

Odd and Curious News

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SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

Random Items

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Traveling Family

A pair of baby robins make a seventy-mile train ride daily near Chicago, because the mother bird built a nest on the brake rigging of North Western locomotive 1097.

Very Heroic

Following an old family custom, Josephine Herro, 22, of Milwaukee, recently got married but didn't change her maiden name.

A 'Rare' Animal

Fort Worth, Texas, citizens take a lot of interest in the city zoo, but there was one animal on exhibit which attracted more attention than any other recently.

Real Trouper

The show must go on even in a high school opera. When Frances Hamilton lost her voice just before curtain time during an entertainment at Sugar City, Idaho, she bravely went through the motions and mouth movements on the stage while a prompter sang her songs and read her lines from back stage.

Robs 42 Schools

In the past 18 months, Archie Reichardt, 52, of Muskegon, Mich., broke into and entered at least 42 school houses in various parts of Michigan, according to his confession upon arrest recently.

Determination Wins

Leaving her home in New York at 4 o'clock one morning in order to be first in line at 9 o'clock the following morning to file an application for a job, Mrs. Frances Guilhane, widowed mother of two boys, was the first in a line of 4,138 applicants and got the job.

Bees Kill Man

Attacked by a swarm of bees and stung fifty times, Christian Conrad, 79, died a hour later at Orville, Ohio. He had been mowing weeds near a beehive, disturbing the inmates.

No Wonder!

In order to secure a "shorter and more euphonious name," six persons bearing the surname Zborzencki petitioned the court at Towson, Md., to change their name to Riley.

Escaped Death in Crash

Charles Peters, of Lock Haven, formerly of Bradford, escaped serious injury or death at Renovo, when a plane he was flying crashed at the Community Park field, South Renovo, went over on its side and down the river bank. He had decided to land at the field here to check his gasoline supply, but just before his wheels touched the ground, he noticed two boys in the path of the ship, and attempted to get it into the air again. A strong cross current caused the accident.

Queer Characters of Paris

An intensely interesting story describing the exotic habits, startling costumes and unique escapades of eccentric people who make the French capital picturesque. One of many features in the June 25th issue of the American Weekly, distributed regularly with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale by all newsboys and newsdealers.

Advertising is a good way to invest some of the money that you have for the development of your business.

LIME AND 'SUPER' ON PASTURE LAND IS GOOD FARM BUSINESS

The plan of the 1939 Agricultural Conservation Program to supply lime and fertilizer to farmers for pasture improvement is a good proposition, the Centre County Agricultural Conservation Committee stated yesterday, urging farmers to make requests for these materials early.

Under this plan, for a small outlay of approximately \$100, a farmer may secure sufficient lime and superphosphate to treat an acre of pasture. This is on the basis of a cash outlay of 50 cents per ton for lime and 10 cents per cwt. for 20 percent superphosphate. The remainder of the cost of these materials will be deducted next fall from the amount of money the farmer earns from carrying out approved soil-building practices under the 1939 Farm Program. This one dollar cash investment in an acre of pasture will produce a feed value of \$30 or more, the committee pointed out. The amount of these materials a farmer may obtain is limited only by the

FORMER BLAIR COUNTY WOMAN SLAIN IN BED AT PITTSBURGH HOME

Police Searching for Man Who Beat and Strangled Mrs. Laura Gormely, 46-Year-Old Widowed Storekeeper, Saturday

Mrs. Laura Gormely, who before her marriage was Miss Laura Burkett, a former resident of Altoona and Claysburg, was foully slain at Pittsburgh on Saturday.

The 46-year-old widow, who conducted a little dry goods store, was found beaten and strangled in her bed. Mrs. Gormely was so severely beaten, police said, that they believed the hands of the slayer would show bruises. There was no evidence they added, that she had been hit by a weapon. The coroner's office reported death was due to a brain hemorrhage and strangulation.

The body was discovered Saturday morning after 17-year-old Rita Harity, a clerk in the store, was unable to arouse her employer. She called police.

Mrs. Gormely had sleeping quarters in the rear of the store, where the body was found in night clothing, covered with a sheet. The woman evidently had not been criminally assaulted.

Police found \$2 in the cash drawer and Mrs. Gormely's watch lying on top of an unopened safe. They at first discounted robbery as a motive for the slaying, but later an empty money bag was found in the store.

Mrs. Gormely, a widow 13 years, had one daughter, a nun teaching in Alabama. One of her brothers, Martin Burkett, is a resident of Claysburg where the mother is reported to live. Martin told authorities he last saw Mrs. Gormely two months ago when she visited him and their mother at Claysburg.

Aged Lady Steals From Mint

A 71-year-old woman worker in the United States mint at Philadelphia was indicted on a charge of stealing \$11.55 from the nickels, dimes and quarters she inspected.

Mother of five children, Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, declared: "I don't know why I did it. We are not in financial straits and I didn't have to do it." She was to have been retired on pension in November. She earned \$30 a week on her job as an examiner and passer of finished coins.

Clearfield Attorney Disbarred

Acting on the recommendation of the Clearfield County Bar association, Judge Wallace W. Smith last week disbarred Attorney N. P. Wormer on a charge of misconduct in handling the funds of three clients. The disbarment was the first in the county's history.

Officers of the Women's Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from the home office in Philadelphia, were joined by state police as well as liquor enforcement officers in making the raid.

When the police closed in as the fights were in progress, a number of spectators managed to escape but more than 60 persons were arrested. Each was arrested, 48 put up \$15 cash as security for a hearing and the rest were committed to the Clearfield county jail to await the hearing.

The officers confiscated 60 fighting cocks. The liquor board men confiscated a quantity of liquor, whiskey glasses, a number of cases of beer on ice and several cases of empty beer bottles. A slot machine and an alleged "crap table" layout were claimed by state police.

Officers said evidence gathered in the gaming pit indicated that (Continued on page three)

Four Accused of Chicken Stealing

Centre County Youths Under Bail For Appearance at Court

Charged with stealing chickens, four Centre County youths are under bail for their appearance at the next term of court. Three are being held at the county jail, while a fourth has posted a bond of \$500.

At hearings last Wednesday afternoon before Justice of the Peace Harold D. Cowher, of Bellefonte; Elmer Robison, Bellefonte, R. D.; and Lester Conifer, Beech Creek, R. D., pleaded guilty to stealing 25 chickens from the Milton Kline farm in Potter township, Robinson and Glen Conifer, of Beech Creek, R. D., admitted stealing 35 chickens from the Clarence Robb farm in Liberty township, George Robison, of Howard R. D., entered a plea of not guilty to a charge of being an accessory after the fact. Elmer Robison posted bail.

The arrests were made by officers from Rockyton sub-station, State Motor Police, who claimed they uncovered a series of chicken thefts which the boys admitted committing over a period of several months. George Robison, they said, furnished shelter and transportation to the other three boys in stealing the chickens.

Among the guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Frederick, Guy and Marjorie; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rossmann; Mr. and Mrs. John Rossmann; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Corman; of Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wagner, of Oak Hill; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Feltenberger and sons, Fred and Richard, of Madisonburg; Mr. and Mrs. Willard Foreman and son, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Igen and daughters, Sara and Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. Merl Walker, Harold and Rosella, Mrs. Ida Frederick, Violet Walker, Verma Hogan, Andrew and Kay Muns, Basal Homan, Mr. and Mrs. John Wagner, all of Farmers Mills; Paul Walker and Donald Rossmann, of Spring Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Frederick and son Guy departed for their home in Frederickburg the following morning leaving Marjorie at the Walker home for the summer.

There are some people so good that they are ready to believe the worse that they hear.

It is easy to stand on the sidelines and criticize the players.

Father's Day



SOMERSET COUNTY BUYS COAL MINE AND TOWN FOR \$8,750,000

Somerset county has bought for the entire property appraised at nearly \$30,000.

The county commissioners have made no plans for resuming operations at the mine. They would like to sell or lease, preferably sell, the 200 acres and property but buyers of coal mines and communities are scarce these days they added. Furthermore, there is the matter of taxes which have prior rights in all proceeds from the sale.

But the fifty families, now on WPA or relief, aren't going to be disturbed—at least not for a while.

Landis said the commissioners would like to give the occupants a chance to buy the homes but then not many could scrape together the price.

In the meantime, Somerset County as a landlord isn't charging rent.

Changes in the Labor Relations Act include those giving employers as well as employees the right to petition for a collective bargaining election; declaring as unfair labor practices, sit-down strikes and intimidation either by employer or labor organizations and permitting a "check off" of union dues only after a secret vote of the employees.

Another provision prohibited a member of the board from engaging in other activity. It was aimed at one of the members of the present board, Patrick T. Pagan, of Pittsburgh, who is district president of the CIO United Mine Workers.

Shortly after signing the bill, Governor Arthur H. James on Friday put into law with his signature three labor bills passed by the recent legislature. They were among a score or more signed by the Governor.

The bills, opposed by AFL and CIO leaders as "anti-labor," revised the State's "Little Wagner" Labor Relations Act by defining the rights of employers and workers, extended from 10 p. m. to midnight the permissible working hours of women in industry, and relaxed the anti-injunction law to allow courts to issue restraining orders in labor disputes under certain conditions.

James appointed Harry Gifford, of Reiffton, Berks County, as Pagan's successor. Gifford has been general organizer for the American Federation of Labor in Eastern Pennsylvania. The new law cut the salary from \$9000 to \$7000.

Courts May Intervene

The amendments to the present anti-injunction law relaxed that statute to permit courts to issue restraining orders in labor disputes in case of a sit-down strike; violation of a "valid labor agreement"; where the court finds a union sought to compel an employer to have his organization favor a particular labor employer and in cases of forced violation by an employer of the Labor Relations Act.

Governor James advocated enactment (Continued on page three)

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL OUTLAWING SIT-DOWN STRIKES BY LABOR

Approves Act of Recent Legislature Repealing Salary Fixture of Treasurer of Centre County; Other Measures Become Law

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Mother and Son Hurt In Crash

Port Matilda Residents Meet With Accident Sunday Afternoon

A port Matilda mother and her son escaped serious injury Sunday afternoon when the car in which they were riding and a car proceeding in the opposite direction sideswiped each other on the back road between Bellwood and Tipton.

The woman is Mrs. Vesta Dixon, 37. She suffered a deep laceration of the left ear and right knee. Her son, Raymond, 14, suffered a laceration of the upper lip, a possible fracture of the right shoulder and severe shock. Both were treated by a Tyrone physician.

The accident occurred about 3:30 o'clock when the car, driven by Frank Dixon, her husband, collided at the crest of a slight grade with an automobile operated by Carl Wolfe, of Altoona.

The Dixon machine struck an embankment along the right side of the highway and turned over. It is said the roof of the car had to be torn off to extricate members of the Dixon family. The car was demolished.

Joseph Stokes, 65, is a patient at the Bloomsburg hospital, suffering from serious injuries received when a scaffold broke, and he was hurled 25 feet to the ground. The injuries include a probable fracture of the scapula, back of the shoulder, a fracture of a bone of the left hand and a ruptured blood vessel of the right leg above the knee. Four years ago he suffered a broken back and fractures of both legs, when he fell from a roof while working in Catawissa.

Fell 25 Feet From Scaffold

Twice Bitten By Rats

Twice within a week, a nine-month-old baby was attacked by rats while sleeping in its home at Danville. Pauline Bressler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bressler, was bitten several times on the right leg Monday night when rats invaded the second story bed room, and Thursday night the child suffered several bites on the right arm near the wrist. She was treated at the Geisinger Memorial Hospital.

Cooking For the Outdoors

A collection of fine recipes, suggestions for camping and other hints for those who want to enjoy the great outdoors this summer. A feature in the June 25th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale by all newsboys and newsdealers.

Motorist Killed at Ramey

Daniel Roney, 42, of Johnstown, was killed Sunday when two automobiles collided at a highway intersection in the village of Ramey, near Philipsburg. Roney's brother, Henry, 41, also of Johnstown, was in Philipsburg State hospital with a possible skull fracture. His condition was good.

Food Poisons 200

More than 200 of the 700 who partook of the buffet meal served at a Wahabi Shrine Temple supper at Jackson, Miss., became violently ill within a short time and required medical attention. An orchestra player said the numerous couples collapsed as if an "invisible hand" had struck them.

Year's Best Detective Story

An exciting true story of a police sergeant who fought death for weeks to get his man. Don't miss this thrilling story in the June 25th issue of The American Weekly, distributed regularly with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale by all newsboys and newsdealers.

Advertising what you haven't got, money wasted; not advertising what you have, is opportunity wasted.

THEY ENDURED PRISON HORRORS



Three American soldiers who underwent the horrors of a Hun prison camp. Left—Lieut. Barringer, Philadelphia; Center—Capt. Truxal, Somerset; Right—Capt. E. R. Taylor, Bellefonte.

men. Each compartment had already been filled.

Captain Taylor spoke to some of the British prisoners and learned they had been captured about four months previously and during the days following had been compelled to work under shell fire, carrying ammunition for the Germans, and work in the mines.

They had not been permitted to shave or bathe from the time of their capture. Most of them had no shoes but had pieces of wood tied to the soles of their feet for protection. Their clothing was torn to ribbons. They stretched their

hands through the wire and begged for bread.

The bread which had been issued to Captain Taylor and his fellow prisoners had not been eaten because they were not yet hungry enough to relish it. It was broken up and given to the British. When a prisoner got a piece of it, Captain Taylor related, the man ran away from the rest and began to eat it.

July 22nd the march was resumed across Ehemedy Dam sector to Leydon where the prisoners were loaded on French railroad cars and transferred to Raastatt. The cars held eight horses crowded closely. Fifty-two officers, Americans and

Italian, were packed into one car and not permitted to get out for three days.

Upon arrival at Raastatt the officers were placed in an old German prison polluted with rats, cockles and German fleas. At Raastatt bread was issued, the second meal since they passed through Flines, and by this time it tasted good.

The prisoners were kept a week at this place and then transferred to Carlsruhe. This was the principal intelligence station. All the officers were separated from each other and lodged in a room filled with cockles and fleas. They were to appear later.

(Continued on page three)

5 PERSONS UNHURT AS CAR AND TRUCK SIDESWIFE

Five persons escaped injury about 1:30 o'clock Saturday morning when a sedan driven by Morris F. Bench, of State College, R. D., and a pickup truck operated by Theodore Hildebrandt, of Bellefonte, sideswiped on a road near Millbrook. Damage to the two machines was estimated at \$50.

J. L. Charles and Mrs. Catherine Bench, both of State College, were passengers in the Bench machine, while John Tresler, of Bellefonte, was a passenger in the truck.

—Classified ads are thrifty.

FORMER HOSPITAL PATIENT PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGERY

While he was a patient at the Philipsburg State Hospital, Robert McCullum, 35, of Oil City, forged a check and beat Robert McCullum, of Osceola Mills, out of \$20.80, motor police at Rockview report.

The Oil City McCullum pleaded guilty to charges of forgery at a hearing held in Philipsburg before Justice of the Peace E. R. Hancock.

According to the police, while the Oil City man was a patient at the hospital where he was being treated for injuries received from a Port Matilda highway accident, McCullum received a check meant for the

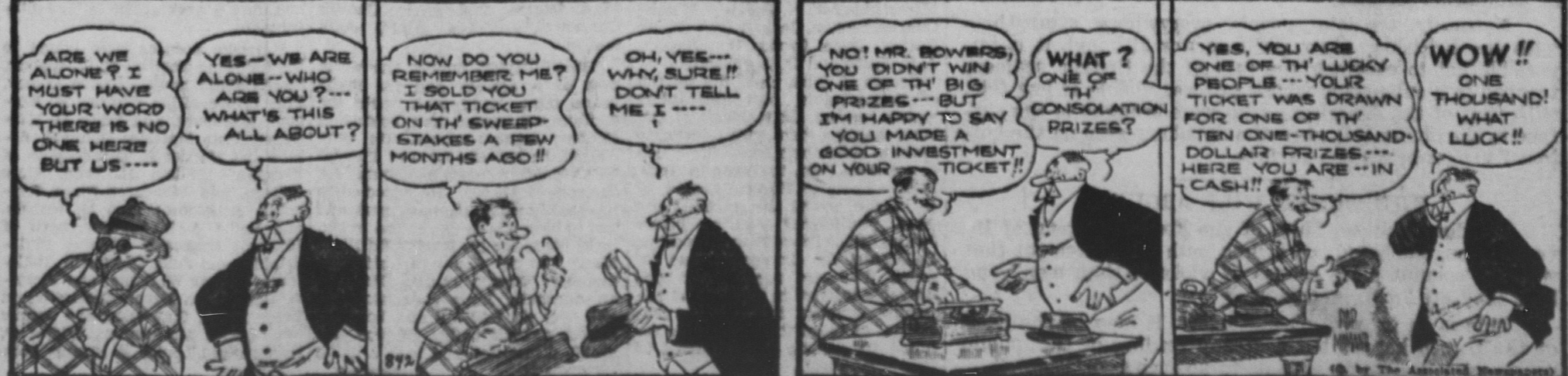
Osceola man. Police said he endorsed the check and had a friend cash it for him.

The check, which was sent to the hospital by mistake, was from the State Department of Highways and was the payment for the first work done by the Osceola McCullum in months as he had been unemployed for some time.

Dies in Own Banquet

Immediately after accepting a purse from fifty associates assembled to honor him for forty-four years of service as a mill overseer, Fred W. Brown, of Peabody, Mass., sat down, collapsed and died.

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — My, What Luck for Eddie!



By POP MOMAND