



PENNS VALLEY MYSTERY PASSED ON TO COURT

*Squire Woodring Unable to Decide Who Signed Check—Job for A Solomon.

The Reporter was being printed last week at the time the Frohm vs. Smith case was being heard, therefore no report could be given at that time. The reader will find below a reprint of a history of the case as it appeared in the Bellefonte Republican.

Penn's Valley's Monumental Mystery—who signed James Frohm's name to a \$39.95 check?—continues to baffle all attempts at solution.

After a second hearing before Squire Woodring in Bellefonte, on Wednesday, a hearing that covered several hours and was replete with expert testimony, the mystery was passed along to the Centre county courts for a verdict.

There a jury will some day render a verdict, but the mystery will continue to be a mystery in the minds of scores of Penn's Valley people. Some will continue to believe that Frohm, who lives near Centre Hall, signed the check, and others will be just as firmly convinced that the signature was forged. And there you are, that is, if you are a wholly disinterested observer trying to figure out what it all means.

Squire Woodring, after listening to almost endless testimony that ran into unimportant detail to the very extreme, decided that the mystery was too much for him and one to be judged by not merely a Solomon, but a dozen Solomons. On that basis, and with no thought of determining anybody's guilt or innocence, but chiefly because of such positive conflict in testimony, he decided to hold Charles M. Smith, Millheim merchant, for court under a nominal bond of \$500, so that a jury of 12 men good and true might try their hand at it.

"The Republican" some weeks ago outlined the mystery surrounding the alleged forgery in considerable detail. Briefly, by way of refreshing one's memory, Frohm purchased some land from Smith. He contends he paid for it, and Smith agrees with him. Smith claims Frohm bought and paid for the land with a check for \$39.95, dated May 15, 1923. Frohm asserts that he was not at the Smith store on that date, but that he bought the land on the following day, that he presumably paid for it in cash, and did not sign the check in question. The signature, he swears, was forged. The check was duly cashed by the Penn's Valley bank, at Centre Hall. Smith and his brother, William, swore Frohm signed the check in their presence. Frohm charges Smith, himself, forged the signature. This Smith stoutly denies. Never before in all the history of Penn's Valley has there been a case with such mystifying, conflicting circumstances. Millheim citizens make no secret of their belief that a group of Centre Hall people are "trying to get" Smith, and that this is the animus that inspired the charge of forgery. They say a lot of additional things, too, but not courting a libel suit we refrain from mentioning them.

Wednesday's hearing was featured by the presence of a galaxy of lawyers and hand-writing experts representing the opposing sides. District Attorney Walker and William G. Runkle represented Frohm. Samuel D. Gettig appeared for Smith. L. M. Moses, assistant cashier of the Mountain City Trust Company, of Altoona, was Smith's hand-writing expert. G. G. Zeth, who conducts a private school in Altoona and specializes on penmanship, was Frohm's hand-writing expert. Dozens of cancelled checks bearing Frohm's signature were submitted for comparison by the experts. It happens that experts do not always agree, and they didn't on Wednesday. On one important point, however, they did agree. This was that in their opinion the signature on the mystery check was not written by Frohm. Mr. Moses was equally positive that Smith had not written it, and Mr. Zeth would not say that Smith did write it.

At times the testimony gave promise of becoming sensational, only to prove disappointing to one side or the other in the end. For instance, Mr. Moses testified Frohm had not only not written the signature on the disputed check, but there was indication that the check had been tampered with by somebody after the same had gone through bank. The body and signature, it should be explained, were written in lead pencil. The bank possession of the word "Paid" said Mr. Moses, showed under a magnifying glass particles of lead suggesting a partial erasure and new writing of the signature after the check had gone through bank. Cashier Bar-

RESENT PETITION CIRCULATED ON ROAD JOB

Reitz Brothers Say It Is Unfair In View of Fact That They Are 'Way Ahead of Schedule on Work.

The Reitz Brothers, who have the contract for the State road building over Nittany Mountain, at Centre Hall, state that there is no need of alarm on the part of people in the community in the matter of their completing their work before the snow flies.

A petition has been circulated, directed to the State Highway Commissioner, requesting that no extension of time be granted the contractors, and this has been signed by citizens of Bellefonte, Pleasant Gap and Centre Hall. Naturally, the contractors feel a trifle peeved at this action and declare it to be unfair, to say the least, for the truth of the matter is that the work right now is thirty per cent. ahead of schedule, and barring unavoidable delays, due to breakage of machinery and the like, the job will be completed well within the time allotted.

The charge that the force of men and equipment is inadequate, is also a statement which only one unfamiliar with projects of this size would make. The force of men, they declare, is sufficiently large to make for the utmost efficiency; there are no laggards—every man, from the water boy up, gives honest days' labor. The force, however, will be increased when the concreting commences. While the present force is at work on the opposite slope of the mountain, grading, etc., an additional crew will be employed to do the concreting on this side of the mountain. The man in charge of this work has a record of paving 500 feet of road a day, so it will be seen that once begun, it will be but a matter of two weeks to reach the top of the mountain.

Commissioner Swabb Sells Farm.

County Commissioner James W. Swabb sold his farm, near Linden Hall, last week, to Irvin M. Burris, of Yeagertown. The place contains about forty acres and has on it a good brick house, barn and outbuildings. Mr. Burris will take possession this fall. The sale price has not been given out. Mr. Swabb recently purchased the Burnside property in Milesburg for the consideration of \$2500.

Give \$3,000 to a College.

Following its usual custom each year of making some contribution to the work of the Lutheran church in the foreign field the Summer Assembly, at Gettysburg, subscribed \$3,000 for Andhra College, the new educational institution in India. For each \$1,000 the donors have the privilege of naming a patron of the college and the Assembly bestowed this honor upon Mrs. E. C. Cronk, of Philadelphia; Mrs. J. Roy Storck, of India, and Rev. J. A. Singmaster, president of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary.

Elected Primary Teacher.

At a meeting of the Centre Hall school board, held Monday evening, Miss Mary Zerby, of Spring Mills, was elected to teach the primary grade in the local schools for the 1925-26 term. Miss Zerby is finishing her course at the Lock Haven Normal this summer and had taught previously in the Potter township schools.

The annual reunion of the Hazel and Shaffer families will be held at Grange Park, on Thursday, August 20th. It will be a basket picnic.

SERVED ATLANTIC CO. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Manager of Centre County for Atlantic Refining Company Retires on Annuity.

L. H. Wion, for twenty-five years an employe of the Atlantic Refining company, and well known in every community in Centre county, will be retired September 1st.

Mr. Wion started the Atlantic Refining company's business in Centre county, and has been advanced to general manager of this territory.

When Mr. Wion started to work for the company he was given a team of horses and a 500-gallon tank wagon, and it took him an entire week to cover his territory from Bellefonte. Today the Centre county district uses three trucks of 700 gallon capacity, and the customers are supplied daily.

Before working for the Atlantic Refining company, Mr. Wion worked continuously twenty-one years at the Governor Beaver farm, east of Bellefonte, thus holding only two jobs in forty-six years.

His retirement from the service of the Atlantic Refining company will carry with it a substantial annuity.

TENT ERECTION BEGUN ON GRANGE PARK

With Opening of 52nd Encampment and Fair Only Two Weeks Away, Committees Are Active.

Tent erection has begun on Grange Park and the addition to the auditorium stage is about completed. The latter improvement will greatly relieve the crowded condition which arises for lack of space for dressing rooms on stage.

With two exceptions, the campers of 1924 have retained their tents for the coming Encampment. Many others, owing tents or securing them elsewhere, have signified their intention of camping on Grange Park. So that indications point to an ever larger camp than last year, and the usual effort will be made to make campers comfortable and happy.

Insofar as possible, the plans are being carried out in every department to make of this year's Encampment one of the most successful in its history.

For the entire week a program of unusual interest is being prepared. There will be plenty of new, novel, instructive and entertaining exhibits and concessions on the ground and every taste can be satisfied.

Live stock, horticulture, farm crops, machinery, automobiles, trucks and tractors and numerous other lines will be well represented and well worth attention.

The needle-work department will be conducted as for several years. For articles not before exhibited, 10 cents will be paid.

Tent rents remain \$6.00 and \$7.00, according to size.

Campers should bring oil stoves. Oil can be purchased on grounds. When so desired, electric light placed in tent at our expense.

Admission to grounds, 50 cents, 14 years and over—good for the week; under 14 years, free. Automobiles, 50 cents, good for the week.

Rossmann-Hamilton.

Formal announcements have been sent out by Mr. and Mrs. John Hays Hamilton, of Tyrone, of the marriage of their daughter, Miss Nan Sloan, to Pealer Rossmann, the event having taken place in St. Mark's Memorial Reformed church, Pittsburgh, by Rev. H. H. Wiant, a former pastor of that church, August 3rd is a memorable day in the Rossmann family. Thirty-nine years ago Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Rossmann, of Spring Mills, parents of the groom, were united in marriage and a brother, Prof. John G. Rossmann, and Mrs. Rossmann, of Gary, Indiana, celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their marriage.

The bride is a registered nurse, a graduate from the Bellefonte hospital, and is a young woman of many fine qualities. The groom is an engineer in the traffic department of the Bell Telephone company.

The couple will reside in Pittsburgh.

Guernsey Cattle Sold.

Mr. Snively, a stock dealer from Lancaster county, was in Penn's Valley last week and purchased twenty-seven head of Guernsey cattle. From Edward Hosterman, tenant on the D. D. Royer farm, east of Rebersburg, seventeen head were purchased, the sale price having been \$2500. This herd was headed by a bull of superior breeding.

The other cattle to make up the car load were purchased from James Roush, of Aaronburg, and from the Shooks, at Spring Mills.

Bellefonte Improvements.

A deal was closed whereby James Caldwell, proprietor of the Eon Mot, in the McClain block, became the purchaser of the William S. Katz property, on High street, Bellefonte, between the scene and the new Richelle theatre, now in the course of construction.

It is Mr. Caldwell's intention to remodel the building by lowering the first floor even with the pavement and converting it into a spacious room for his ice cream and confectionery trade, with a small dance hall in the rear. The second and third floors will be utilized as an apartment for himself and family. A building will be erected on the rear of the lot to house the plumbing establishment of Caldwell & Son. Mr. Caldwell is to have possession just as soon as Mr. Katz can get out.

6376 Arrests in Six Months.

State police made 6376 arrests in the first six months of this year, a report made public a few days ago by Superintendent Adams, showed. In this period the police traveled 895,891 miles and made 12,376 investigations.

Of the arrests 1693 were for violations of the prohibition laws; 384 for violations of the motor vehicle laws, and 541 for burglary, robbery and larceny. There were 49 for murder and the remainder for miscellaneous offenses. The value of property recovered was placed at \$79,979, of which \$68,661 represented automobiles restored to owners.

Slear Reunion.

The 25th annual Slear reunion will be held at Island Park, between Northumberland and Sunbury, on Thursday, August 20th.

LUHERAN SUMMER ASSEMBLY

Session Opens August 18th and Closes at Noon of 27th, at Susquehanna University.

The sixth annual United Lutheran Summer Assembly will open at Susquehanna University, Selingsgrove, August 18th, and continue until noon of the 27th. The program is timely, practical, helpful, informational, delightful, inspirational, and men and women well known in Lutheran circles will have it in charge. Among other speakers will be Prof. T. Bruce Birch, Ph. D., Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, whose subject is "Educational Psychology as Applied to Moral and Spiritual Development."

Rev. H. D. Hoover, Ph. D., D. D., president of Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois, will bring a series of lectures on the general theme, "Christian Thought in Relation to Current Civilization."

Rev. E. Allan Chamberlin, Lafayette Hill, "Chalk Work" for religious leaders. C. W. Herman, Springfield, O., "The Laymen's Movement."

Rev. Foster U. Gift, D. D., superintendent of instruction and Associate Pastor of the Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse and Training School, Baltimore, "Week Day Church Schools and Training Schools for Christian Workers."

Walter E. Myers, of the State Sabbath School Association, "Sunday School Work."

"Missions Education," "Young People's Leadership," "Children's and Kindergarten Methods," will also be developed by prominent speakers.

The registration fee of \$2.00 admits to all daily and evening sessions, Sunday Schools and other organizations, and some individuals, will make contributions of \$5.00 or \$10.00, which will help to make possible such a worthwhile program.

The meals will be served in the new Horton dining hall. Furnished rooms will be provided in the new and spacious additional dormitory rooms, recently opened. The rates are \$1.50 per day, including room and board. Make room reservations with Mr. Horton, Registrar, Selingsgrove.

The Assembly officers are: President, Dr. F. P. Manhart, Selingsgrove; vice president, Dr. E. H. Gerhart, Shamokin; secretary-treasurer, Rev. John B. Kniseley, DuBois.

Progress of Road Building.

The concrete mixer and other equipment used in the cement feature of road construction arrived here the latter part of last week and was unloaded from the freight car on Monday. The mixer is mounted on a caterpillar gasoline-driven tractor, and is a machine of considerable proportions.

The steam shovels are both on the north slope of Nittany Mountain, the south slope work having been completed. The one shovel is about ready to begin work at the bend of the road where the short detour and the State highway intersects. Here there is a considerable amount of work to be done. The "knob" will be cut down and the new road laid on it at an elevation of about eight feet above the old road bed. There will be fills on either side of this point. Further on toward the brick, the bank on the south side will be cut away to widen and give the road a uniform grade.

During the past two weeks there has been a continuous hustle on the part of the road construction force, and more men have been added.

LEWISBURG STORE ROBBED.

Three Shamokin Boys Rob Montgomery and Co. Store of Merchandise Valued at \$500 and Escape in Stolen Car—Captured 5 Hours Later.

The clothing store of Montgomery and Company, in Lewisburg, a branch of the Bellefonte store operated by Montgomery & Co., was robbed of merchandise valued at approximately \$500 Saturday night by three Shamokin youths.

Sidney Elsinham, John Tyson and John Dushon, all in the neighborhood of eighteen years of age, members of the same gang who recently stole the car of a New York salesman and abandoned it at Herndon, and who escaped punishment at the time by settling the case, were the culprits.

They had entered the store and piled up the loot near one of the doors, where their operations were observed by a citizen of Lewisburg, who notified the authorities. They, however, escaped with the plunder in a car which they had also stolen, the property of a cousin of Elsinham.

Shamokin police captured them five hours after their escape from Lewisburg, at the Sunbury entrance to Shamokin, with the goods in their possession. They were locked up to await a hearing.

The Centre County Teachers' Institute will be held this year in Bellefonte, October 19 to 23.

GOOD EXAMPLE SET BY MILLIONAIRES

Bethlehem Steel Officials Resign to Prevent Cutting Men's Wages.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, with an authorized capitalization of \$270,000,000, and ranking as the second largest steel corporation in the world, announced resignations of three chief officials to effect economies and avoid necessity of reducing the wages of the 10,000 day and night laborers it employs.

Archibald Johnson, a vice president and right-hand man of Charles M. Schwab during the war period when Bethlehem was making millionaires over night through its spectacular rise on the stock market, was the foremost to resign. H. S. Snyder, another vice president, who has been in direct charge of the corporation's finances for two years, was the second. William E. Tobias, general manager and purchaser, was the third.

Rumors that these three had quit because of internal dissension were vigorously denied by officials of the corporation.

It was stated the steel industry is in a bad way financially and that only by such economies as extreme sacrifice on the part of officials can serious trouble be avoided.

In support of this statement came an announcement from the Lukens Steel Company, a small and little heard of concern, that all its executives had agreed to a 10 per cent. salary cut to avoid the necessity of "tremendous slashes" for the day laborers or the alternative of unconquerable financial difficulties.

Dale Precedes Keller on Ballot.

On the Republican ticket at the coming primaries, Judge Arthur C. Dale's name will appear first under the head of candidates for Judge. The name of Harry Keller will follow, there being but two Republican candidates. On the Democratic ticket the names of candidates for Judge will appear in this rotation: Johnston, Walker, Spangier, Dale.

Masons to Celebrate.

The fiftieth anniversary of the instituting of the Old Fort Lodge No. 537, F. and A. M., will be celebrated Wednesday of next week. The ceremonies will be held in Grange Arcadia, and will be preceded by a banquet also to be held there. The principal speaker booked for the occasion is Emerson Collins, of Williamsport, Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania.

Last week the Lewistown Masonic Lodge, No. 293, celebrated its hundredth anniversary. The charter was originally issued to the Jackson Lodge, Mifflin, but in 1827 it was removed to Lewistown, and has since been known as the Lewistown Lodge, although working under the original charter.

Baby Clinic in Centre Hall.

Another baby clinic will be held in Centre Hall, on Friday of this week, in the Sunday school room of the Lutheran church. Mothers are invited to bring their babies.

Improving High School Building.

The Rebersburg High school buildings are being improved by replacing the wooden window frames with modern window frames of steel, which will greatly improve the appearance of the buildings and permit the lighting of the rooms under the best possible conditions. A drinking fountain is also to be installed. The work is being done by W. S. Williams.

BIG DOINGS IN ALTOONA DURING NEXT WEEK!

Starting next Tuesday, August 18th, there will be great excitement in Altoona for the next five days. On Tuesday, at 8:30 in the morning, Altoona Booster Stores will throw open their doors to eager shoppers from far and near in celebration of their regular August Dollar Day.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Blair County Fair will hold its annual session at the Altoona Driving Park. This year's Fair will be better than ever because plans have been made to have every day the big day, so you can come Tuesday for the great Dollar Day Bargains and stay over for the Fair.

Of course, you have been in Altoona for one of these Dollar Day events, therefore you will not miss this one. BUT—maybe your neighbor did not come. Therefore it's your duty to bring them along this time.

Extra clerks have been secured for this Dollar Day so that you will not have to wait for service. When you come to Altoona next Tuesday visit Community Rest Rooms on Fifteenth Street, in Christ Reformed Church, for relaxation. Mrs. Iseberg, the matron in charge, will welcome you and give you necessary information about the city. Nothing for sale—just a place to rest. Tell your neighbor—Booster Stores' Dollar Day in Altoona—next Tuesday.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Miss Grace Smith, last week, completed the census of children in the borough of school age, as required by law. The count stood at 119.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Strohecker are in State College this week, having gone there to oversee some improvements being made at one of their properties in that place.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Swartz and son, Dr. George Swartz, of State College, were in town recently looking over their property here, which place was purchased from F. M. Fisher.

George Zerby, who operated one of the steam shovels since work on the State road began, was called to Dalmatia the latter part of last week on account of the serious illness of his mother.

W. O. Gramley, of Spring Mills, was a visitor in town Friday, in the interest of the Jodon sale of Iowa cows, scheduled for to-morrow (Friday) on the Perry H. Luse premises, west of town.

An active committee of business men of Lock Haven are planning an elaborate program of entertainment for the annual get-together outing of the farmers and business men which will be held on the old camp grounds at Booneville on Wednesday, August 26th.

A bear caught in a trap by a Potter county game protector was found to have a wire bound tightly about the animal's head. The wire is supposed to have been a part of a fox snare. It had imbedded itself into the bear's flesh and had to be cut to be loosened.

The Mifflin county portion of the State road over the Seven Mountains is in worse condition now than in a number of years. Anti-dust oil was applied in the spring, but this has all disappeared, as has also most of the covering of stones and rocks forming the road bed.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Ebricht and daughter Bettie, last week drove to Mexico, Juniata county, where they set up camp in their cottage on the Evangelical campmeeting grounds. Mr. Ebricht returned to Centre Hall Friday morning, but Mrs. Ebricht and Bettie remained at the cottage.

Brown Hackett, tenant on the Dauberman farm, along Sinking Creek, was a caller, Friday. He reports the hay crop on his place to have been exceedingly heavy, and his barn at present filled to capacity, so that before he can house his oats crops it will be necessary for the threshermen to visit his place.

Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Grason and daughter, Miss Shirley, of Shippenburg, were guests at the Lutheran parsonage, returning home on Sunday. Mr. Grason is the foreman in the Shippenburg pants factory. He will have a week's vacation in September and is planning to be here during the Grange Encampment and Fair.

A Ford touring car being driven by Miss Mary Shreckengast, daughter of H. E. Shreckengast, of Centre Hall, and a horse and buggy in which Calvin Harshbarger, of Potters Mills, was seated as a driver, collided on the highway to the front of Benner's store. The buggy was badly demolished, but Mr. Harshbarger and the horse and the Ford driver escaped injury.

The Reporter was favored with a call on Friday from Messrs. R. U. Wasson, who is summing at Coburn, and Thomas A. Hosterman, a Coburn resident, and school teacher for the past twenty-five years. Prof. Wasson is an instructor at the "Kisky" preparatory school at Saltsburg, Indiana county, and has also been engaged in school work for a number of years.

Capt. W. H. Fry, of Pine Grove Mills, attended a meeting of the local P. O. S. of A. in Centre Hall on Friday evening and remained until Saturday morning. He was busy while in town arranging for the annual reunion of the Civil War veterans, which has been the custom during the past years, will be held on Grange Park on Wednesday of the Encampment and Fair.

Testimony was taken last week before Squire Cyrus Brungart with a view of establishing boundary lines between wood lands owned by J. H. Detwiler and Musser E. Coldron, on Nittany Mountain. Both tracts were purchased from Prof. H. F. Bitner, of Lewisburg, formerly of this place, and it is claimed there is an overlapping. The testimony will be preserved for future use, should it become necessary.