

Random Items

"Doc" Stevens reports that some of the families afflicted with measles over in Thompsontown must be very large, since he noticed that the quarantine signs on several homes were set off with neat white oak frames, evidently in the belief that the signs are going to be more or less permanent.

How would you say it? Major H. Laird Curtin, of Curtin, describing a man who was a physical giant, but whose mental perception was nothing to brag about, put it: "He was just all fellow!"

Andy Kachik, well known electrician and often referred to as the Mayor of Prossertown, was attending a conference in Williamsport recently. It so happened that a number of business men were present, and during the evening Andy met Williamsport's Mayor. In the exchange of greetings, Andy made some reference to two Mayors being together at the conference, and when Williamsport's first citizen gently inquired about it, Andy declared: "I'm the Mayor of Prossertown—Come on and see us sometime!" He then had to explain just how a stranger would go about getting to his bailiwick.

Hint of Amateur Camera Fans: Photographer Ralph Mallory will tell you that when in doubt about the exposure to give a photographic subject, always give it more than you think necessary. Very few amateur photos are over-exposed. Many of them are under-exposed, so chances are that you won't go wrong on this tip.

To Jesse H. Caum, manager of the Bell Telephone Company's interests in this area, we are indebted for a copy of the 1938 Telephone Almanac. Because it is the first Telephone Almanac we've ever seen, we've given it a thorough study and find several unusual features. Opposite the dates May 19 and 20 is a notation "At about this time you Trout Fishers should be plentiful," but nowhere in the tome is anything said about when or where trout will be plentiful. To those of you who every spring experience several days when you'd like to crawl in bed and sleep the long sleep, the almanac advises, opposite the dates March 4 to 7 inclusive, that "Spring Fever will attack many people about now." That, indeed, is something. For the first time in our lives we'll now be able to tell with some certainty whether that feeling of lassitude is really Spring Fever, or whether it's just a little touch of plain laziness. The almanac, withal is an interesting one and contains much information of value.

Talking with newspapermen outside Rockview penitentiary's death chamber early Monday morning just after the electrocution of Walter Strantz, Mr. Carmel gunman, Stanley P. Ashe, warden of the Western Penitentiary at Pittsburgh in the evening to a question as to whether the man's feeling of lassitude is really Spring Fever, or whether it's just a little touch of plain laziness. The almanac, withal is an interesting one and contains much information of value.

Rocket Flourishes: Saturday morning an eight-year-old youngster warily walked along the sidewalk at the corner of the Hoag Dairy Store at the corner of High and Spring Streets, flicked an empty ginger ale bottle from a case of empties outside the rear door, and dashed up Spring Street. He turned into the alley at the side of the State Liquor store and traveled the alley to North Allegheny Street. There he went into a grocery, turned in the bottle, and collected two cents. This method of gaining revenue is practiced by a number of youngsters, according to residents of the vicinity, to whom the sight of a boy running up the street with an empty bottle is not a strange one.

Parked Cars Must Have Parking Lights: Under the light laws in the provisions of the motor code, motor vehicles parked along the curb or adjacent to the curb are required to use parking lamps lighted at all times when regular driving lights are used.

Motorist's Car Kills Five Sheep and Cow: Five sheep and a cow, part of a herd being driven to pasture, were killed on a macadam highway about two miles from Bedford early Saturday morning.

Boxer Going to Hollywood: Billy Soose, Farrell, Pa., middle-weight boxer, 156-pound eastern intercollegiate champion last year is en route to Hollywood to begin his professional career. Dick Powell, screen star, with Paul Moss of Farrell own the former Penn State boxer's contract.

7,000 Copies Go Into the Homes Each Week.

The Most Widely Read Newspaper in Centre County

SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

VOLUME 57

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'Sin Baby' Kept Six Years In Garret on Rich Farm

Only Milk Ever Fed Child That Cannot Talk, Walk or Cry; Grandfather Wanted to Punish Daughter For Wrongdoing

A rumor spread for years, until it was almost legend in the countryside surrounding David Harris' rich farm near Uniontown.

There was a small, sunless garret room in the Harris farmhouse. And there, neighbors whispered, "something" was kept. Something living. Something that no one ever saw.

On Saturday Fayette county authorities investigated. They went to Harris'. "It's upstairs," he said, and stared in grim silence out a window.

They found a child in the garret room. She is six years old. "A Sin Baby."

She cannot talk. She cannot walk. She cannot use her hands. She cannot cry or laugh. She never has tasted anything but milk. She does not know how to eat solid food. Her legs and arms are white spindles of skin and distorted bone.

"It is a sin baby," officials said Harris told them, his voice harsh. "She was born in the garret. My daughter is not married. I wanted my daughter to be cursed."

He said little more. He and his daughter, Martha, 27, a short, fat, red-headed woman, were arrested, on charges of cruelty to a child and wilful neglect.

Fifty Room: The child was taken from them at once. Mrs. Helen Reagen, Fayette county probation officer, said the room where she spent her entire

half-human life was filthy. The mother slept there on a disordered bed, Mrs. Reagen said.

But the child, she declared, had no bed; an old rocking chair, the rockers broken away and the back tilted at a 45-degree angle, was where she lived and slept, tied to the chair. It was so small she had to double her legs beneath her. Her only clothes were a dirty shirt and napkin.

And outside the small, high windows—although the little girl never was permitted to look out—were Harris' 260 acres of the richest farm land in Fayette county. There were barns and stables where well-fed cattle lived in clean and airy stalls. There were hippopotamus as clean as modern agricultural science can make them. Even the pig pens were cleaned regularly, set out in the sunlight.

Harris, authorities say, has not admitted he forced his daughter to keep the child in the room. But, they declared, his frankly says he told her to keep the girl where no one ever would see her.

He is 69, an intensely religious man. He rules his life and the lives of those about him with what he conceives to be stern justice.

It all came about this way. Whittington ran a newspaper advertisement that said:

"Anyone having a house that is haunted or pested so that no one can live in it, let me know. I will redeem it."

A score of individuals, claiming

Leave It to the Young Brother!



Job Offered 'Ghost' Chaser But It's Undesirable Tenant

Hickman Whittington, 68, self-styled ghost-chaser of Benton, Ill., has been offered a local job—not to chase out ghosts but to rid a Newberry, Lyrcoming county, home of some undesirable tenants.

It all came about this way. Whittington ran a newspaper advertisement that said:

"Anyone having a house that is haunted or pested so that no one can live in it, let me know. I will redeem it."

A score of individuals, claiming

banishment, have written, asking names and addresses for the ghost-chaser to look up. His system—apparently so far untried—is to wait in the house for ghosts, then quote the secret text at the ghost until it leaves. He said he wants only expenses for his trouble.

If he accepts the local invitation he won't find a ghost, according to a writer of the letter, but instead just some undesirable tenants—undesirable in their refusal to pay rent.

According to the Literary Digest

Estimate 2,700 Cases of Syphilis in Centre County

Physicians Ask Co-operation of Public in Wiping Out Disease; Treatment is Effective, But Requires Reasonable Time

According to local medical authority 6% or approximately 2,700 cases of syphilis are estimated in Centre County. This is only an estimate but the main point is there are a large number of cases here and they are on the increase rather than decreasing.

Due to the increasing interest and concern of the people in this menacing disease the Centre Democrat has made this survey in an effort to put forth the views of the local doctors. We are also giving brief history, ways of detecting it and measures that can be taken to stop its advance. Our object is to stimulate a united war on syphilis.

In the recent free "Wessermann Week" held in this state a very small percentage of the people here took advantage of the opportunity and those that did were mostly those who did not need the test. Consequently it was of little value in that it did not give the medical men a chance to trace down cases so it could be checked in its early stage nor did it make any form of accurate survey possible. Approximately 20,000 were examined in the state.

The fact that people are so reluctant and backward makes it difficult to fight the disease. Those who are infected shun the doctor and the disease is spread, whereas it could be eradicated if these people would be more careful and considerate.

According to the Literary Digest

In New York state 9,000 babies are born dead, 4,000 alive but infected some way or another each year because of syphilitic parents.

Results accompanied by this disease are nothing short of horror. Entire towns have been known to be completely wiped-out by this disease in Russia.

History of Syphilis. Syphilis, according to one school of thought, existed long before the birth of Christ. It prevailed throughout the world making no exceptions of race, color or age. They point out that the disease is referred to in the Psalms of David and in the time of Moses.

The other school believes it was brought to Europe by Columbus' crew, pointing out that when they landed on San Salvador the crew contracted the disease from the native women there. These men when they returned caused it to be spread throughout Europe. They say it entered the armies of King Charles and caused a greater loss of lives than did many of the battles.

Syphilis was known as morbus gallicus until an Italian poet-physician, Placourus, wrote a poem about a young shepherd boy who was named Syphilis. The poem tells of how the god Apollo inflicted upon Syphilis, the dreaded disease of that time (syphilis) because the shepherd boy refused to pay homage.

(Continued on page four)

Mine Owner Pinned Under Prop Timber

Morris Frank, Sr., of Philipsburg, Slightly Injured in Accident Last Week

Pinned down by a fallen prop, and rock falling from the roof, Morris Frank, 69, was rescued from a coal mine in South Philipsburg last Friday morning when his shouts attracted the attention of Lee Bratton, Sandy Ridge, who was also working in the mine.

Morris Frank, who is one of the partners of the house coal mine also controlled by his son, Elmer, and Lee Bratton, had been working near a curve back of the drift mouth. Mr. Frank, in attempting to push a car around the curve, started the car around too fast. The car made a wide sweep, swerved, and smashed a timber in its wide sweep. Down came the timber, pinning Frank to the bottom. Rock from the roof descended by the impact, fell on Frank's back.

Bratton, who had been working to the south of the main opening, heard the fall and Frank's shouts. Hurrying to Frank's side, he gave temporary aid and rushed for help. He informed Mrs. Ellen Morris of the accident and secured the aid of Alfred Schnars and George Northman, who carried Frank from the mine into his home, where treatment was given the injured man.

"Tell 'em I am alright," Back wrenched, that's all," said Morris Frank, concerning his injuries.

Mrs. Ellen Morris notified the Philips Hotel of the accident and they in turn called on the Reliance Fire Company. An alarm was turned in but as Mrs. Morris a few minutes later informed the Reliance that the accident was slight and that there were no further injuries, the company was called back.

Perishes as Fire Razes His Cabin

Rescue efforts by three Klingers-town men Saturday night failed to save John Wetzel, a retired saw mill employe, from burning to death in his one-room cabin about fifteen miles west of Lykens.

Seeing the flames as they shot into the sky, the three men, Harry Steeley, Richard Erdman and J. Snyder, hastened from their Schuylkill County town to Wetzel's home along Mountain road, between Klingers-town and Hebe.

They saw Wetzel lying on his cot, enveloped by flame. One of the men had brought along a vine, which they fastened to a coil of the mattress on Wetzel's cot. They pulled Wetzel from the building on the mattress, but he was dead.

Several dogs may have burned with Wetzel. He was in the habit of keeping a score of dogs, several of them in his home, where he lived alone. Superficial searching of the ruins showed no signs of the bones of dogs, but when the rescuers arrived there was only one dog in the vicinity.

Man on Relief Had \$2,640 In Peg Leg

Body Found Hanging in Bare Room of Boarding House at Indiana

Peg-legged Philip Iellina, of Indiana, Pa., who drew relief payments until last week, left a fortune of \$4,204.85, the bulk of it concealed in the hollow stump of his wooden leg.

The body of the 63-year-old former miner was found hanging Sunday in his bare room on the third floor of a boarding house in the little mining community of Ieslin, a suicide.

The coroner said he and Pennsylvania motor policemen at first found \$150 in crisp new bills in one of Iellina's pockets, and \$24.85 in another.

At the mortuary, they uncrushed the peg leg and found \$2,640 rolled tightly and pushed into the wooden cylinder. It consisted of \$50, \$20, and \$10 notes.

Woods said records found in the room disclosed Iellina in 1932 had \$6,000 on deposit in banks, since closed. He was removed from relief rolls last week. Woods added, because investigators learned he had drawn \$107 dividends from a receiver of one of the banks.

Iellina lost his leg in a mine accident several years ago. He lived alone and there were no records of any relatives, Woods said.

Watts Heads China Group at Penn State

R. L. Watts, dean of the School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College, has been elected chairman of the Penn State in China committee which aids Lingnan University at Canton, China. Faculty members of the committee include Dr. Edward H. Dusham, Professor Edward R. VanSant, Dr. Roy D. Anthony, Professor John H. Frizzell, Professor D. D. Stevenson, Miss Charlotte Ray, dean of women, William S. Hoffman, registrar, and Harry Seaman, general secretary of the Penn State Christian Association.

Heirs Get 20-Year Old Car

Twenty years ago, Gus Gainer, Negro, of Dunn, N. C., bought an automobile. He drove it as long as it lasted and then parked it because he figured the operation of it was too costly. When he died recently it passed on to his heirs.

Taxpayer With \$700.00 To Start With, Can Build \$5,000.00 Home

John D. Taxpayer, who wants to build a \$5,000 home under terms of the new housing legislation, will have to satisfy some fairly stiff requirements, federal housing officials said.

But if John has a regular income and prospects of paying his mortgage in 25 years, he will be able to get government insurance on his loan.

First, John should be sure, officials said, that he has about \$692 in cash. The down payment will be \$500. Title search, commission on a construction loan, appraisals, surveys and such things will cost an average of \$192.

John's next task will be to find a lender interested in putting his money into a \$4,500 mortgage, which will be guaranteed by the government. The lender will get 5 per cent interest, which John must pay.

He also must pay the Federal Housing Administration 1/4 of 1 per cent on the diminishing balance as its premium charge for the mortgage insurance.

Having found a lender John can get together with an architect and

a contractor on plans for his home. They will help him meet some of the FHA requirements—that the house conform to neighborhood standards, that its cost be within the scope of his income, and that it be well-built.

If John wants to build a \$10,000 home, the FHA will insure a mortgage on 90 per cent of the first \$6,000 and 80 per cent of the remainder. FHA officials said they would issue a set of rules and regulations within the next few days.

The housing administration is ready to start operations on the new program as soon as President Roosevelt signs the legislation. It was approved by the Senate last week and sent to the White House.

Officials said they were not "looking for any miracles," but they hope the program will aid the building industry as well as John D. Taxpayer. The legislation, besides insurance mortgages for small homes, provides machinery for large scale housing projects. Finance Corporation to finance limited dividend corporations which will lend up to \$5,000,000 on housing projects.

Warrior's Mark Man is Injured

Charles Fell, 73-year-old invalid, died in his blazing frame home at Greenville, Sunday night, as flames prevented two neighbors from reaching him. He suffered a stroke three weeks ago and was unable to leave his bed when the house caught fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McGranahan who lived with the aged invalid, had gone into Greenville, five miles away, on a shopping trip shortly before the fire broke out.

The blaze was discovered by John Byler and Paul Sheppard, who lived nearby, but had gained such headway that it was impossible to enter the building.

Scholarships Available to P. R. E. Employee's Children

Four scholarships covering engineering and general courses at leading colleges and universities will be awarded this year to children of Pennsylvania Railroad employes, according to notices just distributed by R. A. Enoch, Chief of Personnel, to all departments of the railroad.

Three scholarships are available to sons of employes and the fourth is open to either a son or a daughter. Candidates for these scholarships must take the examination of the College Entrance Examination Board specified in the notices.

Five-Acre Tract For Public Park

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hoberman, of Lock Haven have offered that city a five-acre tract of ground, extending from East Park Street westwardly between Prospect and Walnut Streets for use as a city park.

The ground is now being used as a city dump, and should council plan to accept the gift, a WPA project could probably be secured which would aid in constructing a swimming pool in a part of one of the partially filled basins, used long ago in operation of saw mills.

Mr. Hoberman is well known in Bellefonte, where he has frequently visited in connection with his business of buying junk.

Farmer Hurt by Team

James McIntire, who lives with his daughter, Mrs. Horace Spalding, at Cedar Lodge, near Canton, was painfully hurt while assisting in the moving of broader buildings on the farm. A team of horses used in the work, became frightened, and dragged the brooder, causing it to collide with another building. Mr. McIntire was caught between the buildings and was badly cut on his leg, above the knee.

Local Farmers Glenn Dickey Contribute to Home, Beech Creek, Burns

Approximately 60,000 in State Now Following Conservation Methods

Approximately 60,000 Pennsylvania farmers are now being paid for carrying out agricultural conservation work during 1937. It is estimated that the total sum paid to these farmers finally will total approximately \$3,500,000.

These figures, an increase over the previous year of more than 30 per cent, were referred to by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Committee, in reviewing the results of the agricultural conservation program just ending, and in urging the farmers of the state to participate in the 1938 program.

The State Committee pointed out that the practical accomplishments of the past year's program have made a real contribution to permanent conservation, many acres in pasture and hay already showing the effects of fertilizer, lime and reseedings.

During the course of the 1937 program, the State Committee revealed, more than a million acres of Pennsylvania farmland were permanently improved with new seedings of legumes or legume mixtures, the growing of green manure crops, the application of limestone, superphosphate and other minerals, and through additional sound farming practices including the planting of forest trees.

In addition to including farm practices as under the past programs, the 1938 Agricultural Conservation program sets up definite objectives for special crops, according to the State Committee.

"Any special crop goals under the program, established on a National basis, are an important factor," the committee said, "in the plan to stabilize agricultural production by preventing drastic crop shortages and immense surpluses. All of this is an effort to help both the consumer and the farmer by working to establish and maintain uniformly fair prices to each of these, year in and year out."

"Agricultural conservation offers us farmers an opportunity to put into practical operation the type of farming that has been taught and sought for many years," the committee declared, as it urged every farmer in the state to get in touch with his county agricultural conservation office to learn how he may participate in the new program.

One Baby in 1937

Only one baby was born during 1937 in Sweden, N. Y., a town of 1,100 population, according to Town Clerk Fred B. Richards.

Blaze Started in Upstairs Room; Family Loses Clothing and Household Goods

The dwelling occupied by Glenn Dickey and family in Beech Creek Township, Clinton County, owned by his father, George E. Dickey, and formerly known as the Fred Mastle farm, burned to the ground last Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Dickey and the two young children were in the house while her husband with other men were working out of sight on a hill. When she discovered the fire it was burning briskly in an upstairs room through which a pipe passed from the stove on the first floor, to which the origin of the fire is attributed.

Mrs. Dickey ran and informed the men, but when they reached the scene it was possible to save only the furnishings on the first floor.

Their loss of most of their effects including clothing is keenly felt. Mr. Dickey has been employed on WPA. Two hundred cans of fruit and vegetables and bushels of potatoes in the cellar were lost. They had no insurance and there was little if any on the building.

The homeless family was taken to the home of the young man's parents, half a mile distant where they are quartered temporarily.

Missing 19 Days; Found in Florida

Horace Pelton, 15-year-old Williamsport boy who disappeared January 14, with only twenty cents in his pockets, has been found at Palatka, Florida, and his father, M. E. Pelton, left for the south to bring him home.

Sheriff John J. Sharkey, of Clearfield county, was informed by G. W. Frazer, Palatka chief of police, that he was holding the missing boy. Sharkey notified the parents and Mr. Pelton made immediate plans to leave for Florida.

The police of eight states, bureaus of missing persons and city police of New York were on the lookout for the youth, who was a student of the Cooper Township High school. Broadcasts were made from KDKA, Pittsburgh, Williamsport, Altoona and numerous short wave stations.

Young Pelton's appearance in Florida was unexpected as it was thought he would be in California or New York City.

9 Children In 5 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Chafin, of Logan, W. Va., have had nine children born in the last five years. There were four sets of twins and one single birth. Two of the children are dead.

27th Child Born

While he was in a hospital recovering from injuries suffered in an automobile accident, the stork visited the home of E. J. Roberts, at Conway, S. C., for the twenty-seventh time. Twenty-five of the children are living.

Fast Work

Thirty minutes after three armed and masked men raided a downtown wholesale jewelry establishment at Toronto, and escaped with loot valued at \$40,000, police arrested Henry Miles, 40, who carried a pistol and the same type of mask worn by the robbers.

Odd and Curious News

Must Marry Hebrew

When and if six-year-old Ruth Salaman, of Philadelphia, marries into the Hebrew faith, she will receive \$1,000 from the estate of her grandfather, a Jewish rabbi. If she marries outside the religion the bequest is forfeited, under terms of her relative's will filed for probate on Saturday. Meanwhile, the money will be held in trust until Ruth reaches marriageable age.

Wanted: Rain

The businessmen are strong for advertising. They put this page ad in the weekly Graphic of Kinsley, Kans. "We are asking for one-half inch of moisture on or before Feb. 17. Advertising has never failed, and to prove our faith in its value we will pay double for our ads upon delivery of said moisture, and in case it does not arrive the Graphic will stand the cost."

"O" Is For Odd

Mr. and Mrs. William Flynn, of Boswell, Ind., named their tenth son Oakley. There's nothing odd about that except that all nine of the lad's brothers also have names beginning with "O". Oral, Odie, Orlie, Orie, Orval, Otis, Oscar, Oliver and Omar.

Hubby's Right (?)

When a wife goes through her husband's pockets while he's asleep, that's a joke; if the husband rifles his wife's pocketbook while she sleeps, is it larceny? Cumberland, Md., police put that charge against Edward Woods, unemployed, alleging he took \$125 from Mrs. Woods' purse.

Baby 3, Operated On

Although only 3 days old, Jerry Lee Wiley, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Wiley, of Portland, Ore., was operated on for the removal of his appendix. The operation is believed by doctors here to be the earliest surgical removal of an appendix on record. The baby is apparently on the road to recovery.

Loses \$5, Gets Slapped

As Balfour Baker handed the ticket seller of a Newark, N. J., picture house a \$5 bill to pay for his ticket, a thief grabbed the bill, and to add insult to injury, when he turned around, another man slapped him in the face.

Bathe Heart

Ill of pneumonia, Leonard physicians found the heart of Geoffrey Knight, 2, enlarged to three times its normal size by fluid pressing on the organ. Surgeons cut away two of the child's ribs, split the pericardium sac incising the heart and stitched the several portions to the chest wall to permit drainage. Every day the heart is bathed in warm salt water. They believe the child will recover.

Could Swallow Swords

Leo, a performer at a dime museum, at Philadelphia, could swallow swords, but when it came to swallowing smoke, he just couldn't take it. Half-way through his sword-swallowing act, a fire broke out. He swallowed so much smoke trying to save his props that he had to be carried out by firemen.

Body Hardening

Although his body is gradually hardening as a result of scleroderma—a rare skin disease which toughens the skin until it becomes as hard as leather, Ogie Neely, 38-year-old farmer, Mountdora, W. Va., goes cheerfully about his work. Skin specialists have pronounced him "incurable."

Cat's Natal Party

President Roosevelt and Governor Lehman of New York, are among the 1,500 persons whom Dr. W. L. Clark has invited to attend the 23rd birthday party of his pet cat, Tommy, at Seneca Falls. Proceeds from the party, to be held in the Elk club on Feb. 19, will be devoted to charity. The 250 persons attended Tommy's birthday party last year.

Asleep On Track

A Grand Trunk freight train engineer, peering from his cab as the engine rounded a curve near Kalamazoo, Mich., saw a parked car in his path. He threw on the air brakes and the train ground on the rails, halting only a few feet from the car. The engineer leaped from the throttle and woke the sleeping driver, who muttered "Thanks" and drove away.

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Eddie Saves Fifty Cents



By POP MOMAND

