

Odd and Curious News

SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

Random Items

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BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1939.

NUMBER 22.

Good Rain Check
Samuel Johnston bet his friend Horace Williams \$10 it would rain at a certain day and time in Bloomsburg...

\$1 Up On Bandits
A couple of confidence men grabbed the wallet of John Edward Oolin, 21, of Boston, and then jumped into a cab...

Family Man
Tom Ramos, of Los Angeles, slept in his automobile four years to save enough money to bring his two children here from Greece...

Retriever
State Rep. A. M. Hawkins and several friends, of Greenville, S. C., while cleaning out their favorite fishing hole, threw a stick of dynamite into the water...

Unreconstructed
Informed by a welfare worker that her name was being transferred from the Confederate widow pension list to the old age assistance...

Motherly Mixup
Mrs. Herman Schmidt, of Aroher, Neb., said she went out to check up on a new hatching of turkeys and found the family cat mothering five young turkeys...

Ingenious Cop
After neighbors worked vainly for 20 minutes to free the foot of Eileen Bilet, 3, which had become stuck in a drain, at Philadelphia, a policeman was summoned...

Sheep for Sheepskin
Starting two years ago with one lamb, bought with cash from her bank, Dolores Yrigoyen, 8, of Canoga Park, Calif., expects to go to college on the proceeds from her flock of sheep...

Didn't Mind
While sparring suckers in the Yellow River, at Wisconsin, Zabaska missed a big fish but he didn't worry about it. Instead of the fish, he speared a pocketbook containing \$8.

Dog Seek Dog
State prison guards at Crouch, Idaho, lost a bloodhound. They were at a loss how to find him. Then a guard had an idea: "Get another bloodhound." It worked.

Concerning Bramble Plants.
It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale any bramble plants, which includes raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, etc., unless they have been inspected and certified as stated in the Pennsylvania Plant Act of 1937...

Fined by Father
Fined \$50 for reckless driving, Allen Scott, of Wapaca, Wis., was warned by the justice that a second offense would be punished by a jail sentence. The justice was Scott's father.

High Speed Train Test Over Bald Eagle Valley Set For Tomorrow
Unless present plans are unexpectedly changed, the first high speed "test" freight train will run tomorrow, June 2nd, over the old Eagle Valley railroad from Lock Haven to Altoona...

USE PLANE TO LOCATE YOUNG MAN'S BODY IN RIVER AT LOCK HAVEN

Two Aviators Find Chester LeRoy Dick, 19, Drowned While Swimming in Susquehanna River, Below Dam

Two aviators flying low over the Susquehanna River at 7:25 o'clock Friday morning located the body of Chester LeRoy Dick, 19, who was drowned about 8 o'clock Thursday night while swimming just below the dam at Lock Haven...

CCC Worker Dies Of Knife Wounds

Victim of Roadhouse Brawl Succumbs to Internal Hemorrhages

Edward Gebhart, 22-year-old CCC worker of Juniata, Blair county, who was stabbed in a roadhouse brawl Tuesday morning of last week, died Thursday night at the Altoona Hospital...

The cutting was alleged to have been the outcome of a brawl at the Newberg Inn, just outside the Altoona city line. Circumstances surrounding the case have been veiled in mystery...

Edward Lewis Gebhart, Jr., was born in Juniata, April 27, 1917, a son of Edward L. and Martha E. (Mitsubaugh) Gebhart, both deceased. Members of the family include seven brothers and sisters...

Tyrone Man's Death Probed

Coroner's Jury Fails to Place Blame in Aftermath of Fatal Quarrel

While a Blair county coroner's jury determined that Thomas Johnson, of Tyrone, died from a cerebral hemorrhage, they failed to fix the cause.

Johnson was allegedly severely beaten in a fight with a nephew, Robert M. Sprow, 28, who has been held on charges of assault and battery. Johnson died at the Altoona Hospital, May 12.

Held in the Blair county jail, Sprow was represented at the hearing last week by Attorney Samuel Jubeliner. It was brought out at the inquest, held at the Tyrone municipal building that both men had been drinking and that cerebral hemorrhages may have resulted from a variety of causes.

Three persons testified, including Officer L. F. Wagner, of the Tyrone borough police, and William Bloom and E. F. Gallagher, bystanders who had witnessed the fight.

Girl Injured by Glass
Injured at Cold Stream dam near Philipsburg, Friday afternoon, when she slipped on broken glass, Miss June Cupples, Newtown, Oscoda Mills, daughter of Mrs. Edward Cupples, was admitted to the Philipsburg State Hospital. The young girl, a student at the Philipsburg high school, had gone swimming following the completion of her classes. Tourniquets were applied at the dam before she was taken for treatment.

Had Fish Bone Removed.
A fish bone, an inch in length, which became lodged in the throat of Ralph Shade, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Shade, of Danville, while eating his supper Wednesday evening, was removed at the Geisinger Memorial Hospital, after which the lad returned to his home.

Arm Seared by Lightning
During a recent electrical storm, Mrs. Edward Wertz, of Watsonstown, suffered a searing burn of her right arm. Lightning struck and destroyed the chimney of the home, the charge traveling through the house and striking a kettle she was holding.

Memorial Day



50th Anniversary of Johnstown Flood Recalls Bellefonte Man's Experience

Gilbert Love in a fiftieth anniversary story of the Johnstown flood in last Friday's issue of the Pittsburgh Press, gives a graphic description of many almost unbelievable escapes. One of these concerns the remarkable experience of Thomas O'Neal, father of Mrs. Arthur C. Dale, wife of Judge Dale, who makes his home at the Dale family residence on East Linn street...

FIRST WAGON WAS A CURIOSITY

It may be difficult to imagine citizens of Centre county getting excited over the sight of a four-wheeled wagon. But they once did, and it needs no stretch of the imagination to understand why when it is known that only two-wheeled vehicles were in use at one time. That was considered over a hundred years ago. Then came the improved wagon which proved a curiosity.

Traveling was done entirely upon horseback or on foot. Long journeys in the saddle were then undertaken such as little hesitations as now characterizes the traveler by rail. About the same indifference prevailed then as now in regard to a trip to Philadelphia, though our ancestors consumed several days in accomplishing it, while we can make it in a few hours.

As showing how little was then thought of what would seem to us an extraordinary undertaking, it may be related that when they were married the parents of a man living in Bellefonte made their wedding trip to Muncy, a distance of not less than sixty miles, on horseback. The party, numbering several couples, enjoyed the ride as much, and perhaps more, than the modern wedding "tour" is enjoyed by those making it.

Fake Money Cost \$62,002
According to Julian T. Baker, of the Secret Service, banks in the United States accepted more than 7,994 counterfeit notes for a loss of more than \$62,002, during 1938.

Did you Send Your Child to College For This?
An eminent psychologist explains why campus show-offs do such silly things as eating live goldfish and phonograph records. One of many informative illustrated articles in the June 11th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Ball Meets 'Bullfight'
A heavy and costly bull owned by John Gensinger of Scott Township near Bloomsburg, broke from pasture on the farm of its owner and started out to tackle any bull he met. In his flight and search for opposition the bovine met a "bull" type engine on the tracks of the D. L. & W. Railroad and at the same time met its death.

100 Ways To Be A "Rap."
The yokels are still being "laken in" by age-old tricks. An article reveals some of the everyday rackets and how to detect them. One of many illustrated features in the June 11th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Hitler and Mussolini preach warfare, one day they may get more than they can enjoy.

PHILIPSBURG NEGRO, MEMBER CCC CAMP, KILLS LOVE RIVAL

Thomas Benjamin, 19, Shot To Death By William G. Patrick, In Street Fight at Altoona, Saturday

Thomas J. Benjamin, 19, well known Negro athlete of Altoona, was shot and killed early Saturday evening during a street fight in that city which police said arose over an Altoona girl. Benjamin is believed to have died almost instantly as shots from a .25-calibre revolver tore through his back, piercing the left lung and left shoulder.

William George Patrick, 19, of Fairbank, Pa., a Negro member of a CCC camp at Philipsburg, is being held without bond on a murder charge in connection with the slaying.

Three other members of the camp, Leroy Blackstock, 20, John Royler, 18, and John Payne, all of Philadelphia, are being detained as material witnesses. All are Negroes. The shooting, according to Altoona police, occurred shortly after 8:30 o'clock on Twenty-seventh street, between Oak and Maple avenues and is said to have been motivated by jealousy over a Ninth ward Altoona High school varsity football game.

Patrick and three youths held the material witnesses, comprised part of two truckloads of CCC workers who landed in the city early Saturday to spend the evening, a regularly weekly recreational procedure, according to police.

Both Benjamin and Patrick were acquainted with Miss Pearl Ivory, over whom the dispute which ended in the killing is said to have arisen.

Police said that Miss Ivory, a Negro, was unaware of the bad blood between the pair and was not

Some smart politician will go into office one day on a simple platform, "More money for less work."

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A FRIEND PASSES ON

It is with real regret that we note the passing of former Sheriff W. Miles Walker, of Bellefonte. For some years Mr. Walker and this department were "sparring partners" with his hair not more than three feet off our port side. He was an ever-ready source of information about things which happened before our time. He was a rich source of interesting anecdotes and had an excellent sense of humor. He could tell you the date of almost anything which happened during his 80 years of life. We enjoyed hearing his tales of the past because he told the good and bad happenings as they occurred, not as you read them in books. In his death we have lost a friend and a living "Open Sesame" to an inexhaustible wealth of information about earlier Centre County and its citizens.

MAN IS NOT FISH, NOR FOWL:

Man is an animal, not a fish nor a fowl. Consequently when anything goes wrong with the gadgets he has invented to enable him to travel where nature intended only fish or birds to live, the elements of air and water work for his destruction. The Squaw tragedy is only another indication that in the water or in the air, man is only as safe as his machines. It's nothing to write to your Congressman about, however, for look at the thousand-and-one ways men get killed in their own territory. The fact that nearly two score men are killed in the first submarine accident in twelve years arouses more world-wide horror than the thousands of deaths annually on the highways of our country.

PORTRAIT OF A SPORTSMAN:

He angled in Fisherman's Paradise one day last week. He caught a 19-inch trout and after bringing it to shore to measure, liberated it. Then he caught a 17-inch one, and again gave the fish its liberty. Finally, just before the Paradise closed, he caught a 21-inch trout. Spectators gasped when he measured the trout and gently eased it back into the water before packing his equipment to go home.

FINE WILL REPLACE FISH

Because you can buy 1,909 six-inch trout from private hatcheries for about \$40 and because the State can grow them ever more economically than that, fish commissioner employs are of the opinion that the \$100 fine paid last week by the Central Pennsylvania Gas Company for destruction of fish when residue from the main escaped into Logan Branch will pay for the replacement of practically all of the fish killed.

THERE SHOULD BE MORE LIKE HER:

This department's nomination for the most beautiful telephone answerer in Bellefonte is Ruth Parsons, of Unionville, deputy in the office of District Attorney Musser W. Gettler. If everyone answered as quickly as Miss Parsons, telephones would be really a Public Utility.

BLANEY JOINS CLUB

Centre County Farm Agent R. C. Blaney, of East Curtin Street, here-with became a charter member of the "I've Quit Smoking Club." Blaney, a chronic pipe smoker, gave up the use of the weed in February and hasn't touched it since.

CONCERN PAYS RENT AFTER 269 YEARS

Rent day for the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay has finally come around after 269 years. The rent was paid recently when their representative gave the King of England two elk heads and two black beaver skins.

According to Anderson, Davis and Platt of Rockefeller Center, in 1670 when Charles II of England granted the concern the right to exploit and administer a domain almost two-thirds the size of the present Dominion of Guyana. For this, the company must pay, upon demand by the King of England, two elk heads and two black beaver skins.

Secrets of Jungle Witch Doctors

Unusual ill-fated article revealing strange facts about weird rites, savage sorcery and mystifying magic in the forests of dark Africa. One of many features in the June 11th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Pupils Learn Thrift

Pennsylvania pupils are learning thrift in the public schools. Approximately 120 school districts have reported a program of systematic saving on the part of pupils enrolled. The point of emphasis in the program is one of developing useful habits of thrift on the part of children and youth of the State.

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Eddie's Tongue Can't Back Up His Eyes By POP MOMAND

