

## DEATH-TRUCK DRIVER IS ACQUITTED

### JURY FINDS MAN NOT GUILTY IN DEATHS OF 4 PICNICKERS

December Court Docket  
Lightened by Many  
Pleas of Guilty

#### BELLEFONTE TRIO ADMITS BURGLARIES

#### Parolee Gets 1 to 3 Years In Prison for \$5.00 Grocery Theft

Nine persons entering pleas of guilty to a variety of charges were sentenced by Judge Ivan Walker here Monday morning as the regular December criminal court opened. Mrs. Mary E. Allison, 23, Larus W. Woomer, 25, and James W. Bartlett, 20, all of Bellefonte, entered pleas of guilty to participating in a number of taproom and service station burglaries here in recent months. Mrs. Allison was sentenced to serve an indeterminate term in the State Industrial School for Women at Muncy; Mrs. Woomer was sent to the same institution for a period of from 1 to 2 years, and Bartlett a sentence of from 3 to 12 months in the County Jail. None of the defendants had a previous criminal record.

The prosecutor, James H. Griffith, of the State Motor Police at Rockview barracks, stated that although the trio was charged specifically with only three offenses, they admitted a number of others. The charges on which they were sentenced were: July 7, breaking into the D. H. Helm service station, North Water Street, and stealing cash and merchandise valued at about \$30; the same night breaking into the Angelo Gemma taproom, West Bishop Street, and taking cash and whiskey valued at a total of \$75, and an attempted burglary of the John Reed restaurant, South Water Street, on November 29.

#### Hospital Rooms Are Sound-proofed

The ceilings of the kitchen, nursery, utility room and nurses' station at the Centre County Hospital this week were covered with a heavy cork acoustic material which absorbs sound and deadens all noises. The work was financed by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hospital and is a needed and worthwhile improvement.

#### Old Clock Is Valuable Relic

The birds-eye maple grandfather's clock mentioned in a recent issue of this newspaper as being loaned to the Library and Historical Corporation by Helen Valentine Burlingame and Rebecca V. Muir is a most valuable historic possession. It was purchased by Judge Thomas Burnside for his home, now the I. O. O. F. building, and stood on the staircase where a trace of the fine woodwork still remains. This home was built by John Dunlop, son of Col. Dunlop, which he vacated when he moved his family to Logan Furnace, between Axe Mann (Continued on page 5, other section)

#### MILHEIM NATIVE TO WED AT WASHINGTON

William Robert Swann, of Washington, D. C., son of Mr. and Mrs. William Swann of Milheim, is to be married, according to word from Washington, Friday he filed at the District of Columbia Court an application to wed Margaret Mary Owens, of Boston, Massachusetts, giving his age as 27, and that of his bride-to-be as 25. No details of wedding or honeymoon plans could be learned. Three full days must pass before the young couple may be married, under legal provisions of the D. C. laws. Mr. Swann has been employed in Washington for some time.

#### Flemington Man Injured

Earl Grant, Flemington, suffered contusions of the muscles of the thigh of the left leg and lacerations about the face and arm in an accident on the garage at his home late Thursday evening. A car driven by Charles Peters, of Flemington, skidded and collided with the Grant car. Mr. Grant was taken to the Private Hospital for treatment.

The largest and best assortment of Hanks in town at—The Peacock Shop.

#### Costs of Case Are Placed On Defendant; Jury Debates 8 Hours

#### CLAIMED BRAKES OF TRUCK FAILED

#### Prosecution Held Tragedy Resulted From Negligence of Driver

(By J. Gordon Fay)  
Tofield Gravis, Jr., 25-year-old coal miner of Ocoela Mills, near Philipsburg, and driver of a truck which crashed and caused the death of four persons on August 12, was found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the Centre County criminal court here yesterday. The jury of nine men and three women which placed the costs on Gravis, reached a verdict at 6 P. M. yesterday, after deliberating eight hours. The trial began Tuesday morning.

Gravis was previously found guilty of contributory negligence by a coroner's jury in Philipsburg after the accident, in which his father's truck, loaded with 25 picnickers returning from a Lithuanian culling to Ocoela Mills, overturned at Retort, near Sandy Ridge, killing Helen Sokol, 15; Walter Sokol, 24; Vincent Bogus, 11 and Michael Dipco, 24.

#### COUNTY HOME IS OPENED

#### Population is Now 26 Persons; Bellefonte Borough Home is Vacated

Officials of the new Centre County Home yesterday reported that 26 persons have been moved into the institution since its opening last Friday, and that the various departments of the home are getting underway steadily.

#### Explain Aims of NYA Service

#### State Officers Among Speakers at Public Conference Held Here Friday

At a public conference of National Youth Administration officials in the Court House here Friday night, the purposes and objectives of the movement were explained and clarified and a plea was made to public agencies to take advantage of the services of the organization. A special request was made to induce all young people, now out of employment, to call at the NYA offices in the Logan House, East Howard street, Bellefonte, to determine whether or not they are eligible for part time employment. Broadly, the NYA offers part time work to needy persons between the ages of 18 and 25 years. The program is divided into five main groups: construction, production, conservation, service, and resident centers.

#### Man Shot When Shell In Pocket Discharges

Herbert Chapman, of near Mt. Eagle, was shot in a rather unusual manner Friday night while at work at the Sand Bank near Mt. Eagle. In brushing against an obstacle, a match in Mr. Chapman's pocket ignited, and the heat fired a .25 calibre shell in the same pocket. The bullet passed through the thick part of his leg and struck his arm. Late reports from the home indicate that he is recovering nicely.

### MIRBACH TO VACATE KEY WELFARE JOB

#### Resigns as Director of Public Assistance; Effective Jan. 1

#### ACCEPTS POST WITH PRIVATE AGENCY

#### Milton Etters Chosen Temporary Head of County Office

Leon Mirbach, of Philipsburg, who since April, 1936, has been executive director of the Centre County Public Assistance Board, submitted his resignation to the board at a regular meeting Tuesday. The post pays a maximum of \$3,000 annually. Yesterday Mr. Mirbach announced that he has accepted a position as executive director of the Pennsylvania Welfare Consultants Bureau, a private agency, and will have charge of the central Pennsylvania area.

Mr. Mirbach's resignation becomes effective January 1, and Milton W. Etters, of State College, has been named by the board as temporary executive director until a permanent appointment has been made. The board is understood to have a number of applications for the job. The post of executive director of the County Assistance Board is regarded as being one of the most important public positions in the county.

#### McDOWELL RECOVERING FROM SEVERE ILLNESS

#### Former Recorder D. A. McDowell, of Axemann, yesterday was reported to be recovering slowly from an illness which has kept him confined to bed at his home for nearly three weeks.

The former county official was threatened with pneumonia, and while his condition is still causing his family and many friends some concern he was able to be out of bed for a short time, Tuesday, for the first time since his illness. He has been advised to remain in bed for at least another month until he regains strength.

#### Seek Funds For Finnish Relief

#### Red Cross Appeals For Aid Through Chairman Har- dman P. Harris

Responding to the appeal of Norman H. Davis, chairman of the American Red Cross, the State College chapter has made arrangements to receive contributions from the public for relief in Finland and other countries at war. Hardman P. Harris, local Red Cross chairman, announced yesterday.

#### Owner of Careening Car Held for Court

Mrs. Edith Houtz, of Bellefonte, R. D. 1, owner of the car which careened into three parked cars and a truck here December 1, was arrested by Chief of Police Dukeman of Bellefonte, on charges of permitting an intoxicated person to drive her car.

### Nightly Broadcasts Scheduled For Bellefonte Business Area

Nightly programs by various groups and organizations throughout Centre county have been scheduled to be presented over the public address system now in operation throughout the business district of Bellefonte. It was announced yesterday by the Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the holiday feature.

The programs may be heard from any point in the downtown area, through speakers located at regular intervals. Several speakers are hidden in the foliage of the large Christmas tree on the Diamond.

The complete program follows:  
Thursday, December 14:  
4 to 4:30 p. m. Dian Goodwin, New York City, concert pianist. Program originating in downtown studio.

7 to 8 p. m. Church of Christ, Blanchard. Program to be broadcast from Lutheran church is as follows:  
Two Carols: "Silent Night" and "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks." Anthem: "The Song and the Star," by Gabriel (featuring an obligato solo and a tenor solo).  
Two Carols: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," and "Joy to the World." Contralto Solo and two-part chorus: "Flocks in the Field," with Mrs. W. H. Vonada singing solo.  
Ten-minute talk. Rev. M. S. Rogers, pastor of Church of Christ.  
Two Carols: "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."  
Friday, December 15:  
7 to 8 p. m. Zion and Hubersburg Night. Program by Church Choirs will originate at Lutheran church and is as follows:  
Group of Anthems by Lorenz—"The Birth of Our Savior," "The Prince of Peace," and two-part women's chorus, "Sleep Holy Child."  
Group of songs by Children's Chorus: "Christmas Star," "Follow the Star," "Away in a Manger," and "Merry Christmas."  
Numbers by Male Chorus: "The Heavens Are Telling," by Beethoven, and "Why?" by C. Austin Miles.  
Address: "Meditation," by the Rev. James B. Musser.  
Christmas Carols.  
Men's Chorus: "Good Night," by Rev. Emanuel Poppen.  
Benediction.

Saturday, December 16:  
7 to 8 p. m.: Pleasant Gap Night. Program by Firemen's Band will originate in American Legion studio.  
Monday, December 18:  
7 to 8 p. m.: Centre Hall Night. Program by choirs of four churches to originate in Lutheran church.  
Tuesday, December 19:  
7 to 8 p. m.: Milesburg Night. Program by Milesburg Band, originating in American Legion studio.  
Wednesday, December 20:  
7 to 8 p. m.: Howard Night. Program by four choirs, at Lutheran church.  
Thursday, December 21:  
7 to 8 p. m.: Snow Shoe Night. Program by Methodist church Junior and Senior Choir, from Lutheran church studio.  
Friday, December 22:  
7 to 7:30 p. m.: Bellefonte Banjo Band from Lutheran church studio.  
7:30 to 8 p. m.: Women's Clubs of Centre County. Milesburg Band, Bellefonte High School Band, Junior Legion Band, Boy and Girl Scouts, Service Clubs and Community Sing. Program from Diamond.

#### Coal Operator Dies Suddenly

#### James L. Redding, Snow Shoe, Found Dead in Bed; Was Aged 49

James Lawrence Redding, prominent resident of Snow Shoe, and well known Centre county coal operator, was found dead in bed at his home about 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Death was attributed to a heart attack. He was 49 years old.

#### Will Dedicate Lemont School

#### Ceremonies to be Held Saturday Afternoon; Jonas Wagner to Speak

A well balanced program has been prepared for the dedication of the College Township Consolidated Grade School at Lemont, Saturday afternoon. The principal speaker will be Jonas Wagner, of the Department of Public Instruction, Harrisburg, who will speak on "The Aspirations of the Contracting Nations." The exercises will begin with a flag raising by the student patrol while the Lemont Band plays the Star Spangled Banner. The full program follows:  
Selections by the Lemont Band.  
Opening prayer, Mrs. Homer Glantz.  
Address, Mr. Wagner.  
Presentation of building from WPA (Continued on page eight)

#### Four Plead Guilty In College Girl's Death

Four Boston men on trial in the illegal surgery death of Miss Barbara Hanson, 21, former Pennsylvania State College co-ed and resident of State College, Pa., pleaded guilty yesterday and were sentenced to one year in jail each.

### 4-H ROUND-UP TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY

#### 6 of 17 County Members Eligible to Exhibit at State Farm Show

#### COUNTY BANKERS CONTRIBUTE PRIZES

#### 15th Annual Event to be Held in Judging Pavilion, State College

Centre County 4-H club members are looking forward to Saturday of this week when the Lamb Feeding Club will have their county round-up. According to Donald Smith of Centre Hall, president of the club, the round-up will be held in the livestock judging pavilion at State College. Club members will bring their lambs to the pavilion and be ready to have them judged at 1:30 p. m.

Donald states that six out of seven Centre county members will be eligible to exhibit at the Farm Show at Harrisburg. The other eleven members are planning to sell their lambs on Tuesday, December 19, at the livestock auction, Williamsport, along with Clinton county. Members of the club who are working hard to win the coveted blue ribbons are as follows: from Centre Hall, Ray Delaney, Dean and (Continued on page four)

#### DAIRY FARMER TO DISPOSE OF CATTLE

Nevin Yearick, for the past 20 years a prominent dairy farmer of Little Nittany Valley, who suffered a severe loss last June 16 when his dairy barn was destroyed by fire, yesterday announced that he would retire from the dairy farming business and will devote his entire time to grain crops.

#### VFW Celebrates 11th Birthday

#### State Officers Among Speakers at Public Conference Here Friday

Approximately 175 members and guests of Jackson-Crisman-Saylor Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bellefonte, attended the 11th birthday banquet of the Post at the Brookhaven Hotel, Saturday night. Judge Ivan Walker of Bellefonte headed the list of speakers introduced by Postmaster John G. Love.

#### Coal Experiments to Be Held at Gas Plant

Plans to use the Central Pennsylvania Gas Co. plant at Axemann, as a testing ground for experiments in the manufacture of gas from anthracite were disclosed in Harrisburg this week by Mines Secretary John Ira Thomas.

### BOARD PRESIDENT NAMED TO CONDUCT SCHOOL BUSINESS

#### Zoning Ordinance Read At Meeting

The first public discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance for Bellefonte was held at the Court House last Thursday night, with Arthur C. Hewitt, chairman of the zoning commission, presiding. Under the provisions of the ordinance the town would be divided into four classifications: industrial, commercial, general residential, and first residential.

Before final adoption of the ordinance it must pass approval by Borough Council and must be given another public hearing and be published in its entirety. Members of the commission which conducted a survey and prepared the ordinance are: Mr. Hewitt, chairman; Mrs. George B. Thompson, Calvin Troup, Charles E. Martin and A. L. Francis.

#### LITTLE GIRL UNHURT AS CAR PASSES OVER HER

The two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bechtold, of Beech Creek township, had a narrow escape from death recently when she was knocked down and passed under the car of her aunt, Mrs. Ursiah Kitchen, at the home of the child's parents.

#### DEER SEASON ENDS FRIDAY

#### Kill Near Normal, Plenty Still in Woods, Game Wardens Report

With the 1939 deer season scheduled to close at 5 p. m. tomorrow (Friday) Centre County game officials yesterday announced that the kill in this area was nearly normal, and that there are still plenty of deer in the woods.

#### Trout Die As Truck Upsets

#### Gasoline Pouring Into Stream Near State College Fatal to Hundreds of Fish

For the third time in the past five years trout in Thompson's Run, east of State College, were the victims of a wholesale slaughter last Thursday morning when a truck loaded with gasoline overturned in the stream at Millbrook. Hundreds of fish, many of them large ones, are reported to have perished as the liquid poured into the small stream. The accident is said to have been caused by a broken spring on the truck.

#### PHILIPSBURG JOINS GROUP HOSPITALIZATION PROJECT

The non-profit group hospitalization plan is now in operation in Centre county. The facilities of the Philipsburg State Hospital have been placed at the disposal of subscribers of the plan which is administered through the medium of the Hospital Service Association, it is announced.

#### Moore Authorized to Make All Purchases, Delegate Power

#### COMMITTEES ARE NAMED FOR 1940

#### Architect, Other Speakers, Limited to Ten Minutes

The president of the Bellefonte school board was designated as purchasing agent for the borough's schools and also was named to a position to designate final authority in all matters pertaining to the uninterrupted operation of the schools, at a regular meeting of the board, Monday night. The president of the board is H. S. Moore, who last week took the oath of office as a school director.

#### School Faculty May Organize

#### Teachers Plan Testimonial Dinner For E. K. Stock After Holidays

Bellefonte school teachers are scheduled to vote tonight on whether or not they are to organize as an affiliate of a teachers' group under the Pennsylvania State Educational Association; it was reported yesterday. Meanwhile plans have been launched by the teachers for a testimonial dinner to Earl K. Stock, supervising principal of the Bellefonte school system.

#### PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS HAVE PERFECT RED CROSS RECORD

The Junior Red Cross enrollment from St. John's parochial school was 100 percent according to Mrs. Eleanor McDowell, chairman of the Bellefonte Junior Red Cross. The local drive ended November 30.

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