

The Centre Reporter



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EMERICK GRAVE IN PHILADA. MAY BE OPENED IN QUEST OF ASTOR MILLIONS

Heirs of John Nicholas Emerick, reputed partner of John Jacob Astor and Stephen Girard, sought court permission on Friday to open a 125-year-old grave in their search for papers which they believe would prove their right to two-thirds of the present Astor fortune.

A petition was filed in Orphans' Court of Philadelphia by John Ryan, attorney for Mrs. Maude Emerick, of Philadelphia, and other Emerick heirs asking that the rector and vestrymen of Old Swede's Church, Philadelphia, be directed to open a burial vault believed to contain the body of Emerick, who died in Philadelphia in 1814.

The petition states that Alvin W. Emerick, of Hamburg, a descendant of John Nicholas, was present in 1902 when the vault was opened. At that time, it is said, certain documents were removed from the vault and returned after copies were made of them.

Certain of these documents the Emerick heirs believe will prove the establishment of a 90-year trust fund set up by John Nicholas Emerick with his partner, Astor, as trustee. The present value of the asserted trust fund has been estimated in excess of \$4,000,000.

The Hamburg man said the documents now sought were contained in a receptacle in the vault in which it is declared Emerick is buried, the petition sets forth.

At the time the Emerick litigation began, 19 years ago, the burial place of John Nicholas Emerick was not known and records of various old Philadelphia and Germantown churches were searched.

The first legal assault of Emerick heirs upon the Astor fortune was made in the Federal court in New York. After dismissal of two actions by the Federal court, the heirs in 1933 instituted proceedings in the Orphans' Court in Philadelphia and Mrs. Barth's petition to examine records at Old Swede's Church was granted at that time. The litigation has been dormant for five years.

Little is definitely known concerning the death and burial of John Nicholas Emerick. Some family traditions say he died in Philadelphia and others that he died at sea. The date however is agreed upon as October 14, 1814.

Supposed collateral heirs of Emerick are scattered all over the country. Grandfathers had told fathers, fathers had told sons the story of the ancestor picking up Astor when he was a poor young man and setting him up in business. In 1877, it is asserted, Astor was made a one-third partner by Emerick, who at that time created a trust of his estate which would endure for 90 years.

Astor, it is declared, was made the trustee of this estate. When the trust matured, it is claimed, it was to be divided among the descendants of John Nicholas Emerick's brothers, Christopher and Valentine.

This was never done, it is contended, and no accounting was ever made by Astor of the reported trust. Astor died in 1848.

No written execution of the trust has ever been found and it is such a paper as this that the heirs now wish to seek in the 125-year-old tomb.

HOSTERMAN-MILLS

Miss Eunice I. Mills, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Mills of Altoona, and Charles W. Hosterman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Hosterman of State College, formerly of Centre Hall, were united in marriage in Hagerstown, Md., on Saturday, March 11, at the Trinity Lutheran church, by the Rev. Simon.

The bride was attractively attired in a rust dress with brown accessories.

Mr. Hosterman, who is a graduate of State College high school and the College, class of 1935, is production manager of the Hoffman Dairy company in Huntingdon. Mrs. Hosterman, who was graduated from Altoona high school, class of 1938, has been employed at Fischer's restaurant in Huntingdon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hosterman are residing at the Hess apartments, 14th and Washington Sts., Huntingdon.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

From the "Ink Slings" column in the Democratic Watchman, March 17: "Frankly, we think the womanhood of our land should rise up in protest against the ver-emphasis of its sex appeal. Newspapers, magazines and movies picture it as though its claim for recognition of equality with manhood in business and political rights were based on what it has from the 'billy button' down, rather than from there up."

Hilda P. Thompson, State College, was named by Governor Arthur H. James as personal representative for Public Assistance Secretary Howard L. Russell in charge of the state employment board staff. The salary is \$7500 per annum.

Dr. John F. Harkins of State College was one of the speakers at the meeting in Millfield at the Centre-Union Chapter of the Susquehanna University Alumni Association. Fred S. Showalter of Millmont was re-elected president. Other officers elected were vice-president, Claude G. Aiken, State College; secretary, Miss Marguerite Yagel, Millfield; and treasurer George H. Morning, State College.

SALARY OF FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTERS TO BE BOOSTED

A sensible movement has been presented in a bill to Congress to increase salaries of all Fourth Class postmasters and a less needed measure presented to the same body would raise the salaries of already well-paid postmasters of the higher classes by basing their classification on 100 percent instead of 90 per cent of the annual receipts.

The post offices of the Fourth Class in Centre county whose postmasters would reap benefit from the first proposed measure are these:

Aaronsburg, Blanchard, Boalsburg, Coburn, Fleming, Hubersburg, Julian, Kato, Lemont, Livonia, Madisonburg, Martha Furnace, Milesburg, Monument, Moshannon, Oak Hall Station, Orviston, Pine Glen, Pine Grove Mills, Pleasant Gap, Powelton, Rebersburg, Sandy Ridge, Smulton, Wingate and Woodward. Postmasters' salaries there in most instances would surpass postal receipts.

OLD FORT LODGE, F. & A. M. EAT-DANCE, THURSDAY NIGHT

A successful banquet and dance was engaged in by members of Old Fort Lodge, F. & A. M., and invited friends on Thursday evening in the auditorium of the Centre Hall-Potter high school building. The group numbered 109. A guest of honor was W. Harrison Walker, Esq., district deputy Grand Master, and Mrs. Walker.

Music was furnished by the Bob Lyons All-Star orchestra of Sunbury, and the banquet by members of the Evangelical Sunday school. The chief item on the bill of fare was turkey.

The guests were greatly pleased with the manner of the table service, which was superintended by Mrs. F. P. Geary, while Mrs. G. W. Ralston was the chef, with able assistants.

NON-STOP AIRMAIL PICKUP SYSTEM IS INAUGURATED

A daily non-stop airmail pick-up system has been established between Wilmington, Del., and Pittsburgh, gathering mail at Philadelphia, West Chester, Coatesville, Lancaster, Columbia, York, Hanover, Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Mount Union, Huntingdon, Tyone, Clearfield, Ridgway, Kane, Warren, Corry, Tittusville, Franklin, Grove City, Butler, and New Kensington in the morning, landing at Pittsburgh, with a return trip in the afternoon.

Another plane will operate out of Pittsburgh, making pickups at Irwin, Jeannette, Greensburg, Latrobe, Mount Pleasant, Connellsville, and Uniontown, Pa., Morgantown, Fairmont, Clarksburg, Weston, Glenville and Spencer, West Va.

JAMES TAKES CHAIN STORE TAX LAW TO SUPREME COURT

The law taxing chain stores passed by the Earle Administration will be carried to the State Supreme Court from a Dauphin county court decision invalidating the graduated levy of from \$1.90 to \$500.00 a year. The action is authorized by Governor James and may find favor with the higher court. The funds from the tax are to be used to increase the salaries of school teachers receiving \$800-\$900 per year to \$1000 annually. The State now holds \$500,000 tax money paid by some of the chain stores prior to the Dauphin county court decision.

ALL-SQUARE DANCE IN HIGH SCHOOL, FRIDAY, MARCH 24

The business class of the Centre Hall-Potter high school will hold an all-square dance Friday, March 24, at 8:00 o'clock, in the gymnasium.

The dance will be held for the benefit of the athletic association. The public is invited to attend this evening of fun for all. Admission, 25c.

SPRING BRINGS CHANGES IN POULTRY MANAGEMENT

Many poultrymen will discontinue the use of lights on their laying flocks about April 1. According to County Agent R. C. Blaney, the safest method is to lessen gradually the time that the lights are used. Such a change will not disturb the birds.

Although poultrymen may be tempted to give their birds free range on bright, sunshiny spring days, nothing is to be gained if the birds are being kept for the production of market eggs. Markets prefer eggs with pale yolks and it is difficult to produce this type of eggs when birds have access to green grass. When satisfactorily housed, confined birds usually produce more eggs during the year.

Range can be used to good advantage for the breeding flock.

APRIL DECLARED CANCER MONTH BY THE PRESIDENT

President Roosevelt on Saturday proclaimed April as cancer control month and urged similar action by the States to spur the fight on the disease.

Pointing out that "medical authorities have assured the American people of the curability of many cases of cancer, a disease that now ranks second among the causes of death in the United States," Roosevelt said: "Now, therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby set apart the month of April, 1939, as cancer control month, and invite similar action on the part of the Governors of the several States, territories and possessions of the United States."

INTERESTING DEBATE TO FEATURE P.T.A. MEETING

"Resolved: That the government is justified in spending large sums of money to relieve the unemployment situation," is the subject of an inter-collegiate debate between Penn State and Washington Y. M. C. A. at the next Parent-Teacher Association meeting, Monday night, March 27, in Centre Hall-Potter auditorium.

This debate is sponsored by Penn State under the direction of J. F. O'Brien professor of public speaking.

As a special entertainment feature at this P. T. A. meeting the mixed glee club from the high school and the girls' chorus from eighth grade will sing several special numbers with Miss Marjorie Fisher directing.

This meeting is scheduled for 7:30 so that the nominating committee for next year's P. T. A. officers may be elected before the debate begins.

TEACHERS NOT PAID AND MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS PROBLEMS BEFORE ASSEMBLY

Married women teachers and those who haven't seen a payday in months will share in the Legislature's attention this week.

A bill is ready in the House to provide state money for financially-distressed school districts unable to pay their employees.

The Republican-backed measure would provide for \$1,925,000 for the needy districts and pay for transportation of rural pupils during the remainder of the two-year fiscal period ending May 31.

The Senate struck out a clause that would have banned married women teachers. Senator Leo C. Mundy D. Luzerne) sponsor of the law, said:

"There still is a clause which forbids outside activity which interferes with teaching. School boards might interpret that to include the married status."

A hearing on the amendments to the tenure law will be held April 10.

MARRIAGE OF JODON-McCORMICK, APRIL 7TH

Mr. and Mrs. George H. McCormick at Pottery Mills announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Miss Laura Belle, and Charles Edwin Jodon, on Friday evening, April 7th, at 4:30 o'clock, in the Sprucewood Methodist Episcopal church. Invitations for the wedding have been issued by Mr. and Mrs. McCormick.

A reception will be tendered the couple immediately after the ceremony at the home of the bride at Pottery Mills.

W. C. T. U. INSTITUTE TO MEET IN AARONSBURG

The Spring Institute of the Centre County Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be held in the St. Peter's Reformed church in Aaronsburg on Thursday afternoon, March 30th. The afternoon and evening sessions will be devoted to devotional panel discussions, Willard hour, Frances Willard Centenary Year, question box, dedication of tree and plant, gold medal contest, reports of committees. During the evening the Millheim Evangelical Junior choir will sing.

LARGE ELECTRIC COOLER FOR CLOVER FARM STORE

As briefly stated last week, T. A. Hosterman installed a modern cooler in his Clover Farm store.

The cooler is known as the walk-in type, size 3 by 5 and 8 1-2 feet in height. It will accommodate a large quantity of meat and other perishable foodstuffs. The refrigeration results from an oversized coil and a new Frick compressor. The Tyler company of Niles, Mich., are the manufacturers and a Williamsport agent sold the outfit to Mr. Hosterman.

The refrigeration plant is a decided addition to the store's equipment.

\$5,558,445 ASKED FOR PENN STATE IN SENATE BILL

A bill to provide general maintenance expenses for the Pennsylvania State College, calling for \$5,558,445 for the coming biennium beginning June 1st, was introduced in the upper house of the General Assembly last week by Sen. A. H. Letzler, R., of the 24th district, comprising Centre and Clearfield counties.

The figure advanced by Senator Letzler for the College is \$1,133,445 higher than the recommended figure given in his budget message to the legislature by Gov. Arthur H. James. Governor James' estimate allotted the institution \$4,425,000, including a \$50,000 appropriation specifically applied to the School of Mineral Industries.

The total appropriation for the 1937-39 biennium was \$4,275,000. This figure included a general maintenance appropriation of \$4,150,000 and special grants of \$100,000 to the School of Mineral Industries and \$25,000 for engineering research.

The College administration had submitted an estimate of \$5,593,445 as its needs for the 1938-41 biennium.

The amount of the appropriation may be changed in either house of the legislature with the consent of the other house and approval of the Governor.

The community sales conducted by S. T. Riege every other Tuesday at the Penna Valley sales barn, close to Old Fort hotel, are being well attended, and livestock of all kinds selling at very fair prices. Sales are running between \$3000 and \$4000, with an occasional one over the latter figure.

APRIL 1ST FAMILY HOME SHIFTS AT MINIMUM

The shifting of families April 1st or thereabouts, due to the custom in this section of property leases expiring at this time, is considerably less than in some years. Building a home of their own was the factor in the moving of Joe Hartley and children from the former Frohm home to Allison street, near the P. R. R. station, and the purchase of the Frohm place by Daniel C. Bohn accounts for his moving there from the Brockerhoff farm where he was tenant for 19 years.

A couple beginning housekeeping are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Packer and their young son, who will do so in the apartment in the Carrilb Emerick home when the present tenant, Mrs. Mazie Lee, locates in one of the two apartments of Miss Jennie Foreman. Another couple to begin housekeeping is Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martz, who are cozily located in an apartment in the J. I. Fetterolf home.

Two families moving out of town are Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Corman and their two young daughters, who will become residents of Millheim where the heads of the family are employed in the Millheim Knitting Mill, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Priest and daughter Janet, who will locate in Emmaus, Lehigh county, where the former cashier of the Centre Hall First National Bank will be employed in a similar institution. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Sharer and children, who have been living with Mrs. Sharer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sharer, in town. They will go to the Harry McClenahan home west of Centre Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. George Vogt and daughters will occupy the Gfrerer home which has been remodeled and modernized since they acquired it a short time ago.

Other changes of families in town are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Evoy, who but recently came to town and now living in one of the Alexander (formerly Homan) apartments will move to the Luse two-apartment house when vacated by Mr. Priest.

Newcomers are Mr. and Mrs. Orvis Smeltzer, now living west of town in the McClenahan property. They will locate near the P. R. R. station in the home formerly owned by Andrew Zettle. A second addition to the borough population will be Mr. and Mrs. Musser Ervin who will follow the Vogts, on West Church street. Mrs. Ervin is a sister of Mrs. Geo. Hackett at Old Fort. The family comes here from Pleasant Gap.

Irvin Vonada, who came here from State College, will locate at Howard, where his father lives and is in delicate health. Mr. Vonada is employed by Mrs. Mary (Kiddler) Stuart, in Harris township. The Laughner home where Mr. Vonada lives, at this time has not been leased.

James Settle, living in one of the apartments in the Odenkirk building, will locate in one of the Alexander apartments when vacated by the Evoy's.

MILK CONTROL BOARD BRINGS DEEMER PEARCE TO BAR

A fine of \$75.00 and costs was placed on Deemer Pearce of State College, representing the Pearce Milk Company, for failure to post a bond guaranteeing the payment of milk purchased from producers.

The case was heard before Squire C. W. Slack on Monday morning.

Prosecution was brought by John G. Miller, a State agent for the Milk Control Board. The interests of the board were further looked after by Miss D. T. Bower, from the Harrisburg office. Mr. Pearce was represented by E. T. Willard, Esq., of State College.

Against the over-emphasis of its sex fine carried by law ranges, from \$25.00 to \$300.00.

TOP SALES OF THE SEASON

Probably the largest farm stock and implement sale this spring on the south side of the county was that of George K. Long, west of Madisonburg, the sale sheets footing up to \$5000. M. H. Swartz, on the Allison farm at Spring Bank, where no horses were sold amounted to \$4500, and that of John Slack, around \$3000. Daniel C. Bohn, near Old Fort, had one of the best sales in this region—\$4000. Mr. Bohn sold only the stock, etc., kept by him during his regular farming operations during the past few years.

At the Adam Reish sale, east of Rebersburg, on Friday, a cow sold for \$150.50, and the total was around \$4,500.

Sunday School Classes Meet

Classes in the Lutheran Sunday school held their monthly meetings at the homes of members. The Helping Hand class met with Mrs. Clyde Dutrow. The teacher is Mrs. Mary Stahl, who is staying in Altoona at this time.

The Senior Service class was given an evening's entertainment and topped out with delicious refreshments furnished by the hostess, Mrs. E. E. Zettle, on Thursday evening.

A third class taught by Mrs. J. M. Colderon met at the Lutheran parsonage with Mrs. L. A. Wagner.

The Beauty Williamsport committee during April will procure five varieties of shade trees and offer them for sale to property owners. The varieties selected by the committee are Pin oak, Norway maple, silver maple, Schwedler maple and elm.

FARMERS ALSO FLIT AS APRIL 1ST APPROACHES

There is more or less changing of farm tenants in this section, but the number has been much reduced from that of years ago. Changes in the immediate vicinity include Edwin Clark, who discontinues farming operations, and will locate in Howard. He will be followed by Toner G. Spotts who comes to the Corl farm from Smithtown, near Millheim.

Henry Zerby will vacate the farm of his father John W. Zerby, near Penns Cave, and become the tenant on the D. K. Keller farm east of town when John Himmey moves to the Rimmer homestead west of Tusseyville, acquired and much improved by him during his short ownership.

Orvis Richardson, now on the Peacock farm, will locate in the Coburn section, and Lester Roseman will succeed him as tenant, while Roseman, on the Meeker farm, will be followed as tenant by Van Meeker, who will occupy the place for the second time.

Clarence Blazer will occupy the former Benner farm near Old Fort, purchased by him within a year, during which time the barn on the place was rebuilt on another site, the dwelling house remodeled and repainted, an electric pump installed, and other improvements made. Mr. Blazer will be followed as tenant on the Henshall farm at Earystown by Ralph Ralston, a nephew of G. W. Ralston, who is now located on the Rishel farm near Axemann.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bohn, recently married, will begin farming operations on the Brockerhoff farm near Old Fort, to be vacated by D. C. Bohn, father of the former.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT CENTRE HALL-SPRING MILLS

The public is invited to attend the Holy Week (April 3-6) services to be held in Centre Hall Evangelical church and Spring Mills Methodist church at 7:30 each evening.

The general theme is Critical Challenges, with the sub-topics and the preachers as follows:

Centre Hall: Monday—Authority—Rev. L. A. Wagner. Tuesday—Controversy—Rev. J. M. Kirkpatrick. Wednesday—Retirement—Rev. I. L. Miller. Thursday—Fellowship—Rev. D. R. Keener.

Spring Mills: Monday—Fellowship—Rev. D. R. Keener. Tuesday—Controversy—Rev. W. K. Hosterman. Wednesday—Authority—Rev. L. A. Wagner. Thursday—Retirement—Rev. I. L. Miller.

Friday evening each church in Centre Hall will have its own service. The offerings will be used to support rural work. —I. L. Miller, Secretary Penna Valley Ministerium.

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI DANCE GREAT SUCCESS

The dance on Wednesday evening of last week sponsored by the Centre Hall-Potter high school was a success from various angles, the monetary profit having been approximately \$25.00, the attendance all that could be desired, the music and entertainment acceptable to those gathered together for the event.

The dance music was furnished by a Millfield musical organization, while the floor show called together local and nearby talent whose performance was highly interesting and entertaining.

The floor show numbers were executed by Miss Julia Ocker of Millheim, who rendered a peppy song and dance; Jean Bartholomew and Betty Johnson, tap dance; while a pre-school age trio—Marlene Coldron, Georgette Johnson and Jane Vogt—appeared in solo dances.

David Booser came in for a round of applause as he stepped on the platform in formal attire, top hat, jewels and stick included, to do a tap dance which he did in fine style.

The boys' glee club from the high school sang "The Umbrella Man"; Francis Snyder rendered a trumpet solo. The closing number was a dance by a costumed group of high school girls.

While walking from a chopping to the home of M. A. Burkholder, west of town, Perry H. Luse experienced a fall that might easily have terminated with dire results, but didn't. Mr. Luse stepped under a wire, both ends of which were firmly frozen in the ground, throwing him headlong. The double-bitted axe he was carrying was thrown clear of him, and that's what saved the day.

Two large oak trees were cut on the William Fetterolf farm, tenanted by his son, Burton Fetterolf, east of Centre Hall, of unusual dimensions. One of the sturdy oaks to withstand the storms of many winters measured over fourteen feet across the stump, while the smaller one had a girth of over thirty-six feet. The trees were cut by William Luse, who converted the huge logs into planks for future use.

Alton Lecky Neff, a Centre Hall boy, a son of the late John Neff, now living in Capa, South Dakota, was recently retired as a railroad employe and is now enjoying an annuity, much deserved. He had some difficulty in establishing his age, but finally succeeded. Many residents in town will recall Lecky as a boy living with his parents and sister, Maude, in the property now owned and occupied by James Faust, on West Church St.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

The real estate of Mrs. Della Mensch, located in Millheim, at a public sale was bid up to \$2700, but not sold.

Bobby, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Jodon, is one of several children in Millheim to have recently developed a case of measles.

Nearly one hundred ringneck cocks were released recently by refugee keeper Kistner in the territory between Spring Mills and Woodward.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bechtel of Howard were guests on Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bohn. The young couple, the former a brother of Mrs. Bohn, are engaged in farming.

The Centre county court room will be lighted by the indirect lighting system in the near future. The fixtures will be furnished and installed by the Electric Supply company.

The seniors of Gregg Twp. Vocational school will present a play, "Junior Sees It Through," Friday evening, March 31, at 8 o'clock in the auditorium. Admission, 15 & 25 cents.

The question whether it is safe or unsafe to transport new automobiles over the cab of trucks is being discussed by the Public Utility Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The Centre County Council of Christian Education, formerly the Sabbath School Association of Centre County, will hold its summer convention in the Evangelical church, Millheim, on Thursday, June 17.

S. J. Moser will begin farming on the L.E. Bartsch farm in Gregg township. M. H. Swartz, the former's father-in-law, who had sale on the Allison farm at Spring Bank, will make his home with the Moser family.

Frank Harpster, tenant on the former Meyer-Huyett farm near Linden Hall, now owned by Mrs. Mary Stuart, will move to the Mothersbaugh farm, close to Boalsburg, which he purchased. Mr. Harpster made sale of surplus farms stock last week.

Franklin Runkle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Runkle of Lewistown, formerly of Centre Hall, is visiting his parents and friends in this section. He is employed on a farm in the vicinity of Freeport, Ill., where he has been located for some time.

A. S. Glover, well-known justice of the peace in Aaronsburg, is on a trip to St. Petersburg, Fla. Dr. Le Roy Forsythe, the Millheim druggist, accompanied by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Forsythe, of Wilkensburg, also motored to Florida last week.

The Clover Club met on Wednesday evening of last week with Mrs. Lovan Smith in the Bartholomew apartment recently occupied by her. The transaction of general interest brought to light was that of providing milk daily for a needy family in town.

New residents in this community within ten days will be Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ebert and children who will occupy the Samuel Moser farm purchased by Mr. Ebert, the place having been the property of Mrs. Ebert's father, The Eberts now live on West Logan street, Bellefonte.

Benjamin Heckert of Pittsburgh spent the weekend at the Millheim home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Heckert, who accompanied him to that city where they will spend an indefinite time at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Moore.

The Brush Valley telephone company, an independent rural company, disbanded at a meeting of stockholders held on Thursday evening. A reorganization was effected by uniting with the Penn Hall company, also an independent unit, with connection with the Bell exchange at Spring Mills.

The beekeepers of Centre county will hold their annual meeting and dinner at the Penn Belle hotel in Bellefonte, tomorrow (Friday) at 6:00 p. m. Edwin J. Anderson, State College, bee specialist for the state, will speak and show two reels of motion pictures.

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