash when Burns smashed in the window. Among the articles stolen were shoes, shirts, overalls, flashlights, knives, watches, socks, about 16 pounds of sugar and 4 pounds of lard. Most of the stuff was recovered by county detective Boden.

The men were given a hearing before Squire S. Kline Woodring, on Tuesday evening, when Watkins was held in \$750 bail on one charge and Burns, \$1500 on two charges. Being unable to post a bond they were sent to jail to await trial.

## ORIGINAL BOY'S BAND BANQUETS ON BIRTHDAY.

On Tuesday night it was just eighteen years since Frank Wetzel gathered twenty boys around him in a vacant room in his building in Milesburg and so saturated them with the idea that they were "the makings" of a band that they made one.

And what a band! The original twenty, grown to forty, most of them assembled in the Diamond here, Tuesday evening, and proved beyond question that the daddy of Central Pennsylvania band masters must be, as we have often surmised, kin of the Pied Piper of Hamelin.

It was great to hear the attack, the fortis, the pianissimos of that boys band, now men. And when they marched off down High street to the banquet they had at the Penn-Belle the crowd in the Diamond was left a-quiver, thrilled by the dashing style that famous old organization always had.

At the banquet there were forty-three, all of whom were of the original band except five or six guests. They sat down at 6:45 and it was 10 o'clock before all of that fine crowd had had a chance to tell their beloved leader just how they felt about it all.

There were men there from Renovo, Tyrone, Altoona and other places, all back for an evening with each other. An evening too short to go over the days when they were happy, care-free kids in Milesburg and unconscious of what Frank Wetzel was doing to them when he was trying to make soft lips and clumsy fingers produce the scale on some instrument. H. W. Schalles, banker of Bellwood, was the toast master and kept the party in an up-ramp with clever interpolations between the speeches the band men made. The boys had left their ladies at home so without going beyond the bounds of propriety some things were brought out that might otherwise have remained sealed up in the vaults of memory.

It was a great night. We went as their guest and left feeling far younger than we did thirty-seven years ago when we talked to another great Milesburg band on the occasion of its having won the inter-county band contest at Hecla Park in 1894.

Guy Coll, the barber, who has been away from Belleville over two years, has decided to relocate here and will have charge of one of the chairs in Boscalino's barber shop, in the Penn Belle block.

## J. M. CUNNINGHAM HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE.

The home of J. M. Cunningham on south Potter street was badly damaged by fire last Friday morning, and both Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham were almost overcome with smoke before they were able to get out of the house. In fact it was the smoke choking her which awakened Mrs. Cunningham about five o'clock. Their bedroom was blue with it at the time. On being aroused from his slumbers Mr. Cunningham opened the door into the hall and was confronted with billows of smoke but no flames. As there was no fire to be seen he managed to make his way downstairs and open the front door, which helped to clear the house of smoke so that Mrs. Cunningham could get down and out.

A still alarm brought the Undine fire company to the scene and they were able to extinguish the flames with chemicals and by using their booster pump. The fire evidently originated from a defective flue leading from the furnace in the basement, had burned through the floor into the kitchen and living room and up along the flue back of the sheathing. Practically everything in the kitchen and living room was either burned or damaged beyond repair, and while not another room in the house was touched by the flames every place was saturated with heavy smoke that left such a coating on wall paper, paints, etc., that all will have to be done over. Appraisers fixed the damage at approximately \$2100, which is covered by insurance. Until repairs can be made Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham are living in the other side of their house.

While the Undines were fighting the fire at the Cunningham home, or about six o'clock Saturday morning, an alarm called out the Logans to fight a small fire on the roof of the Harry Rote home, in Bush Addition. This fire was discovered by Jacob Barlett who ran to the Rote home and found the family sitting at the table eating breakfast, unconscious of the fact that their home was on fire. The Logans extinguished the blaze before it did much damage. A spark on the roof caused the fire.

## GIRL'S GLEE CLUB CONCERT IN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y clubs of the Belleville High school, organized through the Y. M. C. A., have arranged an exceptionally good program for the evening of April 6th, Easter Monday. They have secured the girls' glee club, of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, to give a concert in the Presbyterian church.

The club will make it's annual eastern concert tour during their spring vacation, and Belleville will be their first stop. From here they will go to Philadelphia, then to Boston, New York, Atlantic City and several smaller towns along the way.

The program will include not only chorus music but instrumental and vocal solos, as well as dramatic readings. It will be well worth hearing and one that every one will, without doubt, enjoy.

The admission charge will be 50 cents for adults, with a lower rate for children. The time will be 8:15 p. m. Save that date, be present and help make the concert a success.

A nationally advertised 9x12 seamless living room rug, in beautiful oriental patterns, marked at \$29.75 during the March sale of rugs at W. R. Brachbill's furniture store.

## W. E. SAGER WILL OPEN NEW PHOTO STUDIO.

W. E. Sager has leased the vacant room in the Bush house block, formerly occupied by the Western Union Telegraph company, and will open a new post card and photographic studio there either tomorrow or early next week. For several years past he has been devoting most of his time to outdoor photography and post card work and it has increased to that point where he has decided to devote his entire time to it. Because of this fact he felt the need of a place in which to work, and having decided to open a studio he will install all the latest designs in cameras for all kinds of photographic work, either groups or individuals. He will also keep a supply of cameras; films, etc., for sale. While studio work will be taken care of with utmost punctuality he will continue to make a specialty of his post card business.

Choose from the many gorgeous 1931 patterns of "Bigelow-Sanford" seamless rugs. America's largest and oldest weavers of rugs. The lowest prices in years at W. R. Brachbill's furniture store.

J. Wesley Foreman, of near Penn's Cave, brother of David R. Foreman, of Belleville, had his left leg amputated about four inches above the knee, at the Centre County hospital, last Thursday afternoon. About six weeks ago he suffered a stroke of paralysis which affected his entire left side. Later gangrene developed in the lower portion of the leg and amputation was resorted to as the only means of prolonging his life.

## JOHNSTOWN WOMAN ASKS \$50,000 FOR HUSBAND'S LOVE.

Mrs. Pasqua Di Bartola, of Johnstown, values the loss of her husband's love at \$50,000, and she has brought suit against a Belleville woman, Mrs. Stella Shaffer, to recover that amount.

In a summons in trespass entered of record in the prothonotary's office, on Monday, Mrs. Di Bartola declares that she was married to Joseph Di Bartola in Italy. After coming to this country they lived happily in Johnstown until 1925. In that year, she alleges, her husband fell a victim to the wiles of Mrs. Stella Shaffer with the result that his affections have been alienated from her and she has been injured to the extent of \$50,000, which she is seeking to collect from the Belleville woman.

Mrs. Shaffer is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar McMullen, of Belleville, formerly of Coleville, and the wife of Roland B. Shaffer. For some years they lived in Johnstown and last summer, on Sunday evening, June 23rd, Mrs. Shaffer was the victim of a shooting affair in which Mrs. Di Bartola appeared as the "trigger woman." Mr. and Mrs. McMullen were visiting the Shaffer home at the time and that evening Mr. Di Bartola took Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer and two boys and Mr. and Mrs. McMullen to an amusement park in his automobile.

They returned home about ten o'clock and as Mrs. Shaffer was walking from the street to the house the Sabbath evening quiet was broken by two shots and with a cry, "I'm shot," she fell to the pavement. A woman was seen running away but it was too dark to recognize her.

Mrs. Shaffer was taken at once to the Memorial hospital where it was found that she had been shot in the right arm and in the right breast. Neither wound was serious and she recovered within a few days. The morning after the shooting Mrs. Di Bartola walked into the police station, in Johnstown, and gave herself up, admitting that she was the woman who shot Mrs. Shaffer, but claimed that she had no intention of killing her but just wanted to frighten her. Mrs. Di Bartola is fifty years old and the mother of eight children. The family is among the best known Italian residents of Johnstown and are quite well to do. Just when Mrs. Shaffer came to Belleville to make her home is not definitely known, but she is now living on Bishop street.

## THE UNDINE FIREMEN ENTERTAIN AT BANQUET.

Tuesday was St. Patrick's day and the Undine Fire Co., celebrated the event with its annual banquet, as it has been doing for years. And like the greatest show on earth, it gets bigger and better each time it comes around.

The engine house on Bishop street was artistically decorated in green and white and Scheckler's Milesburg orchestra was making the big apparatus room melodious as tables on which one hundred and fifty covers were laid invited the firemen and their guests to be seated.

The banquet served by caterer Bickel was delicious and steaming. There was roast chicken, vegetables, relishes, ice cream, coffee and cigars. When the last of it had been served chief George Carpeneto called the happy crowd to consideration of the follow-up of post-prandial talks.

Those who felicitated, praised and thanked the firemen for being there were Father Wm E. Downs, Maj. H. Laird Curtin, James R. Hughes, William D. Tawney, chief of the Harrisburg fire department, and Charles E. Dorworth. Other guests on the list of speakers were several officials from the Lock Haven fire department, Chief Selgworth, of the State College fire department, Roy Wilkinson, former Judge James C. Furst John G. Love Esq., and John J. Bower Esq.

After the flow of wit and feast of reason the entertainment features were staged and there was a grand time until late in the night when all retired realizing that the Undines are not only most efficient fire-fighters but wonderful hosts as well.

## EUGENE BATDORF ON TRIAL IN PITTSBURGH.

An echo of the big man hunt which took place in the Allegheny mountains on the 27th of last September comes from Pittsburgh in the trial there, this week, of Eugene Batdorf for the murder of Charles Hamon, a crippled gas station attendant.

It will be recalled that Batdorf and George Clark Skidmore, a former student at the Belleville Academy, came to Centre county three days after the shooting of Hamon and hid in a hunter's cabin out in one of the wildest sections of the Alleghenies. They were traced here by Pittsburgh detectives. Batdorf was captured at the cabin on the night of September 26th, while Skidmore took to the woods.

The next day Skidmore shot three men who attempted to effect his capture and finally escaped. Nothing has been heard of him since. At his trial, this week, Batdorf denied all knowledge of the killing, declaring that he did not meet up with Skidmore until after the crime had been committed.

## NEWS PURELY PERSONAL.

Mrs. Sara E. Swope has closed her home at Julian and gone to Youngstown, Ohio, for an indefinite stay.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Garman, who have been spending the winter in Miami, Florida, will return to their home in Tyrone next week.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Kline, of east Linn street, were in Philadelphia last week, having gone down for a three day's visit in the city.

James Gunsallus, of Phoenix avenue, is expected home from the Lock Haven hospital next week, after having been a surgical patient there for a month.

Miss Elizabeth Cooney left, yesterday, on a buying trip to New York, expecting to spend a week attending the retail openings and selecting her spring stock for the Hat Shop.

R. B. Freeman, of Philadelphia, made one of his frequent short visits to the Nittany Country club within the week, stopping here enroute home Saturday to spend the night.

After holding court in Belleville, on Monday, Judge M. Ward Fleming left, that evening, for the eastern part of the State where he has been holding court in Delaware county.

Byron Heverly Blackford, who spent the winter in Europe as a guest of the friend with whom he was traveling, recently returned to the States and is again located in Alliance, Ohio.

Charlotte Weaver, the nine year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Weaver, of Allegheny street, has been among the children out of school during the past several weeks, on account of illness. Charlotte, however, is now rapidly recovering.

Mrs. William Armstrong Kirby and her son William Jr. drove up from Baltimore this week, to spend several days in Belleville with Mrs. Kirby's mother and sister, Mrs. Hammon Sechler and Miss Anna at the Sechler home on east Linn street.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Miller had as house guests over Sunday, the Misses Helen and Rose Hagerman, of Tyrone, who during their stay in Belleville, motored to Williamsport with Mr. and Mrs. Miller for a visit with the young women's grandmother.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Baum and little daughter, of State College, departed yesterday on a three week's trip to Florida. Mr. Baum, who had been a hospital patient in Philadelphia for a number of weeks, has almost entirely recovered his normal health.

Miss Lenore Taylor, an operator in the local Bell telephone exchange, was the guest of John Rutter at the banquet given by the Shaffer store company to their employees, Monday night, at the Penn Alto, in Altoona. Mr. Rutter is with their downtown store in Belleville.

William Cooke, manager of the Philadelphia offices of the Lamont Corliss Co., was in Belleville last week over night, for a visit with his brother, Edward, and with relatives at Howard. The Cooke men are sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Cooke, for many years residents of Belleville.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Meek and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Deal, of State College, who have been in Lake Worth, Florida, since early in January, have started the homeward trek. Last Friday they were in Orlando and from there will motor leisurely north expecting to reach State College in about two weeks.

Mrs. George Waite left, Saturday, as a driving guest of her daughter and son-in-law, Mrs. E. N. Fridgen and Mr. Fridgen for their home in Lansing, Michigan, where she will visit for the remainder of March. Mr. and Mrs. Fridgen had arrived here Friday, having driven in especially for Mrs. Waite, and after an overnight visit with other members of the family started on the return trip to Michigan Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Frank Bassett and her grandson, Hugh Winters, drove up from the Winters home at Annapolis, Saturday, for an over Sunday visit at the Academy with Mrs. Bassett's brothers, James R. and Charles Hughes. Hugh, who is the only child of Lieut. Com. and Mrs. Winters, will enter the Navy, having just passed his entrance examinations for Annapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Bassett were former residents of Annapolis, but now live at Newport.

Miss Tomazine Potter and Mrs. Hiram Hiller came up from Philadelphia, Sunday, when the condition of Mrs. Reynolds became alarmingly serious. Both women, the former a cousin and the latter a very close friend, had spent much time with her at the hospital, while she had been in Philadelphia under the care of specialists. Since coming to Belleville, Miss Potter and Mrs. Hiller have been house guests of Mrs. Beach and Miss Blanchard.

## FRIGHTENED HORSE KICKS MAN IN FACE.

Hearing a commotion in the horse stable on the farm of Joseph Owens, between Pleasant Gap and Zion, last Friday evening, Charles Vonada, an employee on the farm, decided to investigate, as the Owens family were away for the evening. As he opened the stable door and stepped inside one of the horses, that had evidently broken loose from it's stall, landed both hind hoofs in Vonada's face, inflicting painful cuts and bruises as well as smashing his false teeth.

Vonada was knocked down and, though he was not rendered unconscious, he suffered excruciating pain, and it was some time before he could get in touch with a neighbor farmer who brought him to the Centre County hospital.

A really notable picture will be shown at the State all next week. It is Charley Chaplin's "City Lights." Critics estimate Chaplin's art as apantomimist as the highest ever attained by an actor. Chaplin will not speak and there was much interest in the making of this, his latest picture, because it was generally believed that it would not be a success. It has proved quite the contrary and is regarded as a classic of the screen.

## "HELLO SPRING"

By the Timberline Post.  
Hello, spring! I've been a wishin'  
You'd be amblin' long this way;  
I'm just itchin' to go fishin';  
Been a-watchin' ev'ry day.

Know'd you come along to cheer us  
Like you always used to do;  
Pitch yer tent an' camp right near us  
Fer we're mighty fond of you.

Jus' lay off yer Easter bonnet,  
Make yerself at home right here;  
Whar's that fish-pole now, doggone it!  
That I put away las' year?

Never mind, Ill' cut a willer;  
'Tain't no time to fool around—  
Ketchin' trout is sure a thriller  
Fer a real ol' fishin' hound.

## WHERE WILL WE PUT OUR NEW FEDERAL BUILDING?

Belleville has been assured of a new federal building to house the postoffice and internal revenue department, but the perplexing question now arises, where will we put it?

Postmaster John L. Knisely, last Thursday, received from the department papers inviting proposals for a site, either for sale or free. They state, in effect, that a corner lot is desired, that it must contain 29,000 square feet and have a frontage on one of the main streets which it might occupy of 160 feet. To include 29,000 square feet, and have a frontage of 160 feet the lot will have to be 180 feet long, and where can such a lot be found in the business section of Belleville? Another requirement is that it be easily accessible to the railroad depot.

While quite a number of places have been mentioned as possible sites, that was before it was known how much ground would be required. To get so much space in the business section of the town would cost almost as much as the entire allotment for the postoffice, and it is hardly likely that a location in the outskirts would prove advisable or acceptable. As the bids are to be in by April 21st it will be necessary for anyone having a site to offer to get it in as soon as possible.

## BASKET BALL GAME FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

Having defeated the St. Paul quintette, of Williamsport, on the armory floor Tuesday evening, by the score of 34 to 28, the Belleville Academy basketball team will play it's last game of the season, in the armory next Tuesday evening, with the Coalles, of DuBois, as a benefit for the fund for the crippled children's society of Centre and Clearfield counties. The game will be called promptly at 8:30 o'clock and the price of admission will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

Any person who has followed the work of the crippled children's society need not be told of the noble work it is doing in the clinics at the Phillipsburg State hospital in an endeavor to make normal children who have become crippled so that they will be better able to make their way through life. The work of the society is hampered through lack of funds. This basket ball game will give everybody an opportunity to help a little and also see a worthwhile game.

## THE SPRING BRIDE

will be interested in the three-piece, over-stuffed living room suite in beautiful Jacquard velours. A 9-piece dining room suite consisting of buffet, china closet, extension table and set of six chairs in genuine walnut veneers and 4-piece bed-room suite of dresser, chest, bed and French vanity dresser, specially priced \$308.00, for the three-room outfit. Compare this offer with installment or mail-order house prices and, besides, you are always sure of the quality at Brachbill's. W. R. Brachbill, furniture and rugs, Spring street, Belleville, Pa.

Last Friday evening as Rev. and Mrs. James M. Runkle were returning to their home in Altoona, after spending the day in Centre county, both were overcome with carbon monoxide gas that had accumulated in their closed car. Rev. Runkle lost control of the steering wheel and the car crashed into a pole along the highway, near Port Matilda, and was badly wrecked. Rev. Runkle suffered a spiral fracture of the right arm, an injured knee and numerous bruises. Mrs. Runkle suffered several lacerations, bruises and shock. They were taken home the same evening and are now getting along all right.

"Bigelow-Sanford" seamless rugs, marked at the lowest prices in years, at W. R. Brachbill's furniture store.

## SALE REGISTER.

MARCH 18.—At the residence of Roland Spiger on the swartz farm on the middle Buffalo Run road, 4 miles west of Belleville, a clean up sale, 6 horses, 14 milk cows, 13 head of other cattle, 25 hogs, 50 chickens, 2 tractors, and a general line of farm implements in good condition. Some household articles will also be offered. Sale will start at 9:30. L. F. Mayes, auctioneer.

## Belleville Grain Markets.

Corrected Weekly by C. Y. Wagner & Co.  
Wheat ..... 30  
Corn ..... 75  
Oats ..... 40  
Rye ..... 60  
Barley ..... 60  
Buckwheat ..... 75