

The Centre Reporter.

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NO. 18.

BLACKMAIL WRITER ELUDES TRAPS SET BY STATE POLICE

Demanded \$2000 from College President's Widow With Threat of Bombing.—Troopers' Fire Vain.

The following dispatch dated April 30th, appeared in the city dailies: An amazing story of an attempt to extort \$2000 from Mrs. Charles T. Aikens, widow of the former president of Susquehanna University, was unfolded by State Police at Sellersville today.

Incidentally the prestige of the troopers suffered in the telling, for they were compelled to admit they failed on three occasions to apprehend the blackmailer when they came to the rendezvous to collect the money.

Four extortion letters in all were mailed Mrs. Aikens. The first, postmarked in Sunbury on March 21, told in illiterate detail the plight of the writer as the result of inability to obtain employment. He said his family of six was starving and without clothing or fuel.

He demanded that Mrs. Aikens place \$2000 in \$20 bills at a location near the Lewistown-Cremer road. She was warned that uncompliance would cost her dearly.

The widow ignored the letter and accorded a second one similar treatment. The second missive threatened the writer "would blow her damn place up" if she failed to meet the demand.

Mrs. Aikens then turned the letters over to the State police and a detail was stationed at the designated spot where she was to place the \$2000. She then attempted to trick the writer into writing a third letter by answering his missive and pleading inability to meet the demand. In this letter she asked if \$1000 would be satisfactory.

Mrs. Aikens' reply was lifted from the designated place between 9 P. M. Monday, April 13, and 8 A. M. next morning.

On the afternoon of April 4 she received another letter asking four or five days' grace. Her answer was lifted from the hole Tuesday morning, April 21, between 9 and 9:15 o'clock. A fourth letter was mailed from Sunbury next morning. In it the location for the hiding of the money was changed to a different place. Her answer was deposited in the new spot that night. She asked for more time.

State police continued their watch, and last Friday night about 10 o'clock an automobile with lights darkened approached the rendezvous. Police said someone alighted from the car and flashed a flashlight on the ground near where the money was to have been placed.

When the police started for the car the man jumped into it and the driver, who kept the motor running, drove rapidly off. The police fired several shots at the fleeing car, but without effect.

Albert B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, has given up legal proceedings to free himself from the sentence of one year in jail and \$100,000 fine on conviction of accepting a bribe from E. L. Doheny, the oil man, and will look to President Hoover for a pardon.

COMPLETES 29 YEARS AS PRIMARY TEACHER

T. A. Auman, of Rebersburg, Has Unique Record As Public School Teacher in Centre County.

What is probably an unique record for a primary school teacher in Centre county belongs to T. A. Auman, who on Wednesday of last week closed his twenty-ninth year as a primary school teacher, all of which time was given to instructing the beginners in his home town of Rebersburg.

On the last day of the term the children were treated to ice cream and cake by the teacher, assisted by Mrs. Auman. After singing a number of songs by the children, they were dismissed with the best wishes of the teacher.

Following is the attendance report for the term just closed: Enrollment: Boys, 22; girls, 20. Average attendance, boys, 21; girls, 19. Percentage of attendance, boys, 97; girls, 97. The following pupils were present every day and on time: Donald Bierly, Earl Brungart, Lloyl Byers, John Best, Kenneth Gephart, Edwin Orndorf, Glenn Swartz, Kermit Stover, Elizabeth Brungart, Caroline Bennett, Elizabeth Byers, Evelyn Day, Betty Daye, Betty Gentzel, Sarah Reish, Evelyn Wolfe.

MOTHER'S DAY AT PENN STATE THIS WEEK-END

Parents of students at the Pennsylvania State College will be guests of the college this week-end at the annual college celebration of Mother's Day. The program starts Friday night with a comedy by the Penn State Players and ends with Mother's Day chapel services on Monday morning.

The annual Scholarship Day program will be held Saturday morning, while in the afternoon there will be several athletic events and a tea for mothers served by the women students in Old Main. The co-eds will also entertain their annual May Fete in the early evening. Later the musical organizations will present a program.

The speaker for Sunday morning chapel will be the Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, president of the Federation of Churches of Greater New York. At the Scholarship Day exercises the speaker will be Harry A. Overstreet, head of the department of philosophy at the College of the City of New York.

LEAGUE OF YOUTH MEETING.

A goodly number attended the regular meeting of the Nittany Valley League of Youth, held in the local Methodist church, Friday, May 1. Piano selections were very well given by Mrs. J. M. Kirkpatrick and Miss Myla Spayker. The Rev. Mr. Utts, of Grove Memorial Methodist church, Lewistown, brought an inspiring message on the subject "Lady Luck." At the election, following the message, Miss Quigg of State College, was elected Counsellor and Mrs. Adams of Pleasant Gap, as president for the ensuing year. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the very enjoyable evening.

PRESIDENT-PRO TEM SCOTT, PERHAPS

One of the outstanding figures in the State Senate during the present legislative session is Senator Harry B. Scott, of the Centre-Clearfield district. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Senator Scott heads probably the most important committee in the Legislature.

Although busy with his work as head of this important committee, Senator Scott has taken an active part in framing legislation in the Senate. In fact he is regarded as one of the two big leaders of the Senate, the other being Frank E. Baldwin, of Potter, chairman of the important Senate Finance Committee.

Both are veterans of the upper branch of the General Assembly although Baldwin's services antedate those of Senator Scott by a number of years. Senator Scott was elected to his first term in 1926, and was re-elected last year. Before seeking a Senate seat Senator Scott had gained legislative experience as a member of the House, having served two terms in that body.

CENTRE COUNTY BASEBALL LEAGUE OPENS MAY 16

Centre Hall, Pleasant Gap, Bellefonte, Lamar, Rebersburg and Coburn form Organization—Locals Play at Home Opening Day.

Centre county's six-club baseball league will get under way Saturday, May 16th. The season is divided into two parts, the winners of the first period playing the winners of the second period for the league championship. Centre Hall plays Pleasant Gap here Saturday of next week for the initial game.

The complete schedule follows: May 16—Coburn at Rebersburg; Bellefonte at Lamar; Pleasant Gap at Centre Hall. May 23—Lamar at Bellefonte; Pleasant Gap at Centre Hall; Rebersburg at Coburn. June 6—Rebersburg at Bellefonte; Centre Hall at Lamar; Pleasant Gap at Coburn. June 13—Centre Hall at Pleasant Gap; Rebersburg at Coburn; Bellefonte at Lamar. June 20—Coburn at Centre Hall; Lamar at Pleasant Gap; Rebersburg at Bellefonte. June 27—Coburn at Bellefonte; Lamar at Rebersburg; Centre Hall at Pleasant Gap.

July 4—Lamar at Coburn; Bellefonte at Pleasant Gap; Rebersburg at Centre Hall. July 11—Pleasant Gap at Lamar; Rebersburg at Coburn; Bellefonte at Centre Hall. (End of first half of schedule) July 18—Coburn at Bellefonte; Pleasant Gap at Rebersburg; Lamar at Centre Hall. July 25—Coburn at Pleasant Gap; Lamar at Centre Hall; Bellefonte at Rebersburg. July 31—Rebersburg at Bellefonte; Pleasant Gap at Coburn; Lamar at Centre Hall. August 7—Rebersburg at Lamar; Pleasant Gap at Centre Hall; Bellefonte at Coburn. August 14—Coburn at Lamar; Centre Hall at Bellefonte; Rebersburg at Pleasant Gap. August 21—Lamar at Pleasant Gap; Centre Hall at Bellefonte. August 28—Centre Hall at Lamar; Coburn at Bellefonte; Pleasant Gap at Rebersburg. September 4—Centre Hall at Coburn; Lamar at Bellefonte; Rebersburg at Pleasant Gap.

August 25—Rebersburg at Lamar; Pleasant Gap at Centre Hall; Bellefonte at Coburn. August 29—Centre Hall at Rebersburg; Coburn at Lamar; Bellefonte at Pleasant Gap. Sept. 7—Lamar at Pleasant Gap; Bellefonte at Centre Hall; Coburn at Rebersburg.

14 Learners Granted Licenses.

Fourteen persons passed the learners' examination to operate a motor vehicle at the last test given in Bellefonte. Twenty applicants were examined but six failed.

Those who received their permits were: George Steele, Warriorsburg; H. D. Brigstocke, Bellefonte; Francis Bekke, Warriorsburg; Ralph Brooks, Lemont; Nevins F. Musser, Spring Mills; Edna Stoner, Centre Hall; Mrs. John Shilling, Port Matilda; Lawrence Heaton, Howard; John Hettinger, Centre Hall; Edwin Fedler, Bellefonte; Mrs. M. E. McAllister, Jersey Shore; and Fred Lewis, Tyrone.

NOTES FROM PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

The members of the Council of the Huntington Presbytery, namely, Ministers J. A. Spore, Tyrone; R. P. Miller, Philadelphia; K. H. Hering, King Valley; R. S. Hittiger, Bellefonte; H. A. Riddle, Lewistown; J. M. Kirkpatrick, Centre Hall; and Elders T. J. Jackson, Philadelphia; D. Ross, Williamsburg, met in Tyrone First Presbyterian church Monday to plan the budget for the Presbytery which meets in Birmingham, Pa., on June 8th. The business of the Presbytery has become so crowded that it cannot be adequately cared for in the time allotted for it, so at the last meeting of the Presbytery it was voted to hold another session each year. This session will be held in June. It was hoped that Centre Hall would have the pleasure of entertaining the Presbytery in June, but Birmingham's invitation reached the clerk first and of course got the preference.

Monday night found the Presbyterian Manse well lighted and gay. Thomas and Hubert Haugh and families with the aid of Mrs. S. C. Smith and Miss Grace White arranged a very pleasant supper for Mrs. Kirkpatrick. Games were enjoyed; the feet were scrubbed; the gifts were beautiful, and the cake and its accoutrements sixteen candles designating the age of the lady above named.

Tuesday of this week a Regional Mission Conference was held in the Presbyterian church at Milesburg. This conference included the churches of Pine Grove Mills, State College, Lewisburg, Lemont, Centre Hall, Bellefonte, Port Matilda, Snow Shoe, Unionville and Milesburg. The churches of Centre Hall, Pleasant Gap, State College, Lewisburg, and Milesburg were represented by Mrs. Kirkpatrick of Centre Hall, Miss Grace Burkett of Tyrone and Miss Lovette conducted classes on "Methods with regard to Mission Schools." Mrs. Walters of Altoona had charge of the conference hour. At 6 o'clock a very good supper was served for the price of 50c. The conference at the supper hour was in charge of Rev. S. C. Capers of Hollidaysburg. Rev. Capers is the director of Missionary Education in the Presbytery. The evening session was given over to Rev. Dr. Groves, Missionary in Persia, home on furlough.

Please note that Rev. Ayers of Japan will speak tonight (Wednesday) in the Presbyterian church, Centre Hall. May we give Rev. Ayers a full house.

LOCAL THRIFT CORPORATION NOW BEING FORMED

Prominent Business Men Heading the Undertaking.—Announcement of Plans Made.

Announcement was made last week that a small loans institution to be known as the "Centre County Thrift Corporation" will be in operation in Bellefonte and later on in State College, within the next few weeks, according to the present plans of a group of local business men who have been working on the enterprise for some time past.

Concerning the plans and objects of the project the announcement authorized recently said: "The institution will be strictly a loaning corporation and not a bank of deposit. Its business function is to make small loans not exceeding \$200 to deserving people in the community who have no other banking connection. It will be patterned very closely after twenty other similar enterprises located in Pittsburgh, Monessen, Donora, Scranton, Rochester, Landsdale, Pottstown, Phoenixville, Clariton, Turtle Creek, Pitsa, and other places, giving needed assistance to a class of people not usually served by the state or national banks.

"The small loans company does not enter into competition with the old-time banking business in any community. "In some states such corporations are permitted to take deposits, hence the title the small loan "bank." But in the State of Pennsylvania these institutions are prohibited by law from taking deposits. And so the term "bank" is a misnomer. However, the term "bank" is often used to discriminate between an institution of this character which charges very low interest rates, and the companies that charge the maximum that the law will permit, to wit 42%.

"For several weeks preceding the organization steps local business men made a study of the operation of similar small loan companies in other communities. Robert Hunter and D. M. Kline visited the Landsdale Thrift Corporation recently, and the directors and stockholders there were unanimous in voicing the opinion that this institution was the best institution that had ever been formed in that community in that it gave a real social service to needy people. It was pointed out that the directors of the Landsdale Thrift Corporation embodied representation from every commercial banking institution in that community. All avenues of information disclosed complimentary details relative to the movement and it was the consensus of opinion that in nearly every case their respective institutions rendered an unexpectedly good service to the community besides earning a normal return for the investors in the stock of these companies.

"At a later date a meeting will be called at which will be prominent speakers who are conversant with the details of the small loans company, such as Zane B. Gray, Pres. Williamsport Thrift Corp., Judge James H. Gray, formerly president of the Pittsburgh Thrift Corp. and now director of that same corporation; C. R. Anderson, Pres., Pittsburgh Thrift Corp. At the same time Robert Hunter and D. M. Kline are to make a report to the guests who will attend the meeting.

"The temporary committee for the furtherance of this movement are John H. Bullock, Bellefonte; L. D. Fye, State College; George H. Hazel, Bellefonte; D. M. Kline, Bellefonte; R. F. Steff, State College. "All details have not yet been worked out but it is understood that the stock will be privately placed and subscribed by local citizens in order to avoid an expensive stock-selling campaign.

"It was explained that the plan for obtaining \$100 is something like this: A debtor owes a dentist, doctor, merchant or other creditor \$100, or owes three or four creditors the same amount. These creditors may act as endorsers on the note and get the money at once. Then the borrower repays the loan at the rate of \$2.00 a week for fifty-six weeks. At the end of that time, if every weekly payment has been promptly met, a rebate of \$4.57 is given to the borrower for his promptness.

"The remarkable fact about the small loan companies is that there are almost no losses. "The Morris Plan Bank which operates much the same way as the Thrift companies, made a public announcement recently that in the more than 100 banks which have been organized under this plan, not a single investor had ever lost a penny. The same record is enjoyed by all the Thrift companies.

"All the Thrift companies have been in a position to pay a dividend within a year and some have actually paid dividends within six or eight months after starting business. The Williamsport Thrift Corporation is an example of a company that earned enough to pay their initial dividend at the end of six months, at which time they went on a 6% basis. "It is expected that the Thrift offices is to be established in Bellefonte, and later on an office will be established also at State College so that all adjacent communities such as Spring township, Milesburg, Pleasant Gap, Unionville, Lemont, Howard, Centre Hall and Curtin may be adequately served."

The Centre Reporter, \$1.50 a Year.

BEAR MEADOWS. (A Sonnet.)

There lies a lake within a hidden land
Whose stagnant waters are as black as ink;
The bullfrogs croak upon its murky brink,
And no man dares to cross the sucking
Tall huckleberry trees in marshes stand,
And deer and other wild things come
To drink
Where rhododendron flowers, white and pink,
Bloom large as orchids on a Torrid strand.

This is the red man's Happy Hunting Ground;
And when flaming sun has gone to rest
Beyond the seventh mountain's purple crest,
White moths dart thro' the gloom with
out a sound;
They are the souls of Indians dead and gone
That haunt this paradise until the dawn.
—Harvey W. Flink.

CAPTAINS SELECTED FOR COUNTY HOSPITAL DRIVE

The following persons have been selected to captain the groups of solicitors in their respective townships and townships:

Bellefonte—Miss M. M. Blanchard, W. J. Emerick.
Benner Township—Mrs. Mary Kane, J. N. Mong.
Boggs Township—Frank Wetzler, J. H. Davidson.
Curtin Township—Mrs. John Heverly, Mrs. Oscar Weaver.
Centre Hall—F. V. Goodhart.
College Township—Chas. Thompson, Ferguson Township—J. H. McCracken.
Gregg Township—C. P. Long.
Haines Township—C. D. Motz, D. S. Wert.
Halfmoon Township—N. I. Wilson.
Howard Boro—Sumner Wolf.
Harris Township—Maj. W. R. Lam.
Houston Township—J. Thompson Henry.

Liberty Township—Mrs. T. M. Kunes, Mrs. W. A. Bowes, Mrs. T. Deyer.
Marion Township—Ed. Alley.
Miles Township—C. M. Biery, Rev. J. R. Schectery, Rev. E. M. Poy, Rev. A. J. Miller.
Milesburg—M. E. Flynn, C. T. Miles, Milheim—J. R. Miller.
Patterson—Geo. Stevenson, T. M. Huey.
Penn Township—F. C. Malone.
Port Matilda—W. E. Williams.
Potter Township—F. A. Carson.
Snow Shoe and Burnside Townships—E. T. Haines.
Spring Township—Rev. C. A. Metzger, Mrs. Irvin Tate, Mrs. O. M. Zimmerman, Mary Kunes.
State College—M. S. McDowell.
Taylor Township—Mrs. A. P. Collet.
Unionville—Howard Holtzworth.
Union Township—Mrs. Bona Bechtol, Mrs. A. Noll, F. E. Vonada.
Worth Township—W. J. Woodring.

BIRTHS.

A daughter, Virginia, was born to Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Morrow in the Gelsinger hospital, Danville, Tuesday of last week.
A son, Arthur, Jr., was born to Arthur and Ruth (Grove) Thoman at the home of the mother's father, H. E. Grove, in Centre Hall, Friday night.
A daughter, Leona May, was born to John D. and Margaret E. (Matter) Heckman, Spring Mills.
A son, Paul Michael, was born April 23rd to M. T. and Lydia G. (Rishel) Zabler, Spring Mills.

County S. S. Convention.

The Centre County Sabbath School Association will hold their annual convention in the Lutheran church, Centre Hall, Monday and Tuesday, June 29 and 30. With all ministers, Sunday school superintendents and Sabbath School workers get their people lined up and have a real good attendance.

The following State workers will be with us: Miss Lillian Reed, of the Children's Department; Dr. George W. Wabary, of Christian Education; B. A. McGarvey, field organizer, and Dr. Homer W. Tope, of the Pa. Anti-Saloon League. The latter will also address the convention on Temperance and Prohibition. Everybody come.—C. C. Shuey.

Bittinger-Musser.

At the Evangelical parsonage in Millheim, Harold J. Bittinger, of Lewistown and Miss Ives Luedie Musser, of Millheim, were united in marriage by the pastor, Rev. A. C. Paulhanus.

The groom is a machinist at the Standard Steel Works and holds an overtime position as head usher at the Embassy theatre in Lewistown. He is the son of Mrs. Nora (Bittinger) Rine, of Lewistown. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles O. Musser, of Millheim. She is one of the courteous and efficient operators in the Millheim Bell Telephone exchange, and is one of Millheim's charming young ladies.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

A thousand locust trees were planted on several selected sections on the Grange Park plot during last week.

William and Guy Zettie, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Arch Zettie, and Paul Coleman, all of Berwick, were guests on Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Zettie and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Zettie.

Allen Witmer of Zion, who was a patient at Gelsinger hospital, being treated for rheumatism, returned to his home recently much improved. He is a son of W. M. Witmer, of Hunters Park.

On Thursday, Judge Fleming handed down an opinion refusing a new trial to C. A. Krape, of Spring Mills, convicted of arson at the last term of court. Krape is ordered to appear in court on May 14 for sentence.

Kenneth G. Haines, son of M. C. Haines, for the past two years teacher has been elected teacher of general science in the Lock Haven Junior High school and will be available in the physical education activities of the Lock Haven schools.

For the first time in forty years the Penn State Theatras have admitted women students to the cast and chorus of their annual musical comedy. The Theatras will make but two appearances this year—Saturday evening, May 16th, and again in June during commencement.

Mr. and Mrs. George Att, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Kuhn and Mrs. Clara Thomas, of Williamsport, motored to Yeagertown recently and were dinner guests with Mr. and Mrs. Milton Deamer and were entertained at supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Gibboney.

The Milroy correspondent to the Lewistown Gazette has this to say: There is a shortage of potatoes in this section, both for family use and for planting. The tubers are being brought here from Centre county, small potatoes for planting selling for \$1 per bushel and eating potatoes for \$1.25 and \$1.50 per bushel.

Miss Catharine Goodhart, formerly employed at State College, is bookkeeper and stenographer in the office of George Stover, grain and coal dealer, here. She is a Centre Hall High school graduate. Another Centre Hall High school girl, Miss Edna Cummings, is in one of the Shaffer stores, State College.

C. H. Meyer, rural mail carrier from Reedsville, who was placed on the retired list about April 1st, was granted an extension of service for two years which was gratefully received. He has been in the service over twenty-five years, all of which time was devoted to the one route. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer together with their two granddaughters, of New York City, were in town Monday night.

Many ornamental trees and shrubbery planted last spring and summer at this time are showing the effects of the severe drought experienced during the latter part of the summer—and throughout the fall and winter. The labor on numerous home surroundings will be lost, but the operation should be repeated. It is scarcely worth while to wait for the recovery of a crippled ornamental tree—better remove it and plant again.

O. G. Morgan, Bellefonte business man, announces himself a candidate for the office of treasurer of Centre county, on the Republican ticket, in this issue of the Reporter. Mr. Morgan visited our office last Thursday, and we found him to be a man of gentlemanly qualities, resolute in his intention to wage an aggressive campaign, but one devoid of anything that will besmirch the character of any of his opponents.

William D. Shoop has about completed his bungalow at Arnold Springs, a bit more than a mile northeast of the Pat, Garry homestead, in Seven Mountains, and is living there like a prince. The underbrush from his holdings has been cleaned up, walks built and the spring covered. The bungalow is built with a view of convenience and comfort, and has a garage underneath. All in all, the home is an ideal one for one desiring to live in semi-retirement.

James Taggart, 53 North Third St., Philadelphia, died in the insurance office in which he was employed, on Wednesday afternoon of last week. Interment was made at Northumberland on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Taggart during the past years frequently visited Miss Sarah McClehan, in town, who having made their acquaintance while they lived in Harrisburg, Miss McClehan, E. Clymer McClehan, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Frank attended the funeral at Northumberland.

We are indebted to our good friend, Guy W. Jacobs, of Steubenville, Ohio, for a copy of the program of the 19th annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, held at Atlantic City, last week, which Mr. Jacobs attended as a delegate, and a copy of the keynote address by William Butterworth, president of the national Chamber. A perusal of the program would indicate that all the ills of the country were brought forth for solution, and since some really big men took part in the various discussions, it may reasonably be expected that the convention was not held in vain.

One of seven road projects in Pennsylvania for which bids were opened Friday in Centre county and begins in the borough of Port Matilda and extends in a northwesterly direction. Its length is 5.59 miles. The lowest bid—\$144,245—was placed by M. Bennett and Sons, Indiana. This is a link in the Pottery Mills-Phillipsburg road, a section of the Lakes-to-Sea highway.

Beginning the 14th, this store will be closed every Thursday afternoon until September.—Nieman's Department Store, Millheim.