

# The Centre Reporter.

VOL. XC.

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NO. 36

## NO POLITICS IN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, SAYS O'NEIL.

New Commissioner Will Conduct Bureau for Business Alone.—Is Familiar With Road Work.

Denny O'Neil, newly appointed state highway commissioner, last week gave out the following statement:

"The position of highway commissioner came to me unolicited, and has no strings attached. I have accepted the same with the understanding that I am to have full control. I appreciate the confidence of Governor Brumbaugh in naming me for this important position, and fully realize how difficult it will be to make good and meet the demands for roads during these abnormal times, when both labor and material are scarce and high.

"Only the most important new work should be attempted at this time, but it would be false economy not to maintain the roads now in existence. The seven years' experience I had as commissioner of Allegheny county in constructing roads have made me familiar with the work.

### TO SOLVE ROAD PROBLEM.

"The opportunity to solve this big problem and at the same time place the road department on a strictly business basis as well as render service to the people, are my reasons for assuming so difficult a task at this time.

"The road department will not be run as a political machine and will be not dominated by politicians. Efficiency, honesty and service will be the sole test of merit and no employee will be removed who measures up to the above standard; but no employee will be retained who is not efficient and who fails to render a fair return to the state for his salary, it will make no difference how great his political influence is or who his political backers are."

Declaring that the value of the Lincoln highway from Pittsburgh east is decreased by the bad condition of the Pittsburgh-Cleveland road, Commissioner O'Neil announced that one of the first roads to which the attention of the department will be given will be that between Pittsburgh and Cleveland. The Ohio highway commission will be asked to co-operate with the Pennsylvania commission to remove what is said to be the last remaining bad section of road between Philadelphia and Cleveland. Other state roads will also receive immediate attention, the new commissioner announced.

### College Tests Show Wheat Strains Fall Below Customs.

It is unwise to pay an excessive price for a new wheat variety just because it is glowingly advertised by the seed firm introducing it, warns the Pennsylvania State College school of agriculture. For example, it is claimed by seed firms that two varieties, *Marvone* and *Miracle*, have wonderful tillering capacity, so that a peck, or at most a half bushel, is sufficient seed to the acre.

Both of these varieties have been tested for yield at the Pennsylvania State College, as well as at the Ohio and Virginia experimenting stations, when grown at varying rates per acre. Both give the best yields when sown at the rate of one-and-a-half or two bushels per acre. They are much like *Fuertes* and may be strains of this variety.

### The White Leghorn Becoming the Pennsylvania Farm Chicken.

Observers for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture report that in the last two years the White Leghorn has so gained in numbers that today it outnumbered all other chickens in the State.

Years ago the American Dominique led; then for many years the Barred Rock led; then the Rhode Island Red; this latter in the race of popularity; now the White Leghorn apparently leads.

Part of this new development lies in the premium white-shelled eggs are fetching, but a bigger factor has been that the White Leghorn is universally used on the regular poultry or egg farms and these farms usually having a "brooder" incubator and selling day-old chicks, such chicks were readily available and hence were used.

Probably if Rock or Red chicks had been so readily available this change to White Leghorns would not have occurred.

As an indication of the tremendous number of White Leghorn eggs are produced in this State, New York Producers now quote eggs thus "Pennsylvania and nearby whites fancy."

The White Leghorn is built for egg production, has had more breeding and selection spent on it for this special purpose than probably all other breeds put together and perhaps this turn to popularity was inevitable.

## EXPLOSION KILLS 3 BOYS.

Old Powder House at Salona Scene of Accident.—Boys Believed to Have Struck Match to Light Cigarettes.

By the explosion of several kegs of powder in an abandoned magazine of the Bellefonte Lime and Stone Company at Salona, Clinton county, on Saturday, three boys lost their lives. The dead were:

William Snyder, eleven years, youngest son of ex-County Superintendent W. A. Snyder, cashier of the Mill Hall bank.

Harry Rockey, twelve years, Charles Rockey, ten years, sons of Daniel Rockey, formerly of Sugar Valley.

Harry Rockey was killed almost instantly. The Snyder boy and Charles Rockey died in the local hospital Saturday afternoon. The boys left their homes in the morning, and, wandering toward the Central Railroad station, entered the old powder house. A short time later an explosion was heard and a sheet of flame, said to be fifty feet high, shot up from the building, while one side and a portion of the roof were blown away.

The men at the Thompson saw mill, a short distance away, ran to the scene of the explosion and removed the three boys. Harry Rockey was already dead. Those yet living were placed in the automobile of Clinton Thompson and hurried to the Lock Haven hospital.

It is believed that one or more kegs of powder were in the building and that the boys struck matches, possibly with the intention of smoking, when the powder ignited and the explosion followed. This is only conjecture and the exact cause of the explosion will never be known.

### Looking for Heirs of Stormstown Founder.

If there are living any descendants of David Storms, who founded the village of Stormstown, who can trace their ancestry back to David Storms, or who are reasonably sure they could, would they kindly write to the undersigned address for further information. The writer is a distant relative and is extremely anxious to help them trace their ancestry back a couple generations and give them valuable history belonging to their family. Understand we are not going to ask a single penny of your money for any service we may do, but we are wishing to give you a surprise in more ways than one, should it be possible that there are none of the Storms descendants living in the vicinity, and some old neighbor or friend knows their whereabouts, would they kindly write an address on a card and send it to us at once. It will be doing those descendants a greater favor than you can ever realize.

Very truly yours,  
MRS. MARY B. K. BEST,  
Greensburg, Pa., R. 2.

### War Veterans' Picnic.

The Centre County Veteran Club will hold their 48th annual picnic in the grove at Pine Grove Mills on Saturday, September 22nd, all day. All old soldiers are invited to attend whether members or not. The affair will be of the basket picnic order, but all old soldiers wearing a badge will be served dinner free. Prominent speakers will be present. The Citizens band will furnish the music.

### State to Pay Normal School Mortgages.

Arrangements are being made for the payment of \$825,000 by the state, to satisfy mortgages of the State Normal schools to which the Commonwealth has taken title in the last few years. The total debt is about \$704,000 and the Legislature appropriated enough money to get rid of half of it. The state had a substantial equity in the properties before assuming control.

### Bumper War-Garden Crops.

That the war-garden propaganda so tirelessly conducted by food economists throughout the country has resulted in increased crops is borne out by tentative surveys which have already been made in a number of places, according to experts at the Pennsylvania State College. They report on lots not previously used for garden crops at State College.

There were 128 lots planted in potatoes, seven in beans, thirty-five in sweet corn, six lots in cabbage and seven in mixed plantings. The estimated yields of these lots are: 3760 bushels of potatoes, thirty bushels beans (balled), 6900 dozen ears of sweet corn and fifteen tons of cabbage. At \$1.50 a bushel for potatoes \$9 a bushel for beans, twenty cents a dozen for sweet corn and 120 a ton for cabbage and valuing the mixed plants at \$200, the total value of these crops is estimated at \$7890.

This survey represented no home gardens nor land that has been used for gardens in previous years.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OPENS.

22 Boys Enrolled in Agricultural Department and 23 Girls in Home Making.

The Gregg Township Vocational School located at Spring Mills opened September 3 with a surprisingly large attendance. Twenty-two boys enrolled in the agriculture department and twenty-three girls are taking the home making course. Considering that school opened quite early and that there is a great scarcity of labor on the farms, this is a very good beginning. Other boys and girls have signified their intention of starting after the fall work is done. The enrollment is much greater than was anticipated and sufficient accommodations had not been provided in the shops, laboratory, and sewing rooms. In order to take care of the pupils properly until more accommodations can be provided, both boys' and girls' classes have been divided into two sections.

The work during the first week has been going along very nicely and the pupils showed an unusual amount of interest, in spite of the fact that all of the equipment and supplies have not arrived. In order to meet this condition the regular schedule was modified somewhat, temporarily. A number of the pupils are graduates of third grade high school, who wish to complete the work of a first class high school. It will require such pupils two years to do this. The school will welcome new pupils at any time for first, second, third or fourth year work. Any pupils interested should see or communicate with the Director of the Vocational School, W. Vernon Godshall, or the department supervisor, Miss N. C. Hunter, for the girls, and W. W. Reitz for the boys.

The school will take off Wednesday and Thursday of this week in order that the boys may take part in the stock-judging contest which is being put on at the Granger's Encampment by State College and the county Farm Bureau.

### They Represent Centre Co.'s Quota.

The following is a complete list of the young men who will furnish Centre county's quota in the new army. Their names have been certified to the department.

- Boyd L. Friday, Ocoela Mills
- Thomas McNish, Moshannon.
- John Kosko, Clarence.
- John Nelson, Munson.
- Frank Poli, Clarence.
- Harry A. Watson, Milesburg.
- Thomas A. Richard, Port Matilda.
- Maimes T. Boves, Howard.
- Jacob R. Lee, Spring Mills.
- Claud L. Whitehill, Oak Hall.
- Armine E. Shirk, State College.
- Edwin A. Lebkicher, Snow Shoe.
- James R. Garman, Ocoela Mills.
- Ralph L. R. Chau, Centre Hall.
- George A. Crawford, Centre Hall.
- Gioranni Pezzan.
- Galvin R. Cobble, Linden Hall.
- William R. Lytle, Monument.
- Michael Sedick, Clarence.
- Clifford A. Heltman, Hubersburg.
- Arthur F. Parker, Philipsburg.
- Earl C. Hoiland, Fleming.
- John E. Smith, Centre Hall.
- Alfred E. Emenhizer.
- Herman B. Eves, Warriorsmark.
- Lloyd T. Woomer, Howard.
- Gilbert J. Shope, Howard.
- A. A. Dunlap, Howard.
- Jacob F. Musick, Coburn.
- Paul Jerome Tate, State College.
- Otto S. Nowatka, Munson.
- Alfred Harrison Walker, Lemont.
- Harold H. Rowland, Philipsburg.
- Joseph L. Bryan, Milesburg.
- Samuel B. Barnhart, Curtin.
- John Girodi.
- John A. Kaspick, Ocoela Mills.
- Elmer M. Watkins, Orviston.
- Joseph L. Lingle, Philipsburg.
- Harrison N. Crain, Port Matilda.
- Kiernan Rigley, Philipsburg.
- Steve JaRicie, Bellefonte.
- Nick Deanick, Pleasant Gap.
- Arthur M. Kerlin, Moshannon.
- James Moody, Clarence.
- Harris Geo. Bechdel, Blanchard.
- Jacob Fredman, Clarence.
- Ellis B. Hazard, Clarence.
- Ernest F. Bathgate, Lemont.
- William M. McGowan, Snow Shoe.
- William Marshall, Bellefonte.
- Ammon G. Zimmerman, Snow Shoe.
- Forrest G. Rodgers, Nittany.
- William A. Marshall, Bellefonte.
- Samuel Rata, Munson.
- Charles A. Shearer, Bellefonte.
- Thomas Hurley, Philipsburg.
- Charles Green, Ocoela Mills.
- Ignatz Benzli, Bellefonte.
- Harold Sawtelle, Philipsburg.
- Leroy B. Love, Woolrich.
- John C. Hookman, Zion.
- George Gedratia, Ocoela Mills.
- Charles Ernest Snyder, Philipsburg.
- Andy Koblishik, Clarence.
- Guy C. Given, State College.
- John Henry Weaver, Bellefonte, R. D.
- Nell Shaw, Snow Shoe.
- Peter Lyons, Bellefonte.

(Continued on foot of next column.)

## HOG CHOLERA NEARBY.

31 Hogs Have Died in Clinton County and the Disease Has Reappeared in Mifflin County.

Up to the present time 31 hogs have died in Allison township and Flemington, Clinton county, of hog cholera, and about 14 that have contracted the disease will likely die.

The State Livestock board has a number of experts there dealing with the situation and working with Dr. H. J. S. Weiskel in an effort to stamp out the disease. About 20 hogs in the infected section which have not as yet exhibited signs of having the disease have been inoculated, and similar preventive treatment will be given to other hogs.

The death of the hogs, coming only about two months before butchering time, is a severe loss to those who have been counting on a good supply of pork, sausage, lard, etc., after feeding the animals since early spring.

Hog cholera has reappeared in Mifflin county and is at its worst in the Burnham district. The authorities are fighting hard to check its spread.

### Farmers' Institute Dates.

The dates for holding Farmer's Institutes in Centre county the coming winter, have been announced by the state department of agriculture. They are: Port Matilda, February 8 and 9; Centre Hall, February 11 and 12; Spring Mills, February 13 and 14. The department announces that the institutes are to be made training schools in the art of production to a greater degree than ever before.

### Ministry.

The following poem under the above caption appeared in the Cleveland (O.) Press, and is the product of Mrs. Florence H. Johns, of Cleveland, who when a girl was in Centre Hall for nearly a year engaged in teaching music. She is now connected with the First Friends church in Cleveland, in the capacity of a "visitor". The poem is quite timely, due in verse and sentiment.

To whom do you minister—  
The poor and distressed?  
Or do you do good  
To those you love best?  
To those who can give you  
As much in return?  
This is surely not found  
In the Master's concern.  
"The poor shall ye visit,"  
The Master has said;  
"The widow, the fatherless—  
Be sure they are fed."  
And even the stranger  
The Lord looks upon  
With a smiling compassion  
And never a frown.  
But we, like the Levites,  
Cross over the street,  
To spare our fine feelings—  
Friends only to greet.  
There are lonely hearts, neighbor,  
So lonely and sad!  
If you put forth the effort  
You could surely make glad.  
To whom do you minister—  
The poor and distressed?  
Or do you do good  
To those you love best?

F. H. J.

(Continued from previous column.)

- Ellery Merrill Miller, Howard, R. F. D.
- Richard Wm. Lucas, Howard.
- Charles F. Arney, Aaronsburg.
- John Bazosky, Philipsburg.
- Vinton Ray Schenck, Howard.
- John Whiteman, Centre Hall.
- Alton Paul Nelson, Philipsburg.
- Elmer Hoy Corman, Spring Mills.
- Robert Lytle, Philipsburg.
- William John Bowen, Bellefonte.
- Leslie J. Deitrich, Hubersburg.
- Allen Robert Wingard, Coburn.
- Lewis Alfred Crader, State College.
- Harold A. Thompson, Port Matilda.
- Harry Elliot Cowher, Philipsburg.
- Sam Tenalis, Bellefonte.
- Guy C. Askey, Philipsburg.
- Thomas Wm. Johnson, Bellefonte.
- John Coldren Lingle, Spring Mills.
- William Earl A. Lyon, Lemont.
- James Nelson Dayer, Philipsburg.
- John Kiminski, Powlton.
- Frank Torrence Hess, Philipsburg.
- James Slaven, Orviston.
- Edwards Oscar Lyons, Bellefonte.
- Sylvester Rene Walk, Port Matilda.
- Harry A. Holderman, Bellefonte.
- John Benzli, Bellefonte.
- Fred D. Reitz, Boalsburg.
- George F. Shaver, Martha.
- Frank H. Cadwallader, Philipsburg.
- Otto Edgar Spicer, State College.
- Victor Newton Holt, Howard.
- Jerome McCleary Ailman, State College.
- Otto F. Corman, Bellefonte.
- Douglas F. Brooks Pleasant Gap.
- Frank James Miller, Philipsburg.
- Carl Max Foust, Port Matilda.
- Kiner Curtis McClure, Nittany.
- J. Paul Rumberger, Bellefonte, R. F. D.
- John Robert Burns, Snow Shoe.
- Frank David Pooman, Orviston.
- Edin Lawick, Ocoela Mills, R. F. D.
- Basil J. F. Mott, Bellefonte.
- John Thompson Rowan, Fleming.
- Claude Confer, Howard.

## DEATHS.

Mary Elmira Potter, wife of John Potter, died at her home on the Charles Kuhn farm, two miles east of Boalsburg, on Friday morning at 9:15 o'clock, as the result of a serious operation which she underwent Tuesday night previous. Immediately following the operation Mrs. Potter appeared to rally and hopes were entertained for her recovery, but a relapse occurred with the result that for a greater part of two days she was unconscious, death finally relieving her of her suffering.

Mrs. Potter was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lingle, who tenant the Brockerhoff farm, east of Old Fort, and was aged twenty-one years, three months and seventeen days. Her untimely death is a great blow to the home, the father being left with a five-year-old daughter—Elizabeth by name. Besides the above the following sisters and brothers mourn her loss: Mrs. Clyde Smith, Frank Lingle, of Colyer & Paul Lingle, of Menno, South Dakota; Anna, of Bellwood; Elmer, Blanche and Margaret, at home. The husband of the deceased is a son of George Potter, of near Old Fort.

Funeral services were held at the home at two o'clock Monday afternoon, following which the funeral cortege proceeded to Tusseyville where burial was made in the Zion Hill cemetery, Rev. G. L. Courtney officiating.

James A. Rockey, aged seventy-eight years, of 1407 Twenty-first avenue, Altoona, a retired Pennsy employee, expired suddenly at his home Friday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, as a result of an internal injury received ten days previous when he fell from a shed in the rear of his home.

His injury was thought but slight when he quickly recovered from the fall off a roof on the small outbuilding he had been repairing. Shortly before noon the aged man collapsed and had to be removed to his bed. Dr. D. E. Allen was called and pronounced his condition critical, the internal injury having affected the veteran's heart. He lapsed into unconsciousness and passed away at 1:30.

Mr. Rockey was born near Penn Hall, January 25, 1839, and had resided in Altoona more than a half century. He entered the employ of the Pennsy in the shops soon after going there and later became a stationary fireman. He was retired and pensioned for about eight years.

His wife died in 1907 and he is survived by these children: Charles, James A., Jr., Pittsburgh; Mrs. John Gates, New Castle, Ind.; and Mrs. Stanley J. Delone, Altoona. Two sisters, Mrs. James Crater and Mrs. Margaret Albright, both of Spring Mills, survive, also with a brother, John Rockey, of State College. The veteran was a member of the Pennsy relief association. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon with burial in Fairview cemetery.

Benjamin Limbert, a retired farmer, died Wednesday forenoon of last week at his home at Madisonburg, aged seventy-five years.

On Tuesday evening previous to his death he was stricken with apoplexy while talking with his daughter, Mrs. Rishel. He was taken to his home and medical aid summoned, but death could not be stopped.

His wife died a number of years ago, but he is survived by the following children: Andrew Limbert, and Herman, of Brush valley; Allen of Philadelphia; Mrs. C. G. Decker, of Spring Mills; Mrs. Reuben Rishel and Miss Elvie, of Madisonburg.

Interment was made at Madisonburg, Saturday forenoon.

Ezra Smith, a veteran of the Civil war, died at his home on Beaver avenue, State College, on Sunday morning, of paralysis, aged eighty-one years. He served in the Union cause as a member of Co. B, 53rd Regiment, and after three years' service was honorably discharged. A number of children survive. Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon and burial was made in Shiloh cemetery.

Henry Norris died at the home of his son, Charles Norris, near Fillmore, on Saturday morning, as a result of paralysis. He was past eighty-three years of age. His wife preceded him to the beyond three years ago. Funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon, interment taking place in Myers' cemetery, in Buffalo Run Valley.

### \$500,000 for Red Cross.

Henry Ford gave the American Red Cross credit to the extent of one-half million dollars at his Detroit factory. The society can have anything it wants in the Ford line from washers up to and including the finished automobile.

## TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

### HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

You can see lots of faces this week you haven't seen for just a year.

The price of milk in State College has been raised to ten cents a quart.

Prothonotary D. R. Foreman is the owner of a six-cylinder, special model, Studebaker automobile.

A little intensive farming yielded T. L. Smith forty bushels of choice potatoes on the old foundry site.

Troop M, of Lewistown, a unit of the 8th regiment, entrained for Fort Hancock, Augusta, Ga., on Monday.

Luding Navokosky, a foreigner, committed suicide in the Clearfield County Home last Thursday morning.

B. Liebenstein and James Allen, who recently escaped from the penitentiary at Rockview, were captured at Jersey Shore.

Probably it's not the choicest expression, or the most up-to-date, but it fits the occasion: "What's the matter with Leonard? He's all right."

Centre Hall does not need apologies to the thousands of people who are swelling its population this week. It's an o. k. town, this Centre Hall.

H. F. Grove, of Pleasant Gap, was a caller at this office last Thursday. Mr. Grove helped in the harvest on the Grossman farm, which he tenanted last year.

The United Evangelical church at Lock Haven was invaded one day last week by an unknown individual and a beautiful silk flag which draped the pulpit was taken.

Don't ask your neighbor to believe you when you say you "have better stuff at home," if you didn't bring a sample of it for exhibition purposes to the Grange Encampment and Fair.

If you have preference for any particular army service, enlist as a volunteer and you can have it. When you are drafted, the government places you where it thinks you are most needed and best fitted for.

Newly adopted service flags, emblems symbolizing that some member of the family has joined the colors, in the land or sea forces of the nation, are being distributed. Finally a number of them will reach Centre Hall.

C. W. Eubler, who sold his home in Centre Hall to Frank D. Smith, the following day purchased the I. V. Showers property and will move into it next spring. His new home adjoins the place where he now lives.

Mrs. Isaac Smith built a corner to walk to the front of her residence last week, which completes the improvements of that nature which have been under way for the past few weeks in that section of the town. Messrs. D. A. and C. W. Booser did the work, and consequently it will stand the test.

Milesburg is one of the most musical towns in Central Pennsylvania. Besides having an organization known as "The Boys' Band," of forty members, the girls of the town have gotten together and organized "The Girls' Band." On Saturday evening those two bands held a big lawn party and festival at Milesburg.

Wednesday of next week (September 19th), the six men selected as five per cent of the county's quota will leave for Camp Meade. They are: Basil J. Mott and Otto E. Corman, of Bellefonte; J. Paul Rumberger, Bellefonte, R. D.; Otto E. Spicer and Jerome M. Allman, of State College, and Joseph J. Lingle, of Philipsburg.

It's a bigger Grange Picnic than ever. The exhibits are bigger, the educational features are bigger; the crowd is bigger; the lights are bigger; the square feet of canvas is bigger; the amusement feature is bigger; the enthusiasm of the Grangers is bigger, and the management feels a lot bigger because of all this. It's a mighty big affair, that's all.

The following is reprinted from the Millheim Journal: While William Wolfe and Cloyd Fiedler, of Aaronsburg, were hauling stones from a field belonging to Dr. C. S. Mosser, they found three sticks of dynamite and six caps with fuse attached in the alley near the doctor's barn. The explosive was arranged so as to be set off with but a slight jar. No motive for the anticipated deed is known.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Spatz, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Auchenbach and son, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Weidner, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Weidner, Mrs. M. F. Roth, Mr. Wm. Goodhart, all of Reading, were an auto party to arrive in Centre Hall on Sunday and remain until Monday afternoon. They were all relatives of Mr. William H. Keller at whose home they were entertained. Rev. and Mrs. W. K. Shultz and daughter, of New Columbia, were guests at the Keller home at the same time.