

—In three days spring will be here. Winter will probably linger long in its lap, but winter has been very decent since December 21.

—Since the Governor's office forces are to be called off from lickin', stamps they will probably have more time to devote to lickin' "Puddler" Jim Davis.

—Most of the luscious melons that our great corporations cut for the benefit of their stock holders a few years ago have turned into lemons and rotted into the bargain.

—Pennsylvania is waiting for Gen. Butler to admit that he is as dry as he says he is or only as dry as Governor Pinchot thinks he ought to be. Wouldn't it be awful if Smed got away from Giff?

—The State engineers began inspection of dams in Pennsylvania about March 15 and it is highly probable that the owners of such water impounding reservoirs will begin damming also.

—Soon the dandelion will be in blossom and since science tells us that it contains a very important vitamin we publish the fact so that those who might spy us plucking them will know exactly what we want them for.

—Henry Ford ought to have saved that peace ship he sent to Europe to "get the boys out of the trenches before Christmas." Had he mounted a few six inch guns on her and moved her into the River Rouge she might have quelled that riot for him.

—The Governor has put another economy plan into effect in the State. He is going to use post-cards instead of letters in his department. By doing away with stamp lickin' he probably expects to save a lot of spit. But what's he going to do with the spit?

—The proposed sales tax seems to be running into rough sledding in Congress, and so it should. Under its provisions the millionaire bachelor will pay just one-twelfth as much tax on what he eats and wears as the day laborer who has a family of ten children.

—"Bob" Miller, of State College, has volunteered to undertake to stop the Hon. Holmes. "Bob" is popular both at the College and in Philadelphia, two districts that have been very friendly in the past to the statesman from "Krumrine Station," and he might turn the trick.

—Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt appears to have given "Alfalfa Bill" Murray a set back in the North Dakota primaries. It's up to the picturesque character from Oklahoma to say to the Governor of New York what the Governor of South Carolina once said to the Governor of North Carolina.

—Scientists claim that they can tell one's age from a single hair of the head. Not ours, because, in such a test, we present conditions such as gave rise to the story of the rabbit pot-pie. You know that one? It's condition is that to have a successful rabbit pot-pie one must first catch the rabbit.

—The straw vote taken by the Des Moines, Iowa, "Register and Tribune" has made rather startling revelations as to the present state of mind of the voters of that dry Republican State. In addition to going decisively wet it actually gave a majority to Franklin D. Roosevelt, over President Hoover, as a presidential preference.

—Inasmuch as it is necessary for the State to save the Governor will hereafter notify his favorites of increases in their salaries on a post-card. We've just got to save money and by using post-cards instead of letters bearing a two-cent stamp we'll save a cent on the notification of every salary increase, as well as the new appointments.

—Maj. Eugene H. Lederer, Burgess of State College and candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress, promises to bring "America Back Home," if he is sent to Washington. We have no idea what the Major's chances are, but we do know that if he would promise to bring the Lindbergh baby back home they'd be darned good.

—The suicides of the Swedish match king and America's great camera magnate, were startling tragedies. Kreuger and Eastman played with millions of dollars, as most of us do with hundreds of pennies, but was it worth while? Apparently neither one of them had gotten much out of life else they would not have feared it when the going began to look hard.

—The failure of President Paul von Hindenburg, of Germany, to get a majority of the votes cast in the national election last Sunday will make it necessary for him and "Handsome" Adolf Hitler, the runner-up, to go into another contest on April 10. Germany has been in the throes of political chaos for years, but the apparent certainty that her conservative eighty-four year old President will be re-elected has had the effect of giving the world assurance that the land of the Hohenzollerns is endeavoring to avert complete governmental disaster.

# Democratic Watchman

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## PHILADELPHIA MAN DIGS THROUGH ROOF OF CENTRE COUNTY JAIL.

Walter LaBarr Escaped Tuesday Night, Stole Car and Left No Trail Behind.

Walter LaBarr, of Philadelphia, a prisoner in the Centre county jail awaiting trial for complicity in the robbery of the A. and P. store, in Snow Shoe, on the night of June 4th, 1930, escaped at two o'clock Tuesday night by digging his way through the plaster ceiling of his cell, knocking a hole in the roof and crawling through to liberty. Taking the blanket from his cot with him he fashioned a rope by means of which he descended to the jail yard at the southeast corner of the building. Going to the north side he scrambled up a vine trellis to the roof of the porch leading off from the laundry, and in some way crawled to the top of the wall and jumped to the ground below.

A maroon colored Ford Tudor sedan, license number 25M35, was stolen during the night from in front of the house of M. P. Brooks, on Logan street, and it is assumed LaBarr made his escape in the Brooks car.

The hole through which he escaped was about 10x12 inches in size and how he managed to crawl through is rather puzzling. The kind of implement he used to dig with is also unknown, as the only thing the sheriff could find anywhere was a good-sized spike. Ralph Klinger occupied the cell with LaBarr, but so far he has refused to give the Sheriff any information. Klinger made no attempt to accompany LaBarr, as his prison term is almost up.

LaBarr, who is 29 years old, married and the father of three children, is alleged to have a long criminal record. As a youth he was mixed up in alleged robberies in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Baltimore but every time he escaped conviction. On June 4th, 1930, he accompanied James Brown and Frank DeAngelos on a motor trip to Snow Shoe. That night the A. and P. store, at that place, was robbed. The night of June 5th the men spent at the Passmore house, Philadelphia. The next day they went to Harrisburg, and that night robbed the A. and P. store in that city. LaBarr and Brown were captured, tried, convicted and given 18 months to three years in the eastern penitentiary. They were discharged on parole on December 19, after serving their minimum sentence. On March 11th county detective Leo Bodon and Roy Wilkinson, probation officer went to Philadelphia and arrested LaBarr and brought him to Bellefonte for trial for his part in the Snow Shoe robbery. Brown and DeAngelos are still at large.

## SOMEBODY STOLE NINE ACADEMY BANKETS.

Some time between Thanksgiving day, 1931, and February, 10th, 1932, nine large navy blue bankets, two yards square, trimmed with gold braid and having a large gold "B" in the centre, were stolen from the Bellefonte Academy athletic supply room.

These bankets were a present to Mr. James Hughes twenty-five years ago from one of the students and he has prized them highly. Mr. Hughes will show his appreciation in a substantial manner for any information that can be given him that will result in the recovery of the bankets.

## OLD TIME BAND MASTER TO JOIN FORMER PUPILS.

The Milesburg band will hold their annual banquet tonight. It will be served in the Methodist church social room at 6:30 and preceding it the boys of the old organization will get together for half an hour to "rip off a few marches"—as Frank Wetzler says. And we want to add that when that crowd rips them off it's some rippin'!

William Brown, of Huntingdon, an old time band master who coached nearly every band in Centre county during his long career, will be the speaker of the evening.

## TWO IN ONE FAMILY DIE ON THE SAME DAY.

Harry Jr., infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry DeArmit, of Howard, died at noon, on Tuesday, after a brief illness, and several hours later the child's grandmother, Mrs. Clara DeArmit, who made her home with her son, died as the result of a stroke of paralysis sustained on Monday. A double funeral will be held today.

—Get your job work done here.

## NO PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR FIXING COUNTY JAIL FOR FEMALE PRISONERS.

So far no definite action has been taken by the County Commissioners toward fixing up accommodations for female prisoners in the county jail. Representatives of the State Welfare Department have been in Bellefonte twice since the beginning of the year and made an inspection of the jail. They offered various criticisms but no workable suggestions for a separate compartment for women.

The plan the Commissioners have in view is to reconstruct the large room over the kitchen in the sheriff's residence into quarters for the women. This room is approximately 24 feet square with a large closet 6x10 feet which could be converted into a bathroom.

One or two cells could be partitioned off in the main room to accommodate any women who might become unruly in the dormitory. After doing this there would be plenty of room for three or four cots, the same number of chairs and a small table, which women could use for card playing if there is ever enough of them in at one time for a game. There is also a small closet which could be used as a clothes press.

The only hitch in this plan is that the Welfare Department wants the Commissioners to construct an outside stairway from the projected quarters to the yard below so the women can go out for their daily exercise without going through the sheriff's residence. The Commissioners object to this suggestion as they contend that it will only create another hazard for the escape of prisoners who prefer going out the back way to through the front door.

And there is where the proposition is now hanging fire. Some day, perhaps, the Welfare Department and the County Commissioners will get together, the contemplated improvements will be made and when Centre county women have to go to jail they won't need to be sent to Mifflin county to do it.

## LOCAL RED CROSS WILL REQUISITION FLOUR FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION.

The United States government is giving away a portion of the forty million bushels of wheat purchased within the past two years to stabilize the market to help feed the unemployed. The wheat will be ground into flour and distributed in 24-pound sacks.

The local Red Cross has put in a requisition for 600 barrels of the flour for free distribution among those in need within the confines of the chapter, which includes Bellefonte and vicinity, all of Bald Eagle Valley from Beech Creek west to the Blair county line, through Nittany, Buffalo Run and Halfmoon valleys. The 600 barrels of flour are supposed to be sufficient to tide over all the needy for three months. It will make about three car loads and when received will be stored and distributed as needed, a 24-pound sack at a time.

As the requisition has only been forwarded this week it is not definitely known just when the flour will arrive, but due notice will probably be given as to the exact date, when those needing same should make their wants known.

## SPORTSMEN TO ORGANIZE COUNTY ORGANIZATION

In an attempt to organize all the sportsmen of Centre county, both hunters and fishermen, in a county organization a meeting and dinner will be held at the Nittany Lion Inn, at State College, Thursday evening, March 24th. A. H. Delber, State Commissioner of Fisheries, will be the principal speaker.

Tickets for the dinner may be secured at H. W. Sauer's store and Earl Kline's shoe shop, State College; Heverly's store, George Miller's store and Robert F. Hunter, Bellefonte; R. P. Dunsmore, Philadelphia; Robert Stover and S. Ward Gramley, Millheim; A. H. Hartwick, Spring Mills; H. L. Ebricht, Centre Hall; Guy Williams and George Bohn, Lemont; Brouse's store, Boalsburg; H. G. Elder, Pine Grove Mills, and J. Will Mayes, Howard.

—J. Claude Showers, of Pleasant Gap, an employee of the West Penn Power company, suffered a stroke of paralysis, Tuesday morning, while at work on the Valleyville line extension. He was in charge of the reel of wire at the time he was stricken. The Bellefonte ambulance was summoned and he was brought to the Centre county hospital where it was found that his entire left side was affected.

## NATIVE OF ENGLAND LIES IN PAUPER'S GRAVE IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Believed to Have Been Member of Titled Family. Death Caused by Acute Alcoholism.

In an unmarked grave in one of Centre county's cemeteries lies the remains of a man who less than four months ago was given a pauper's funeral and ever since there has been a lurking suspicion that he might have been a member of a titled English family and had been living in the States under an assumed name.

He came to Centre county from one of the eastern cities less than a year ago for a job on construction work. He was an artist in his line but he loved his drink.

Late last fall he received \$1000 from England and it was this remittance that gave rise to the suspicion that he was at least a member of a prominent if not titled family in his native country. When he received the money he stopped work at once and gathered around him several cronies proceeded to "eat, drink and be merry."

He lived alone in a small shack and very little attention was paid to his comings and goings. The day came, however, when one of his fellow workmen dropped into his shack to see him. He found him dead in bed, and beside him laid one of his drinking cronies in a maudlin sleep.

The Englishman had evidently been dead for several days, as his body was already infested by vermin. The man who was sleeping beside him was finally aroused sufficiently to talk rather incoherently, but was unable to tell how or when the Englishman died. When asked if he hadn't seen the vermin on the body he replied that he had, but he thought they were bed bugs.

A coroner's inquest was held and the verdict was death as the result of acute alcoholism. Not a cent of the remittance from England could be found by the authorities and the man was buried in a pauper's grave.

## REV. CAMPBELL RETURNED TO BELLEFONTE CHURCH.

Only twenty-three changes were made in the assignment of the 102 ministers at the closing session of the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Evangelical church at Milton on Monday morning. Rev. A. Ward Campbell was returned as pastor of the Bellefonte church. Rev. Reed O. Steely, who has been pastor of the First church, Milton, since leaving Bellefonte several years ago, was assigned to the Lemoyne charge, Dauphin county. Rev. A. D. Gramley, of York, will succeed him at Milton.

Rev. J. R. Schechterly, who has been located at Rebersburg the past three years, has been assigned to McClure, while Rev. Paul A. Miller has been transferred from Liverpool to Rebersburg.

The statistical reports submitted, last Friday, showed a total of 30,100 members in the conference, who contributed for church support during the year \$570,083. A survey of the increase in membership during the year showed that the Bellefonte church had made the second largest increase, an enrollment of fifty with a total membership of 250. It was exceeded by only one church, Mount Holly Springs, where the increase in membership was 65.

## SEEKS MAGAZINES FOR LABOR CAMPS

Public contributions of magazines both old and new will be accepted at the state employment offices in Pittsburgh, Altoona, Harrisburg, New Castle and Erie, for distribution to state labor camps at Pymatuning dam and other parts of the State. These men employed at road work and on the reservoir, have no other form of amusement on rainy days and evenings. Some of the camps are miles from the nearest town.

About 450 men living at the six camps in Fayette, Washington, Blair, Westmoreland, Clearfield and Jefferson counties, are working on the roads. The Pymatuning dam projects employ more than 350 men living at the camp.

Several hundred magazines have been sent out to the men by employees of the Department of Labor and Industry at Harrisburg but many more are needed.

—Twenty-six young people of the Methodist church attended the monthly council meeting, at Snow Shoe, last Friday evening. On Sunday members of the church congregation will elect a lay delegate to the annual conference which will convene in Williamsport on June 15th.

## COLONY OF BEAVERS NOW HARD AT WORK IN LITTLE SUGAR VALLEY.

Quite a large colony of beavers head of Little Sugar Run, not far from the McMullen-Yarnell hunting camp, where they have built a dam estimated to be five feet in height.

The run at that point runs through the middle of the valley which is almost a quarter of a mile in width, and it was necessary for the beavers to build their dam the full width of the valley in order to back up the water to the required depth to protect their houses.

The houses are located in the channel of the run, consequently, are quite a distance from the shore line. Beavers, ordinarily, confine their depredations to what is known as soft wood, in cutting down trees, but at the Little Sugar valley dam they have cut down white oak and other hard species.

Over in Decker valley there is a colony of beavers which has built some four or five dams on the small stream flowing down the valley; and the owner of the land is so tickled to have them there that he avers they can cut all the timber they want, and he'll plant more for them every year.

## BOGGS TOWNSHIP HOUSE BURNED TO THE GROUND.

A house owned by Clyde McKinley, located above the brick yards in Boggs township, and occupied by him and his mother, was entirely destroyed by fire between seven and eight o'clock on Monday evening. The fire originated from a spark on the roof and with no adequate way of extinguishing it, it spread rapidly and by the time Bellefonte firemen arrived on the scene the entire upper portion of the building was in flames. With the help of neighbors most of the furniture on the lower floor was removed but nothing was saved from the upper floors. The loss is estimated at several thousand dollars, on which there is some insurance.

Before nine o'clock on Tuesday morning the Undines had a call from John McCoy to extinguish a fire on the roof of his home. They were able to do so but not until a hole about ten feet square had been burned in the roof. A spark from the fue was also the cause of this fire.

About an hour later, the same morning, the firemen were again called out, this time to the Pete Mangino home, on east Lamb street. The house has a pipeless furnace and some one had fed some tar paper into it which started a chimney fire. Stovepipe holes in the chimney on both the first and second floors had only paper coverings and these burned off with the result that the house was pretty well smoked inside. To add to the troubles of the firemen an accumulation of waste paper and refuse which had been thrown down the register and landed between the furnace proper and its outside covering caught fire and it was necessary to tear away a portion of the jacket to get at it.

## FATHER SAVES FAMILY FROM BURNING HOME.

Quick action and presence of mind enabled Alex Sokolosky, of South Philadelphia, to save his wife and four small children from their burning home while the flames spread nearer and nearer to their only point of escape.

It was at an early hour on Saturday morning when Mr. Sokolosky was awakened by the dense smoke in his bedroom. Jumping out of bed he ran to the stairway leading to the first floor but was driven back by flames and smoke shooting up the stairs. Gathering his wife and four small children into his bedroom he seized a blanket and lowered the children to safety, one by one. He then attempted to lower his wife in the same way but when she was about halfway down the blanket broke and she sustained back and internal injuries, but her condition is not believed to be very serious.

The flames were almost at his feet when Mr. Sokolosky climbed to the window sill and jumped to the ground, escaping injury. The home and contents were entirely destroyed and all the family had left were the night clothes in which they escaped. Their loss is placed at \$3,250, on which there was some insurance.

—Word has been received in Bellefonte of the death of Frank Youngkin, in Akron, Ohio, following a week's illness with pneumonia. He was a former clerk at the Penn-Belle hotel, in Bellefonte, and while here married Miss Violet Zimmerman. He has been away from Bellefonte for some months.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—All Union county jurors called for court at Lewisburg, this week, were notified not to appear as there were no cases for trial, either civil or criminal, and it is not anticipated there will be any court session.

—Setting off a stick of dynamite which he placed on his chest, an unidentified man, aged about 45 years, committed suicide in a fan house at the Paint Creek mine, at Windber. The force of the explosion wrecked the building.

—Arthur H. Snyder, Tamaqua, with a bid of \$200,000, was low bidder on the construction of an administration building, two cottages and Glover cottage at Laurelton State Village. Twenty bids were received, the Department of Property and Supplies announced.

—A fuse 20 miles away is credited with saving the life of Thomas Mitchell, Middleburg laborer, when an iron bar he was carrying came in contact with a high tension electric line. The contact blew out the fuse and broke the electric circuit. Mitchell suffered leg and arm burns.

—A Philadelphia policeman who shot and killed a youth stealing Christmas trees won a directed acquittal in quarter sessions court on Tuesday, when Judge M. Ward Fleming, of Centre county, ruled that a policeman may shoot to kill if in pursuit of a fleeing felon and ordered the jury to free Neil Sheridan, a patrolman.

—Mrs. Mary Simchock, former postmistress at Tire Hill, near Johnstown, posted a \$1000 bond last Thursday, for her appearance in federal court on a charge of having converted \$445 in postal funds to her own use. Mrs. Simchock was replaced as postmaster last month after a shortage was discovered by postal inspectors.

—At the monthly meeting of the Lock Haven Hospital Nurses' Alumni association held in the nurses' home Friday evening, it was decided to reduce the salaries of professional nurses on private duty in that city and vicinity from \$6 for general duty and \$7 daily for contagious or obstetrical cases to \$5 and \$6 per day respectively.

—The public water supply has been definitely eliminated as the probable cause of an outbreak of typhoid fever in a small community about one mile from Morrisdale, Clearfield county, according to assistant engineer H. E. Moses, of the State Department of Health. The investigation was made by district engineer Young and Dr. L. Dickey.

—As an illustration of the extent of losses and casualties caused by fire in Pennsylvania, fire bureau officials of the Pennsylvania State Police point out that if the buildings destroyed or damaged by fire during 1931 were placed on lots of sixty-five feet frontage they would form a continuous line of ruins extending from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

—It was stated at the offices of the Bell Telephone company of Pennsylvania, on Monday, that last Sunday night's wind and snowstorm caused damage estimated at \$750,000 in Central Pennsylvania. The area around Lancaster was particularly hard hit. Other sections that suffered severely were around Harrisburg, Williamsport, Bloomsburg and Danville.

—Walter M. Shelton, Towanda, in federal court at Scranton, on Monday, was sentenced to 30 days in Bradford county jail on a charge of having embezzled \$883.34 in government funds intended for Ralph Kendall, feeble minded World war veteran of Sayre, Pa. Shelton pleaded guilty last October and sentence was deferred to allow him to make restitution. He was appointed Kendall's guardian on April 29, 1930.

—Bellwood women are stretching their dollars. In an extension project on children's clothing supervised by Miss May D. Kemp, Blair county home economics extension representative, the group spent \$7.11 and made garments worth \$70.28. Left-over renovations, and new materials were used. For 31 cents one woman made garments worth \$11.80. Another woman spent \$1.49 and had clothing valued at \$24.95. A third teacher spent 10 cents for thread and made garments worth \$7.70.

—A fireproof safe, weighing between 400 and 500 pounds, stolen Saturday night from the store of Adolph Hochberger, in Philadelphia, was found broken open on Sunday on the road leading from York-shire to Longtown. About \$100 in cash which the strong-box contained was missing. The thieves entered the Hochberger store by breaking a rear window. They made their way to the safe and carried or rolled it out of the store, through a back door. It was then loaded into an automobile and hauled away.

—The first suit to test the government's right to levy an assessment on stockholders of defunct banks was started in the district federal court at Scranton, on Saturday, L. P. Noble, receiver for the Mahaffey National Bank, of Mahaffey, Pa., instituted suit against Harry M. Phlegar, of Williamsport, to recover \$1000. Mortimer C. Rhone, of Williamsport, filed the papers. Phlegar was the holder of ten shares of stock in the closed bank with a par of \$100. A 100 per cent. assessment was made on the holders of the \$50,000 capital stock of the bank.

—The leather tannery at Powell, seven miles south of Towanda, once the second largest tannery in the world, is being dismantled. The machinery and the 6000 tons of bark in the yards is being shipped to larger plants. The tannery was organized in 1867 as the Towanda Tanning company and was owned by several individual firms before it was absorbed by the Elk Tanning company, its last operators. In 1891, at the height of its production, the plant covered 75 acres and the company owned 15,000 acres of timber land in Bradford and Sullivan counties.

—Army aviation officers at the Middletown depot had a hunch on Monday afternoon that saved a farmer's family from hunger. They looked across the Susquehanna river, frozen during the past week's cold spell for the first time this winter, and wondered if the George Boyer family, which lives on a mid-river island, had provisions. Lieutenant C. A. Ross flew to the island and dropped a note telling Boyer to wave a tablecloth if he needed food. A vigorous waving of a tablecloth was the answer. Within an hour Lieutenant Ross returned and dropped a good supply of food in front of the farm house.