

Odd and Curious News
Teller's Face Red
The teller of a Mound City, Missouri, bank is in the dog house because he is misunderstood. Recently a member of the Ladies Aid Society came into the bank to deposit some of the society's funds. She remarked to the teller that she was "depositing some 'old money'." The teller understood her to say "egg money," and said: "Remarkable, isn't it, how well the old hens are doing these days?" She couldn't understand why it was the woman grabbed up her pass book and hurried out of the bank.

Scared To Death
Doctors said that Raymond Soukup, 26-year-old farmer, of Fulton, Mo., was literally scared to death when, while working at night in his cornfield because of the day's excessive heat, two boys in white garb, moaning loudly, leaped toward him from a nearby cemetery. Soukup, too frightened to move, was found several hours later by his parents, in a hysterical condition. He died several weeks later in an asylum from maniacal exhaustion resulting from an unusually severe mental disturbance.

Plays Santa Claus
Uncle Sam is playing Santa Claus to the world now, shipping more toys from his country since the World War than either Germany or Japan. During the first 8 months of this year, \$1,892,140 worth of toys were exported from this country, or 17 per cent more than during the corresponding period of 1938.

Jinx Follows Anyway
Rather than begin their journey to California on Friday, the 13th, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Males and their small daughter, of Dallas, Texas, deferred their departure until after midnight. At 2:30 a. m. on the 14th Males, 24, was killed, the victim of an automobile accident.

A Coincidence
Two automobiles collided at Richmond, Ind., recently. The driver of one was Oliver Morton of Dublin, Ind., and the driver of the other was Mrs. Oliver Morton, of Fort Sil, Okla. They were not related and had never met before.

Streets of Gold
An engineer, to satisfy his own curiosity, took a sample of the material the streets of Orange, Cal., are paved with and had it assayed. The report showed that it assayed \$4.20 a ton in gold.

Fire Burns 150 Years
Started by a spark from steel and flint 150 years ago, the "Morris family fire" still burns at Saluda, N. C., and is now tended by Bill Morris, who is 79 years old.

Big Potato Crop
J. L. Reitz, of Lewisburg, P. D. is completing harvesting potatoes on his two farms, a total of 35 acres, the yield being approximately 87,500 bushels. The yield is slightly below that of last year, due chiefly to the dry summer. The grading of the potatoes and the placing of them in sacks will occupy most of the winter. They will be marketed as fast as the grading is completed.

November Milk Prices
E. M. Harmon, market administrator for this area, has announced the following milk prices to be effective during the month of November:
Class 1.....\$2.82
Class 11-A.....\$1.90
The soothsayers are already predicting who will win the election in 1940.

Farmers in A. A. A. Farm Program Improve 13,975 Acres in County
The Centre county farmers who participated in the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program improved 13,975 acres of farm land in the county by carrying out soil-building practices under the program, according to a report on the results of the 1938 program just announced by the Centre County Agricultural Conservation Committee, which administers the program in the county.
For their work in connection with the program these 945 county farmers have received conservation payments amounting to \$40,000. This money was earned through carrying out soil-building practices and complying with acreage allotments which are designed to keep production in line with needs. In addition,

State College Water Supply Inadequate
Burgess Wilbur F. Leitzell, of State College, last week appointed a committee of citizens to investigate a serious water shortage in that borough, declaring that the water situation has reached an acute stage, not only as to the amount of water, but also to the quality of the same. He added that conditions have reached the point where the borough water is not fit to drink.
Burgess Leitzell made three suggestions, as follows: to drill a new well at Shingletown Gap; to improve Shingletown reservoir and water shed, and to investigate wells at Scotia as a probable new source of water.
For the past two weeks the Borough Water Supply has been bolstered by large purchases of water

MAN SHOT AS BARN PROWLER BY BLAIR COUNTY FARMER

Victim Riddled With Shot As He Scuffled With Aged Owner of Farm - Defendant Claimed He Feared Robbers
James Irvin Benton, 26, of East Sixth Avenue, Altoona, was shot to death early Friday morning in a scuffle with Frank Ventre, his 74-year-old neighbor, in whose barn he was found prowling. Ventre will be held on a charge of homicide.
Police reports that Benton was shot when he grabbed the muzzle of Ventre's gun while crawling out of the barn door on his hands and knees. Ventre declared he became excited in the scuffle and pulled the trigger before he realized what he had done.
Following the shooting, the old farmer examined the body and then notified State Police by telephone that he had shot a man.
Benton's lifeless body, one chest punctured by the charge of shot, was lying about four feet from the barn door when the State patrolman arrived. The young prowler, who was dressed in overall trousers, shirt and sweater, fell in his tracks after being shot.
Ventre told authorities he had been robbed of 40 chickens Monday night. In order to protect himself against burglars, he said he kept the shotgun beside his bed. He said he had owned the gun for more than 30 years.
Benton was known to Ventre "for a long time." Admitting that he had never had any trouble with the young man, Ventre said he had however, known of Benton's police record.
Benton's sister, Miss Marion Benton, was said to have told policemen that her brother and Matty Yon of Ashville, had been drinking all day Thursday. She also told police that her brother and Yon returned to the Benton home after midnight and Yon lay down on the floor and fell asleep she related to investigators.
Despite his sister's efforts to stop him Benton prepared to leave home about 2 o'clock Friday morning and a short time later was shot to death.
(Continued on page eight)

Court Upholds Board's Action

Dismissal of Lock Haven Teacher Affirmed by Judge Ivan Walker
The dismissal of Mrs. Rose Flynn Scher by the Lock Haven Board of Education was upheld last week by the Clinton County Court, the opinion being written by Judge Ivan Walker, of Centre county, specially presiding in the case. The opinion of the court was based only on the grounds of incompetency; the charge of immorality was not considered.
The opinion which was reached after three months following the trial, was filed in the Clinton county Prothonotary's office.
In brief the decision read:
"After listening to the testimony and rereading the same," the court's opinion states, "the court is of the opinion that in the consideration of the testimony in the light of the charge of immorality, that there is no evidence in the case to support."
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6 Left Homeless in Clinton Co. Fire

Clinton County Family Lose All Furniture and Clothing
A three-room frame dwelling, home of Mr. and Mrs. Miles McCauley and their four children, was burned Tuesday afternoon at Sugar Run, Clinton County, while Mr. McCauley was husking corn on a neighboring farm and the mother of the four tots was getting water from a spring a hundred yards from the house.
As she paused to talk to Mrs. Lester Summerson, on whose farm the spring is, she saw her home in flames and rushing to the burning building saved the three children, Edith, 5, Glenn, 4, and Dick, 3, in the yard. An older child, Doris, was in school.
There was no insurance and the fire swept the tiny building before help could be called burning everything but the clothing the family were wearing. Their loss included 300 jars of canned fruit and vegetables and Mr. McCauley's compensation check.

Seek Locale Old Train Hold-up

Officials Debate Whether Crime Occurred in Juniata or Mifflin
Mifflin county officials dug thirty years into the past this week in an effort to find out whether a notorious train robbery occurred in their jurisdiction or across the line in the hill country of neighboring Juniata county.
While waiting for information from Warren, Ohio, officials about the belated "confession" of a man who turned up at the jail there with a tale that he was the long-sought bandit, District Attorney H. O. Lanz said:
"We're not sure how close to the county line the robbery occurred. We have a man checking that now."
Sheriff Ray Hardman had reported in the Ohio town that William Smith, 50, alias Charles O. Edwards, of Orrville, Ohio, related that he and a companion he identified only as "Tom," got \$500 in silver in the 1909 hold-up of a Pennsylvania Railroad train in the "Leadstone Narrows," where the Juniata River, a highway and the railroad creep between the mountains.
The nurse enjoyed a needed vacation during August and, although no regular nurse was provided to take her place, emergency calls were answered by Mrs. Mary Weaver Childs. Fees collected amounted to \$30.11. Mileage traveled, 720 miles.
As has been repeatedly stated, the work of the Red Cross nursing service is supported entirely by non-

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Make Your Thanksgiving Dinner A Success

Timely hints for preparing the big meal for the Festive Day by noted home economics. One of many features in the November 12th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.
The Centre Democrat \$1.50 a year.

We Neutrals



TO EXPAND NYA PROGRAM

Within the next few weeks expansion of the National Youth Administration program in Pennsylvania will make possible part-time employment for 5,000 additional young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25, it was announced today by Walter S. Cowing, State Youth Administrator.
Mr. Cowing said that applications for work can be filed immediately at any of the county NYA offices. Preference will be given youth from relief and low income group families in need of assistance.
Applicants living in this section should apply to Mr. W. I. Scott, County Supervisor, National Youth Administration, Logan Fire Hall, Bellefonte. The new Centre county quota is 113 persons, as compared with only 99 under the former quota.
The increased quota represents the state's share in the 1939-1940 Congressional appropriation of 100 million dollars for NYA work in the nation. Mr. Cowing pointed out that expansion of the program was also due to utilization of community resources, through generous cooperation of local groups.
A large proportion of the boys on the part-time work program will be (Continued on page eight)

CENTRE'S CAVERNOUS PITFALLS

Strange Occurrences That Lead to Belief in Numerous Subterranean Caverns in County

In a low lying field, when the earth suddenly gave way and the team sank out of sight, dragging the plow with them.
Cautiously the men at the windlass lowered the farmer into the hole, but to his surprise it was not as deep as at first supposed, being but a little over twenty-five feet, and there on the wide ledge of rock was found the team of horses and the plow.
The plow had been torn loose from the team in the fall and lay to one side. Both animals were alive, though considerably cut up and bruised.
To rig up a derrick of sufficient strength to raise the horses out of the hole took until morning, and it was 9 o'clock the next day when both animals were taken out apparently little the worse for the adventure.
After his team had been rescued Gilbert explored the hole and found it to be a cavern about twenty feet across by fifteen feet wide. There were walls of silica and limestone built up on all sides as straight as if built up by a stone mason.
The bottom also was a solid bed of stone, and at one side was a narrow shaft or opening leading off in a westerly direction, the full length or extent of which could not be ascertained but which probably led into another similar hole or cavern.
From the small amount of earth and stone found in the hole, the covering of earth and rock could not have been more than two feet thick and this had been formed over for twenty-five years previously.
Other cases of this kind, of equal or lesser degree, are on record in Centre county. One of these occurred about seven miles east of Bellefonte, when the horse of a farmer near Zion sank out of sight. The hole in this case was only about fifteen feet in depth and the animal was easily rescued.
Similarly, a short time before the Gilbert accident, G. B. Campbell, of Ferguson township, had a narrow escape. He was engaged in plowing fallows, when the ground suddenly gave way and one of his team of horses sank out of sight. In this case the horse fell thirty-five feet and was found dead on a bed of rocks at the bottom of the pit.

ANNUAL RED CROSS DRIVE TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 11th

The third quarterly report of the year-around services of Bellefonte Chapter, American Red Cross, is being given by the nurse, Miss Bertha Rimmer, as follows:
In the months of July, August and September, visits made were 198 bedside-nursing and maternity; 9 pre-natal; 50 health visits, including infant, school and adult; 4 social service; 7 office visits.
Five school children had eye examinations and were fitted with glasses, paid for out of Associated Charities fund, which fund is obtained from the community chest drive and administered by a special committee.
Assisted the State College Red Cross nurse with a first aid station during the Grange encampment at Centre Hall.
A class in home hygiene and care of sick has been organized at Unionville with a group of married and single women, and is progressing satisfactorily.
The nurse enjoyed a needed vacation during August and, although no regular nurse was provided to take her place, emergency calls were answered by Mrs. Mary Weaver Childs. Fees collected amounted to \$30.11. Mileage traveled, 720 miles.
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5 Seek P. O. At Spring Mills, Pa.

Applicants to Take Civil Service Test at Centre Hall, Nov. 4
Five applications for the post-mastership of Spring Mills have passed preliminary age and residence tests, and will take the civil service examination for the job, scheduled for November 4 at Centre Hall.
Applicants are: Mrs. Pauline E. Roseman, Ralph H. Shook, Guy I. Jamison, Harry K. Condo, and Miss Emma J. Groves.
Civil Service Commission will certify three of these applicants as the highest-ranking, and this list will then be submitted to the Postoffice Department. With the aid of "advisors" on Capitol Hill, the department will select the next postmaster from this list of three.
CCC Boy Pleads Guilty
Ulysses Mitchell, 17, of Philadelphia, a member of the Philadelphia CCC camp, pleaded guilty to a larceny charge when he appeared before Justice of the Peace Hancock, at Philadelphia. The youth was held on charges of stealing a pocketbook from beneath the pillow of a sleeping fellow camp member.
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NEW EXECUTIONER CHANGES METHOD IN DEALING DEATH

Three Separate and Distinct Contacts Used For Each of Two Condemned Men Who Died in Electric Chair

Frank Lee Wilson, Pennsylvania's new executioner, changed his method of execution in putting two Philadelphia negroes to death in the State electric chair at Rockview prison early Monday morning.
The men were Edward Golden, 20, and Walter Tankard, 32, convicted of fatally beating a Philadelphia warehouse employe in a \$26 hold-up.
Wilson, in performing his first executions a week ago, used one "long, continuous" contact of the 2,000-volt current. This week, in each case, he used "three separate and distinct contacts," which although a distinct change, is not a new method, according to Warden Stanley P. Ashe, of the Western Penitentiary.
Third Contact Needed
After each of the first two contacts a physician, examining the limp body strapped in the chair, still heard heart murmurs and signaled Wilson to throw the switch again. After the third contact, the doctor officially pronounced the men dead.
Golden was dead 5 1/2 minutes after entering the death chamber, and Tankard 6 1/2 minutes after entering. Witnesses said Golden seemed "badly scared" going to the chair, while Tankard was calm.
Warden Ashe said the executions were "efficient." Wilson received \$350 for the work.
Ashe recalled that the former executioner, the late Robert Elliott, used three separate contacts but the body was not examined until the last was completed.
Cool and Methodical
Witnesses said Wilson, 37-year-old Pittsburgh electrical engineer and father of two, was cool and methodical.
His first contact lasted about two minutes, the second and third several seconds each.
Dr. W. J. Schwartz after examining one of the men with a (Continued on Last Page)

Freight In Wild Flight Down Hill

200 Hogs Spilled Along Roadbed When Cars Are Wrecked
With its locomotive whistles shrieking a warning, a runaway Pennsylvania Railroad freight train thundered backwards down a two-mile stretch on a steep Kane Hill last Thursday and crashed into two "pusher" locomotives that had stopped at the bottom to get water.
A caboose and seven freight cars including two cars containing approximately 200 hogs, were splintered by the impact and the two "pusher" engines were badly damaged as five freight cars piled on top of them.
The crews of the train raising derrick heard the train roaring down upon them and leaped to safety. Workmen in the caboose had dropped off at the water tank and intended to ride up the hill with the "pusher" locomotives.
None of the other trainmen was hurt.

Six Men Arrested For Gun Violation

Fined \$25 and Costs For Carrying Uncovered High-Powered Rifle
Charged with carrying an uncovered high-powered rifle in their car, six men were arrested near Beech Creek last Thursday night and later were fined \$25 and costs each by Alderman T. Mark Brungard at a hearing held in Lock Haven.
The group included: LeRoy and Glenn V. Dunlap and George L. Heimer, Beech Creek R. D.; Melvin Lott, Morgantown; George E. Connelly, Fleming, Centre county, and E. S. Sullenberger, Mill Hill.
It is against the law to have an uncovered rifle in an automobile except one day prior to the hunting season and two days after the season.
Picking Skin Eruption Fatal
Infection, caused by picking a skin eruption on his chin, was blamed for the death of Hershel Rupp, Hyde City, formerly of Gettysburg, who died early Saturday morning at the Clearfield Memorial hospital, where he had been a patient for six days. The former Southly resident was born in South Philadelphia 25 years ago. He is a son of Mrs. Martha Rupp and the late John Rupp. He moved from South Philadelphia with his family ten years ago.
Tibet's New Baby God
A revealing article telling of the five-year search for the reincarnated Dalai Lama that has ended at the door of a poor little boy. Don't miss this mysterious story of the east in the November 12th issue of The American Weekly, distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.
Student Injured at Sunbury
Richard Wolfe, 18, was badly cut and bruised, when struck Saturday afternoon by the Pennsylvania Railroad special train, at Sunbury, taking the John Harris High School fans to Harrisburg, after they had seen their team defeated by Williamsport High.
WHO'S MOST DESERVING?
Charles Lee, candidate for Treasurer, is a farmer. He has always earned his living by hard work. His opponent, Harry Jones, undoubtedly is also a hard worker, but his responsible position with the Pennsylvania Railroad makes running for office a mere hobby—not the necessity it is for Charlie Lee.
SPEAK UP, BALSER!
We never thought we'd see the day when County Commissioner Balsler Weber would turn out to be a shrinking violet in the field of Centre County politics. Yet it seems that Balsler would have become coy and bashful, for he didn't sign that large advertisement about the County Home, published by the County Commissioners in many county newspapers last week. Surely Balsler approves of the County Home! Then why didn't he sign the statement?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOYS?
While the Democratic press up to this time has contented itself with a few off-tackle plays against the Commissioners in regard to the new County Home, the Commissioners have brought into play their most powerful long-range guns. They are going to great lengths to justify the erection of the County Home. We're dropping, for the time being, the right or wrong angles of building that gorgeous institution, and are merely considering the Commissioners' actions, much as a biologist would study a squirming fly pinned under the microscope. It seems that their defense is too strong to be defeated for the occasion. It almost seems that the Commissioners might inwardly feel that they've made a great mistake and are building up a smoke screen of defense to justify their acts to the taxpayers and to themselves.
ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER:
County Treasurer Raymond N. Brooks, who is seeking election as County Register, had a piece in the (Continued on Last Page)

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Dolan's Sleuthing (Continued)

