

The Centre Reporter.

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETS.

Bouquets Hurled by Members Made the Temperature of the Chamber Mid-Summer Like.

The family row in the council chamber during the July meeting augurs better conditions. Heretofore matters ran too smoothly for the welfare of the taxpayers. Any old thing went, but it appears, there may be a turning for the better—for the better of the tax paying citizens, if not for the safety of reckless orders by individual councilmen.

No one suspected there was dynamite in the room when the august body began business, the members present being Daup, Bradford, Weber, Goodhart and Smith. Everything went along smoothly until a report of the street committee was asked for, and the expenditures for the repairing and oiling was presented. A bit of calculating put the expenditures for oiling and repairing the street (not including the work on the diamond done several months ago) at the neat sum of \$725. The minutes show that all the expenditure, except oiling, was done without warrant. Since the January meeting the only expenditure ordered on the streets was the repairing of the mountain road, and at a subsequent meeting it was reported that the work had been done, so that all the expenditures of the \$725 was done without orders, except so much as applied to oiling. The chairman of the street committee was not present, but he was quoted as having said that he had no knowledge of the transaction, and the same was reported as to a second member of the committee. The member of the committee present assumed responsibility for having ordered the third car load of stone, but knew nothing of the first, second or fourth cars of stone used.

It was charged, straight from the shoulder, that fifty cents more per ton was paid for the stone than they could have been purchased for from E. C. Wagner at his plant at Centre Hall. It developed that Mr. Wagner had been entirely ignored, and was not asked to name a price for his commodity. It was justly contended that Mr. Wagner should have been considered in the deal, and especially so since he is a taxpayer in the borough and is conducting one of the small home industries.

Another of the numerous charges was that the bill presented for hauling the barrels of oil was just about double that formerly paid Wm. McClenahan, the drayman, for the same service. It was also stated that Mr. McClenahan had not been asked to name a figure, although he did this work in a satisfactory manner previously and, as was stated, for about one-half the amount per barrel named in the bill then before the body.

Complaint was also made that there had been mismanagement in the method employed in hauling the crushed stone, and that there was consequently too much idleness on the part of the workmen. The councilmen all agreed, when it was put up to them by Mr. Weber, that they would not have performed the work in the same way had they been paying the bills from their own pockets.

The council made a great mistake in passing the bills. There is no doubt of the correctness of the charges made before the body—it was only a question of who was responsible for the mismanagement and the expenditures of several hundred dollars without warrant. The responsibility could easily have been fixed. For many years the taxpayers of Centre Hall have been paying bills which individual councilmen and understrappers incurred without the consent of the body, and it is now about time the thing is halted. Precocious councilmen ought to be taught a lesson.

A stenographic report of this particular council meeting would make an interesting reading, and would prove to the public that the criticisms offered by this paper in the past were justifiable and mild. As was pointed out heretofore much of the trouble and unnecessary expense to the borough has been the result of curi-stone legislation on the part of the councilmen. The greater part of the business was done in a haphazard manner, and all bills paid without question—the taxpayer robbed.

These brief comments may cause some of the councilmen to see the other side of the street as the writer passes them by, while it is the desire of the Reporter that the councilmen look down to their feet, an occasional glance to which does all men good.

Centre County Picnic.

The Centre county picnic will be held Saturday, July 29th, in Spigelmeier's woods, east of Hartleton, Union county. The public is cordially invited to attend. Everybody come and help swell the crowd. Don't forget the date.

—Committee.

LARGE BARN ON MICHAEL SPICHER FARM DESTROYED BY LIGHTNING.

Flames Consumed Fifty Tons of New Hay.—All Live Stock, Except 101 Chickens, Saved—Robert Glasgow, Tenant, as Well as Landlord, Carried Insurance.

During a heavy downpour of rain, accompanied by heavy thunder and sharp flashes of lightning, last Wednesday afternoon, the large barn on the Michael Spicher farm, two miles west of Centre Hall, on the Earllytown road, and tenanted by Robert Glasgow, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. All the stock was saved, but 101 chickens which were on the barn floor were consumed. All the implements, the greater part of the summer's hay crop, consisting of fifty tons, much grain and seed, went up in the flames.

It was just 5:50 o'clock p. m., when the crash came. The Glasgow family was at supper while the hired man, William O. Breen, was in the barn taking the gears off his team. The shock floored Mr. Breen and his horses but they were up in an instant. Mr. Glasgow together with Elmer Stump left the house after having felt certain that the lightning struck nearby, but were unable to see any visible signs as they approached the barn. Mr. Stump expressed the thought that it was a "cold" stroke, but in coming closer to the barn Mr. Glasgow observed a small trail of smoke issuing from under the roof at the west end of the barn where fifty tons of new hay were stored, and an instant later there was a sudden spread of flames reaching from one end of the barn to the other. The three men, assisted by Mr. Glasgow's son, Fred, at once made haste to untie the ten head of horses and lead them to a place of safety. When Mr. Glasgow made his second trip to the barn to get the last horse the fire was already down in the horse stalls. Fortunately the cows were in the barnyard and it was an easy matter to turn them into the field. Six shoats were also saved as well as all the horse gear. Everything else was consumed. The landlord's share of last year's oats crop—410 bushels—was still in the barn and was destroyed. Mr. Glasgow's loss was on the hay, a lot of corn and oats, fifty bushels of wheat, sixteen bushels of clover seed, 200 lbs. of timothy seed, a ton of middlings, 2 drills, a sulky plow, new wagon, corn planter, 2 bob sleds, Oliver chilled plow, brand new set of hay ladders, and other articles.

The barn, a structure 80x50 feet, was rebuilt ten years ago and was in fine condition. Mr. Spicher carried insurance in the Centre Hall company to the amount of \$1750, and only a week ago had renewed his policy. Mr. Glasgow had his implements insured for \$400 and his hay and grain to the extent of \$900, also in the local company. Consequently the financial loss to either man is not so great. The inconvenience to Mr. Glasgow at this time of the year, however, is incalculable. With the coming harvest and no cover for his grain he will be obliged to thresh in the field. A shed standing close to the barn was saved by keeping it continually wet and it is there that the ten head of horses are being sheltered.

Rebuilding will begin as soon as it is possible to do so. The barn will very likely be located on another site, at a point close to the Earllytown road. The telephone and automobile worked hard in hand and in twenty minutes following the striking of the barn, a score of automobiles carrying farmers from miles around, were on the scene, but the fire burned with such fierceness that the superstructure had already fallen and the only thing left to be done was to exert effort in saving the large shed that stood within twenty feet of the barn. A kindly wind was blowing from the southwest, else it would have been a difficult matter to have prevented a similar fate befall the house.

Wilson Signs Good Roads Bill.

President Wilson, last week, signed the Good Roads Bill, authorizing the expenditure of \$35,000,000 in five years by the Federal Government on condition that states expend amount similar to those apportioned to them. The signing was witnessed by members of the Senate and House and representatives of farmers' organizations.

Five Cases of Diphtheria.

Five cases of diphtheria, all in one family, exist at Ingleby, a settlement below Coburn. Mrs. John Barker and her four children are down with the disease. A few months ago Mr. Barker and the children were similarly afflicted.

The United Evangelical Sunday-schools of Lock Haven and Bellefonte held their annual picnic at Hecla Park last Thursday. The association was formed last year and this year's outing was the largest ever attempted by this school.

ESCAPED PRISONERS TAKEN.

Two Convicts Leave New Penitentiary at Rockview Late Sunday Night and are Retaken at Beech Creek Trussle.

Sunday night at 10:30 o'clock two prisoners escaped from the penitentiary at Rockview and after a freedom of twenty-four hours were captured by two officers connected with the penitentiary, at the Beech Creek trussle. The convicts offered no resistance and were lodged in the county jail to await trial at the next term of court. They will very likely be returned to Pittsburgh, and as is the case with jail breakers, will be given a heavy sentence in addition to being required to renew their original sentence.

One of the prisoners is George Styers, of Mill Hall, who robbed the home of I. Beck, in Porter township, and was sentenced at the January term of court to serve not more than two nor less than one year in the Western penitentiary.

The other prisoner is David Smith, who was sent up from Clearfield county.

Had Party for Husband's 77th Birthday.

Mrs. Perry McKinney of Potters Mills, entertained a number of her friends and relatives at a dinner on Sunday, to celebrate her husband's 77th birthday anniversary.

Never before did the eye behold a table more laden with good things to eat. A birthday cake, baked by the hostess, bearing the age of the veteran, helped to decorate the table as did large bouquets of flowers which were the gifts of friends. Mr. McKinney received many useful gifts.

Those present were the following: Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Maxwell, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. McKinney, Raymond McKinney, Grace McKinney, William McKinney, Frank McKinney, of Altoona; Frank V. Goodhart, Mrs. Mary Goodhart, Miss Sadie McKinney, Pearl McKinney, Miss Lizzie Yeager, of Centre Hall; Charles Wolfe, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Stover, and son John, of Aaronsburg; Mr. and Mrs. William Bower, Misses Grace and Lena Bower, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dasher and baby, Wilbur Dasher, Mr. and Mrs. William McKinney, Perry, Katie, Mary, Freds, Clayton, George and Robert McKinney, Mrs. Immel, Mrs. John Wagner, Miss Sarah Landis, of Potters Mills.

Lightning Struck Milkmaids.

Mr. Albert Barger and Mrs. Ardrene Herman, daughters of Alvin Stump, west of Centre Hall, were stunned by a sharp flash of lightning Thursday afternoon while in the act of milking cows in the barn and both were thrown to the ground, as well as the cows. The stroke was the same one which struck the David Glasgow barn, a short distance away, and which was saved because of lightning rods on the building.

Married Fifty Years.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Zeigler, of Millheim, quietly observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary last Tuesday a week ago.

LOCALS.

James E. Harter, of Coburn, on his way home from a business trip to Bellefonte, Monday afternoon, made a brief call on the Reporter.

Messrs. Clymer McClenahan, "Ted" Wagner and Leroy Puff have found employment with the Standard Steel Works at Burnham.

Master John Ocker, adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ocker of Lewisburg, returned home on Tuesday after spending two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Roseman.

Mrs. D. C. Bohn is steadily improving from her serious injuries sustained when she fell from a cherry tree a week ago. On Monday she was able to be on her feet for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stover and two children, Gerald and Virginia, of Altoona, from Saturday until Monday were guests of the former's sisters, Mrs. John H. Durst and Mrs. William McClenahan.

Mrs. Edward Glaxtmer is recovering from a serious operation performed Saturday morning by Dr. H. H. Longwell at the home of the lady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. I. Hartley, who recently moved here from Spring Mills.

J. Frank Smith, former register of Centre county, who now holds a position with Dusenbower & Son, wholesale grocers, recently had his territory changed so that it now includes Penns Valley. Last week he visited the merchants in this, his former home town.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gooley and little daughter, Virginia M., of Chicago, Illinois, arrived at the home of Mrs. Gooley's grandfather, W. W. Spangler, beginning of the week, and will remain for a short time. Mrs. Gooley will be better known as Miss Miriam Spangler, who claims Penns Valley as her native home.

MACHINE GUN TROOP WORKING TO BE TAKEN INTO SERVICE.

Are Now Being Given Two Weeks Training at Housburg by U. S. Cavalry Officer, After Which They Will be Mustered Into Service.

The Volunteer Machine Gun Troop, composed chiefly of Housburg and State College men, on Saturday commenced a two weeks' training at Housburg, following an order from Adjutant General Stewart. The troop since its organization has been eager to be recognized by the federal government. They are now under the direction of Lieutenant Frank Rose, of the 10th U. S. Cavalry, who will instruct them particularly in horsemanship. As soon as they are pronounced efficient by Lieutenant Rose, the troop will be inspected by U. S. army officers and mustered into service. They will receive their arms and other equipment at Mt. Gretna. The troop will become the machine gun troop of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry, of which Troop L of Bellefonte is part.

The troop must be brought up to peace strength, seventy-four men, including officers. A score of recruits have joined the troop the past week. Any one wishing to become a member can do so at the camp at Housburg.

The three-day camp at Housburg, ending July 4, worked wonders with the troop. When they returned to State College they rode their horses in true military style, responded to commands promptly and with a surprising degree of efficiency. The horses gave little heed to the banging of firecrackers and blare of horns. Judging from this, there is no doubt that at the end of the two weeks Lieutenant Rose will be able to report the troop ready to be mustered into the service.

Services were held at the camp Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. There was special music furnished by people from State College and teachers attending the Summer Session.

Hay Making Accidents.

J. William Meyer, living north of town, was thrown from a load of hay Wednesday evening of last week and had one rib snapped off, besides tearing two others loose. He and Henry E. Homan were bringing in the last load for the day for D. W. Bradford, along the railroad, west of town, and in driving along a hillside, the wagon upset, men, hay, ladders and all falling off. Mr. Homan jumped twenty feet and escaped injury while Mr. Meyer went with the hay and was thrown through a wire fence along the right-of-way.

While hauling a load of hay to the barn on the farm occupied by Sparr Wert, near Aaronsburg, last Thursday a week ago, the wagon upset and three of the haymakers were thrown to the ground along with the hay. Guy Bohn, one of the latter, landed on one of the wheels of the wagon and fractured several ribs.

Pleasant Gap Defeats Local Club.

Inability to hit the ball caused defeat for the local baseball club at Pleasant Gap, Saturday afternoon. The score was 6 to 2. Because of the injury to Bradford, the local pitcher, it was necessary to secure the services of Samuel Ross, the Linden Hall boxman. He pitched a creditable game but his support was not up to standard. Loss, for Pleasant Gap, after a short absence from home, returned to the mound and pitched an air tight game, allowing the visitors only three hits. The game was marked by a number of very close plays in which Centre Hall suffered. Umpire Wolfe had his troubles with the visitors who at times were vociferous in their demands for a square deal.

Hunting Licenses Ready.

County Treasurer David Chambers recently received from Harrisburg 4000 hunters' licenses which are ready to be issued to the hunters of Centre county. Judge H. C. Quigley secured license-number one.

Mr. Chambers wishes to call attention to those who apply for licenses through the mail, that money to cover postage for the mailing of the license and tag must accompany the dollar or the same will not be mailed to the applicant.

Last year there were over 4000 licenses issued in Centre county.

Killed By Bolt of Lightning.

Mr. William Mason, of Clearfield, was instantly killed and three others—her husband and two small sons—were severely shocked when a bolt of lightning struck a barn in which they had sought shelter during an electrical storm, last Thursday evening. The barn was destroyed, entailing a loss of \$2,000.

They Thank Those Who Gave Help.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glasgow take this means to thank their many friends who rendered assistance at the time of the fire which destroyed the barn on the farm on which they live.

Miss Laura Runkle Speaks With Auto.

The handsome new Chalmers car owned by Landlord J. W. Runkle upset in a trip from the railroad station Friday afternoon. The wind shield was broken, the right front wheel completely smashed and two fenders dinged. The accident happened when Miss Laura Runkle, who was at the wheel, lost control of the car as she raised her hand to her hat to prevent its flying from her head.

Miss Runkle had gone to the station to await the arrival of the east bound passenger train to receive Miss Bernice Knauchy, of near State College, to be her guest. Mrs. Jerry Smith and little niece, Madeline Smith, who were also at the depot, were asked by Miss Runkle to ride uptown. Upon approaching the home of D. J. Meyer the wind suddenly lifted Miss Runkle's hat from her head and in taking her hand from the wheel to catch it the car swerved off to the left of the road and for two hundred feet followed a zig-zag course. Upon reaching the crossing at the Evangelical church the car turned sharply to the left and making a complete right-about turn fell over on its side into a gutter two feet below the roadbed. The occupants were all thrown out, landing on a stretch of soft earth. Miss Knauchy was hurled over the head of Miss Runkle while Mrs. Smith alighted on the top of her head, a substantially constructed hat breaking the force of the fall. Fortunately none of the ladies were hurt in the slightest degree.

Miss Runkle was running the car at a good rate of speed, according to eye witnesses who observed the entire proceedings.

Mr. Runkle at once called the Lee Motor Car Co., at Spring Mills, and a new wheel was produced and the car started uptown under its own power.

Adam Felty Dies at 80 Years.

Death removed one of Housburg's highly esteemed aged residents Friday morning at two o'clock when Adam Felty was summoned home. For some time he had been in failing health, owing to his advanced age, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George Shugarts. His age was almost eighty years. Funeral services were held at his daughter's home Monday morning at ten o'clock and burial made at Housburg, Rev. G. L. Courtney, the Lutheran minister, of which faith the deceased was a devout believer, officiating.

Mr. Felty in former years was a farmer and was engaged in that pursuit practically all his life. He first farmed at Shiloh and later on the Frank McFarlane farm on the Branch. He was a thoroughly Christian gentleman, one whose life is held up as an example to the younger generation. Mr. Felty was twice married, both wives having preceded him in death. To the first union one daughter—Mrs. L. C. Passmore, of Harrisburg—survives. The following children survive to the second union: Mrs. George Shugarts, of Housburg; Mrs. Harry Shugarts, of Bellefonte; Mrs. E. Hess, of Shingletown; J. B. Felty, of Altoona; J. A. Felty, of New Castle; Mrs. C. T. House, of Selingsgrove. No brothers or sisters survive.

County Superintendents Met at State College.

Thirty-three superintendents from as many counties in the state met in a three days' conference at State College, beginning on Saturday, to discuss problems affecting the public school code of the State, and their recommendations will be submitted to the State Board of Education.

Among the vital questions taken up by the superintendents are: A new survey and report on the consolidation of schools in this State; legislation needed to aid in consolidation; State aid for a higher minimum salary; employment of district supervisors; and improvement of technical equipment of the normal graduates.

Boy Killed in Harvest Field.

Falling from the back of a rearing horse in the harvest field of his father's farm, Jacob Byler, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Byler, of near Redeville, met a horrible death under the cutter bar of a self binder machine Friday afternoon. The boy's skull was crushed and he was severely gashed upon the face and head, the frightful wounds resulting in death a half hour after the mishap.

Murderer Granted Respite.

A stay in execution was granted Harry E. Filler, a Westmoreland county murderer, by Governor Brumbaugh, on Saturday. The man was to have gone to the electric chair in the new death home at Rockview on Monday. The stay was granted in order that the pardon board may take action in the case.

July 31st marks the close of the trout season. Interest in the game has long since waned.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Miss Anna Hay's, of Watsontown, is spending a week with her uncle, J. T. Potter.

Master Harold Breen is spending a few weeks with his uncle, Wittmer E. Lee, at Egg Hill.

The picnic and festival held by the Egg Hill Sunday-school, on Saturday, resulted in fifty dollars being received.

Miss Anna Stover, a nurse at the State Sanitarium at Cresson, spent a week with her sister, Mrs. William McClenahan, in this place.

Mrs. (Dr.) W. E. Park, of New Milford, returned to her home on Tuesday after a week's visit with her father, Capt. G. M. Boal, and sister, Mrs. D. A. Boozor.

Miss Alice Rearick, youngest daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Rearick, of Williamsburg, spent Sunday at the J. S. Rowe home. Miss Rearick is attending the summer session for teachers at State College.

D. Milton Bradford, head clerk in the local railroad station, is taking a two weeks' vacation. For a part of this week he looked after the management of the Old Fort hotel, during the absence of his father-in-law, landlord Maynard Meeker.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Pennington and two daughters and Miss Emma Smith autoed to Belleville on last Wednesday where they attended the wedding of Charles Smith and Miss Stella Kennedy, the groom being a brother of the ladies mentioned above.

The early part of the haymaking season just past was ideal as to character of weather, but the latter portion was rather wet. Much of the hay crop was damaged to some extent that was on and after Tuesday, 11th inst. The grass was first class on nearly all farms.

The excursionists to Tolchester Beach, on Sunday, from this place were, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Kuar and son Bruce, Maynard Meeker and daughter, Miss Maud Meeker. The ladies are spending a few weeks with their sister, Mrs. Hippie, in Baltimore.

John Winkleblech, of Lewisburg, who several weeks ago held aluminum demonstrations in town, last week delivered his orders. He is selling "Wear-Ever" were during the summer months to acquire funds for making possible an education in a theological seminary.

Milton Yeatter, a farmer residing near Painterville, Milford county, was seriously injured when attacked by an enraged bull in his stable one day last week. The animal raised on its hind feet and with a bellow dropped upon his neck and shoulders bearing him to the floor unconscious where he would have been trampled to death had it not been for attendants who drove the bull away.

Bellefonte has just discovered and broken up a gang of young thieves ranging in age from 15 to 19 years. They had done considerable mischief, including a recent robbery in the Danenbower & Son wholesale grocery where tobacco, cigarettes, candy, etc., were taken, before they were discovered, a missing button from the coat of one of the number furnishing a clue to his identity. He implicated five other boys and they are now all being held for court.

A Tyrone auto party deviated from their course while on a pleasure trip Sunday and upon making inquiry at the local gas station as to the name of the town were surprised to learn that they had traveled in a circle. The car had passed Old Fort and at Lemont took the state road, intending to make the run home by way of Bellefonte. The error was made at Pleasant Gap when it turned to the right brought them to Centre Hall, almost completing the circle.

At the sale of the household goods of the late Henry Brown, held in Millheim on Saturday, an old chest bearing the date of 1797, together with the name of George Swartz as the maker, was sold. A coincidence in the sale was the purchase of the old relic by a party of autoists from Cleveland, Ohio, by the name of Swartz, who happened to pass thru the town while the sale was in progress and stopped when a number of old relics were put up by the auctioneer. The chest, a spinning wheel and several other antiques were purchased by the party and it was not until some time later when a thorough examination of the articles was made that the name of George Swartz was discovered on the inside of the old chest. A member of the party immediately recognized the name as that of a great great grandparent, and the article which was purchased for a few dollars a short time before at once increased in value far beyond the purchase price.