

# The Centre Democrat.

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## BRIDGE BUILDERS AT ATLANTIC CITY

### Another Exposure On Their Seashore Outing.

## HOTEL REGISTER PROVES

### All That Has Been Charged Against Them--Will They Deny This Also "On Their Sacred Word and Honor?"

#### Charges Denied:

We find that the taxpayers of Centre county are aroused over our County Commissioners taking an extensive jaunt to the seashore, and other places, with bridge agents, to whom these officials awarded large contracts, and for which large sums of money were paid. One month ago public attention was called to their trip to Atlantic City, in these columns. At once the Keystone Gazette, which poses as the mouth-piece of the present Republican Board of Commissioners, flew into a vicious rage and branded our statement as "a lie--pure and simple." Adding that "Our Commissioners would hardly be FOOLS enough to do such a thing just now--even though they were dishonest--FOR NO HONEST MAN WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT."

#### Proof Produced:

In return, we showed that Mr. Buchanan, agent for Nelson & Buchanan Co., bridge builders, of Chambersburg, in 1903 and 1904, according to the Annual Statements, got \$3,522.50 from this Board for bridge-work and was awarded additional contracts since. That he paid a hasty visit to Bellefonte, Aug. 8th, 1905, and registered at the Brockerhoff House that day, and on Thursday, Aug. 10th, the Commissioners started for Atlantic City and this same successful agent stealthily joined them at Sunbury, and accompanied them on the trip, and that as a party they stopped at the "New Princess" hotel, in Atlantic City.

#### Denied Twice:

To this the Gazette made another sweeping bluff as follows: "Would you believe the dirty insinuations of the editor of the Centre Democrat, based on nothing tangible, in preference to the sacred word and honor of both Miller and Bailey that they received no courtesies from any source whatever?"

In order not to do Messrs. Miller and Bailey an injustice, we asked each Commissioner to answer, over their own signatures, the following questions, and we would publish their reply. The questions were:

- (1) Did Wm. Buchanan see you on August 8, 1905?
- (2) Did Wm. Buchanan get on the same train Thursday August 10th with you (after you left Bellefonte) and travel along to Atlantic City?
- (3) At what hotel did you stop while in Atlantic City?
- (4) Was Wm. Buchanan at the same hotel the same time?
- (5) In the above extracts, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Miller, does the Gazette accurately quote you? and do you deny that you were guests of Wm. Buchanan on your trip to Atlantic City?
- (6) Were you his guest, or did you accept any courtesies from him, on that trip?

#### Denied Thrice:

Neither Mr. Bailey or Miller, up to this time, have made an answer. We did not expect that they would, for we know that they dare not. Evidently they take the legal position that no man need testify to anything that might implicate himself. But the Gazette comes to their assistance in the following sweeping style, so characteristic of Mr. Harter, who seems to think that his declaration will fully and finally settle anything. It said:

"The Centre Democrat keeps up its yammering against the county commissioners by reiterating its last week's charges which the Gazette met and explained to the satisfaction of all right thinking people. The paper is not satisfied however, and asks the members of the board to deny the allegations over their own signature. WE DID NOT ASK THEM TO DO THIS AND WE WILL NOT."

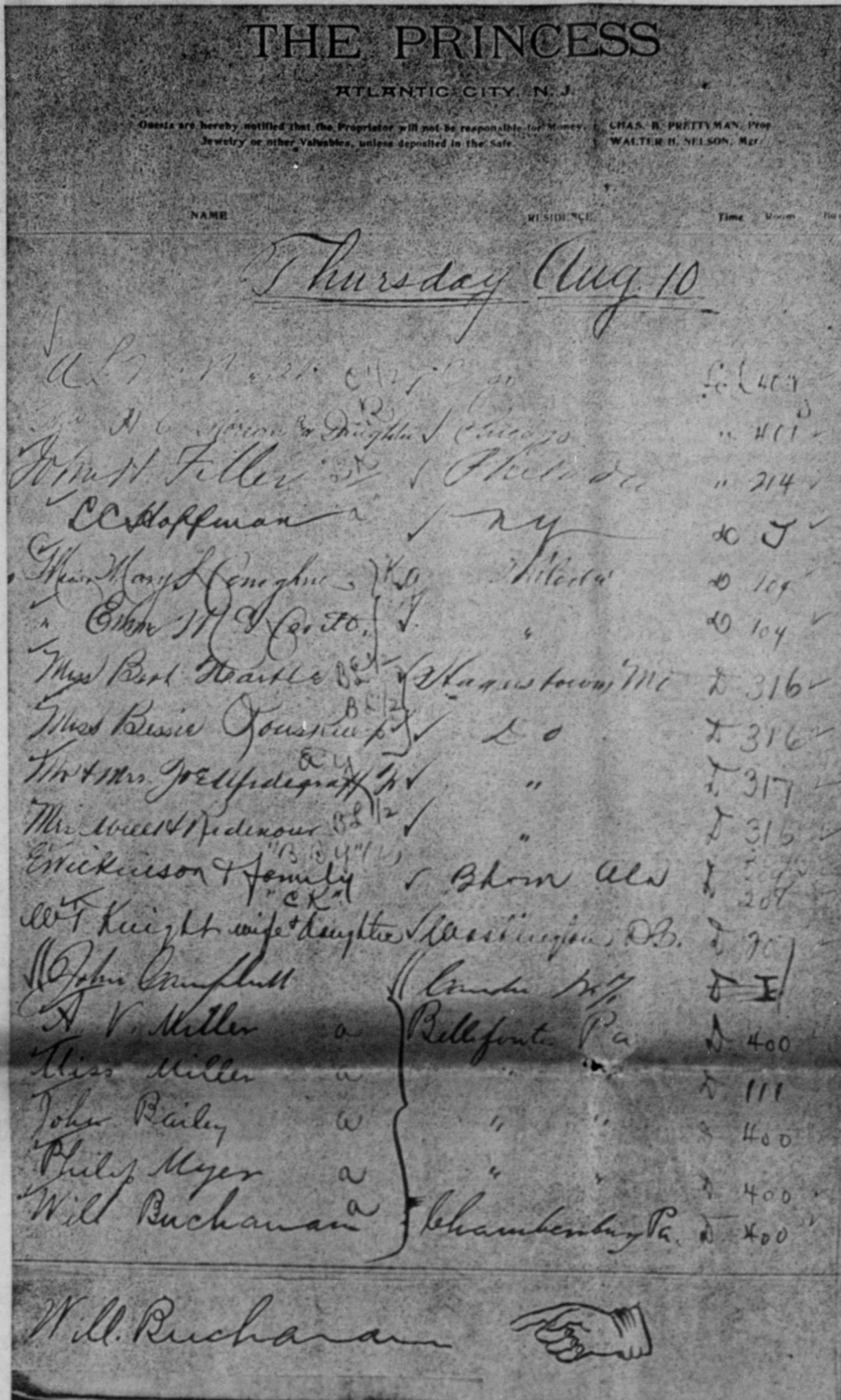
This is followed by a lot of abusive language, accusing us of being engaged in "blackmailing," and "blackening" the career of Messrs. Bailey and Miller and of branding every man who "holds an office and is a republican as not honest." This is allegation, bluff--the weapon of the braggart; it is no answer to the implication Messrs. Miller and Bailey are in, of giving out big jobs to bridge builders and then taking expensive trips with them, in a suspicious manner. It is simply dodging, avoiding the issue; and the public, we find, interpret it as a confession of guilt.

#### Dodges the Issue:

Then, instead of answering the questions we asked, he replies by raising another issue and propounding several questions to direct public attention from

## REPRODUCTION OF A HOTEL REGISTER.

### Our County Commissioners and Bridge Agent at Atlantic City Occupy the Same Room.



Last Friday the writer was at Atlantic City and visited the new Princess Hotel. An examination of the Hotel Register was made and, true to former statements in this paper, we found that our County Commissioners accompanied by Wm. Buchanan, who got the \$3,522.60 bridge contracts, had registered there in one party, on August 10th. The clerk informed the writer that the party was there four days, at \$3.00 per day, and on the ledger each was charged \$12.75, which for five amounted to \$63.75. Consent was given to have the page photographed, and the register was taken by the clerk to Hilton's studio, on the Boardwalk, and a negative and two prints made. At the bottom of the page you find a duplicate signature of "Wm. Buchanan" added which was carefully copied from the Brockerhoff House register, at Bellefonte, Sept. 8th, 1905, to show the similarity of the two "Will Buchanan" signatures, and then the above cut was made. The writer guarantees the accuracy of this reproduction, in which the size of the page has been reduced about one half.

the serious charges against Messrs. Miller and Bailey, by indicating that the editor of this paper three years ago swore, etc.--such a charge is a crusher coming from a refined gentleman, with a record for never (?) being guilty of blasphemy or peddling dirty and unchaste stories about the community. We have been humiliated indeed. Nevertheless if Mr. Harter cannot, dare not, answer our inquiries, and the Commissioners are of same opinion, in our next issue, one and all of Mr. Harter's questions, fully and frankly will be answered. We have nothing to fear or dread. It is coming, next issue, don't fret. For the present we will confine ourselves to the issue: Our County Commissioners' dealings with Bridge Agents.

We herewith would call public attention to an editorial in the last issue of the State College Times, which paper for years was the "Quay organ" of Centre county. Now, we believe, it is independent in politics, and its view of the situation may be of value to the reader and the public. Note carefully what it said:

#### Facts Demanded:

EDITORIAL.  
"Three of the Bellefonte newspapers are indulging in considerable heated air over the allegations made by two of them, the Watchman and the Democrat, that the two Republican members of the Board of County Commissioners went on a little pleasure jaunt to Atlantic City at the expense of the Nelson and Buchanan Bridge Company."

"The two Commissioners referred to, Abram V. Miller and John G. Bailey, are up for re-election on the Republican ticket, and the voters of Centre county are interested in getting at the truth

of these stories. IF THE GENTLEMEN ARE guilty of accepting courtesies of such a nature from a company which is certainly expecting something in return, they are not the kind of men the people of Centre county want to direct the expenditure of their funds. On the other hand, if the rumors are unfounded it is only just to the candidates themselves and the party they represent, that the allegations should be proved untrue. The voters want the facts, not editorial personalities, however entertaining these may be."

There is no abuse here. The comment is decent, dignified and sensible; it has the evidence of intelligent thought and desire for a "square deal." No one is called a "liar" or "blackmafter." It says the "voters of Centre county are interested in getting at the truth of these stories." And if Miller and Bailey "are guilty"--they are not the kind of men the people of Centre county want to direct the expenditure of their funds."

We think the Times sees this discussion in the right light--that it is the duty of these candidates, if not guilty, to prove our statements untrue. We challenge anyone to prove that we have by misinformation, deliberately, or intentionally, misrepresented a statement about Messrs. Miller and Bailey. Abuse and ugly personalities have no weight with sensible men in the discussion of our county officials' manner in expending public funds.

#### More Facts Produced:

To further corroborate the chain of evidence around these men, careful attention is invited to the large cut on this page. It shows that the bridge agent, who got large contracts, accompanied our County Commissioners to Atlantic

City, and that all registered at the same hotel. The brace drawn around the names indicates that they were in one party. The penmanship on these names indicates that the same person wrote all of them. The fact that Will Buchanan's name is last, implies that he did the registering for the party, for a man in such a case naturally does that--it is the proper thing for a host, one who entertains. It would be a violation of good manners to do otherwise. Below the brace will be found a copy of Buchanan's signature (as found on the Brockerhoff House register, Aug. 8th) and was attached here for comparison. This last signature indicates a little more haste. Note the similarity of the first name "Will." Scores of persons, after examination, pronounce both written by the same person; and if that is correct and it seems so, it indicates that Buchanan registered the party. Note again, Buchanan and all the Commissioners occupied the same room "400." The hotel expenses, for this party, as shown on a ledger, was \$63.75 at \$3.00 per day.

#### Officials in Clover:

"The Princess" is one of the finest hotels on the beach and we doubt very much if our County Commissioners, when paying their own bills, would demand such luxurious surroundings, or be justified in spending such money for accommodations. Incidentally aggregate more than boarding at Atlantic City so that \$125.00 is a conservative estimate. Add to that about \$35 for carfare, and other items, \$200 would barely meet the total expenses of this trip for this party.

#### Who Pays The Bills?

Who paid the bill? Did the Bridge

Agent? If he did not, why was he with them?

If Buchanan paid the bill, why did he do it? That is the point.

If he did pay these bills don't it indicate that Centre county bridges become more expensive in consequence of such methods?

Will our County Commissioners give the public an explanation?

NOTE:--Owing to the large amount of space devoted to the Atlantic City trip in this issue, we will postpone the account of the outing of these County Commissioners to the St. Louis Exposition, accompanied by a bridge agent, until next week. In same issue, we may also include jaunts to Washington, D. C. All we ask is a "square deal"; if any misstatements occur in these narratives, we solicit a correction.

#### WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

### Enormous Increase In Bridge Expenses Shown.

Occasionally some one asks why this paper has named the Centre County Commissioners the "United Order of Bridge Builders." As there is a purpose accompanying every act, we will now set out wherein the present Republican Board, Messrs. Miller and Bailey, have earned this dignified title.

If any of our readers have been thoughtful enough to preserve from year to year the Annual Statements, issued by the Commissioners, we invite them to follow us, lest we err, as a few comparisons will be made, covering the past five year's administration of that office. The statements for 1900, 1901 and 1902 will show the expenditures under the former Democratic Board--Messrs. Daniel Heckman and Philip Meyer. During those years the bridge expenses of the county were as follows:

#### BRIDGE ACCOUNTS:

We will make a comparison of Bridge Expenses in Centre county for the past five years:

1900--Democratic Board...	\$4,412.85
1901--" " " "	1,594.74
1902--" " " "	7,199.98

Total for 3 years.....	\$13,207.57
Average per year.....	\$3,402.52

1903--Republican Board..	\$9,045.97
1904--" " " "	11,041.63

Total for 2 years.....	\$20,806.26
Average per year.....	\$10,403.13

Which shows that Miller and Bailey, the present Republican Board, spent on an average THREE TIMES as much a year as the Democratic Board--\$10,401 to \$3,402, and that is why they are termed the "United Order of Bridge Builders," who after such strenuous work are entitled to a trip to Atlantic City with Billy Buchanan.

Frequent complaint is made that extravagant prices have been paid for bridges and in some cases inferior work done. We have heard of such complaints in regard to bridges in Ferguson township, near Coleville, the one across the race in Bellefonte and others. We have no direct knowledge as to the truth of these statements, but they should be investigated.

In the last Statement the cost of different bridges, aggregating thousands of dollars, are bunched in one total so that the public can not know what the various structures cost, while in other parts of the Statement items of 50 and 75 cents are set out in lengthy and laborious detail.

It is upon this record Abraham V. Miller and John G. Bailey are before the people soliciting another term.

#### EXPLANATION EXPECTED.

The following is from the Lock Haven Democrat:

"It will be necessary for Leonard Rhone, manager of the grange picnic at Centre Hall, to explain why, if there is to be no political speaking at that gathering, he invited Senator Penrose to address the farmers. Penrose is nothing if he is not a politician. And he is one of the politicians against whom the hand and voice of every honest man in Pennsylvania is raised because of his connection with that "corrupt and criminal combination masquerading as Republicans," which has been guilty of the most serious crimes against the good name of the commonwealth."

"It is true that Penrose is expected to talk on agriculture, but what does this leader of grafters and ballot box stuffers know about farming? What can he tell the farmers that will be of benefit to them in tilling the soil? If he were to speak of graft; or how to steal a gas lease, stuff a ballot box or manipulate vicious legislation Penrose would be in his element. But the senator cannot be expected to enlighten the farmers as to the proper time to plant and reap, hence it will not be strange if he shall inject political matters into his Centre Hall speech. It would be stranger if he did not try to defend the grafters."

This is an imposition upon the Democratic members of the Grange in Centre county.

It cost over three times as much to pay Miller and Bailey's bridge bills as that of the last Democratic Board. They have a weakness for building bridges.

Upon "their sacred word and honor" they are sorry they went to Atlantic City with Billy Buchanan.

#### FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

### Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

#### BEAUTIFUL LIVING.

Keep the sunshine in your heart,  
Wear a smile;  
Live a happy, hopeful life  
All the while;  
Do some helpful work each day  
As God's leading lights the way.

Ask for calmness from above;  
Keep your place;  
Let the Master's mind and thought  
Help you trace.  
Heaven's purpose, day by day,  
In a noiseless, tender way.  
Days will come and days will go,  
Yet 'tis well;  
For in joy or sorrow's hour,  
Life shall spell  
God's dear message, line by line,  
In this life of yours and mine.

—I. Mench Chambers.

Many a man has a promising future before him all his life.

A marriage for love is due to Cupid; a marriage for money to cupidity.

By simply turning around and looking at his tail a dog can see his finish.

It is possible for a man to be in the stationery business and still have to move.

#### FIRE INSURANCE BOARD MEETS.

The board of directors of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company held its quarterly meeting in its room in the Reynolds building on Monday, with a full attendance. Applications to the amount of \$129,361 were passed; premium notes to amount of \$11,377.87 were taken, and cash premiums paid to amount of \$531.

The loss on the barn of Will Stiver, near Hubbersburg, recently destroyed by lightning, was adjusted and the award ordered to be paid, as follows:

Mrs. Will Stiver, full insurance on barn, \$1200; on contents \$200 total, \$1400.  
Mr. Weaver, tenant on the Stiver farm, \$500 on his contents in the barn.  
Damage to Shiloh church by lightning, \$95.78.

Damage to T. F. Krebs' coal office, by fire at Pinegrove, \$6.10.

Lutheran church at Madisonburg, damage done by lightning ordered to be paid when repairs are made.

Lightning rod on Boalsburg Lutheran church damaged by lightning ordered to be paid.

Adjourned to meet on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

The company is now carrying risks of over two million dollars, confined to seven townships on the south side and five on the north side of the county.

#### Large Barn Destroyed by Fire.

A large barn on Furst Bros.' farm at Cedar Springs was totally destroyed by fire at noon Thursday 14, with some of the contents, including the season's entire hay crop, oats, about sixty bushels of seed wheat, and a few implements, the more expensive farming machinery was not in the barn. A horse and a heifer belonging to A. D. Allison, the tenant farmer, and a valuable driving horse owned by John Taylor, of Mackeyville, which were in the barn, were burned to death. The loss to Mr. Allison is quite heavy, as he carried no insurance. The barn and contents were insured for \$1300. Farst's blacksmith shop, across the road, occupied by George Barrett, took fire and was also consumed.

The flames first started in a straw stack just outside the barn, where threshing had been in progress the day previous, which communicated to the barn, and in an incredibly short space of time the entire building was a mass of flames. It is thought that a lighted cigar stump was thoughtlessly thrown in the straw, which later burst out into a flame.

#### Court Decrees.

Sometime ago there was an important hearing before Judge Orvis in the case of Sarah B. Ingram vs. her former husband, A. H. Duncan, of Philipsburg, in which the woman sought the custody of her child. This week the Court rendered a decree by which the child remains with the father and the costs are divided.

In two divorce cases the Court refused petition for divorce. Judge Orvis has announced that the granting of divorces will only be secured upon the strongest possible grounds, and the evidence must be positive and clear to warrant an annulment of the marriage vow.

An unusual number of applications for divorces are now on the docket for consideration.

#### Clinton Prohibition Ticket.

The Clinton county Prohibitionists Saturday nominated the following ticket: Associate judges, Ira C. Stoner, Salona; Alva Fritz, Gallagher township; prothonotary, W. D. Tidlow, Flemington; sheriff, R. S. Johnson, Farrandville; treasurer, H. W. Shaffer, Lock Haven; commissioners, Charles G. Bowman, South Renovo; Hiram Nason, Lock Haven; auditors, A. L. Gardner, Renovo; Robert C. Sebring, Farrandville.