

The Centre Reporter

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REV. J. I. STONEYCYPHER'S

HISTORICAL SERMON

Preached at 100th Anniversary of Lutheran and Reformed Congregations at Boalsburg—Lightning Strikes Church Steeple, With Little Damage—Removal of Rod by "Steeple Jack" Proves a Feat.

(Continued from last week.)

About this time something happened which caused no little excitement for a little while. During a local shower lightning struck into the steeple of the church. A cloud of black smoke and dust arose into the air, and for a moment it was feared the building would be a mass of ruins. But, thanks to a kind overruling Providence, it was not so. The new fire-lighting apparatus was, however, soon pulled out of the shed built for it on the rear of a lot on the south side of the "diamond" and was on its way for service with bells jangling down the street. Happily it did not have to be used, and the report of "no fire" was gladly received by all. The lightning had hit the rod, followed it down to near the edge of the roof on the west side, where for some cause it left it, tearing in the shingles a hole in circumference about the size of a bushel bucket. It then leaped to the spouting which it followed to the ground, and plowing a ditch across the yard to the cemetery fence which in turn became its conductor leading it out to the corner of the road, thence down along the fence westward to the entrance where it split a post and found its way into the earth. Upon further investigation it was found that a few shavings lying just under the breast that was made in the roof by the lightning had begun to burn. They were in a charred condition but the fire had gone out. The basement windows on the west side of the church were badly shattered and needed immediate replacement. Some plaster was also jarred off the ceiling upstairs just in front of the gallery. Fortunately the building was insured, and the late Mr. Frank McFarlane, then the company's local representative, was promptly on the ground ready to make all adjustments. Inasmuch as our people had been contemplating the installation of windows more modern in style and inasmuch also as such windows would be more expensive than it would be to rent the casing with the old model sash and glass, it was readily agreed by the representatives to fit us up with the new. Accordingly, the windows with the heavy translucent glass as we now have them, were placed.

The old lightning rod became the subject of much discussion for some time. Shall it be repaired and allowed to remain? or shall it be removed. In either event the same difficulty was to be encountered. If repaired, who would repair it? If removed, who would remove it? Of course someone could be found who would do it, but it was a play for which we had no local talent. It was finally decided to have it taken down.

The church council secured a "steeple jack" in the person of a man named Eckenroth, then temporarily in Bellefonte, to remove the rod.

When he came, a few of the church officials, together with a number of others who learned that he had arrived proceeded to the scene of operation. Of course all wondered just how he would manage it. And it was all simple enough. Taking with him some ropes and a set of pulleys, he climbed up on the inside of the steeple as far as he could go. Then fastening his pulleys to a piece of timber, he passed the ropes out through an opening which he cut in the shingles, letting them drop down on the roof. Climbing back down, he went out on the roof and attached to these other ropes which extended to the ground. These operated through a lower set of pulleys which he secured firmly to the trunk of a large maple tree just off from the corner of the cemetery fence. Fixing in this rigging a small board for a seat which he controlled by a certain rope, he was able, sitting there to elevate himself to any desired height. Wishing to stop and loosen a fixture which held the rod in place, he would simply tuck his rope somehow beneath his seat, use both hands to effect the release, then proceed to raise himself to the next, repeat the operation, and so on to near the top. The rod was parted somewhere below the topmost fixture which was too far above the opening he made in the shingles for him to reach with his hands. Then came the final act. Standing up on the seat and taking a pole he had carried with him for the purpose, he pushed this remaining portion of the rod up through the fixture, when it fairly made a somersault over the pinnacle of the steeple and fell to the roof on the opposite side. Going up again into the tower, he removed his tackle and neatly closed the opening he had made. The work was done and the show was over. I do not remember who all the spectators were, but our highly esteemed friend, and for many years the council's faithful and efficient treasurer, the now sainted E. W. Sweeney, was one of the number. Can you who knew him hear him chuckle and say in his characteristic way, "O good souls! it wasn't so much of a job after all, was it?"

But the Sunday school rooms were not complete without a new lighting system. What should it be? Acetylene or gasoline? The latter was chosen and installed throughout the whole building. That was before electricity was available in Boalsburg. It was styled the "F. P." system. These

letters signified both "fire-proof" and "fog proof." Whether it was either or both of these we are not quite sure as yet. One thing we know: it caused no fire. Another thing we almost felt, when so frequently there was much difficulty in producing that little blue flame in the generator, was that we were almost fools for buying it. Ask Charles Segner, Charles Cori, George Shugarts, D. W. Myers and others of the men who did the pumping. But it did furnish a fine, bright and at the same time mellow light.

By this time another thing needed was a new roof on the church. Some thought it should be one material—others of another. Meanwhile, during heavy rains the water would come through and cause a spot here and there and there on the ceiling of the auditorium, which, as also the walls, was finished in a blue calcimine. It was agreed that if the attic were floored, it would prevent the little water which was as yet coming in, from soaking through the plaster and marring the ceiling; that it would make it safer to roof in case of a shower that might occur in the midst of the work; that it would be easier and safer for those who at times had occasion to walk overhead; and besides would stay off the roof building proposition for a few more years. Plowed and grooved boards were purchased and this work was done. The cost of repairs to the church up to this time was in the neighborhood of \$700. On and about parsonage, \$500.

A few years later saw still more extensive improvements made. In the autumn of 1912 the matter began to take shape in the sessions of council. A list of the proposed improvements, together with the probable cost was tabulated, and it was voted to submit the project to the congregation for consideration. The result of the congregational meeting was a ratification of the action of council and authority was given that body to proceed as soon as a specified amount of funds in cash and bona fide subscriptions was secured. These requirements having been met, operations began early the following spring, and on Sunday, May 11, 1913, the services of rededication were held. We shall let the press tell the story:

"The day was a beautiful one and a large congregation assembled to enjoy the occasion. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. C. T. Aikens, D. D., president of Susquehanna University. His theme was 'The Temple of God.' He complimented the people on the interest they had shown in the beautification of their house of worship, and then dwelt on the thought of the Christian's body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. He also had charge of the finances. The cost of the improvements was about \$2,500. Of this sum, the congregation had provided \$1900 before the re-opening of the church, thus leaving a balance of \$700 to be raised at the dedicatory service. In a short time more than this amount was subscribed, and the church with all its furnishings was formally rededicated to the worship of God by the pastor.

(To be continued next week.)

"Reporter" Features.

Aside from the strictly local news in the Reporter, one of the most valued features is the "Keeping Well" department by Dr. Frederick R. Green, who points out the best road on the route to health.

The "News Review of Current Events" is another feature of several columns that gives much information on the leading world topics.

"Pennsylvania News," market reports, "On the Funny Side," the short stories, "What's in a Name," "Mother's Cook Book," "Fashions," articles especially for the farmer, and a lot more of other good things are found each week in this issue. The reader is missing much valued information if these features are not read carefully every week.

And you have not read any newspaper completely unless you have not only read but studied the advertisements in it. The man who spends money to tell of his goods, has wares worth knowing about.

The Centre County Conference of Women's Clubs.

The Centre County Conference of Women's Clubs will meet in the women's building on the campus of the Penna. State College on October 31st, beginning at 10:00 a. m. The program features the following: "Some Aspects of Conservation of Natural Resources," by Professor Geo. R. Green, head of Department of Nature Study at the College.

"Pennsylvania State's Obligation to Her Girl Students," Miss Charlotte Ray, Dean of Women, Penna. State College.

"Illiteracy in Pennsylvania," Dr. H. G. Parkinson, head of Department of Rural Education, Pa. State College.

"The People's Law—An Interpretation," J. K. Johnston, Supt. Penna. Railroad, Tyrone Div., Tyrone, Pa.

The musical attractions will be furnished from the talent of the college. In addition to the above, reports of accomplished work and the discussion of problems will both tend to make the day one of real joy and benefit. Women's organizations generally are urged to see that they are represented numerically at this conference for an interchange of opinions.

Box luncheon of sandwiches only, nothing more.—Helen E. C. Overton, Pres. Centre County Conference Women's Clubs.

The Centre Reporter, \$1.50 a year.

GREGG TOWNSHIP VOCATIONAL OBSERVES ITS ANNUAL "COMMUNITY DAY"

New Features This Year Include Demonstrations, Spring Mills Band and Plays Put On by Local Talent—List of Prize Winners.

The annual "Community Day" for Gregg Township was held in Spring Mills last Friday under the direction of the Vocational School.

Weather conditions were not as favorable as last year, but the 1500 people who came out, saw just as much as on any previous occasion of this kind. The exhibits with the exception of livestock were even better as to quality and quantity.

The grade school exhibits were exceptionally fine as was the general exhibit. In particular considerable interest was shown for Prof. Knudsen of State College had an audience of fifty or sixty asking him questions as he worked. All in all, there were five large rooms in the Vocational building filled with exhibits of crops, fruit, sewing, baking and canning; the gymnasium was filled with commercial exhibits entered by the community's business men; the poultry exhibit had 42 entries of fine quality. There were in all approximately 3000 single entries in the various classes.

The new features this year were Vocational demonstrations, Spring Mills band and plays put on by local people. The demonstrations were held at 1:30 P. M. and covered the following subjects: Food, millinery, egg candling and packing, and seed testing. This work was handled entirely by students and attracted considerable attention. The band, due to the rain, was forced to render their program indoors but it was very much appreciated by those who were fortunate enough to get in.

The program for the day consisted of three general meetings, games and plays for all ages. In the morning at 10:30 the grade school children and parents crowded the Grange hall to hear an interesting program organized by the Vocational girls in the Child Care class. Stories, a health play, "Eating Milk," by the Decker school; a cantata, "The Indian Prince," by the Grammar school, movies and songs made up the much enjoyed program.

In the afternoon at 2:30 in the Grange hall, a smaller group of older folks interested in the deeper things of life heard Dean Watts of the School of Agriculture, State College, give some worthwhile facts concerning rural life and agricultural education. The Dean was followed by Prof. Hall from the Rural Life department of the Penna. State College, who held up for consideration the seven real objectives of education.

This was followed by games for all ages. The local High schools—Millheim, Centre Hall and Rebersburg—look part in this program, a fact very much appreciated by the Spring Mills school. Immediately following these games a soccer game was played by teams from Rebersburg and Spring Mills. The local team due to better team work won by a score of 3 to 0.

In the evening from 7 to 8 the Spring Mills band entertained. Following this at 8:15, students from the Vocational school presented two plays, "The Piper's Pay" and "Figureheads" to a very appreciative audience.

All in all, it was a really big day as days are counted in Gregg Township. New standards were set, new ideas put over, new associations formed, and favorable comment was heard from the better thinking class because of the absence of political advertisements.

The list of prize winners is as follows:

- Baby—Cow, 2 years or over, Biron Decker; 1. 2 and third.
- Fat Hogs—Melvin Grover, first.
- Poultry—Class I: White Leghorns, 1. J. W. Evans; 2. Henry Zerby; 3. Walter Gobbie, Class II: White Leghorns; 1. Clarence Vonada; 2. J. W. Evans; 3. Clarence Vonada, Plymouth Rocks, Class II: 1. H. E. Hennigh; 2. John Stover; 3. H. E. Hennigh, Rhode Island Reds, Class I: J. R. Condo, Class II: 1. J. C. Robinson; 2. J. R. Condo; 3. J. C. Robinson, Wyandottes: 1. John Neese; 2. Mrs. J. Myers, Other breeds: 1. Charles Zettle; 2. Russel Sweetwood; 3. Geo. Decker.
- Eggs—1. Clarence Vonada; 2. Henry Zerby.
- Wheat—1. Stewart Confer; 2. Stanford Hettlinger; 3. John Stover.
- Oats—1. Willard Hettlinger; 2. Stewart Confer; 3. Stanford Hettlinger.
- Barley—1. John Stover.
- Peppers—1. Irene Hering; 2. Gladys Zeigler.
- Yellow Dent Corn—1. S. Hettlinger; 2. Gladys Zeigler.
- White Dent Corn—1. Florence Smith; 2. S. Hettlinger; 3. Russel Rote.
- Potatoes—1. Adaline Bradford; 2. Stanford Hettlinger; 3. Clarence Vonada.
- Pears—1. Gladys Zeigler; 2. Kathryn Bitner; 3. William Walker.
- Quinces—1. Mrs. D. H. Siegler; 2. Sarah Foreman; 3. Gladys Zeigler.
- Pumpkins—1. G. B. Bitner; 2. S. Hettlinger; 3. Mrs. Gross Shook.
- Squash—1. Mrs. G. Shook; 2. Irene Hering; 3. G. B. Bitner.
- Cauliflower—1. Ella Albright.
- Cabbage—1. Mrs. G. W. Braucher; 2. Irene Hering; 3. S. Hettlinger.
- Endive—1. Sara Vonada; 2. Helen Widemire; 3. Irene Garrett.
- Apples—1. Sara Vonada; 2. Adaline Bradford; 3. Clarence Vonada.
- Onions—1. Henry Zerby; 2. Sarah Foreman; 3. Russel Rote.
- Carrots—1. Henry Zerby; 2. S. Hettlinger; 3. Irene Hering.
- Beets—1. Sara Vonada; 2. Helen Widemire; 3. Clarence Vonada.
- Turnips—1. Kathryn Rishel; 2. Kemmit Stover.
- Celery—1. Kathryn Rishel; 2. Henry Zerby.
- Beans—1. Robert Heckman; 2. Sara Foreman.
- Canning—2 1-qt. Jars Fruit: 1. Kathryn Rishel; 2. Irene Hering; 3. Mrs. Kline.
- 2 1-qt. Jars Vegetables—1. Kathryn Rishel; 2. Adaline Bradford.
- 2 1-qt. Jars Pickles—1. Adaline Bradford.
- Two glasses Jelly—1. Sara Foreman; 2. Irene Hering.
- Baking—Cakes: 1. Ella Albright; 2. Sara Duck; 3. A. Bradford.
- Bread: 1. —; 2. K. Rishel; 3. Bernadine Wagner.
- Sewing—Dress: Linn or Gingham—1. Ella Albright; 2. Irene Zerby; 3. V. Hagan, Voile or Organdie—1. V. Hagan; 2. G. Wagner; 3. M. Corman, Silk or Wool—1. B. Wagner; 2. R. Zeigler; 3. G. Zeigler, Infant—1. —; 2. I. Hering; 3. Mrs. Robinson, House—1. V. Hagan; 2. L. Reierick; 3. I. Zerby.
- Renovated Garment—1. V. Hagan; 2. K. Bitner.
- Hat—1. M. Corman; 2. O. Wagner; 3. I. Hering.
- Projects: Senior Class—1. William Walker; 2. Stewart Confer; 3. Stanford Hettlinger.
- Junior Projects: 1. Reed Walker; 2. Kathleen Siegel; 3. Roy Immel.
- Township School Exhibit—1. Murray—Mrs. Paul Wise, teacher.
- 2. Farmers Mills—Miss Alma Zerby, teacher.
- 3. Grammar—Mr. R. Condo, teacher.
- 4. Hoy—Mr. Boyd Hazel, teacher.
- 5. Beaver Dam—Miss Heckman, teacher.

DEATHS.

SMITH.—Mrs. Cora (Hazel) Smith, wife of Postmaster R. M. Smith, died at the Geisinger Memorial Hospital, Danville, early Saturday morning. The body was brought to the family home by undertaker F. V. Goodhart on the afternoon of that day. Mrs. Smith had been ill for a short time, and about ten days ago previous to her death was taken to the hospital where on Thursday (8th inst.) an operation for an obstruction of the bowels was performed. For a week her condition was considered fair, with a good chance for recovery. On Friday morning her husband was notified that Mrs. Smith was very seriously ill, gangrene having been previously detected. He at once went to the hospital, and on that evening her children visited her. She was conscious during their stay at the bedside and was able to converse with them, but a few hours after they took their leave, life departed from her.

She deceased was a daughter of William G. and Sarah M. (Zubler) Hazel, the former deceased, and was born at Madisonburg. She was aged 59 years, 10 months, 21 days. She was twice married. Her first husband was Luther Hosterman, whose death occurred at Coburn. By this union there survive two children: Mrs. Lulu Hosterman of Coburn, and Miss Stella, a clerk in the Centre Hall postoffice. Her marriage to Mr. Smith took place fourteen years ago. The four children born to them are Sarah, Marion, Gladys and Roberta. There also survive these step-children: Mrs. Ellen Bitner, Charles, Willard, Even M., Mrs. Earl Frazier, Hugh and Daniel, the latter the adopted son of Daniel Daup. There also survives the aged mother, who for much of the time had her home with her daughter; also the following brothers and sisters—Albert Hazel, Unionville; Ammon Hazel, Boalsburg; Mrs. Kate Kings State College; William Hazel, Bellevue, Ohio; Byron Hazel, Youngstown, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Swartz, Centre Hall; Edwin Hazel, Youngstown, O.; Norman Hazel, Aaronsburg.

Interment was made in the Centre Hall cemetery Tuesday forenoon, the Rev. C. E. Hazen, pastor of the Methodist church, of which denomination the deceased was a member, having the services in charge.

Mrs. Smith was a kind and loving wife and mother, and gave to her children and home her first attention and best efforts.

SHAFFER.—Mrs. Alice (Nestorode) Shaffer, relict of Ellis Shaffer, died at her home at Madisonburg of a complication of diseases, aged 61 years, 1 month and 22 days.

Deceased was born at Salona August 16, 1864. She was a member of the Madisonburg Lutheran church, a kindly woman and esteemed neighbor. Her husband, to whom she was married September 28, 1911, preceded her to the beyond twelve years ago.

Surviving her are a brother, William Nestorode, of Freeport, Ill., and a half-sister, Mrs. Susan Philip, of Madisonburg. Funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. Stephen Traver, and interment made at Madisonburg.

KERSTETTER.—Joel A. Kerstetter, of Laureton, formerly a resident of near Centre Hall, died at his home on Tuesday of last week, following a brief illness of two days, caused by paralysis.

The deceased was born in Clinton county on March 28th, 1852, and was 73 years, 6 months and 15 days of age. He was the son of William and Anna Kerstetter.

Surviving him is his second wife, Maria Mercer Kerstetter, and the following children: Mrs. Daisy Luse, of Centre Hall; Samuel, Cleveland, and Sumner, of White Fish, Mo.; Thomas of Dillsburg, and Mrs. Jennie Powell, of Baltimore.

Five sisters and one brother also survive: Mrs. Rebecca Miller, Mrs. Phoebe Miller, Mrs. Emma Weaver, Mrs. Ada Wolfe and Daniel Kerstetter, all of Tyndersville, and Mrs. Scott Kerstetter, of Jersey Shore. Funeral services were held from his late home on Saturday morning, Rev. M. A. Kiefer officiating. Burial was made in the Hartley township cemetery. Mr. Kerstetter was a member of the Reformed church at Laureton.

POORMAN.—Mrs. Catharine Poorman, wife of Solomon Poorman of Bellefonte, died at the Centre County Hospital. She had been a sufferer with arterio sclerosis for two years or more and a few weeks ago fell and fractured her hip bone which necessitated her being taken to the hospital.

She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Poorman and was born in Centre county on January 15, 1846, making her age 79 years, 8 months and 21 days. She was twice married, her first husband having been Henry Garbrick. Two children survive as the result of this union, George Garbrick, of California, and Mrs. Frank Wion, of Bellefonte. Following the death of her first husband she married Solomon Poorman, who survives with three children, Mrs. Ida Grove, of Bellefonte; Ira M., of Brookly, N. Y., and E. B., of Ambridge, Pa.

TIBBENS.—Mrs. Sarah Tibbens, widow of William Tibbens, died at her home near Peasant Gap, as the result of general debility, she having been in failing health for some months. She was a daughter of George and Catharine Sellers Rumberger and was born in Buffalo Run valley on September 15, 1830.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Rev. S. F. Greenhoe is attending the sessions of conference of the Lutheran church, at Millifinburg.

A party of local nirods are planning a bear hunt in Potter county, next month, when the season opens.

Gladys Heckman and Stella Ruble, local High school girls, are spending the week with the former's sister, Mrs. Pau Wert, in Patton.

The many friends of Miss Anne B. Osler, assistant principal of the High school last year, will regret to know that her father died last week.

The home of Mrs. Elizabeth Limbert in Aaronsburg, was recently purchased at public sale by Charles Limbert for the sum of \$1600.

Harold Durst and Miss Vianna Zettle drove to Williamsport on Sunday to be with the latter's sister, Miss Florence Zettle, for a short time.

Postmaster Jacob Meyer and Mrs. Meyer, of Boalsburg, were in town on Saturday and among other places visited was the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Olenkirk.

The improving of the State road between Sigleville and Milroy has been going on for some time and last week a force of men was put on at the Milroy end of the road.

The excavation for the new bungalow to be erected by John M. Coldron is about completed. He is planning to use a part of the cellar for a garage, the entrance being on the front.

Miss Gertrude Ruble, a student in a Williamsport business college, was in Centre Hall over the week end. She is much pleased with the work given her, and is closely applying herself.

A scoreless tie (0-0), was the best the Centre Hall High school soccer football team could obtain in a game with the Millifinburg High school team at Millifinburg, last Thursday afternoon.

With the completion of the concrete pavement through the northern section of town, reveals that there are available a number of choice building lots. The outlook over the town and valley is most beautiful.

John Royer was in Centre Hall for a few days last week, which time was spent with his sister, Mrs. Harry C. Shirk. He was pleased to report that she was somewhat improved when he left for his home on Friday.

Dr. Joseph Fisher, son of William Fisher, is a candidate for the office of prothonotary in Northumberland county. He is a resident of Sunbury, a practicing physician there, and at present the county coroner. The elder Fisher is a native of Boalsburg, and like him the son adheres to the Republican party in politics.

Mrs. Leah Christie and her son, Roy, of Philadelphia, have just returned from an extensive auto trip through New York state, Canada, Michigan and Ohio. On their way home they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Breon, at State College. At Millheim, Mr. Christie left his mother for Philadelphia where he holds a government position.

G. L. Wilson, tenant on the Grove farm along Singing creek, west of Spring Mills, was a caller at this office to arrange for the printing of sale bills. He and A. L. Shaffer, who own the farm stock and implements on a 50-50 basis, will hold sale on Thursday, November 19th. Mr. Wilson expects to move onto the Gentzel farm in Georges Valley.

The Sham-O-Kin hunting lodge, close to Sunset club house, is completed, and presents a handsome appearance, and will likely be a busy place during the approaching big game season. The lodge is a one and a half story structure of neat design. The roof and sides are covered with composition shingles. A large front porch doped up in white, is striking in appearance. The structure at present rests on posts, but later a concrete foundation will be substituted. The inclosure is planned to be used for a garage.

An old sow kept by Bruce W. Ripka has a peculiar liking for felishes, as was noted a week ago by Peter Hassel, of State College, a brush artist, and his assistant, John M. Coldron of Centre Hall. Every tradesman has something he uses daily that becomes a prize to him, and so it is with Mr. Hassel. In his case it was a chalk line spool. He had used it almost since he began handling the brush. When he went to the Ripka farm on the State highway between Centre Hall and Potters Mills, to paint a sign on Mr. Ripka's barn, the spool and line were needed, and, of course, taken along. The lines were carefully drawn and then the spool and chalk line loosely hung on the ladder. While the art was at the top of the ladder the old sow was at the base and instead of rubbing her sides on the rungs to give him a thrill, she left him at ease (for the present), but began chewing the end of the chalk line. As she chewed she also swallowed every bit of the line had disappeared, and then the spool—these was a crunching, and when Peter looked down and saw the brute making a relish of his cherished spool, he held an audible conversation with himself in his native language, which was not understood by his assistant but was plainly animated to say the least.

(Continued on inside page.)