

# Odd and Curious News

## Curb Service

For curb service in obstetrics—call Tom Toranzo of Waltham, Mass. He ran out of a variety store the other night just in time to assist a mother, whose ninth baby, a girl, had just been born on the sidewalk of a busy street. The woman had been shopping. "I wrapped the baby in a coat and put it on top of the crashed auto," Tom, father of two children himself, "because you can never figure what might happen. Careful to note the baby was breathing all right. Tom then waited until an ambulance took the mother and the 6 pound 3/4 ounce daughter to a hospital."

## Cousins Re-United

An accident brought together two cousins, Francis L. Crist, of Crescon, and Mrs. Agnes McKenzie, of Altoona, for the first time in fifteen years. Crist, 56-year-old, was in a snowdrift on Route 56 near Crescon. While making his reports to a State motor policeman they discovered their identity. Mrs. McKenzie had returned to Altoona two years ago from Florida but had failed to look up her relatives. No one was injured in the collision.

## Suspended in Air

When his automobile shot over a forty-foot viaduct, at Columbus, Ohio, Ward Hanna, 56-year-old Negro, shut his eyes and "heard those angel wings flapping." When the expected crash failed to materialize, Hanna opened his eyes and found the car suspended in mid air, the rear wheels of the car on the edge of the viaduct and the front wheels jammed against a telephone pole about eight feet from the viaduct.

## Brother Act

Paul and Leon English, brothers, of Jersey Shore, certainly do things together! Coasting in a field near their home, they were on separate sleds when both vehicles ran onto the Nichols Run road and struck the same automobile. Paul suffered a fractured leg and Leon injuries to his side. They were treated at the Jersey Shore Community Hospital, Oliver Herfield, of Avis, was driver of the car.

## Hard Luck

When his car ran over an all-black skunk, P. R. Fox, of Wayland, N. Y., decided to salvage the carcass and sell the skin. However, Fox's bad luck began. A few minutes later the car crashed into a fence and a fence rail pierced the dashboard barely missing Fox. When Fox tried to remove the fence rail, the car burst into flames, destroying the car and the skunk.

## Socked Her

Alas, poor Sarah Plaster Parisher's was a tragic fate. Be-ribboned and gingham-clad, Sarah was propelled in the middle of the road by a gas station attendant near Philadelphia. He figured that motorists, swerving to avoid hitting the dummy, would turn into his station and maybe buy gas. It worked until some ungalant soul just mowed Sarah down.

## Delayed Card

A Post card mailed twenty-two years ago by a merchant in North Carolina was recently received by R. P. Beasley, of Lynchburg, Va., president of a shoe company which liquidated over twenty years ago. It read, "Please have your salesman come and see me about February 20, 1917."

## Baby Bonus

A \$50 "baby bonus" for every child born to needy parents would be paid by the state under a bill Rep. John J. Baker said he would introduce in the legislature this week. He proposed to ensure "every needy mother having a child the medical attention she deserves."

## Pawns Teeth

In order to gain strength enough to pass a physical examination necessary to enter a CCC camp, a war veteran, of Missoula, Mont., in desperation, pawned his false teeth to get money to buy food. Because he lacked teeth, he was rejected. Now he is attempting to raise money to repossess his teeth.

## Drinking Spree Fatal

Joseph B. Weaver, 64, and his son, of Hanover, died from the effects of a drinking spree. When their liquor gave out, they began drinking rubbing alcohol and when that was exhausted, they turned to automobile anti-freeze solution.

## Joke On Yeggs

When ordered into a washroom by tow bandits, S. F. Stone, a filling station attendant, of Kansas City, obeyed instantly, happily smiling. The joke was on the hold up men as Stone had all the station's receipts in his pocket.

## Coal Shortage

Anthony Mariello likes to go down into a mine to get back four tons of coal he put in his cellar at Pittsboro, Pa. The bottom dropped out of his coal bin into an abandoned shaft.

## A Real Hog

Arthur G. Gray, of Blain, Perry county, butchered a hog last week weighing 1030 pounds which he raised on his farm in Jackson township.

When an after-dinner speaker begins to joke about women's clothing, he has about reached his last notch.

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SECOND SECTION

# The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

Random Items

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## TWO CONFESS HOLD-UP OF TEACHERS' COLLEGE GIRLS AT LOCK HAVEN

### Daylight Stick-up of Students, Netting \$16, and Similar Robbery at Muncy Being Investigated By Police

The arrest of three Williamsport young men in that city on Monday is thought by police to be the solution to a bold stick-up of two Lock Haven college students on Sunday and a similar crime committed recently at Muncy.

The men arrested and charged with the robberies are Clayton Bird, 17, no home, and Donald Gardner, 18, of Vine Avenue. Police say both confessed to holding up Phoebe Varner and Olga Morvek, two Lock Haven State Teachers' College girls, Sunday afternoon at the corner of West Main and Third Streets. They succeeded in robbing the students of \$16. Lyle Estes, 23, also of Williamsport, is being held as an accomplice, although Bird and Gardner declare Estes was not with them when the robberies were committed.

In addition to the Lock Haven affair, efforts are being made to link the pair with a hold-up of two women at Muncy Saturday night and robbing them of about \$3. In both instances the weapon used to intimidate the victims is said to have been a water pistol.

The arrest was made in Williamsport Sunday evening while police were on the lookout for a car stolen from the residence of Luther Iron. Chief of police Good stated the Iron car was taken about 11:30 o'clock Saturday night by Gardner and Bird. The pair apparently went to Muncy, held up two Muncy women there and then proceeded to Scranton, Bird's birthplace.

Gardner and Bird returned to Williamsport Sunday, and are believed to have picked up Estes at the noon hour and continued on to Lock Haven where they held up the two college students.

In addition to finding the water pistol, said to have been used in the hold-up and another toy cap pistol in the car, four boxes of candy and \$2.50 were recovered by police.

The presence of mind of the two Lock Haven students to get the license number of the stolen car greatly aided police.

Authorities said prosecution will take place in Lycoming county.

## Jail Man For Stealing Car

### Lock Haven Man Comes to Grief in Round of 'Automobile Rustling'

The wrecking of a stolen car near Rote and the attempted theft of another car in Salona was cleared up early last Thursday morning, reports the Lock Haven Express, when the owner of the second car nabbed Jack Berry, 21, of Lock Haven. Berry later confessed that he had stolen and wrecked the first car.

At a hearing before Justice of the Peace A. S. Cross in Mill Hill, Thursday, Berry pleaded guilty to tampering with the car in Salona and paid a fine of \$27.50. Later he was given a hearing before Alderman Max J. Lipetz in Lock Haven on the stolen car charge. He was found guilty and, in default of \$500 bail, was committed to the Clinton County Jail for appearance in court.

The story as developed by the police is that around midnight of Wednesday Berry stole the car which belonged to M. L. Claster and Sons and which was parked on E. Clinton Street. He drove through Salona, where he returned to the car, and Lock Haven when the car skidded, about half a mile east of Rote, left the road, and turned over in a field. Later, examination in the jail showed that Berry received only a few bruises.

Going into Salona Berry found a car belonging to Charles Walizer, which was parked in front of the home of C. W. Ramsey. Berry attempted to start it, but the car stalled. Walizer, hearing the noise, grabbed a gun and, although not seeing the fleeing Berry, fired several shots in the air.

Thinking Walizer was shooting at him, Berry yelled, "Don't shoot! Can't you see I have my hands up?" Berry was captured and held until the arrival of Deputy Sheriff Roy L. Bryerton. The investigation followed with Berry, after questioning, admitting the theft of the Claster car.

## Munson Youth Struck By Car

### Sustains Broken Leg and Other Injuries When He Steps in Path of Car

Badly injured with one leg broken and injuries to his other leg, determined John Wesley, 15, of Munson, was rushed to the Phillipsburg State Hospital last Thursday morning after being struck by a car near the Munson postoffice at 8 o'clock.

Wesley ran out from behind a parked truck directly into the path of a car operated by Stella Duttry, Winburne. He was knocked to the ground as the bumper and headlight of the car hit him.

The youth, when he saw the car was about to hit him, attempted to stop but slid off the slippery pavement into the left front part of the machine. He was picked up and taken to the local hospital.

### Raid Nets 80 Persons

The latest raid ever staged at Conneville resulted in the arrest of 80 persons charged as inmates of a disorderly house. State, county and city authorities joined forces in the drive Saturday night. One man was accused by liquor control agents of selling beer without a license.

### Watch Out For Racketeers

There are hundreds of them to ensnare you and take your money. Read how schemers trim innocent victims in an illustrated article in the February 12th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale by all progressive newsmen.

### Hippie to Die March 27

Chernor James has fixed Monday, March 27 for the execution of Rockview, of Ernest M. Hippie, 21 year old mountaineer of Sullivan county, who pleaded guilty to the slaying of 70-year-old Mrs. Jennie D. Porter last February.

## She's in Good Hands



## Boys Name Is 'Donald Duck'; Embarrassed When Introduced

Just because his parents happened to name him "Donald" a young fellow who visited Oil City recently finds his name causes him considerable embarrassment at times.

"The family name is 'Duck,' so by putting two and two together, the young man's name is Donald Duck," which also is the appellation Walt Disney applied to one of his pen creatures several years ago.

"The country-wide familiarity of everyone, both young and old, with Disney's entertaining cartoon, has caused Mr. Duck no end of amusement as well as embarrassment when he travels about, especially on business."

Fancy when making a business call and talking a staid business man "I am Donald Duck," the embarrassment the young fellow must feel when the aforesaid staid business man replies "how do you do? I'm Mickey Mouse."

Relatives said that upon occasion they have been obliged to send telegraph messages to Mr. Duck and that they usually have quite a bit of difficulty in convincing the operators that they are not attempting a joke.

Donald Duck visited Oil City recently to drive his mother to their home at Lodi, Ohio, when the roads became bad and she was afraid to take the machine by herself.

# THE SHOOTING OF 'SANDY'S' CHUM

## Story of an Old-Time Cop Who 'Always Got His Man'

Recalling events of the early nineties will bring to mind quite vividly the familiar names of those who composed Bellefonte's police force at that time. Among the outstanding ones were Capt. Amos Malin, Capt. Henry Montgomery, William Garis and Joshua Polk.

"Josh," as he was known, had a somewhat colorful career during the many years he served as a police officer. Not over five feet in height, and with no especial show of strength, "Josh's" physical appearance was never one to inspire fear in the mind of a law-breaker. Garbed in the regulation police clothes, his head adorned with a helmet obviously intended for a larger man, and with night-stick in hand, this diminutive "keeper of the peace" invariably gave the impression of the village constable stepping out in character from a rural melo-drama.

But what ever Officer Polk may have lacked in stature, or failure to attain precedence to the law, he made up with courage. Some claimed his fearlessness ran to fool-hardiness, others styled it plain "guts." And for this lone and commendable attribute he was generally respected except by those who didn't know him well enough to judge beyond outward appearance.

Because of his aggressive efforts to maintain law and order on the streets, Officer Polk naturally incurred the enmity of certain elements in and about the town, and particularly was he despised by the puddlers who worked at the Nail Mill that stood opposite the railroad tracks from the old fair grounds. They

## Farm Payments Outright Grants

### Not to Be Paid Back to Federal Government, It Is Announced

Payments made to farmers who participate in the Agricultural Conservation Program are outright grants and are not to be returned or paid back to the Federal Government at any time, the State Agricultural Conservation Committee has announced.

With cash payment to farmers for compliance under the program the Government sends the following statement:

"The enclosed check is the payment you earned by participating in the 1938 AAA farm program. This payment represents the Federal Government's share in carrying out the program. It is intended to offset, at least in part, the cost of soil conservation practices and to keep their supplies in balance.

"The farm program has three fundamental purposes: (1) to conserve and improve the soil resources of the nation, (2) to stabilize and maintain adequate food supplies for consumers, and (3) to help farmers secure their fair share of the national income."

The committee points out that these payments for compliance under the program are made with the definite understanding that soil conserving practices have been carried out.

## When the Puddlers 'Went to Town.'

Back in the days when this incident occurred, Bellefonte's police force had a much larger responsibility than is required at the present day.

The main reason for this was the greater number of industries which employed certain workmen, known as the "floating type," who were usually of the roughest element. This was especially true of the Nail Works and its puddling mills. Workmen in this industry earned above the average wages and were free in their method of spending it.

Drinking was the principal diversion among the iron workers, and Saturday night was usually chosen for their weekend period of relaxation. Anything might be expected to happen when a gang of puddlers from the Nail Works started to celebrate.

Arguments starting in barrooms frequently ended in a free-for-all fight on the sidewalks. Gangs of drunken men would parade up and down the streets—not necessarily quarrelsome, but constituting in themselves a nuisance that required the combined efforts of the police officers to control.

The story related in this article is only one of many similar acts of roysdism that took place in the hey-day of Bellefonte's industrial boom whenever the puddlers decided to "go to town."

There was an unruly class of citizens who drank to excess, caroused on the streets and caused frequent disturbances.

One night in the year 1890, a near tragedy was enacted in Bellefonte in which Officer Polk played the leading role. It was a Saturday night and as usual the town and the Nail Mill crowded the bar-rooms and drank with abandon.

It was their custom to go from one bar-room to another, and each time they appeared on the streets they would become more boisterous. It was the natural duty of the police to subdue them, and more often they were induced to quiet down without resorting to force on the part of the officers.

Not so with "Sandy" McGrath, however, who on this particular night was one of a group of puddlers standing on the High Street bridge near the Bush House. "Sandy" was unusually hilarious and disturbing in manner, and was warned by Officer Polk to cease his loud talk and noise or he would be locked-up.

The officer saved himself from falling on his head on the rocks ten feet or more below, by grasping the edge of the walk. They kicked his hands loose, however, and then started to run back to the High Street bridge and from there to Thomas street.

In the meanwhile Officer Polk, who was unhurt by his drop into the water, crawled up to the sidewalk and started in pursuit of the two men. He caught up with them a short distance below the U. B. church on Thomas Street. They apparently heard him following them and were waiting to carry out the murderous intentions they had been deprived of a few moments before.

As the policeman came nearer to where the men had been, Thomas told Sandy to run and he would "kill the d—cop." Drawing his revolver Officer Polk called upon Sandy (Continued on Page 6)

## FORMER STATE SENATOR FLAYS JAMES' ATTITUDE ON SCHOOL PROJECTS

### Sponsor of Legislation Which Would Authorize Construction of 751 Schools, Charges Governor Playing Unfair

Governor James' attitude on the Thompson School Plan was assailed this week by Edward J. Thompson, of Phillipsburg, former state senator and sponsor of the recent legislation which authorized the construction of 751 schools in this state with WPA aid.

Replying to James' condemnation of the plan which would furnish 750 school buildings at a cost of not over 1 1/2 million dollars a year to the James administration, Thompson said he felt the governor was condemning the whole thing because it was a Democratic measure.

\$93,000,000 program temporarily near the end of the Earle administration due to financing difficulties.

Governor James has succeeded Earle as the president of the Authority, a quasi-official agency completing a \$65,000,000 institutional improvement program. James indicated that his Republican administration would make no effort to revise the program.

### Former Kaiser 80, Friday

Former Kaiser Wilhelm, who was 80 years old on Friday, entertained a group of friends at a luncheon. The group, led by 89-year-old Field Marshal August von Mackensen and Admiral Ehrhardt von Schmidt, 75, greeted the former emperor on behalf of the old imperial German army and navy. Von Mackensen presented Wilhelm with a silver cup. The former Kaiser was moved by his feat, expressed every year since he fled Germany just before the end of the World War.

## Pays for Peanuts After 25 Years

### Woman Who 'Snitched' Handful of Gubers, Pays Back

A woman who snitched a handful of peanuts 25 long years ago paid for her borrowed goods last week when she sent A. J. Hicks, Tyrone grocerman, twenty-five cents in change.

The woman with the guilty "peanut" conscience was Mrs. E. M. Donaldson of Rector, Arkansas.

Hicks used to be years gone by run a store at Coalport in the Broad Top coal district. One day when the grocer's eye wasn't as sharp as usual the lady who paid her debt to the grocerman after a quarter of a century stopped in at the store, made a small purchase and on the way out noticed a bag of peanuts which she looked up to see what she had snatched.

For some long years Mrs. Donaldson tried to pay back her debt by attempting to locate the grocer. Finally she traced him to Tyrone and in a few days came the change wrapped neatly in a piece of paper.

Hicks now has two alternatives. Charge the woman for the interest on twenty-five cents for twenty-five years or give the lady the remainder of the bag of peanuts.

## Enraged Man Attacks Cop

### Arrested For Threats, Altoona Man Strikes Patrolman With Poker

Attacking a patrolman serving a warrant charging him with threats to kill his Patrolman Robert Gorn, a Seventh ward, Altoona, WPA worker, was jailed last Saturday night after he had gone berserk with a stove poker.

The patrolman, Chris Hauser, 46, struck across the head, received treatment at Altoona hospital dispensary for a laceration of the scalp requiring three sutures.

As a result of the attack, Higham, 40, faces charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest in addition to the charge filed by his wife.

Higham, who was subdued promptly after he had swung at the patrolman, was also treated at the dispensary. He suffered a laceration of the forehead requiring four sutures and a bruise of the back.

The attack occurred at 10:35 o'clock in the kitchen of Higham's home at Phillipsburg. Robert Gorn, who was stationed at the front of the house, was unable to reach Patrolman Hauser's side in time to prevent his injury.

Members of the Alpha Fire Company removed most of the household articles which had been moved into the property, and soon had the flames under control. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

You don't have to agree with what we write. There are quite a few others who think they are right.

## Random Items

### The Butler Got the Turkey

Tom Fletcher, well known Howard resident, killed and dressed a fine gobbler the day before inauguration, for personal presentation to Governor James, in the hope that the gift might soften the hearts of those who hand out state jobs. Tom took the turkey with him to the inauguration, but wouldn't deliver it to the Governor's mansion before the ceremony for fear that the outgoing Governor Earle might get the bird. After the inauguration he knocked on the new Governor's door, and gave the turkey to the butler.

### Another Police Change?

A rumor going the rounds this week is to the effect that the State Motor Police headquarters, which some months ago was moved from Bellefonte to Williamsport, may be returned to Bellefonte.

Col. Charles A. Lindberg has again dropped from the front pages after a brief stay on the strength of his revelations regarding Hitler's air fleet. If it isn't a mechanical heart he's inventing, it's dabbling into foreign politics. We wish we could look into the future fifty years to see whether he's one of the great men of this age, or whether he just likes to break out in the news once in a while—despite his apparent dislike of publicity.

Did you ever read a news story and have the uncomfortable feeling that the whole tale has not been told? And yet when you scan the story a second or third time to learn how you got that impression, you can find no reason for the sensation? The story may sound reasonable enough and appear to give all details but despite that, you can't shake off the conviction that you're being cheated of the real facts. Maybe it isn't as easy to fool all of the people all of the time as is commonly believed.

How many potential fortunes, such as the ones accumulated here from 50 to 100 years ago, are being made in Bellefonte today? Who is building up a family estate which will permit the next three or four generations to live comfortably doing nothing more than managing or even mis-managing the family's wealth? The answer to these questions lends an interesting insight on the economic changes which have taken place during the past century. In the days when the iron industry thrived and brought wealth to a number of Bellefonte families—wealth which in nearly every case has now dwindled to the point where only the memory of it remains—a kind of feudal system existed, according to oldsters who remember those times. The iron masters were usually kindly employers who were much looked-up to and revered by the working people. The wage scale in those days was low, and the profits of the industry rapidly pyramided to build up the family estates of the ironmasters. Class distinctions were much more sharply drawn than they are now, and there was more respect on the part of those without money and position for those who had those assets. According to one old resident's view, there was something of the reverence shown by the ironmasters which is supposed to have been accorded Kentucky Colonels in the middle of the last century. The fortunes which made possible the erection of the many palatial homes in Bellefonte have gone, and the massive old stone piles have in many cases been turned into apartments to earn their own upkeep. Today there are more families with comfortable incomes in Bellefonte than there were in the hey-day of the iron industry, but the town has lost much of the color which we imagine it had in the days when the appearance of Mrs. George Ironmaster driving down High Street in a fancy rig drawn by splendidly outfitted horses hitched in tandem, with a liveried coachman handling the reins from the driver's seat, was an event spoken of at the supper table. Is the change for the better or for worse? Your guess is as good as anyone's.

## By POP MOMAND

