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NO. 32

ADDING NEW ACCOUNTS.

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BLOOMSBURG 23 YEARS AGO.

As John of Lancaster Saw It in the Philadelphia Press.

Many Changes Since Then.

The following article which appeared in the Philadelphia Press of September 29, 1882, was written by John F. Meginniss who was for many years editor of the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin. He was a historian and a prolific writer, signing himself "John of Lancaster." Many changes have taken place in Bloomsburg since that time, and nearly all of the men spoken of have passed away. To the older residents the article will recall many scenes of the past, and will show the younger ones how Bloomsburg has progressed. We reprint it in full.

BLOOMSBURG, Sept. 25.—This pretty little town, the county-seat of Columbia, is built upon a bluff of Fishing Creek, and about a mile from the North branch of the Susquehanna River. There are many beautiful valleys on this river, chief among them being Wyoming, whose bloody history is known to all. Bloomsburg, from its perch on the hills, overlooks a grand sweep of country. The river is bounded on the south side by a tall mountain, whilst in the rear of the town the foot-hills rise tier upon tier till they fall back into the wilds of Sullivan county. A more beautiful location for a town is hard to find. As the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad, running from Northumberland to Scranton, sweeps by the town a splendid view is afforded from the car window. As the ground slopes toward the river the sewerage is perfect. The streets are unusually wide; the buildings are generally brick, and, whilst there are no costly structures, yet there are many cosy private houses, which show that the owners sought comfort more than style. On the high ground in the rear of the older part of the town are many attractive dwellings, overlooking the magnificent valley which stretches away to the river affording a landscape of peculiar beauty. Still higher up on a knoll stand the attractive buildings of the Normal School, which, from their conspicuous position are plainly seen from the car window, and are always admired by travelers.

A BIT OF HISTORY.

The town of Bloomsburg was laid out and named as early as 1802 by a German settler named Ludwig Eyer. In 1846 it became the county seat of Columbia, after a long and bitter fight with Danville, which had previously been the capital. In order to decide the question the Legislature passed an act authorizing a vote on the question of a relocation of the county-seat, and it was decided by a popular vote to remove it to Bloomsburg, the latter place furnishing the land and erecting the buildings, the money for that purpose having been raised by public subscription. This was in 1845, and it was thought that peace and quietness would now reign after the county-seat question was settled. But such was not the case. In 1849 another bitter fight arose about the formation of a new county, out of parts of Columbia, to be called Montour, with Danville as the county-seat. The latter place still smattered over the victory of Columbia in taking the county-seat away from her, and her people sought to have a county of their own. On the 3rd of May, 1850, the new

[Continued on 4th page 3rd Col.]

MUST ANSWER MURDER CHARGE.

Jacob Naugle and Clark Belles Held for Shooting Vincent Vide.

VICTIM DIED ON TUESDAY.

Friends of Vincent Vide, the Italian who was shot in West Berwick on Friday August first, have caused the arrest of Jacob Naugle and Clark Belles, the special police officers of West Berwick who fired the fatal shots. The warrants were sworn before Justice of the Peace Clem R. Weiss and placed in the hands of Constable Miles Betz on Monday. He immediately took the car for Berwick. He found Naugle and served the warrant on him. Belles was at New Columbus attending his father's funeral. Naugle was brought to Bloomsburg Monday evening and arraigned before Justice of the Peace Weiss, but was committed for a further hearing Tuesday afternoon.

When the time arrived for the hearing on Tuesday the Squire's office was so crowded that it was decided to go to the Court room. The throng immediately hurried to the Court House, only to be disappointed as the prisoners waived a hearing and were taken to jail. An effort will be made to day at two o'clock to have them released under habeas corpus proceedings.

Hon. Grant Herring is assisting District Attorney Dwyer in the prosecution, while Fred Ikeler and William Elmes represent the defendants.

The shooting which was reported in our last issue took place on July 30, was the outcome of an alleged violation of an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within the borough limits. In the party of infractors, who it is said were shooting mark, was Vide. The two special officers appeared on the scene, and endeavored to suppress the sport. When the trouble ensued.

The hearing today will doubtless attract a large crowd. Many witnesses have been subpoenaed and the fact of who fired the first shot in the affray, the policeman or Italians will in all likelihood be brought out.

Vincent Vide, the Italian, died from the effects of the wound at the Scranton hospital Friday at 6 p. m. o'clock.

The wound which caused his death was the one inflicted on the left side between the neck and shoulder. He has been completely paralyzed since the affair occurred, his spine was injured and he grew continually weaker until the end came Friday evening.

Vide is a man of family having a wife and one daughter living in Italy. He is 29 years of age and has been in this country but a very short time. He was buried at Scranton on Sunday.

Drive to Bilmeyer's Park Was Delightful.

The following gentlemen enjoyed a drive to Bilmeyer's Park, Washingtonville on Sunday: William Gray, Silas Creveling, Spates Weliver, A. D. Shuman, Harry Barkel, C. Miller, J. P. Fritz, Chas. Sands, Wed. Wright, Charles Kitzmiller, Cleat Jones, William Almond, Frank Gensemer, Gus. Tanner and Jacob Rhodes of town and Dr. Cotarell of New York. Returning in the evening the party took supper at the City Hotel, Danville.

Wellington Manning will represent the Winona Fire Company at the State Firemen's Convention to be held at Scranton in October.

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A. Z. SCHOCH, President. Wm. H. HIDLAY, Cashier.

Fifth Street Sewer Now a Certainty

By a Vote of Four to Two, Council Decides to Construct the Drain

Discussions Were Spirited

After many lengthy meetings, lively discussions and seemingly unnecessary parrying, the Bloomsburg Town Council met Monday evening and decided to construct the Fifth Street sewer in accordance with the plans originally submitted by Town Engineer James C. Brown. A twenty-four inch pipe will be laid from the river to the canal. At the canal it will be connected with the twenty-four inch pipe which is now doing service, and a smaller sized pipe will be laid out Fifth street.

The sewer proposition was taken up the first thing, and the discussion opened when President Yetter made known the following communication from the Bloomsburg Land Improvement Company:

Bloomsburg, Pa., Aug. 5th, 1905. To President and Members of Council.

Gentlemen—I beg leave to advise you of the action of our Board of Directors at its meeting August 5th, relative to the proposed Fifth Street sewer, which is as follows to wit: Our company will agree to convey to the Trustees of the Ratti Hospital, or to such persons as they may designate, the corner lot on Fifth street, opposite said hospital, valued at \$825, the lot adjoining thereto, valued at \$750, and one lot on Sixth street, valued at \$300, for the purpose of assisting in raising a fund for the construction of said proposed Fifth Street sewer, upon the following conditions: That the said sewer shall be constructed of sufficient capacity and at sufficient depth to sewer our company's lots on Fifth, Sixth and Six and one-half streets; that the said sewer be built on Fifth street as far east as Park street, and also that satisfactory assurance be given our company that the sewer shall be built on Sixth street by the Town of Bloomsburg as far east as Park street within two years. This proposition to cease and determine, unless accepted within 30 days from the date thereof.

Respectfully yours,

N. U. Funk, Sec'y, Bloomsburg Land Improvement Co.

This proposition, of course, superseded the former one, which had to do with the settlement of law suits, etc.

Mr. Yetter, taking the initiative, said the lots were, in all probability worth \$1800, but what the town most needed was the money, and that unless the hospital agreed to furnish the requisite cash, he would oppose it.

Councilman Chas. W. Runyon voiced his protestation to the Land Improvement Co's. proposition, and stated that the understanding at the last meeting of Council was that nothing would be done with the sewer unless some one would furnish the \$1800. His remarks were decidedly succinct, and he concluded by stating earnestly, "We don't want their lots, we want the money."

Mr. A. Z. Schoch, representing the trustees of the Joseph Ratti Hospital, took the floor at this point and said that they would take the lots and give \$1500 for them. He didn't think that Council should demand more. The sewer, he said, ought to be constructed whether there was a hospital or not, and \$1500, in his opinion, was a good price for the lots, all that they were

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worth. Town Solicitor Grant Herring expressed himself. What he considered the greatest barrier was the assurance wanted by the Land Improvement Co. that 1500 additional feet of sewer would be laid on Sixth street within two years. This, he said, was entirely out of the question. This Council cannot bind a future Council.

Considerable discussion ensued, until Mr. Schoch suggested that Council go back to the sewer as first proposed. It built according to the original plans, the Hospital Committee, he said, would contribute \$500 toward the cost. This struck Council favorably and Mr. Giger offered a resolution that if the parties interested contribute \$500 when needed, the Town will construct the sewer in accordance with the plans submitted by the Town Engineer.

Mr. Deily gave the resolution a second, and upon roll call Giger, Deily, Miffin and Yetter voted aye, and Runyon and Rhoades no.

As the sewer will necessitate the expenditure of more than \$1000, in which case the approval of the Court of Quarter Sessions is necessary. President upon motion was authorized to procure said approval.

In the matter of the Millville-Bloomsburg Trolley, touching the use of certain streets for the laying of its tracks, it was decided that no tracks should be laid on Main, East, Fifth or Market streets. Mr. Yetter is of the opinion that arrangements can be made with the Columbia & Montour Co. to land passengers at Market Square, and he appointed a committee to investigate and make a report.

A motion by Rhoades that the Town purchase 500 feet of fire hose precipitated a somewhat unexpected situation, and the ensuing few minutes were full of action and provoked no little merriment among the spectators. The committee recommended the purchase of Eureka hose at 90 cents per foot, or \$450 for the amount needed, but Mr. Runyon had a sample of Titan hose guaranteed to stand a pressure of 500 pounds, and to last for five years, and which, he argued, was just as good as the Eureka, that could be bought at 63 cents a foot, of \$315 for the 500 feet. The discussion which followed was decidedly animated and highly amusing. Mr. Runyon would not stand for any opposition to his views on the matter, and when Chief Lewis attempted to explain the merits of the Eureka hose he was caustically told to go and sit down and wait till Council asked him for advice. This terminated the hose matter, and no action was taken.

Mr. Rhoades complained of the negligence on the part of the Street Commissioner, in the way of reports. By failing to render such reports he is not complying with his contract. The bills were paid and the meeting adjourned.

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