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Published weekly, every Friday morning. Entered at the postoffice, Bellefonte, Pa., as second class matter.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Items taken from the Watchman issue of January 6, 1882.

Word comes from Hublersburg that recent rains have replenished the wells, springs and cisterns in the community, many of which had gone clear dry.

The John Dunkle farm in Walker township has been bought by Miss Polly Dunkle at \$54.00 per acre.

At the annual meeting, last Tuesday night, the Logan Hose Co. elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, H. D. Yenger; vice president, Thomas Shaughtensy; treasurer, Joseph Gross; secretary, William Hillbush; chief, John D. Sourbeck; 1st assistant, John Dawson; 2nd assistant, Henry Haupt; 3rd assistant, Edward Shrom; plugmen, Michael Shields and Wm. Knapp.

We very much regret to note that W. A. Kerlin, of Spring Mills, is preparing to leave Centre county. He has had charge of the mill there for a number of years and has earned an enviable reputation for making good flour and being a good citizen. He is going to Iowa where he owns a farm that he expects to operate himself.

The new hotel at Spring Mills, which is to be three stories high and 100x40 ft. in dimension is rapidly nearing completion.

There is danger of losing our fair grounds. The Association is in financial difficulties and it is feared the grounds will have to be sold to satisfy a \$5,000 mortgage.

Married—At the residence of the bride's father, December 28, 1881, by Rev. J. Benson Akers, Mr. W. W. McCormick to Miss Laura E., daughter of Henry McCloskey, all of Poters Mills.

At the residence of the parents of the bride, on Curtin street, Bellefonte, on the evening of the 3rd inst., by Rev. G. D. Pennypacker, assisted by Rev. John Hewitt, William J. Nicholls and Miss Clara V. Lyon, both of Bellefonte.

At the Lutheran parsonage, at Pine Grove Mills, December 29th, by Rev. J. Alford Kour, Henry A. Elder and Annie E. Harpster, both of Ferguson Twp.

Mr. Brooks, a new dairyman in Bellefonte, is now delivering milk at 6cts a qt.

Mrs. Margaret Kelley, who left Bellefonte with her husband for Burlington, Iowa, thirty-one years ago, returned to her old home last Saturday, much to the delight of her two sisters, Mrs. B. A. Scanlon, of Bolling Springs, and Mrs. Alice Shaughtensy, of Bellefonte. She will be here several months.

The new board of County Commissioners John Wolfe, A. J. Griest and Henry Cambell, organized on Monday by electing Mr. Wolf, president; W. Miles Walker, clerk; D. F. Fortney, attorney; Dr. James H. Dobbins, jail physician.

The Bellefonte "Morning News" has been changed into an evening paper and is now the "Evening News."

Ex-Sheriff Spangler has moved back to Centre Hall and Sheriff Dunkle is occupying the castle on the hill.

Dr. J. Purdue Gray, once keeper of a drug store in Bellefonte, has risen to such fame as an alienist that he has been called to pass upon the mental condition of Guiteau, the murderer of President Garfield. Dr. Gray is a native of Centre county and was here some six or seven years ago when the reunion of the class of 1824 of the Pine Grove Mills Academy ended in a banquet at the Bush house. It was in honor of the venerable principal of the Academy, Prof. Alfred Armstrong.

BRIEF MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The last meeting of borough council for the old year, held on Monday evening of last week, was quite brief and devoid of anything of special importance. A communication signed a "Taxpayer" gave council the tag number of a car which on the night of December 13th knocked down and broke one of the red lights in the triangle in the Diamond. It was referred to the Fire and Police committee.

Secretary Kelly reported that he had communicated with the fire insurance Underwriters' Association and that an inspector will be sent here as soon as it is convenient to do so.

The Street committee reported that a meeting had been held with borough engineer H. B. Shattuck and M. J. Barrick, of Williamsport, and new plans were decided upon for the sewer down Spring creek, which will delay the work until some time next spring.

The Water committee reported that an engineer from the Delaval Pump company was here and fixed the new pump and it is now running quite smoothly. The committee also reported the collection of \$400 on water taxes and \$49.55 on rent, etc. The committee also recommended that a total of \$728.24 of errors and exonerations be allowed on the 1927 water tax duplicate, and the recommendation was approved.

The Finance committee reported a balance of \$2544.63 in the borough fund and \$4880 in the water fund.

Several matters of minor importance were discussed without taking official action after which borough bills amounting to \$496.44 and water bills for \$206.71 were approved for payment and council adjourned.

A HODGE-PODGE OF NEWSY INCIDENTS.

Christmas is now enrolled on the pages of history and today we enter on the new year. How much of joy or sorrow, sunshine or shadow it may hold for each one of us we know not but we hope it will be a better year for everybody than the year just come to an end. And now for a few reflections on Christmastide.

Over in Pennsvalley lives a man, not for himself alone but with kindly thought for others. Every Christmas he comes to Bellefonte laden with packages which he distributes among friends. The packages are not done up in fancy paper and tied with tinsel cord, but the contents are the outpouring of a generous heart with a thoughtful appreciation of giving something out of the ordinary, and the recipients are always assured of a delightful surprise when the package is opened. The real spirit of Christmas is behind the giving, which makes these yearly remembrances very much appreciated.

Three days before Christmas a resident of Bellefonte had occasion to make a trip to Milesburg and placing a bushel of apples in his automobile drove down to the school house, at Pleasant View, where he unloaded the apples and placed them near the door of the school house. He then proceeded on his way wondering what would happen to the apples when the pupils were dismissed for recess. He attended to his business and started on the return trip home but when he arrived at the school house it was not yet recess time. As he stopped his car two of the pupils approached the school house lugging a Christmas tree and they were met at the door by the teacher. The gentleman then called the teacher's attention to the apples and told her they were for the children. She promptly dismissed the boys after admonishing them that they were not to take more than two each, and the scramble for the apples was on. After the boys had helped themselves the girls were dismissed, and while their assault on the basket was not as much of a scramble as that of the boys their eagerness and sincere, sufficient to warm the cockles of the heart of the generous Bellefoster.

Seventy-three Christmas baskets were distributed to families in Bellefonte and vicinity by the Associated Charities and every basket had enough in it to make an appetizing dinner and thus help to make the day a little bit happier for the unfortunate ones. So far as could be learned not a needy nor deserving family was missed, so thorough was the work of the committee on investigation.

As a slogan "Mail Early and Avoid the Rush," was not heeded to any extent in Bellefonte this year. Comparatively few packages and cards were mailed prior to Monday of last week, but the rush began at seven o'clock that morning and for three days postoffice employees were literally swamped with both outgoing and incoming mail. Monday, and Tuesday and Wednesday were whirlpool days of activity and though extra help had been secured it was impossible to keep up with the rush and the result was late deliveries that could not be avoided. A let-up occurred on the day before Christmas which enabled the employees to catch up somewhat with their work, but we feel sure that every one of them is thankful that Christmas comes but once a year.

A few evenings before Christmas a well known Bellefonte man met a young foreigner on the street who was not in a condition to walk very straight. In a sarcastic tone of voice he said: "My young man, have you vertigo?" "Only Halfmoon hill," was the reply he received.

Several weeks ago a well known Bellefonte woman was making the rounds of the stores doing some Christmas shopping. She went into the dollar store, which was fairly well crowded with shoppers, and without thinking laid her handbag down on the counter. When she looked for it less than a minute later it was gone. The handbag contained her automobile driver's license, the family car license, her purse with \$9.00 in cash and one or two other articles. The loss was reported to the manager of the store in the event the handbag had been picked up by mistake and was returned, but such did not prove to be the case. Last Saturday a young girl from Valley View found the handbag behind the radiator in the toilet in Hazel & Co's store. She gave it to one of the clerks who notified the woman. An examination revealed that the only thing missing was the cash. It is presumed that whoever took the bag went to Hazel & Co's from the dollar store, extracted the money then threw the bag behind the radiator in the toilet.

The unusual after Christmas slump in mercantile business is responsible for the four days a week working schedule for clerks in the uptown A. & P. store.

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER IN BELLEFONTE CHURCHES.

Under the auspices of the churches of Bellefonte and the Ministerial Association the annual week of prayer will be observed with a series of union services, beginning Monday evening, January 4th, and continuing for five evenings. The services will begin promptly at 7.30 o'clock. The schedule of the churches where the services are to be held and the list of preachers are as follows:

Monday, January 4, the Methodist church, Rev. G. E. Householder.

Tuesday, January 5, the United Brethren church, Rev. H. L. Jacobs.

Wednesday, January 6, the Reformed church, Rev. Stuart F. Gast.

Thursday, January 7, the Presbyterian church, Rev. A. Ward Campbell.

Friday, January 8, the Episcopal church, Rev. Clarence E. Arnold.

In former years these services have had a splendid attendance and all citizens of the community are given a cordial invitation to attend.

GOVERNORS VS OSCEOLA IN CHARITY GAME TODAY.

The Bellefonte "Governors" and the Osceola Mills "Firemen" football teams will meet on Hughes field at 2 o'clock this afternoon for a New Year's day contest. Osceola is very strong and as the "Governors" have added Cyril Moerschbacher and Paul Crust to their already formidable squad their is likely to be a game that will afford many thrills this afternoon. Inasmuch as all the proceeds, except just what will be actually necessary to cover the expenses, will be given to the needy there is another reason why a large crowd should be in attendance. Jesse H. Caum, president of Associated Charities, is in charge and can be depended on to hold the cost of the game down to the lowest possible cent.

It is not often that people in this climate have a chance to see a football game on New Year's day and years after this such an unusual seasonal opportunity will be something to talk about.

DEPRESSION HITS FEW STUDENTS AT PENN STATE

Despite the depression and a larger enrollment, fewer students withdrew from the Pennsylvania State College during the first three months of college this year than last year, reports of the college registrar reveal.

Prior to Christmas in 1930 sixty-three students withdrew, twenty of them for financial reasons and fourteen because of illness. In the same period this year sixty-one dropped from college, twenty-five of them giving their reasons as financial and twenty on account of illness. Personal reasons accounted largely for the other withdrawals both years.

This year eighteen freshmen, eighteen sophomores, ten juniors, one senior and fourteen graduates and special students left college, where last year the classification was twenty-seven freshmen, seventeen sophomores, seven juniors, four seniors and eight graduate students and specials.

SMITH.—Mrs. Kathryn Jane Smith, widow of H. M. Smith, died at her home in Milesburg, Wednesday morning of last week, as the result of a heart ailment. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Eisenhuth and was born in Penn township upwards of seventy years ago. Her husband died twelve years ago but surviving her are the following children: C. M. Smith, of Millheim; Mrs. J. P. McCool, of Spring Mills; W. W. Smith, of Rebersburg; George, of Lock Haven; John and Mrs. C. V. Quick, of Milesburg.

Funeral services were held in the Methodist church, at Milesburg, at two o'clock Saturday afternoon, by Rev. M. H. Crawford, assisted by Rev. M. C. Piper, burial being made in Heckman's cemetery in Gregg township.

Mrs. Mary Kelly, relict of James Kelly, died at her home on Logan street yesterday morning at five o'clock. She was 74 years old and had been confined to bed for eleven weeks. Funeral mass will be celebrated in St. John's Catholic church on Monday morning. Her obituary will be published next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Hazel had their usual family Christmas dinner party at their home, on Allegheny street, on Sunday instead of Christmas day. About the festive board were Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Houser, Mr. and Mrs. Morris B. Runkle and their daughter Dorothy, Mr. and Mrs. William Kline and their daughter Beverly, Mr. and Mrs. Hazel their daughter Francis and Margaret Forgas.

A special session of court was held, on Wednesday afternoon, to admit to practice at the Centre county bar Edward J. Hunter Esq., of Philadelphia. Mr. Hunter is an attorney in the workmen's compensation bureau, at Harrisburg, and the motion to admit him to the Centre county bar was made by Arthur C. Dale Esq.

AUTOISTS MUST OBSERVE BORO. PARKING RULES.

The Fire and Police department hereby calls attention of the public to the fact that in the future traffic regulations in the borough of Bellefonte will be strictly enforced. In the motor vehicle act of 1931 parking is defined as follows:

"The standing of a vehicle, except police or fire department vehicles or ambulances, whether occupied or not, upon a highway or otherwise than temporarily for the purpose and while actually engaged in loading or unloading, or in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs and signals, is forbidden."

The public is warned against parking on more than one side of all alleys, two way parking in the streets, parking within 15 feet of fire hydrants, within 50 feet of fire houses or within 50 feet of any fire apparatus while in service at a fire. Where parking space is designated by white lines all parking must be within such lines in order to conserve space.

The laws relative to passing fire apparatus, failing to stop on the approach of fire apparatus and following the same to a fire will be strictly enforced.

There is no desire on the part of the Fire and Police department to impose a hardship on any one, but conditions are such that these regulations must be obeyed.

TWO PRE-CHRISTMAS HOLDUPS AND ROBBERIES.

On Saturday evening, December 19th, John Dawson, 21-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dawson, was walking up the street to his home on Halfmoon hill when a car containing three men came along and stopped. One of the men got out and asked Dawson what time it was. The latter stated it was about ten o'clock and then he was hit on the head and knocked unconscious by one of the men who had gotten out of the car and slipped up behind him. They rifled his pockets of five dollars and drove away. The young man was found by his brother Charles about an hour later and was taken home. So far no trace of the holdup men has been found.

At an early hour on Wednesday morning of last week two negroes entered the Deltrick Cadillac garage and held up Howard Coder, the night watchman, but all they got for their trouble was 16 cents. When the negroes entered the garage, on the lower floor Coder, who was on the second floor, took off his coat and overalls, and threw them in a car. Practically all the money and that of the garage were the discarded clothing, hence the saved from the robbers. No trace of them has yet been found.

Ceta Beck didn't miss a session of the Bellefonte Methodist Sunday school during the year 1931 and last Sunday morning her teacher, Mrs. Mary Hall Bolick, presented her with a beautiful gold pin in recognition of her regularity in attendance.

County Treasurer-elect Robert F. Hunter has announced the appointment of Miss Christine Curry as his deputy. Miss Curry is a competent stenographer and book-keeper and will without a doubt prove very efficient in that position.

Both of the reservoirs that supply Milesburg with water are about empty and as the springs that replenish them are slowly drying up that town is confronted with a very serious problem.

The weather during the past week has been more wintry like and seasonable, thermometers on Monday morning being down to ten degrees above zero.

WINGATE

Miss Florence Peters and her brother Kenny spent their Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Peters, of Flemington.

Dr. and Mrs. George Tibbens, of Beech Creek, called on friends here on Wednesday of last week. They were on their way home from a trip to Tyrone.

Mrs. Florence Lucas is offering her Ford car cheap to anyone who wants it. She says it is too hard to get an operator's license that she is thinking of going back to a horse or a pony, which she can drive without a license.

Misses Virginia and Beulah Harnish are spending their Christmas vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harnish, of this place. Miss Virginia is teaching in a Philadelphia High school and her sister is a student in the city.

On Sunday night, December 20, L. E. Davidson received the sad news that his aunt, Mrs. Herman Alkey, had died at her home in Akron, Ohio. He and his brothers, Harold, Joseph and Plummer went out to Akron for the funeral on the following Tuesday and returned home Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Witherite and their daughter drove over from Osceola Mills and spent Christmas day with relatives here and at Runville. At the latter place they made short calls on the Michael Witherite and Lee Hoover families and while here were guests of Mrs. Witherite's mother and sister, Mrs. Irwin and Mrs. Lucas.

THE NEW YEAR.

H. G. Wells is credited with having made the prediction that 1932 is to be the blackest year in the history of the world. Let us hope the very able writer and publicist didn't know what he was talking about when he made that direful prophesy.

1931 is the year that humanity will use as the standard by which to measure such distress as may be yet to come and while there are those who may think they can't survive anything worse than it was they are of the class that measures everything by the dollar yard stick.

Each year leaves us richer, at least in some pleasant memories, some added friendships and some visions of greater usefulness. After all they are the worth while, the finer things in life and if the world has had the vision of greater usefulness all that is needed to make the New Year better than the old one was is to translate that vision into action.

To those who today resolve to do it the Watchman wishes a Happy New Year and it knows that they will have it.

WAS IT WORTH \$366,000.00

The special session of the Legislature of Pennsylvania adjourned, sine die, at noon on Wednesday, the Representatives and Senators have all headed homeward and the taxpayers of the State are holding the bag, as usual.

For eight weeks the Pinchot forces and the Republican State organization fenced for political vantage, the real purpose for which the session was called being secondary in their consideration.

It is to be regretted that after spending so much time and nearly \$400,000.00 no more constructive legislation was enacted, but responsibility for the debacle of 1931 can be charged to the Governor for exactly the same reason that laid that of 1926 at his door.

Five years ago Governor Pinchot called the Legislature into extra session to act on what he was pleased to call eight cardinal points. They had to do with giant power, regulation of the anthracite industry, election reform and other matters. The body remained in session thirty-seven days, cost \$273,561 and five minor acts went onto the statute books as the net result of it.

The call for the session just ended embodied nineteen cardinal points, the principal ones being a \$120,000,000 bond issue, increased taxes on cigarettes, gasoline and bill boards. None of the Governor's major suggestions have been carried out.

If ever there was an emergency that called for constructive legislation it was on the State while its Governor and its representatives in the Legislature fiddled at Harrisburg. Of what consequence was finding relief for unemployment in the State compared with the danger of a Pinchot building up a machine that might threaten the power of