

Odd and Curious News

A Visitor in Seven Thousand Homes Each Week.

The Most Widely Read Newspaper in Centre County.

SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

Random Items

VOLUME 57

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1938.

NUMBER 30.

Talk About Luck
Speaking of luck: Jack Miller, a high school teacher of Butler, N. J., won four dollars in a baseball pool last week.

Moved Stone by Stone
The death of John Stevenson, Jr., 90-year-old industrialist of Sharon, and one-time associate of Andrew Carnegie, recalls the time he moved his stone mansion piece by piece, 20 miles, as a result of a dispute with the city of New Castle.

Weighted 747 Pounds
Johnny Webb, 747 pound professional fat man, died at Washington, D. C. last week in his quarters at a carnival.

Wives Cost \$4.50
Wives are cheap in the Belgian Congo. They can be bought for as little as \$4.50 and even then paid for on installment plan.

Here's a Tale
This is a tale of a cow with no tail and another cow with two tails. One of Howard Fulton's cows appeared at its barn in Coatsville, without its tail.

Pet Dog Saves Life
Mrs. C. Derick, wife of a Sunbury business man, can thank her pet dog, Mitzel, for being alive.

Five Get Reward
Five Williamsport men have received checks of \$20 each for finding the camera and films of W. C. Profit, news reel cameraman, who was one of seven drowned last March when the "last raft" smashed against a bridge at Muncy.

Dog Still Waits
While waiting at a Philadelphia subway entrance for his master who had not returned, a small woolly dog was struck by a truck and its leg broken.

Long Time Revenge
Admitting that he had "waited fifteen years" to kill his stepfather, Harold Earl Kuntz, 30, of Dayton, O., calmly confessed shooting George Elmer Smith, 61, who he claims, murdered his mother and shot out his right eye fifteen years ago.

Systematic Holdup
A "family style" holdup cost filling station operator B. H. Weston \$50 at Alton, Ill. After Weston put ten gallons of gas in the car driven by a "pretty woman," a man alighted, drew a gun, and took the money.

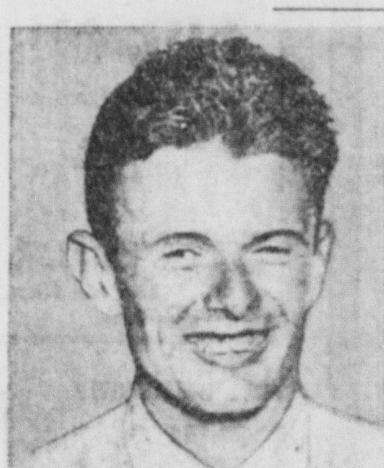
Delays Wedding
Because the bride's brother, Dexter, had to attend to the milking, the wedding of Herbert David Bontal, 63, and Anna May, 16, of Athol, Mass., was held at 9 o'clock. The brother was the groom's best man.

JERSEY SHORE GIRL SHOOTSELF RIDING IN TRUCK
Miss Betty Bubb, 21, of Jersey Shore, took her life by means of her own invention at 8:40 o'clock Sunday night.

Death was said to have been instantaneous. No inquest was held. Miss Bubb was the daughter of Ruth Bubb and the granddaughter of William Bubb, both of Jersey Shore.

DOUGLAS CORRIGAN TELLS OF 'MISTAKE' FLIGHT TO DUBLIN

American Flier, Who Spanned Atlantic In Nine-Year-Old \$900 Monoplane, Describes Events of 28-Hour Trip



(Wide World)

With the plaudits of the world resounding in his ears for having flown the Atlantic from New York to Ireland in his nine-year-old monoplane, Douglas Corrigan modestly related the major events of the journey and told of circumstances in his life leading up to it.

He admitted that he had intended to go to California, but that he had changed his mind and decided to fly to Ireland. He described the difficulties of the flight, including a compass that was out of order and a fuel gauge that was unreliable.

He also mentioned that he had been in the air for 28 hours and 15 minutes, and that he had landed in Ireland. He expressed his hope that his flight would inspire others to explore the world.

Prowler Shot Stealing Gas

Blandburg Man Has Leg Wounded With Pellets byirate Owner of Car

Shot down when surprised in the act of stealing gasoline, Steve Spanik, 24, of Blandburg, was committed to the Blair County jail early Sunday morning following treatment for numerous pellet wounds of the legs and wrist.

Wise informed Chief of Police Jesse Raugh, of Bellwood, that he had been missing gasoline from his car for some time and suspected Spanik. He awaited confirmation of that suspicion Saturday night by lying in wait, shooting when the intruder fled.

Charged with larceny before Justice of the Peace Edgar McKinney, of Bellwood, Spanik was jailed to await a hearing. A physician removed ten pellets from Spanik's legs and wrist, six having lodged in the right leg.

State motor police, who removed Spanik from Bellwood to Hollidaysburg, said that no charges would be filed against the shooting, stating that the Blandburg man had been caught in the act of committing a felony.

De King of De Boes Rode in Regal Splendor

De king of de boes went through Altoona Monday morning in a parade. He was riding the rods, either he had a drawing room on west-bound train No. 17. The St. Louisan.

With his wife he is going to Altoona as a technical director of "The Arkansas Traveler," Bob Burns' new picture.

The baoback-playing comedian sent out a call for Jeff's help and advice on a story about which Jeff knows quite a lot—hobnobbing. Jeff was finally reached on the boardwalk at Atlantic City where he was selling razor blades.

He rushed to Philadelphia, got a new outfit and a lot of publicity, and then "rode the cushions" to New York where he boarded The St. Louisan for the coast.

Doctor Fined For Speeding

Physician Claims He Was on Emergency Case When Arrested by Motor Police

Dr. G. D. Mervine, of Lock Haven, was ordered last week to pay a fine of \$12.50 and costs for speeding, after a hearing before Alderman John H. Schell, at Williamsport.

Dr. Mervine was arrested in the afternoon of June 2 near Lindon, Lycoming county, by Private Charles A. Rice, of the Lock Haven substation of the Motor Police.

It is understood that Dr. Mervine may appeal the case. In the event that he pays the fine he would be liable to be called for a hearing by the Department of Revenue with the probable loss of his driver's license for 90 days for exceeding the 50-mile speed limit.

At the hearing in Williamsport, Private Rice said he chased the doctor for four and a half miles and timed him doing 70 miles an hour.

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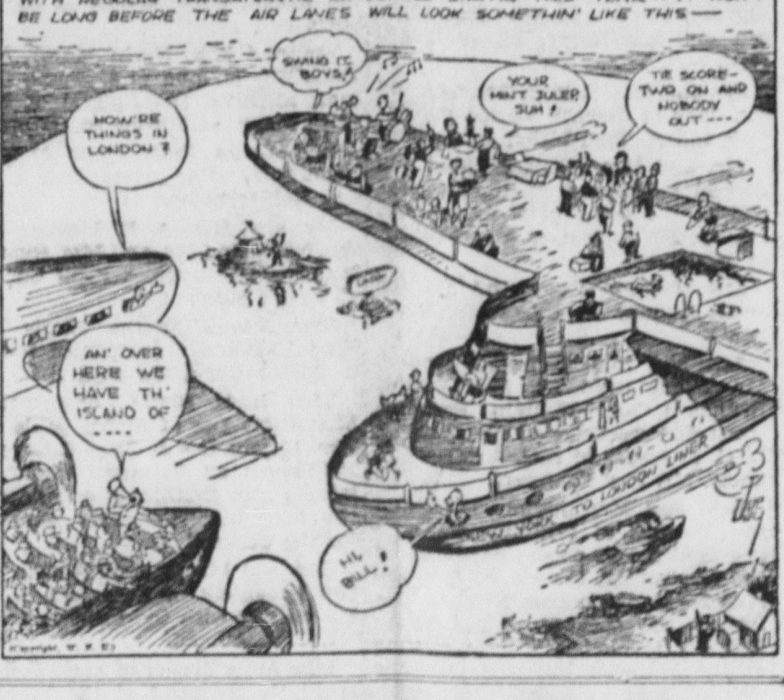
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Future Air Service De Luxe!



Lewistown Fair Thrills

Linked with America's greatest racing circuits, which include the great Indianapolis Speedway, where the international five-hundred-mile sweepstakes are held annually, and Pennsylvania's own Langhorne course, near Philadelphia, the Lewistown Fair is eligible to enroll the nation's best speed talent for its thrill hungry speed fans.

Practically all great Eastern drivers who have thrilled Central Pennsylvania racing fans at Lewistown's Fair in past years will be back to strive for new honors and a share of the cash purses, according to Ralph A. Harkinson, dean of promoters.

Following the races, the final grandstand show, a glamorous musical extravaganza, together with the many free acts, the band concert, the fireworks, and the big midway will bring the final program Saturday night to a glorious close.

Urges Mass Production

One of the best ways of eliminating economic difficulties besetting America's program is factory production of houses that can be cheaply assembled on their sites.

Harvey Wiley Corbett, architect of the Rockefeller Center, declared his message in a public lecture at Columbus University.

The differential between the cost of rehousing and the rent that former occupants of slum dwellings can afford to pay, which must be made up by community subsidies, is caused by the high labor cost in building, Mr. Corbett said.

Farmers and Dog Battle Bear To Protect Cattle

A battle between two men, a dog and a desperate half-starved black bear was a battle to death on the part of the last in Cameron county, recently Grove Hill farmers have been losing many sheep, deer and cattle had been attacked and residents of the section had become well-nigh panic stricken.

When Evan Jordan saw a bear near one of the farm barns, he went to the house for his rifle, and his father, also armed with a rifle, went along with him. They separated when the bear was not where he had seen it.

When Evan saw it near the orchard, he fired, wounding the bear, which turned on the boy, "Shep," the farm dog, went to his assistance, and when the boy was again in position, he shot again, but this wound also failed to kill the bear.

The father, Alfred Jordan, arriving on the scene, was able to shoot a volley which brought the huge killer down. Even though gaunt and seemingly half-starved, it weighed 300 pounds.

Adults who keep in mind what they did when they were growing up seldom lose much sleep over the activities of the modern young people.

WOMAN HANGS SELF WITH SILK STOCKING FROM A BED POST

Victim, Resident of Houtzdale, Had Been Dependent From Ill Health—Worried Over Children Who Were in Sanitarium

A sheer silk stocking strapped around her neck and knotted to a bedpost was a middle-aged Houtzdale woman's means of ending her life early last Friday morning.

The woman, Mrs. Alfretha Reifer, 44, had been dependent for some time and neighbors, noticing no signs of life around the Reifer residence, broke open the back screen door and found Mrs. Reifer on the second floor of the little bungalow, her body sagging on the stretched flooring, her knee dragging on the floor.

In ill health for sometime, Mrs. Reifer's suicide was blamed on her physical condition. Her three young children, aged 13, 12 and 10 had been sent to the Mount Alto Sanitarium six weeks ago for tubercular treatment. She blamed herself for their sickness and worried continually about them.

According to her husband, a WPA worker, he and his wife had eaten breakfast together at 5:45 Thursday morning. Mr. Reifer stated his wife seemed in good spirits at the time. Her neighbors and sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Reifer Zeigler, became worried around 11:30 a. m. at the time she broke in the screen door.

Mrs. Reifer's body was cold when found and Dr. Roman, Houtzdale physician who had been taking care of Mrs. Reifer, estimated she had taken her life around 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Reifer was a former Woodward Township school teacher and had been married 17 years. She was an active church member.

Her husband testified that his wife had been carrying a small insurance policy and that she had just held it long enough to be able to collect on it.

Pour 75 Tons Stone Into Hole

Mill Owner Near Lamar Fills Sink Hole to Replenish Water Supply to Mill

Seventy-five tons of crushed limestone are filling the huge maw of the Fishing Creek sinkhole on the Steele property near Lamar. The stone was dumped into the sinkhole, which is about half a mile downstream from the new and larger hole which appeared last week near the federal fish hatchery at Lamar, by O. D. Rager, of the Clintondale Mills.

Mr. Rager said most of the stone was put in the hole last Thursday and that evening the level of the stream began to rise. Friday, as a result of the increased flow of the water the mill was able to operate ten hours.

In the course of the past 45 years, Mr. Rager and the previous owner of the Clintondale Mills, J. L. Ralston, have spent considerable time and money in filling up sinkholes in Fishing Creek, with a consequent benefit to fishermen as well as to the mill.

Sportsmen in that area also have devoted considerable effort to closing the frequent sinkholes, but the work often has to be repeated as the fill disappears. Current discussion of the problem developed after the appearance of the new, large sink hole at the hatchery, where no efforts have been made, as yet, to close the large hole. A possible WPA project to be sponsored by the county is under discussion.

Meanwhile, however, in order to get the mill in operation, the mill management ordered limestone for the attempt to fill up the hole on the Steele land. Load after load was dumped into the hole which did not show evidences of being sealed until the last wheelbarrow load of the 74th ton was thrown into the cavity.

Numerous small sinks remain in the bed of the stream between the hatchery and the Clintondale Mills and Mr. Rager said he may endeavor to close some of them as an independent undertaking in order to improve the stream flow at the mill.

Return Stolen Loot
Some jewelry and a pair of opera glasses, stolen from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert, of Lansdowne, last summer while they were on their vacation, was returned this summer, while they were away, with a note: "From some darn fools who realize the error in their ways. We're sorry."

Drum Corps to Go to Canada
The co-ed drum and bugle band of the Pennsylvania State College will be a special attraction at this year's Canada national exhibition, it was announced last week. Visit of the band will mark the first time it has left the United States since its formation.

Pigeon Flies 2,000 Miles
A pigeon wearing a leg band reading "Notified United States Biological Department, Washington, D. C." recently flew to Acapulco, Mexico, after a 2,000-mile journey.

4-H Clothing Club Meets
The Stormtown 4-H clothing club met with their club leader, Mrs. Eleanor Smith Eckenrode, July 20. Most of the members are progressing nicely with their work. Some of the girls were away on vacations but those present had their work well underway. The next meeting is to be held in the Grange Hall, August 3.

Scraps: Harry C. Menoid, member of the Manual Training Department of the Bellefonte High School, went angling in the muddy waters of Spring Creek last Thursday. He started with anglerworms as bait and caught a small chub. Using the chub as bait he caught a nine-inch trout. Dr. Enock H. Adams, of Bellefonte, chief of staff of the Centre County Hospital, a two-pack-a-day smoker, refrained from smoking during a severe cold he had about a month ago. Deciding to quit, he hasn't had a smoke since. A telephone inquiry for E. K. Stock, supervising principal of the Bellefonte Public Schools, one morning this week brought the masculine answer from his offices: "He haint here!"

Pocketing \$3.49 collected when a hat was passed through a large crowd which had watched him scale the Dimpling Hotel at Clearfield last week, Johnny Woods, professional "Human Fly," commented: "I bet they wouldn't give three cheers to see Corrigan fly the Pacific in a 1913 Ford!"

A hobo stopped in this office the other day for some old newspapers—a request we receive on an average of about four times a week from knights of the road who use them for bedding. This fellow, however, was a little particular, adding to his request: "Give me Republican sheets if you have any. They are softer, the arguments ain't so solid and the facts ain't the cold kind that knock you silly, and the points don't stick out enough to hurt, see? It's just like settin' on an air bed, there's so much wad in 'em."

Despite the warning sounded in this column several weeks ago to beware those who drown real issues by appealing for "Red Blooded Americanism" and the "American Way" of doing things, we note that the New York Times last week became one of the leaders of a movement to "resell the American system to America." They should have listened to this department. There's no more need of reselling the American System to America than there is for a campaign to educate the American public to the belief that automobiles are a better way of getting places than horses. What the New York Times should do is to devote its energies to determining just what the "American System" is and what it stands for. Perhaps if they did an honest job of that they'd be willing to let the phrase take its rightful place in the halls of the nation's revered traditions, rather than keeping it dusted off as a convenient herring to drag before the noses of befuddled voters.

Note to Chamber of Commerce: Let's have a soapbox derby in Bellefonte! You can figure out all the details about prizes and rules, but we'll add suggestions for "speedways." Probably the best one would be the concrete roadway leading from the front of the main Academy building to West Bishop Street. There is a curve to furnish thrills and West Bishop Street could be roped off for the event. Reynolds' Hill on North Allegheny Street, or Reservoir Hill on South Allegheny Street, also would make for plenty of speed. Bellefonte has never had a soapbox derby, and we believe local youngsters should have a chance to show what they can do with a couple of boards and four wheels.

Trifles: H. M. Martoff dug a large can of bait the other day in preparation for a fishing trip. (Bait are hard to find at this season of the year, and it takes lots of work to get enough for a fishing trip.) Anyhow, the would-be angler drove some distance to a stream, carrying the bait in the rear of a small truck. Ready to angle, he reached in the can to get a worm only to discover that the sun shine on the can during the trip had killed every last bait. A recent issue of a Bellefonte newspaper had the wrong heading over the obituary column. The heading read: "Facts Treated at the Centre County Hospital." Anyone who thinks Bellefonte police are wool-gathering while standing about the streets, is sadly mistaken. If a column could be written about the things local police are not credited with knowing anything about, the column would have to be printed on asbestos paper, and there'd be a sudden sale of one-way tickets to China, Patagonia, the South Sea Isles and other remote places, and the purchasers wouldn't be the ones you suspect, either.

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'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Everybody's Feeling Better Now



By POP MOMAND

