

Odd and Curious News

SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

Random Items

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One Man Class

Thornburg elementary school near Pittsburgh, has a one-man graduating class. He is John Reynolds, 14, son of H. Craig Reynolds, an official of the Aluminum Company of America. John, the only eighth grade pupil will have the commencement ceremony June 10 all to himself. Class had three members last fall, but the families of two girls moved away, leaving John the valedictorian, salutatorian, honor student and star athlete.

For Charlie McCarthy

Charlie McCarthy, a wooden ventriloquist's dummy, gets \$10,000 under a trust fund from the man who made him a national figure, Edgar Bergen. Bergen bequeathed the money to the actor's fund of America with the stipulation that Charlie be kept in good repair and used in ways to encourage the art of ventriloquism. That means Charlie will never want for hinge oil, sandpaper, paint and a tuxedo.

Hip Crushed; Drives

With his hip crushed by a boulder, Merrill Richards, 44, of Silver Springs, N. Y., managed to drag himself into his car, drove across a plowed field to his home and stopped the car by running into his house. The crash attracted his family who rushed him to a hospital where his condition was pronounced critical.

14 Shot in Appendix

When Dr. Cleve Coakley operated on Roy Frus of Creston, Iowa, for appendicitis he was not at all surprised that Frus had been suffering. He found fourteen lead shot-gun pellets imbedded in the appendix, believed to have been absorbed from rabbit meat of which he is most fond.

Experiment Costly

Attempting to extract gold from a rock he had found, Michael R. Bourassa, of Berlin, N. H., poured a metallic element over a small stone which he heated on the family stove. The fumes which soon filled the small home caused the death of Bourassa's 3-month-old son and the serious illness of the entire family.

Heart Only Bruised

Staggering home after he had been shot at by two holdup men, Frank Kuletzki, of Cleveland, collapsed and was taken to a hospital, apparently having been shot in the heart. Physicians found, however, only bruises for the bullet had struck a cigarette case and was found lodged in Kuletzki's necktie.

Changes Mind

Miss Olive Woten went into court at Glensville, Pa., to ask the arrest of Halden Basil, whom she charged had wrecked her automobile. However, after a few minutes' whispered conversation with Basil in the court room, Miss Woten informed the surprised bailiff, "Never mind, we're going to be married."

Hog Climbs Stairs

A stair-climbing sow is owned by Corwin Heinlein, a farmer, of Marysville, Ohio. The sow started her stair-climbing activities when she had corn was placed on the second floor of a building used to house swine, and she now climbs up there daily.

"Dead" Snake Bites

Johnny Hathcock of Statesboro, Ga., found a rattlesnake and "killed" it. He put it in a sack and carried it home to show his friends. Reaching into the sack to exhibit his snake he thought he was bitten by the snake he thought he had killed. He will recover.

\$90,000 for Rug

An offer of \$90,000 was recently made for a carpet which was owned by the late Mrs. Edith Rockefeller McCormick, of Chicago, who it is said, paid \$125,000 for the treasure. The rug is said to have been made in Persia 600 years ago and was once owned by Peter the Great.

Lots of Flowers

A request of "lots of flowers" at the funeral "as they will be the last" was included in the will of the late Mrs. Della E. Zeamer, filed for probate in the Cumberland County Courthouse. Relatives were named to share the bulk of her \$5400 estate.

Enough's Too Much

Henry Gramling's wholesale grocery store at Russellville, Ark., has been robbed fifteen times in the past seventeen years. His latest loss amounted to \$2,500 plus all the records of his business.

75 Pounds for Car

Ed Plumb, of Bisbee, Ariz., automobile dealer, recently sold an automobile and was paid for it in silver dollars—1,200 of them. The counting of the money, which weighed 75 pounds, required an hour's time.

Captain Chaplains Corps

Rev. Harry L. Saul, for 15 years pastor of Bethany Lutheran church at Altona, has been named captain in the Pennsylvania National Guard Chaplains' corps, attached to the 103rd Cavalry, commanded by Col. Benjamin C. Jones, of Tyrone.

Loses Fingers in Planer

John Evers, Mill Hill, had two fingers on his left hand severed early Friday morning while planing a board. The injury was dressed at the Lock Haven Hospital.

FARMERS TO GATHER AT PENN STATE FOR ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Demonstrations of Interest to Orchardists, Poultrymen and Livestock Farmers Will Be Featured on Thursday, June 9

Many local farmers and their families will attend the Farmers' Field Day Thursday, June 9, at the Pennsylvania State College where they will see the latest developments in agriculture.

The field day is the annual open house for farmers held under the auspices of the College. Usually between 4000 and 5000 persons visit the College and the Agricultural Experiment Station on this occasion. Mechanically-minded farmers will be interested in the tests of air tires and steel wheels on tractors being conducted by the agricultural engineers of the College who have been considering installation of electric fenders which will learn about the difference between the alternating current type and the battery type.

The Jordan soil fertility plots are expected to evoke the usual amount of interest. The plots, oldest of their kind in the United States, show the results of the use of fertilizers, lime and manures over a 56 year period. Soil erosion plots will be visited. Information on grasses and

legumes will be given by members of the agronomy department.

Livestock farmers will be attracted to the discussions on cooperative wool marketing, horse judging, and management problems relating to the various types of livestock.

Orchardists will learn about packing equipment, packings and cold storage, soil culture, cover crops and other management problems. Gardens, test and breeding plots, greenhouses and storage cellars will be open for inspection during the entire day. Staff members will answer questions and discuss informally individual problems.

Considered as one of the outstanding topics of interest to dairymen is the discussion planned on the use and preparation of grasses and legumes for silage. Values of dairy records will be explained. Other timely dairy information will be made available. Visitors will have an opportunity to inspect the College dairy herd.

As in former years members of (Continued on page four)

Rubbing Alcohol Fatal to Worker

WPA Employee Dies From Overindulgence in Fiery Medicinal Liquid

Joseph Miller, a former employee at the Works Progress Administration work camp at Black Moshannon, died at 11:30 a. m. Friday, near the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Phillipsburg, from alcoholic poisoning caused by drinking rubbing alcohol, according to Dr. W. R. Heaton, Centre county coroner.

Miller was reported by the Black Moshannon camp to have been discharged about six weeks ago. His age was estimated to range from 50 to 65 years. Little information regarding him is available.

He died in a so-called "camp" located near the station. A metal barrel stands in the center and a fire is kindled there in the evenings, it was learned. Boards have been placed in a circle about the crude stove and it is on them that the frequenters of the "camp" sit.

The surroundings are covered with rubbish of all kinds and innumerable rubbing alcohol bottles and heated heat cans.

Dr. Heaton after an examination of the deceased, stated that no inquest would be necessary. The rubbing alcohol, he said, had doubtless affected many organs of the man's body.

PLANS ANOTHER LAST RAFT TRIP DOWN SUSQUEHANNA

Unmindful of the tragic fate of the recent "last raft," Andy Russell, of Cherry Tree, old-time raftman and president of the Susquehanna Headwaters Raftmen's Association, is planning another "last raft" of spaulter to be floated down the Susquehanna from Cherry Tree to Washington in mid-June.

Promotion of another "last raft" began as a publicity stunt for the firm's old home week celebration May 30 to June 4 in that Indiana county community at the head waters of the west branch of the Susquehanna. But the idea caught fire among the oldtimers in the community and it was decided to build the raft on a larger scale and send it to Washington. Plans now are for the raft to be afloat during the annual June flood although the firm want to keep it until after June 4.

PENN STATE STUDENT TO EARN 'SEEING EYE' DOG

George Risko, blind freshman student at the Fayette Undergraduate Center of the Pennsylvania State College at Uniontown, will tune piano this summer to pay for a "seeing eye" dog.

Citizens of Uniontown are campaigning now to secure the necessary 30 piano tuning jobs for the boy so that he may be able to join the "seeing eye" class at Morris-town, N. J., on July 17. Dr. R. Wallace Brewster, administrative head of the Fayette Center, said.

Risko is 18 and has been blind since birth because of defective retina. At the close of the first semester of the academic year Risko placed high in the upper 25 per cent of the freshman class at the Center.

Gas Tax Revenues Up

According to the Bureau of Public Roads, American motorists paid \$761,888,000 in gasoline taxes and inspection fees to the States in 1937, compared with \$691,000,000 in 1936. A total of 19,218,121,990 gallons of gasoline were consumed during the same period.

Submarine Mail Service

Because the city of Catalonia has been separated from the rest of Government territory by the Insurgent push to the Mediterranean, mail is being sent to the rest of Loyalist Spain by means of submarines. It is probably the first submarine mail service in the world.

A Surprise for the Folks!



Trouble, Like Bananas, Came All In a Bunch For This Gentleman

J. D. Whisenbunt, funeral parlor proprietor of Andarko, Okla., finished his first round trip by air to Kansas City Friday night, and he said the experience would do him for a lifetime.

It wasn't the plane ride that bothered him, it was what went with it. Whisenbunt left Andarko, early in the week when he received a wire that his wife was near death in a hospital at Kansas City. He arrived to find her much better, and a message from an Andarko friend saying his baby was dying from the whooping cough.

Whisenbunt dashed to the airport, bought a ticket for home and while he waited for the plane, a pick-pocket lifted his wallet, containing his ticket and all his cash. He managed to get some money

and flew to Oklahoma City, where he sprained his ankle in a chuck-hole.

He limped to a telephone, found his baby was out of danger, but his wife was in danger again, so he flew back to Kansas City. On the way he developed a toothache and had to stop to see a dentist.

He finally arrived at the hospital and found his wife out of danger again. By that time they had had to call a doctor for Whisenbunt. He had developed ptomaine poisoning. While recovering from ptomaine poisoning, he scratched his finger and got blood poisoning. Whisenbunt hurried home before anything else could happen to him. His wife and daughter are recuperating but Whisenbunt is still in bed.

State Gives Dairy Farmers Time To Modernize Their Cattle Barns

An order requiring Pennsylvania farmers to provide cement floors, lighting and cooling systems in their barns was put off by the State recently until September 1. The order became effective Wednesday.

Wilbur K. Moffett, director of the bureau of milk sanitation said the three-month extension gave a "breathing spell" to farmers who had been "misinformed and duped" by some dealers' agents. Moffett said the postponement was granted at the request of a group of farm union members from Columbia County.

In Columbia and some other counties, they've tried to make a political football out of this order. Moffett asserted. "The farmers have gotten a lot of misinformation. Ninety per cent of the farmers

and dealers in Pennsylvania are meeting our requirements, and have been for a long time.

"Some of the farmers can hardly be blamed, though, for not complying, when they are being paid starvation prices for their milk by the dealers."

He claimed that in Columbia County, the bureau had found some dealers paying only \$1.25 a hundred for milk, or about two cents a quart to the farmer, whereas the consumers in the area paid 11 cents a quart.

"In some communities, the farmers have been brow-beaten so long, they don't have enough to replace their dirt and wooden dairy floors with concrete, install lighting and cooling facilities," Moffett declared.

State Slowed The Speeder, Now It Will Speed Up The Slow Poke

Satisfied that the State's crusade against speeders has reduced automobile accidents, Commissioner P. W. Poole of the Motor Police now aims a blow at the "slow-poke" driver.

"The law sets no definite miles per hour minimum speed," said the commissioner, "but it does give us power to enforce a minimum conducive to safety."

"I personally think 30 miles an hour is the speed minimum we ought to require on main traffic arteries, except perhaps in the hill country."

"If we can develop a speaker that can be heard several miles down the road, I'll have the patrolmen break

up these traffic jams caused by speed drivers by barking to them to boost up or get off the highway," Poole asserted. "The trouble with poking drivers is it congests traffic on the main highway. The cars are apt to start pulling out of line, with head-on collisions as the result."

The commissioner is angling out particularly the "one-arm slow-poke" who clutters up the highways."

"Romance is all right in its place," the commissioner grumbled, "but its place isn't in the middle of a stream of traffic on a main-traveled road. I'd just as soon let the love-doves go a good bawling out from our troops."

450 COURSES LISTED FOR PENN STATE SUMMER SCHOOL

Four hundred fifty separate courses will be offered during the main summer session at the Pennsylvania State College, beginning June 27 and closing August 5.

This is but one of the three summer sessions conducted annually by the college. The inter-session begins June 7 and continues until June 24 and the post-session begins August 8 and ends August 26. The resident summer session faculty of 175 professors will be augmented by 79 visiting professors from other colleges and universities.

More than 3,500 students are expected to attend the summer sessions at Penn State this year.

Work is offered for teachers holding college degrees who wish to receive courses in preparation for advanced work to pursue regular courses for credit in the Graduate School or to fit themselves better for teaching; other graduate students who seek credits toward advanced degrees; undergraduate students who wish to continue their college work during the summer, and graduate nurses, librarians, social workers and other adults qualified to pursue with profit any of the courses given.

The sport of motorcycling reached its all-time record in 1935 in the United States, when 3,250,000 persons attended 789 meets.

EXPLOSION FATAL TO FAMILY OF THREE IN SNYDER COUNTY

Father and Youth Go to Cellar to Change Gas in Fuel Tanks When Blast and Fire Occur; Thought to Have Ignited From Furnace

A farmer, his wife and their 22-year-old son died within a few hours of each other Saturday night in a Lewistown hospital from burns suffered in an explosion which demolished their home.

The victims were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Weader, 58 and 55, respectively, and their son Glen, of McClure, Snyder county.

Coroner Ralph Barchus, of Snyder county, said Glen told him before he died that he and his father went into the cellar shortly after noon Saturday to change the gas in their fuel tanks.

A hissing noise brought the mo-

ther down the steps. She was trapped in the explosion and fire which followed. The father and son managed to crawl out. An unknown passerby dragged Mrs. Weader from the flame-engulfed wreckage. She was first to die, hours later, in the hospital.

Coroner Barchus said a furnace fire had been kindled the same day, and he thought the heat may have ignited leaking gas from nearby containers. He said he was told the Weaders had used bottled gas for cooking for 14 years.

Front and rear walls of the first floor of the brick dwelling were blown apart.

Girls employed by the Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce to telephone residents of Bellefonte and State College to invite them to participate in the recent Treasure Hunt, made a total of 1990 telephone calls. Since they were four girls engaged in the work, each made an average of 495 calls.

A Bellefonte woman who recently purchased a handsome big sedan was asked by a friend the other day whether the machine had six or eight cylinders. "I don't know," she answered, "but I do know it has four lovely asstrays."

The more we get to know the chickens in the southern part of town, the less respect we have for them. A Willowbank Street girl, who is quite adept at imitating, can scare the roosters in Bush Station. Half Moon Hill and Roopburg crossing at the top of their lungs any time she chooses, merely by giving two or three most realistic imitations of a crowing rooster. This department has observed before that the crowing of a rooster in the southern end of town means exactly nothing, but now it might mean that the Willowbank Street girl is merely entertaining her friends.

To those of you who may feel put out because of the Bellefonte School Board has obtained the consent of the electorate for the building of a new wing to the present High School, and because they increased the tax rate to offset decreasing revenues in the face of increased enrollment a visit to the present High School building should prove a worthwhile trip. For example the boys' toilet—a medieval cavernous hole in the basement, where there is only drainage, dampness, evil smells, poor lighting and power facilities. There's not even a washbasin in the room. Or walk up to the chemistry laboratory, and picture yourself trapped in that room with fire raging four floors up the wooden stairway from the basement to the laboratory door. Your only way of getting out of the room would be the stairway. You couldn't even jump out of a window, because there aren't any. In these respects the rural consolidated schools of Centre County are much better equipped than are our town schools.

It has been suggested that the Board of Directors of the Community Athletic Field set aside a day in the near future as "Ladies Day" at the field. Such a move would serve to make the ladies feel as though they are welcome at the sports park, and also may stir up more interest in baseball among the fair sex.

If you're feeling pretty proud of yourself these days, take a stroll around to the Montgomery store and take a peek at yourself in your cap and gown when you were graduated from the Bellefonte High School. Nine times out of ten you'll swear that the likeness you see just couldn't be you, and maybe after you've thought things over a while you'll come down to speaking to your neighbors again.

This department has heard more favorable comments upon the parade and program held here in honor of Memorial Day than we've ever heard uttered regardless of a similar event. In addition to being unusually well organized, the parade was colorful, moved with clocklike precision, and the brief but forceful address by the Rev. Father Bernard McGuire was that the likeness you see just couldn't be you, and maybe after you've thought things over a while you'll come down to speaking to your neighbors again.

Between now and the opening of the fair grounds, a large number of gatherings of various kinds will be held, including the State College Kiwanis-Farmers Day in June, and several dozen family reunions, Sunday school picnics, and the like.

Jury Awards Couple \$2050

Damage Suit Results From Auto Wreck on 'Dead Man's Curve'

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Wenze last Thursday were awarded \$2,050.87 by a jury after eight hours of deliberation on the first of two damage suits resulting from a motor accident on "Dead Man's Curve," below Hubersburg. They were awarded damages from Mrs. Wenze's sister, Mrs. Miriam Beck, of Mityaty, and John Bailey, of Pine Grove Mills, who were joint defendants in the case.

Immediately after the first case, the second case of Miriam B. Beck vs. John Bailey went on trial in which Miss Beck sought damages from Bailey. The jury did not return a verdict in favor of Miss Beck. This action was to serve to place responsibility for the accident between the drivers of the two cars involved in the crash. As a result of this somewhat complicated turn of events, there is some question as to how the verdict in the first case will be settled, i. e. whether Miss Beck and Mr. Bailey will share equally in payment of the verdict to the Wenzes, or whether some other arrangements will have to be made.

The Wenze verdict provides payment of \$1,375.87 to Mr. Wenze for hospitalization and \$675 to Mrs. Wenze for time lost from work while she was recuperating from her injuries. Because it was necessary to keep the jury on one case from hearing any of the proceedings in the second case, Court attendants were kept busy shifting the juries into ante rooms until both bodies had returned their verdicts.

Of course, if there will be numerous minor improvements made on the grounds and buildings under the supervision of A. H. Spayd, superintendent of grounds.

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MOTHER AND SON HONORED AT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Mrs. Philip Friese and son, Leslie, were honored at a birthday celebration at their home in Newberry, recently. Mrs. Friese was 69 years old and her son celebrated his 28th anniversary.

Mrs. Friese was married when quite young and is the mother of eighteen children, nine of whom are still living. She also is the oldest of ten children in her family. Those present at the anniversary were: Mr. and Mrs. Philip Friese, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Friese, children Mildred and Bobby, Leslie Friese, Miss Ester Friese, son James, Miss Iona Bullock, Tom Gotwail, Mr. and Mrs. Nancy Lee Walle, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mitchell, all of Newberry and vicinity; Mrs. Agnes Robinson and children Bertha, Lee and Elmer, and Richard Haagen, of Yarnell; Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Crispin, Julian; Mr. and Mrs. Elery Lucas, Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Shank son Vernon, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Shank daughter Shirley, Albany, N. Y.; Mrs. Alice Bullock, Newberry, and Mrs. Maude Bullock Jersey Shore.

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Advertising cannot do all the work of selling but it can do a major part of the job.

Will Improve Grange Park

Begin Construction of New Building For Exhibiting Livestock

Improvements at Grange Park, Centre Hall, began this week in preparation for the August-September annual gathering which like the proverbial circus advertising, will be "bigger and better than ever."

The chief improvement about to be made is the construction of an additional building for the accommodation of the increased showing of pure-bred swine by Centre county breeders. Herebefore, exhibitors of this line of exhibits have been greatly hampered for quarters, the management having been obliged to divide many of the pens into two sections, thus forcing exhibitors to only half the accommodations originally planned for a single exhibit. With the addition of the proposed new exhibit building, the feature of crowding will be avoided to a large extent.

The new building will be 112 feet in length, with a driveway of about twelve feet and display pens on either side. A substantial concrete wall will carry the building which will have a concrete floor.

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ALLOT FUNDS FOR SPORTS PARK AT STATE COLLEGE

Congressman Don Gingery has notified that the President has approved an allotment of Federal funds in the sum of \$78,312 to construct an athletic field, baseball field and tennis court in the Borough of State College, and the performance of incidental and appurtenant work, including excavating, grading, filling, riprapping, placing drains, building ditches, erecting fence, building wall, seeding, rolling and surfacing. This is in addition to projects specifically approved and is being sponsored by the State College School District.

At the same time Congressman Gingery announced that the President had approved an allotment of Federal funds in the sum of \$826,236 to improve roads throughout Clearfield county, and an allotment of Federal funds in the sum of \$840,137 for the improvement of State-owned roads throughout Blair county. This is not a part of the Federal Aid Highway System, and is being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways.

Abandon 4-Day-Old Boy

Well dressed and with a milk bottle by its side, a baby boy about four days old was found on the porch of the residence of J. Calvin Lang, Sr., at Hollidaysburg. Lang's two daughters, awakened by the baby's crying, found the child. He was taken to the Altoona Hospital Sunday morning.

Son Born to Milesburg Pair

A son was born last Wednesday at the Private Hospital, Lock Haven, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Noll, Milesburg.

CHIEF OF POLICE HALTS KLOPERS AT HAGERSTOWN

The reported elopement of Elizabeth K. Haagen, aged 17, and Edward Robison, both of Bellefonte, R. D. 3, came to a halt Friday when Chief of Police Harry Dukeman, acting upon the request of the couple's parents, notified Maryland police to hold the girl in custody until her father arrived there to escort her home. The couple was located in Hagerstown, Md., and Miss Haagen was detained. Mr. Robison was not taken into custody.

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'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES'—Almost Unscathed

