

BUILDING BURNS AT COLLEGE

Chemistry Annex Totally Destroyed

Structure Housed Historic 'Bull Pen'; Loss Includes Valuable Equipment, Records, and Laboratory Reports

LOGAN PUMPER MAKES RECORD
RUN ANSWERING CALL FOR AID

Destruction Adds to Acute Shortage of Classrooms; Building and Contents Covered by Insurance; Exploding Tanks Add to Fury of Blaze, Yesterday

Penn State's gloomy "Bull Pen," otherwise known as the Chemistry Annex, one of the poorest buildings on the college campus, is no more.

The large concrete block and frame structure which since early in the present century has provided classrooms and laboratory space for students, was destroyed shortly after noon yesterday in one of the most disastrous fires in the central part of the county in many months.

The giant amphitheatre in the central part of the building, in which several generations of students sat through lectures, and which gave the building its colorful name, was reduced to ashes with the rest of the building as flames ate their way rapidly through the aged and tinder-dry yellow pine interior.

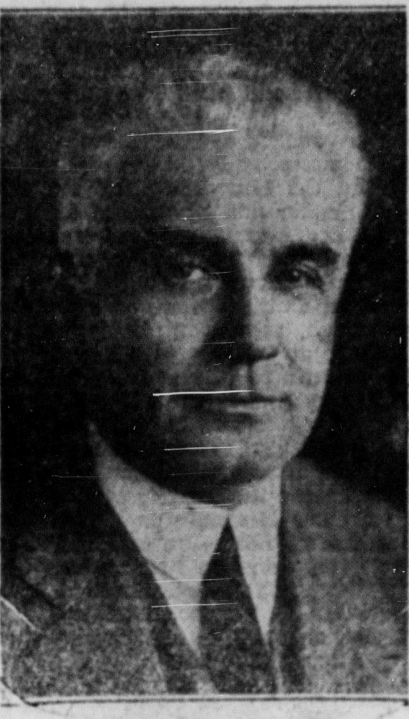
Most of the loss in yesterday's fire cannot be measured in figures, for while the building was originally erected only for temporary use, and did not represent a heavy investment, it housed records and equipment of incalculable value.

In it were some of the country's finest laboratory setups, including a high-pressure laboratory conducted by R. E. Dow; Dr. Wheeler P. Davey's X-Ray experiment, and J. H. Simon's physical chemistry laboratory. In addition many graduate students and assistants, nearing the completion of experiments necessary for their degrees, saw months and in some cases years of study and work go up in flames.

The building itself is insured under a "blanket" policy carried by the College. Authorities claimed the loss of the building will be keenly felt not because of its actual worth, but because of the acute shortage of classrooms and laboratory facilities at the college.

The blaze was discovered shortly after 12 o'clock yesterday almost simultaneously by two persons in the building at the time, Benjamin Weaver, lecturer's assistant, was seated in an office when he heard an explosion and ran into a hallway

Form Partnership



JUDGE M. WARD FLEMING



WILLIAM T. LITKE, ESQ.

NEW LAW FIRM TO OPEN HERE

Judge Fleming and William T. Litke Will Have Offices in Decker Building

Bellefonte is to have a new law firm, beginning January 4, for on that date Judge M. Ward Fleming, of Bellefonte, retiring president of the courts of Centre County, and William T. Litke, former law partner of Senator Edward Jackson Thompson, at Phillipsburg, will open offices in the Decker garage building at the corner of High and Springs streets, in rooms now occupied by the State Highway Department offices.

AS 1938 BEGINS

In a few days the year, 1937, will end and we will enter upon a New Year, known under our present calendar as 1938.

We naturally look upon the first day of a New Year as an event of importance, because of the feeling that we are turning a new page in our existence. The emotion, of course, is largely psychological; nevertheless it is well that we possess this common tendency to be able to look ahead, to take stock of the past and plan wisely for the future.

Naturally, we think there moves in every being, a wish for improvement. If wishes sufficed we would be better by far than we are, but it is necessary that we do much more than wish for advances. We must resolutely point our personal course toward the desired goal and, with determination, fight to make our wishes come true.

Frankly, we think Centre County is a pretty good place in which to live. We think it has as good a set of people as will be found anywhere. But there is no doubt a desire among us for progressive improvement, and the beginning of a New Year, therefore, gives us a time to stop and reflect, to think and plan, and an occasion to make a start along a desired course.

So, as we stand by, about ready for the New Year, the Centre Democrat extends greetings and good wishes to its readers, with the hope that every one of them will be able, a year from this day, to look back and recognize distinct advances in personal development. Surely this is one activity of men and women that finds us without envy and one effort that carries with it the hearty good wishes of all our loyal friends.

REGRETS DELAY IN RESTORING BENNER HOME

Col. Shoemaker, in Daily Column, Scores 'Red Tape' Official Confusion

PAINTS COLORFUL VIEW OF HISTORIC PROPERTY

Predicts Complete Destruction of Mansion Unless Action is Soon Taken

"Centre County and Central Pennsylvania can ill afford to let its grandest historic shrine—the Benner homestead—go to sticks for the sake of red tape, bureaucracy and official confusion," writes Col. Henry W. Shoemaker, State Architect and historian, in his daily column, "This Morning's Comment," in the Altoona Tribune.

The article, one of the most interesting yet published in connection with the proposed restoration of the old mansion along Spring Creek. (Continued on page six)

Port Matilda Man Is Killed by Car

S. S. Osman, Well Known Funeral Director, Struck While Walking Along Road

COLEVILLE MAN FREED IN BURNHAM FATALITY

Ice on Roads Creates Hazard for Holiday Traffic; Many Accidents Reported

Samuel Stevens Osman, prominent resident of Port Matilda, was almost instantly killed about 12:45 o'clock Sunday afternoon when he was struck by a car along the Bald Eagle Valley highway about a mile west of Port Matilda.

The driver of the car, Ernest H. Englehart, of Johnstown, principal of the Muncy schools, was exonerated of all blame and criminal negligence in connection with the accident by a coroner's jury which met under the direction of Coroner W. R. Heaton of Phillipsburg, in the Osman funeral home, Port Matilda, Sunday afternoon.

Death was attributed to a fractured skull, although Mr. Osman also suffered fractures of both legs and cuts and bruises over the entire body. Death occurred a few minutes after the accident.

Mr. Osman, testifying before the coroner's jury stated that he had been on his way to Phillipsburg during the funeral home. (Continued on page seven)

POTATO GROWERS TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Charles H. Campbell, president of the Centre County Potato Growers' Association, announces that the annual meeting of the organization will be held in the Court House at Bellefonte on Tuesday of next week, January 4 at 1:30 p. m.

Potato growers from all parts of Centre county will be interested in this meeting, as the program will consist largely of a discussion on securing disease free seed potatoes for next spring's planting.

According to president Campbell, potato growers in Centre county during the past year have been troubled with black centers and a bad infection of late blight which in many cases has rendered the crop almost unsalable.

There are many problems arising relative to production of quality potatoes. Mr. O. D. Burke, Plant Pathologist of the Pennsylvania State College, will be invited to assist with any information available.

BURGESS HARRIS STRUCK BY CAR

Town Official Injured After Issuing Warning to Prevent Such Accidents

Fate played an ironic prank on Hardman P. Harris, Burgess of Bellefonte, last week.

Several hours after he had released a statement to the press asking motorists to travel "as slow as five miles per hour" through the business district to avoid striking pedestrians, Mayor Harris stepped from the curb on North Allegheny Street, and was struck by a passing car. He was not seriously injured.

The driver of the car, Ira Viehendorfer, of Snow Shoe, who was traveling at a slow rate of speed, claimed he was blinded by the lights of an approaching car and did not see the pedestrian in time to stop. Viehendorfer stopped his car within a few feet from where he had struck the Mayor, and assisted Chief of Police Harry Dukeman in taking him to a physician's office and later to the Centre County Hospital.

Surgeons at the hospital found Mr. Harris to be suffering from a laceration of the lip, a laceration on the head, and shock. Upon their advice, the injured man remained in the hospital until yesterday when he had entirely recovered from the effects of shock. The accident happened in front of the Lintz store, opposite the State Motor Police headquarters on North Allegheny Street.

FREEMAN BUYS BANK BUILDING

Business Block in Phillipsburg Brings \$45,500 at Public Sale Last Week

At a receiver's sale last week, the Moshannon National Bank building was sold to Charles E. Freeman of Phillipsburg for \$45,500.

Mr. Freeman did not disclose his plans so far as the future of the building is concerned.

The sale was conducted by Thompson and Baird, attorneys for the receiver, James Kerr, Senator E. J. Thompson was in charge.

The sale of the building was a step in the process of liquidating the assets of the Moshannon National bank, closed on October 9, 1931.

Under the receivership the bank has paid dividends of 72 per cent and it is expected that more dividends will be paid some time in the near future, although no dates have as yet been set.

The building, one of Phillipsburg's best business blocks originally cost \$118,000. It is a three-story building on a tract of land 120 feet by 90 feet. On the first floor are the banking rooms, now occupied by the state store, four other store rooms and a barber shop. Offices comprise the second and third floors, except for the space on the third floor used as an auditorium.

Under terms of the sale, the purchaser paid \$5,000 down, the balance to be paid upon delivery of the deed within ten days. The sale must first be approved and confirmed by the Centre county court.

The rooms now occupied by the receiver will be used by him for the duration of the receivership.

Labor Board to Conduct Hearing Here January 20

In an interview by telephone yesterday afternoon with Robert H. Kleeb, of Pittsburgh, regional attorney for the Nat'l Labor Relations Board, the Centre Democrat was informed that the Board plans to conduct a hearing in the Court House, Bellefonte, beginning Thursday, January 20.

According to Mr. Kleeb, the hearing will be held on complaints to be filed by the NLRB against an Oceola Mills concern, but he declined to reveal the nature of the complaint, until the Board has formally filed its complaint, which is expected to be done in the near future, he said.

Mr. Kleeb stated that he expects to be assigned to act as counsel for the Labor Relations Board at the hearing, and from other sources it was learned that the proceedings are expected to last "three or four days."

If plans for the hearing mature, next month's court action will be the second one of its kind held in Bellefonte since the establishment of the National Labor Relations Board.

Last June the NLRB conducted a lengthy hearing on charges of unfair labor practices preferred against the Titan Metal Manufacturing Company, Bellefonte. To date only the preliminary report of the Board has been handed down in this case. Mr. Kleeb became widely known throughout the Bellefonte area at the Titan hearing where he represented the Board in the same capacity as he expects to act in the forthcoming hearing.

Scores Claim Awards

Drawing for the \$600 in cash awards given away by the Retail Division of the Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce was held Christmas eve in the Plaza theater, with a committee from the Division supervising the drawing.

Coupon stubs from all participating stores were mixed together in a large piece of canvas and the stubs were drawn out, one by one, by Gladys Baylett, ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Baylett, of East Logan Street. After a stub for each of the \$7 awards had been drawn, an auxiliary set of stubs was drawn to go into effect in case winners from the first list do not claim their awards. The second list will go into effect January 16.

Late yesterday afternoon a total of 50 of the \$7 awards had been claimed. Unclaimed are a \$50; two \$25; five \$10; six \$5, and twenty-three \$2 awards. Persons having winning coupons are requested to take them to the Chamber of Commerce offices on the second floor of the Logan House, East Howard Street, where Karl E. Kuse, secretary of the Chamber, will redeem them.

In the following list of those who won awards in the \$600 cash prize fund sponsored by the Retail Division of the Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce, unless otherwise shown:

\$100 Award: Miss Pearl Miller, N. Allegheny Street. (Continued on page five)

HOLIDAY SEASON MARKS JOYOUS ANNIVERSARIES

Elderly Centre County Couples Observe Wedding Dates At Family Gatherings

ALL HAVE BEEN WEDDED FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

Mr. and Mrs. George Stevenson, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Lee Among Honored Couples

Monday brought a major milestone in the life of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Robert Lee, of Boalsburg, marking as it did the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day.

Alfred Robert Lee, son of John and Mary Lee, was born in Colyer, Potter township, January 30, 1865.

Mrs. Lee was Miss Sara Elizabeth Smeltzer, daughter of John and Hannah Smeltzer, and was born at Potters Mills, Potter township, February 17, 1869. They were married December 27, 1887, at Potters Mills by Rev. J. M. King, Evangelical. (Continued on page seven)

ROCKVIEW HEAD ADDRESSES CLUB

Dr. J. W. Claudy Discusses Phases in Life of Average Criminal

Dr. J. W. Claudy spoke before the members of the Bellefonte Kiwanis Club at the meeting Tuesday on "The Rehabilitation of the Criminal." During the past six months, the speaker stated, there has been an increase in crime among young men from 24 to 27 years of age. This is a rather foreboding situation because their age is such that they ought to have a constructive view of life and should be looking seriously to a life of usefulness in society.

Over against this, as an encouraging feature, is the fact that the glamour of crime, the feeling that it is a life of adventure and romance are being dissipated. Four or five (Continued on page seven)

Ivan Walker to Become County Judge, Monday

A fitting program of ceremonies is being prepared for the induction of Judge-Elect Ivan Walker, of Bellefonte, into the highest office within the province of the people of Centre County to bestow upon one of their fellow citizens.

The ceremony will be held in the Court Room at 12 o'clock noon, Monday, January 3, in the presence of members of the County Bar Association and the public. At the same time, District Attorney Elect Mouser W. Gettig will receive his oath of office.

A highlight of the ceremony will be the announcement by Judge Elect Walker of his appointments to various offices, including the District Court, Probation and Parole Office, Costs Clerk, Juvenile Office, court reporter, stipendiary, and the Judge's stenographer.

It is expected that some major changes will be embodied in the set-up of the Juvenile, and District Probation and Parole Office, and in the office of Costs Clerk, but the Judge-Elect has given no indication as to the nature of the changes at this time.

Monday's ceremony is open to the public.

APPROVE WPA PROJECT FOR COBURN SCHOOL GROUNDS

Congressman Gingery has been notified that the President has approved the following project in Centre county:

An allotment in the sum of \$476.00 to improve the school grounds in Coburn, by excavating, filling, grading, cleaning and sloping drainage ditch; transplanting trees; and performing incidental and appurtenant work.

FILE BRIEFS IN CHEMICAL CASE

Company Contends Reorganization Under Bankruptcy Laws Would be Harmful

Federal Judge Albert L. Watson, of Scranton, Tuesday received briefs from counsel for the Chemical Lime Company of Bellefonte, and for three creditors of the corporation seeking to have it reorganized under section 77-B of the Federal bankruptcy act.

The filing of the briefs was ordered by Judge Watson last Wednesday morning after a hearing in which the company contended that reorganization under 77-B would be harmful to the company, its creditors and stockholders. They presented their argument after three creditors of the company had petitioned the Federal court to act in the matter.

Willard Case, until several weeks ago president of the Chemical Lime Company, appeared on the witness stand to testify as to the company's financial status.

Counsel for Chemical Lime stated in court that the concern has assets substantially greater than indebtedness, and at a meeting of creditors held in Bellefonte on December 11, a large majority of creditors—both (Continued on page five)

HELD FOR COURT ON CHARGES OF RESISTING OFFICER

Boyd Johnson of Port Matilda is under \$225 bail on charges of resisting an officer in State College last Thursday night. He pleaded guilty to the charge before Judge E. S. Hile of Pleasant Gap on Friday.

Johnson is reported to have resisted Officer M. L. Kauffman, who had gone to South Allen street to investigate several complaints from residents of that vicinity. He was finally subdued by the officer's blackjack and treated at the office of a State College physician.

Truck Driver Breaks Arm

Millard Quick, of Moshannon, a truck driver for the State Highway Department, sustained a compound fracture of the right arm while cranking a truck Sunday night. The accident happened at Snow Shoe. Quick was taken to the offices of Dr. E. H. Harris, at Snow Shoe, where the fracture was reduced.