

## FIRE LOSS PLACED AT \$63,500

### LYONS BUILDING GUTTED; THOMAS HOME DAMAGED

Levine Store, Winner Market, Suffer Heavy Losses; Barber Shop, 3 Apartments Ruined; 4 Families Made Homeless By Blaze In Old Stone Mansion

Bellefonte's fire loss in less than a week mounted to nearly \$125,000 Saturday night when a \$50,000 blaze at the Lyons building, South Allegheny street, and a \$35,000 fire at the 120-year-old Thomas stone mansion house on North Thomas street were added to last Monday's disastrous \$150,000 high school loss.

The fire at the Lyons building, discovered shortly before 1 o'clock Sunday morning, brought heavy damage to two business establishments; wiped out a third, and destroyed most of the property of the tenants of three apartments on the second floor. Two tenants, trapped in their apartment, were helped to safety by firemen who raised a ladder to a window. In the Thomas fire, which broke out shortly after 7 o'clock Saturday night, four families were made homeless. Two other apartments in the stone building escaped damage.

The origins of the fires have not been determined.

Five Bellefonte firemen were injured, none of them seriously, while in action during the weekend. For the second time in less than a week it was necessary to summon fire companies from State College, Pleasant Gap and Milesburg to aid local firemen.

### 5 Firemen Injured Thomas Loss \$3500

At the Lyons building firemen were faced with one of the most difficult tasks they have ever experienced. The blaze originated in the boiler room, roared upward through partitions, and rapidly spread to all parts of the second and third floors. Reaching the top of the building, the fire was balked by a substantial metal roof. Confined by brick walls on the sides, and the roof on top, flames roared inside, centering first in one part, and a moment later in another part of the structure.

Because they were unable to enter the building and because they could not reach the interior with streams of water from the outside, firemen were forced to settle down to a process of drowning out the fire. Thousands of gallons of water poured into the structure from more than a dozen hoses through nearly every available window. By 4 o'clock the fire was well under control.

A survey of the ruins revealed that the Friedman and Levine clothing store, occupying the northern first-floor room in the building, had been badly damaged by water. Like an oven in a gas range, flames seemed to have swept all round the store-room, breaking through in only two places, and then gaining no headway. Most of the stock and equipment will be usable although damaged by water and smoke.

The Winner Market, just south of (Continued on page three)

### Begin Move For New High School Site

Some Seek To Have New Building Located on Outskirts of Bellefonte

WOULD NECESSITATE EXTENSION OF BORO

Advocates Claim Plan Would Free Present Property For Residential Use

Are Bellefonte citizens satisfied with the present site on North Allegheny street as the location for a new high school building?

This question may have to be decided in the near future, for authoritative reports have it that certain groups are seeking support for a move to locate any high school which may be built to replace the one destroyed by last Monday's fire, on the outskirts of town rather than on the present school property.

Sites suggested include the Beaver holdings on East Bishop street, near the Community Athletic Field and a tract near Fifth avenue, extending east from North Allegheny street.

The reasons assigned by persons (Continued on page 7)

### Officials Praise Work of Firemen

Altoona Firemen Claim 'Paid Department Could Have Done No Better'

High praise for the manner in which local firemen battled the recent fires at the high school building and at the Lyons building was given Monday morning by three officials of the Altoona Fire Department who came here to inspect the ruins of the two buildings.

The officials were: Paul Amheiser, fire chief; O. E. Morrison, fire inspector, and Jacob Weber, director of public safety. Particularly interested in the school fire because several Altoona schools are equipped with the same type of ventilating system, the three officials of Altoona's paid fire department had nothing but words of praise for the work of local firemen.

After inspecting the ruins of the school fire and viewing all available photographs, Mr. Weber, di-

### Fire Sweeps Through Bellefonte Business Building



The Lyons building, South Allegheny street, as it looked several hours after the blaze was under control. The roof is caved in, and the second and third floors were gutted by flames. The Levine store is on the left; the Winner store on the right. James Bailey's barber shop was under the Levine store.

### HOWARD MEN ARE INJURED

J. Calvin Pletcher in Serious Condition After Crash Near Clearfield

J. Calvin "Spider" Pletcher, of Howard, last night remained in serious condition at the Clearfield Hospital as the result of injuries suffered about 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning when the car in which he and two other Howard men were riding crashed into another car near the tile works just outside of Clearfield.

Pletcher is reported to be suffering from a severe concussion of the brain. His condition is such that surgeons have been unable to move him enough to make an x-ray examination.

The other two occupants of the car were W. T. "Slab" Bryant and Paul "Tony" Pletcher. Bryant suffered a severe laceration of the scalp but was able to return home after receiving hospital treatment. He was unconscious for two hours after the crash.

Paul Pletcher escaped with minor (Continued on page 7)

### SPARKS AND EMBERS as they fell by the wayside

Most spectators at the Lyons building fire Saturday night would not have given a nickel for the life of any person or animal in the building. But Bertha, pet cat at the Winner Market, was in the building all night, and about dawn her royal highness sauntered out of the water-soaked debris, yawned, stretched and meowed for her breakfast.

Roy Eichelberger, one of the tenants, had to leave his apartment hurriedly by way of a ladder shortly after the fire was discovered. He forgot his glasses, which had expensive specially-ground lenses. Without them he was practically lost. He told firemen about it Sunday morning and one of them obligingly climbed to the wrecked apartment, rooted among charred timbers and burned furniture, and finally appeared at the window. In his hand he held the undamaged glasses.

After the fire was well under control, and threatened danger to the Sid Bernstein building next door had passed, a spectator was heard to remark: "Well, if Sid doesn't have a fire or smoke sale, he's at least entitled to a close-shave sale!"

Bellefonte citizens are fire-litery. People at bridge parties, at work, in their homes, imagine they hear the fire siren. They smell smoke where no smoke exists. Many are dusting their insurance policies to find out whether they have enough coverage. Others are checking on their furnace pipes and flues. There are rumblings that maybe a fire-bug is on the loose, but there is absolutely no evidence to support such a fear.

When Jim Bailey's barber shop burned it took with it not only his chief means of livelihood, but also what was to have been a directory of Centre county. Three or four years ago a Mr. Glenn came to Bellefonte and began collecting material for a county directory. When the job was well under way he suffered financial reverses, and the records were left with Mr. Bailey as security for a board bill due. The directory project never was revived and now the records—all that remained of a good idea, gone wrong—are only memories.

Jim Bailey's collection of sheet music was beginning to pay him dividends. Music houses in Chicago frequently wrote to him asking him for the scores and words of once-popular numbers which are no longer available except through collectors' files. Jim would make copies of the desired songs, keeping the originals in his collections. All his (Continued on page four)

### HIGH SCHOOL TO RE-OPEN

All Classes Will Be Resumed Monday After Assembly at State Theatre

Running true to predictions made the day after the high school fire, Earl K. Stock, supervising principal of the Bellefonte schools, last night declared that classes will be resumed on Monday, February 27, at the Bellefonte Academy property.

All high school students are notified to report for an assembly meeting at the State Theatre, at 9 o'clock Monday morning. Students will go directly to the Academy from the theatre after announcements have been made and after the new high school set-up has been explained. It is mandatory that all high school students attend the assembly, Mr. Stock declared.

Grades 8-1, 8-2 and 7-2, formerly included in the high school building, will resume classes at 9 o'clock Monday morning in the basement (Continued on page three)

### SEES DELAY AS SERIOUS THREAT TO SEWAGE PLANT

LET'S DEMAND A GUARANTEE

Threatened with suits for heavy damages because of odors emanating from the sewage disposal plant, State College Borough Council at a regular meeting Monday night heard a recommendation by a representative of the Chester Engineers, original designers of the plant, for the expenditure of \$48,000 for improvements in the hope of eliminating odors.

No assurance is given that odors will be removed by carrying out the recommendations. Suggested remedies for the condition include the installation of a device to remove grease from the sewage; a cover for the second digestion tank now in operation, and installation of a third tank; addition of two aerators, and construction of an additional sludge bed.

State College is faced with a serious situation. If citizen protests are ignored lawsuits seem imminent. If suggested remedies are taken there is no guarantee that the objectionable features will be corrected.

Bellefonte Council, in process of (Continued on page seven)

### Hear Testimony In School Case

Witnesses Tell of Overcrowding in One-Room School at Runville, Boggs Twp.

Judge Ivan Walker has under consideration a mass of testimony presented at a hearing Friday in the case of a Boggs township petition for a new school at Runville. The petition, signed by some 300 taxpayers of the township asks the local court to issue a mandamus directing the school directors of the township to provide additional facilities at Runville.

As the hearing progressed, it developed that the Boggs township school board concurred with the petitioners in their contention that the Runville one-room school is seriously overcrowded, but Lott H. (Continued on page 7)

### Elks Lodge Offers Prizes For Essays

The Bellefonte Elks lodge yesterday announced that two prizes, one of \$5 and the other of \$2.50 will be awarded to pupils of local schools who submit the best essays on "Americanism."

The essays are limited to 1000 words each, and must be in the hands of Elks officials not later than midnight on Wednesday, March 8. A board of judges will be appointed to determine the winner.

Essays should be mailed or taken to William Yates at the Elks Home, West High street, Bellefonte. The essay contest is being held in conjunction with National Americanism Week, March 1 to 8, sponsored by the National Elks lodge.

### Fleming Man Injured When Car Hits Truck

In a sideswiping collision on the Snow Shoe mountain road near Runville at 12:50 o'clock Saturday morning, George F. Connelly, of Fleming, driver of one of the machines involved, suffered lacerations of the face and left hand.

Connelly was driving down the mountain road and after rounding a curve his car skidded on the icy highway and sideswiped a truck driven by Wilbur Quick, of Moshannon, which was proceeding in the opposite direction. One side of the truck was damaged and the car was virtually demolished. The accident was investigated by John Amick, of the State Motor Police at Pleasant Gap.

### Milesburg Firemen to Organize Fire School

The Milesburg Fire Company, reorganized about a year ago, has purchased a quantity of new equipment and members have arranged to hold a fire school, with competent instructors, to teach them the principles of scientific fire-fighting. Drills are to be held regularly during the coming spring and summer months.

The company is in excellent condition, and with the continued support of the citizens of that community, Milesburg can rest assured that their fire protection is of the highest type available in any community of comparable size.

### Snydertown Couple Honored By Friends On Fiftieth Anniversary



Announcement was made yesterday that Mahlon Robb, Trust Officer at the Bellefonte Trust Company, has been elected assistant to the president of that institution. Mr. Robb's promotion last week is retroactive to the time of the annual organization meeting last January 17.

Mr. Robb's father, N. B. Robb, president of the bank, has been off duty for some time because of illness. The son came to Bellefonte last summer after a number of years of banking experience in New York City. He is a graduate of the Bellefonte High school and of the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

**Remodeling Wolf Store**

When remodeling now under way is completed at the Wolf Furniture store on West High street, it will be the only business place in Bellefonte having a mezzanine floor. The second floor is being constructed in the rear half of the building, and will provide approximately one-third more floor space than has been available in the past. In addition, attractive stairways and a more spacious arrangement of furniture will add to the appearance of the establishment.

**Sale at Bellefonte Hardware**

To clear the counters and shelves for incoming merchandise Mark W. Williams, who recently became proprietor of the Bellefonte Hardware Company, announces a dissolution sale, beginning tomorrow. Turn to the Bellefonte Hardware advertisement for a few of the many bargains listed for this sale.

**Fire At Clarence**

The John Parnay residence at Clarence was slightly damaged by fire, yesterday morning.

### Named Assistant To President Local Bank

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### Three Escape Injury When Car Crashes

Three persons escaped injury but the car in which they were riding was badly damaged Tuesday afternoon when a flat tire caused the machine to swerve from the road and overturn a short distance west of Fort Matilda.

The three were W. W. Bickett, of Bellefonte, a salesman for the County Chevrolet Company, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Myers, of Milesburg. Mr. Myers had made arrangements to purchase the car, and the group were enroute to Tyrone to arrange for financing the deal at the time. Myers was at the wheel when one of the front tires failed, and the car swung off the right side of the road.

Swinging left, the car reversed the road and ran down a slight embankment before overturning. A (Continued on page seven)

### Ordered To Support Mother Now On Relief

The Centre County Public Assistance Board last week conducted a hearing before Judge Ivan Walker in the case of a Centre county man charged with failure to support his mother, who was on the relief rolls. Evidence produced at the hearing showed that the man had an income far in excess of his own needs. As a result the Court issued an order directing the son to make regular monthly payments for the support of his mother.

The first case of its kind in Centre county; the action indicates the course the County Assistance Board expects to follow in a number of other cases now under investigation.

### 2 Passenger Trains May Be Discontinued

Railroad passenger facilities into Bellefonte—at the low rate for the past number of years—promises to reach a new low in the near future, if reports current in town prove to be correct.

Two of the five passenger trains now operating daily into Bellefonte may be discontinued by the Pennsylvania Railroad, it is reported. They are No. 509, arriving here at 9:30 a. m. daily, and No. 301, arriving here at 8:31 p. m.

The evening train is a particularly important one, for on it all business mail posted after 3 o'clock is sent on its way. Cancellation of that train might mean that the mail (Continued on page seven)

### Alexander Dropped From State Payroll

Kyle M. Alexander, of State College, for several years market analyst for the State Bureau of Markets, Department of Agriculture, was dropped from the payroll on February 15. The post carried an annual salary of \$3,000.

Mr. Alexander's duties included statewide supervision of Agricultural Co-operative groups, State and Farm Markets, and radio publicity for the Department of Agriculture. During his term of service he wrote and delivered more than 200 radio broadcasts, and conducted 170 consecutive farm service broadcasts, five days a week, over station WHP, Harrisburg.

### H-E-L-P (very loud)

Dear, Oh Dear!

Perplexity has the question and answer department in a tight grip this week! The blame lies with an inquisitive reader who propounds a query that is "over our head."

This particular goal-getter wants to know at what season of the year a deer loses its liver.

It could be the hunting season, but that evidently isn't the solution, for our questioner declares that a deer actually does lose its liver each year, in the same manner as a buck loses its horns.

And furthermore, he has twenty-five dollars to pit against our skepticism that he is correct.

We admit to being "stumped" and must appeal to some of the old-time hunters to help us out. Folks, if you have any knowledge on the subject, please regard this yelp for help directed to you.

"Not in passing days and years Can happiness be measured, But in the golden memories. The heart alone has treasured."

On Tuesday, February 14, 1939, Mr. Harvey N. and Annie Fisher Lutz, of Snydertown, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, commemorating fifty years of happy married life.

In the afternoon about 40 close relatives and friends of the esteemed couple gathered at their home in honor of the occasion. The time was spent in recalling old times and renewing friendships. The bride and groom were recipients of many lovely gifts and cards. The refreshments, served about 4 o'clock, were beautifully appropriate with the color gold and white predominating.

Mrs. Benjamin Lutz acted as hostess. Mr. Lutz had the distinction of being the oldest person present, while Joseph, month-old son of Rev. and Mrs. P. J. Keller, was the youngest.

Mr. and Mrs. Lutz have been lifelong residents of the Snydertown community. Both are in quite good health. Mr. Lutz was 89 in November and Mrs. Lutz will be 68 in April. They are faithful members of the St. Mark's Lutheran church.

Mr. Lutz was for many years a church councilman and has served in the capacity of church janitor for about twenty-five years.

They are the parents of one son, Benjamin J., who holds a position in the offices of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Pittsburgh.