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NO. 17

THE PARK QUESTION.

To Be Settled at a Meeting to be Held To-night.

In response to the call by President W. R. Kocher, a special meeting of the Town Council was held Monday night, with all the members in hand.

The meeting was largely attended by visitors, the room being nearly filled.

President Kocher opened the meeting and said that it had been called for the purpose of taking into consideration the request made by the Athletic Association, for the lease of Athletic Park for another year.

James H. Mercer was the first speaker for the Association. He stated to the Council that the Association would build the fence and repair the grand stand, standing all the expenses, provided that a lease on the Park, for base ball purposes, could be obtained for a year or more.

The following petition was presented by A. Y. Day:

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned residents and taxpayers of the Town of Bloomsburg would respectfully ask your honorable body that you grant permission to the Athletic Park Association to use the park on Iron street for athletic purposes until such time as the finances of the Town will permit it to be put in proper condition for a public park. We believe that such use will be of more benefit to the public than to permit it to lie out as an open common.

G. Snyder & Son, Alexander Bros. & Co., W. M. Keber, J. L. Wolverton, Josiah Ralston, George P. Ringler, James H. Mercer, W. C. McKinney, John R. Townsend, J. M. Gidding & Co., J. W. Moyer, George A. Clark, Harvey Dieterich, Harry Aurand, B. W. Hagenbuch, S. C. Brown, Albert Moyer, Wm. E. Kinker, R. L. Runyon, H. C. Mendenhall, H. W. Townsend, M. R. Sloan, Joe L. Townsend, E. Skyles McKillip, Frank Fatten, H. L. Kline, I. S. Reice, Wesley Knorr, C. S. Hower, W. F. Stuhner, Robt. Buckingham, William Gross, Henry Knorr, A. W. Day, J. H. Coleman, W. H. Magill, R. K. Zarr, Sam. H. Harman, C. W. Hanston, W. E. Shaffer, C. C. Peacock, J. E. Koye, F. P. Pursel, Geo. E. Ellwell, C. A. Klein, Wm. F. Bodine, W. H. Purman, C. F. Stohner, A. Z. Schoch, Oscar Lowenberg, Wm. Gingles, H. G. Eshelman, D. J. Tasker, Ralph G. Phillips, J. A. Hess, C. H. Reice, Charles G. Barkley, C. W. McKelvy Jr., E. Jacobs & Son, J. W. Eyer, W. A. Hartzell, A. L. Drum, Wm. Yost.

C. C. Peacock was the next to speak. He would like the boys to be granted the use of the park until such time as the financial condition of the town would warrant its being planted with trees.

C. W. Miller, who represented some business men spoke for a few minutes. He said that he had a petition, but not knowing of the special meeting, did not have it with him. He stated that it contained the names of one hundred and fifty people, or possibly more who had each agreed to furnish one tree and to plant it in the park, free of cost, and that others had promised, or agreed to give trees, which would amount in the aggregate to 250 or 300. The laying out of the park and planting of trees, all to be done under the instruction of the Council, if they so desired.

W. D. Beckley, another also in favor of keeping the park for ball playing made a suggestion to the Council that the Park be leased for one year, and that the park be made an issue at the next Council election.

Considerable talking was indulged in at this stage of the game, and at times the discussion became quite heated.

Mr. Gorrey said that he for one would not vote on the subject, until he became more familiar with certain points covering the original donation of the park by the late Mr. Waller, and some opinion rendered by the Town Solicitor.

President Kocher, mindful of the important subject with which they were going to deal had seen the solicitor, and obtained from him an opinion, which is as follows:

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL:

GENTLEMEN:—The President of your body has submitted to me the question of your right to lease the field owned by the Town of Bloomsburg, and known as "Athletic Park."

The only objection which can possibly be urged against the legality of a lease of this land, is that it is public property, conveyed to the Town for "public purposes," and can not be given over, by your body, to the use and control of an individual, or an association of individuals, to the exclusion of the general public.

It is no doubt true that in certain instances our Courts will restrain the municipal authorities from demising to individuals property belonging to the municipality, and used by the general public. But we do not see how this principle can apply to the present case.

If "Athletic Park" was at the present time used for some public purpose, or was laid out and used by the people generally as a public park, we could readily understand how the authority of the Town Council to divert it from its public use, and give it over to a private association, might be questioned.

But such are not the facts in the present case. "Athletic Park" is at present nothing more than an open field or common. It is not used for any public purpose whatever, and, from the absence of any particular use, is rapidly becoming dilapidated. Therefore the objection cannot properly be made that by a lease of these you are diverting the public use of public property to private uses and purposes. The question, stripped of its immaterial features, may be stated thus:

The Town of Bloomsburg, in 1873, bought for a valuable consideration a tract of land, "for public purposes." It was the intention at the time of the purchase, that the property be some day made into a public park but up to this time the municipal authorities have never deemed it wise to carry out the original intention, and the land has remained as an ordinary field, with the exception of the few years when rented to a base ball association. The Town Council is not obliged to at once convert this property into a park and, considering the amount of your present indebtedness, we doubt if you could legally do so. Therefore, for the present, and until such time as the Town may deem it proper, financially and otherwise, to change the open field into a public park, we see no reason to prevent you from leasing the property, if you think fit.

We fully realize that your body would not have the power to convey away this property in such a manner as to forever prevent its use for public purposes. The conditions of the deed to the Town from D. J. Waller would prevent this.

But what we do mean to say is, that until such time as the Town Council may think it wise to fit the property for public use, your body is not compelled to permit it to remain idle, but, in our opinion may lease it on such terms as will best serve the public interest. We however agree entirely with the view that no permanent use of this property can be had, except for public purposes.

If it be urged that the deed from Mr. Waller restricts the property to public uses, no matter how temporary, this question may be asked: What public purpose is the property serving by remaining idle because the Town Council does not think it wise to at present convert it into a park, and yet has no power to lease it temporarily for any other purpose?

"The opinion," said Mr. Gorrey, "is very clear on some points," but there were others, that would require some thought, before he could vote on the subject.

Mr. Gorrey made a motion that the Council adjourn till to-night, in order that the other petition might be presented and all interested parties heard. Richard seconded the motion and by the votes of Richard, Gorrey, Suplee and Kocher it was carried. Rishon, Kelley and Hower voted against the adjournment.

THE HILL OBSEQUIES.

The funeral of Mrs. S. W. Hill who died at Esby last week, while on a visit to her sister Mrs. Elizabeth Petit, and whose body was taken to her home at South Bend, Ind., for interment, took place on Thursday. The Daily Times of that place says:

"The very high esteem in which the late Mrs. S. W. Hill was held in this community was not only fully attested by the constant stream of sorrowing friends who called between 10 and 12 o'clock Thursday at the residence to view the remains, as they lay in a rich, flower-buried casket, but also at the funeral, which was held at 4 p. m., and was one of the largest private funerals ever held in South Bend. But a small portion of those attending could get into the spacious home, where the last sad rites were held, Rev. Dr. S. B. Town officiating. The Haydn Ladies' Quartet sang for the sad occasion, and the pall bearers were Hon. George W. Loughman, Ed. R. Vanderhoof, Irving A. Sibley, Jacob Woolverton and John A. Hibberd. The interment was at the city cemetery, a very large concourse of friends gathering about the tomb.

The floral designs from both South Bend and Pennsylvania friends and relatives were very profuse, beautiful and appropriate. In the vault at the grave the taste of the floral decorator was shown in the fern and flower decorations on the sides, while the casket literally rested in a bed of roses.

A loving wife, a fond mother, a christian woman, an amiable and greatly esteemed member of South Bend's social circles was laid to a last long rest when "earth to earth, dust to dust and ashes to ashes" was said at the "narrow home" that contains the mortal remains of the late Mrs. S. W. Hill.

Among outsiders present at the funeral were George B. Hill and Mrs. Martin Kimball, of Chicago, nephew and niece of the deceased; Mrs. Charles Hagenbach, Constantine, Mich., Mr. John C. Lawson, of Chicago, and many from Mishawaka. Telegrams and letters of condolence came from all parts of the country."

THE FIRST WAS A VICTORY.

The Normal School base ball club opened the season on Normal Field on Saturday afternoon and covered themselves with glory, taking a fall out of Shickshinny's aggregation. The attendance was pretty good, and the enthusiasm was at a high mark all through the game. The visitors had been looked upon as somewhat formidable, and in the practice before play was called, did give evidence of knowing something about the game, but any apprehensions that might have been felt as to the result, proved entirely unfounded as the home team played all around them and won as they pleased. The battery work of the Berry Brothers for the Normal was gilt edged. Shickshinny could do nothing in the way of hitting, and on two different occasions the side was retired on strikes.

The whole Normal team showed up good, and gave promise that they will be able to hold their own, against all comers.

"Bud" Ent, of this town, who is employed at Shickshinny at present played first base for the visitors, and when he went to the bat the first time was loudly cheered, but the best he could do was to knock a little pop-up, which fell safely in a Normal fielders' mit. But when he grabbed the bat the third time he demonstrated that he had not entirely forgotten how to hit, for when the ball came sailing toward him he swung the willow with terrific force, and in an instant the ball went flying toward the school, and before it could be returned, "Bud" had made the circuit of the bases. The score at the finish was Normal 19, Shickshinny 6.

A very amusing sight was witnessed by a number of persons, in the rear of the blacksmith shop on Market Street, one day last week, in the shape of a fight between a large rat and three chickens, and the latter came out best. One of the participants was an old hen with several small peeps and when the rat came toward them, she flew at him with all the strength she possessed, the rat in return kept up the fight as long as he could, but when a big rooster came to the hen's assistance the rat found he was "in it," and he gave up and was killed. There was probably a dozen or more watching the battle, and none had ever witnessed such an occurrence in their lives before.

COMING EVENTS.

Slums of New York by Flash Light.

One of the most unique, interesting and instructive entertainments ever given in Bloomsburg. Prof. H. P. Van Liew gives in the Methodist Tabernacle next Tuesday evening May 4th his illustrated lecture on "Slums of New York by Flash Light." This inspiring and delightful presentation is the outgrowth of years of personal and gratuitous all-night rescue work in the high-toned and low-toned sinks of iniquity in the metropolis, and among the newsboys. The presentation is thrilling and vivid, yet free absolutely from all that might offend the most refined. It never fails to delight, and it is original in style. Search lights are turned on the great city. The bright side and the dark side are happily interwoven, and the tears will be chased away by laughter. The entertainment is interspersed with music illustrated by richly colored masterpieces of art. About one hundred large clear views are thrown upon the screen by two 750-candle-power oxy-hydrogen calcium lights. It is cordially and unqualifiedly endorsed by such representative men as Chancellor Day of Syracuse University, Chancellor MacCracken of the University of the City of New York, Rev. R. S. MacArthur of the Calvary Baptist Church, N. Y., and hosts of others. It will be a great intellectual and moral treat to hear this lecture and the only disappointed ones will be those who remain away. It is a 50 cent entertainment for 25 cts. Children under 14 years, 15 cents. Lecture will begin at 8 o'clock. Doors open at 7:15. No reserved seats. There will doubtless be a large audience to hear this popular and thrilling lecture.

Tuesday evening, May 4th, Stereoptican Entertainment interspersed with music, at the Parish House by Bishop Rullison Class of St. Paul's S. S. Admission, adults 10c. children 5c.

Announcements of any other entertainments will be made under this head without charge, by leaving word at this office.

ODD FELLOWS' BIG PARADE.

Central Pennsylvania Association's Imposing Demonstration at Mount Carmel.

The Central Pennsylvania Odd Fellows' anniversary association held the largest and most imposing celebration in its history on Monday at Mount Carmel.

The occasion marked the seventy-eighth anniversary of the introduction of the order into America. The town was handsomely decorated and about 5,000 members of the fraternity participated in the parade, which occurred late in the afternoon.

F. W. Magrady, of Mount Carmel, acted as chief marshal, and cantons of the Patriarch Militants, encampments and lodges of the order from nearly all towns lying between Scranton, Williamsport, Pottsville and Tamaqua were in line.

Many of the visiting delegations were accompanied by bands and after the parade James H. Derby delivered the address of welcome and President Keiss made a short speech.

The following officers were re-elected: President, William H. Keiss; Secretary, J. H. Mackey; treasurer, Charles Schefel, all of Williamsport. The next annual celebration of the association will be held at Danville.

CASE POSTPONED.

The celebrated Knorr-Wintersteen case will not be tried at next week's court. The delay, or postponement, was unavoidable as District Attorney Graham, of Philadelphia, one of the Commonwealth's Counsel could not possibly be present next week. Beside this there has been no judge secured to sit on the case, and it is not yet known who will preside. Judge Metzgar was the first to undertake the trial, but ill health has interfered, and Judge Savidge who had consented to try the case has also declined. Postponement was granted until the 24th inst.

GETTING READY.

District Attorney John G. Harman, is kept busy getting his cases in readiness for the May term of Court. On Monday he went to Centralia to transact business in connection with his office. Court commences next week.

The Eves row of houses at the end of Catharine Street, will all be painted. We are informed that Harry Humphrey has the contract.

PERMIT US TO PROVE OUR ARGUMENT. . . .

A Base Ball Glove with Boys' Suits age 8 and up.

HOW?

Call on us. Let us show our proof. We are willing to abide the consequences, and you can save dimes and dollars by trading here. This business has been built to its present standard by selling reliable makes of goods only, at fair and honest prices. Always protecting our customers. This Spring is exceptional with us in point of value giving. Come and See.

Thoroughly Reliable and well made men's and young men's suits in the newest plain and fancy mixtures, and black and blue chevots, **\$5.00.**

Splendid, well made and excellently trimmed Men's and Young Men's Suits, Gray and Brown mixtures. The newest plaids and black and blue chevots of really \$10 value at **\$7.50.**

High Grade, custom tailored, men's and young men's suits of superior make and finish in the newest neat pin dots, imported, colored or black clay worsteds, sacks or cutaways, at **\$10.00.**

Single Trousers for men or boys. The best all wool boys (4 to 15) knee pants in town, 50c. Men's and young men's trousers, New Plaid Mixtures and plain colors, warranted not to rip, at **\$2.00.**

Men's and young men's shirts, laundered or with soft bosoms, newest color combinations, 50, 75, \$1.00, \$1.25 and \$1.50. Bicycle Suits, 2.75, 3.50, 5.00 and \$7.50.

Sweaters, plain, with or without turtle neck, striped collar and wrists, 1, 1.50, 2, 2.50 and \$3.50. Bicycle Hose, 50, 75, 1, \$1.50. Sole agents for J. & D. McCong's genuine Scotch knit bicycle hose. Caps, 25 & 50c. Belts, 25 & 50c. **BOYS SUITS.**

Excellent, all wool ones at \$2.00. In the newest plaids and mixtures, 2.50, 3, 4 and \$5.00. For the very best grades not matched elsewhere at from 50c to \$1. Some good wool suits as low as \$1.25.

Boys Waists, plain or blouse, 25, 50, 75, and \$1. French Mull Fauntleroy waists with embroidery, 50c to \$2.00.

A STRAW HAT CARNIVAL now going on here. We believe it to be the biggest showing of them ever put under one roof in this town.

4 styles children's Sailors, 25c value, at 19cts. 8 styles children's Sailors, 39c value, at 25cts. 6 styles children's Sailors, 50c value at 39cts. 12 styles children's Sailors, 75c value, at 50cts.

23 different styles of Boys' plain and fancy band straw hats at 25 and 50cts.

38 styles men's and young men's plain and fancy band straw hats, 50c and upwards.

GIDDING'S

W. O. CAMP, NO 374 INSTITUTED.

KEEP ON THE SIDEWALK.

H. A. Kemp, of Benton, District President of northern Columbia County, P. O. S. of A., went to Rohrsburg on Friday night last and organized and instituted W. C. Camp No. 374.

The following numbers of members of other camps were present: About 20 members from No. 123; 20 from No. 319; 5 from No. 551; 4 from No. 635; and 5 from No. 503.

The following assisted the District President in instituting, President Grant Baker, of No. 319; Vice President, J. W. Bellas, of No. 123. Master F., M. P. Edwards, No. 123. Conductor, L. P. Styles, No. 123. Post Pres., Isaiah Raber, No. 123. Lecturer, Bro. Whitenight, No. 319. Inspector, J. D. Lewis, No. 123. Outside G., Otis Pealer, No. 123. Sentinels, L. F. Hartman, P. L. Appleman, T. H. Tubbs and R. I. Segfried all of No. 123. Rec. Sec'y., H. W. Eves, No. 635. Fin. Sec'y., W. C. Thomas, No. 635. 36 members were installed.

District President Kemp installed the following officers of W. C. Camp No. 374. P. P., W. W. Black. Pres., Dr. J. B. Fullmer. Vice Pres., Raymond Ikeler. M. of F., L. J. Pullen. Conductor, F. Welsh. Rec. Sec'y., J. S. Utt. Fin. Sec'y., Geo. Appleman. Treasurer, G. W. Miller. Inspector, Elwood Vocum. Guard, H. Trexler.

Trustees { JONAS SCHULTZ, PERRY BLACK, G. HARTMAN. Some good talk followed by H. A. Kemp, Jacob Sterner, Grant Baker, H. W. Eves, W. C. Thomas and others.

The guy wire running from a pole on the corner of Main Street and Light Street road, to an apple tree in the lot owned by Neal, in some way or other came in contact with a live wire, and for a little while the sparks and smoke flew in all directions.

Nathaniel Ney, of Beaver township was in town on Monday. He has resigned as tax collector of the above township. This is the official who is charged with embezzlement of funds.

Bloomsburg is noted for its cleanliness, its good pavements, its handsome residences, its well kept lawns, and its progressive people. Since the grass plots on Market street were thrown out between the pavement and the gutter the residents of that street have taken great pride and pains in keeping them in good condition. It is the street that is first seen by strangers arriving in town by rail, and always makes a good impression on visitors. It is strange that there are so many who through thoughtlessness or carelessness, are regardless of these efforts to make that street and many others, look neat and attractive. Notwithstanding the fact that the pavements are very wide, they do not seem to be wide enough for some pedestrians who make a practice of walking along the edges on the grass, and in cutting corners, thus wearing down the lawns and killing the grass. Even persons who have lawns of their own, do not hesitate to help spoil other people's grass plots by walking on them. They do not seem to consider that by so doing they compel property owners to resod every year, if they want to keep their grounds in good condition. The pavements are to walk on; the grass plots are for ornament. Keep off the grass.

DANVILLE ASYLUM WANTS \$287,000.

A sub-committee of the House of Representatives visited the State Hospital for the Insane at Danville last week, to inquire into the needs of the institution and the necessity for the appropriation asked for by the trustees. After a tour of the institution the delegation retired to the trustees room, where the wants of the hospital were discussed. Addresses were made by Senator Scott, Representative Miller, of Luzerne, Thomas Chalfant, and Dr. H. B. Meredith. The trustees are asking for \$237,000 to complete the male infirmary, to erect a similar one on the female side, and a home for the nurses and other contemplated improvements.

Rev. Wm. B. Lahr, of Selingsgrove occupied the pulpit of the Lutheran church Sunday morning and evening.