

## Odd and Curious News

### Offers Services

A jobless former state highway patrolman, of New Kensington, has offered to work for an entire year at any task—no matter how hazardous—if his employer will provide \$500 to send his mother to a hospital. The only "string" attached to the offer said 31-year-old Melvin S. Felice, is that the job be "within the law." A highway patrolman from 1931 to 1933, Felice, who was born in St. Mary's, Pa., has been jobless since last July. He said he would expect no other remuneration than the \$500.

### 'Git' and 'Got'

There was at least one man in the Pittsburgh area who resented talking to a census-taker, one day last week. After trudging up a steep hill to an almost inaccessible shanty, the census-taker was confronted with the business end of an old squirrel rifle. "Git," the aged recluse bellowed. The census-taker did. Later, however, a neighborhood priest prevailed upon the old man to talk, but he had to relay the answers himself.

### Four-Square Lad

William Scott, of Indianapolis, was four years old last Thursday. He was born at four minutes after four o'clock the morning of April 4, 1936. He is the fourth son of George Scott and the fourth person in his family to have a birthday in the fourth month of the year.

### Mechanical Age

An Indian asked Dominic Vermetti, trading post operator at Koyukuk Station, Alaska, for "a spark plug for a baby bottle, please." Vermetti scratched his head. Then his glance changed upon a rubber nipple. That was it.

### Punishment Fits Crime

A hitch-hiker angry at his failure to get a ride, broke eight empty bottles along the state road No. 5, north of Huntingdon, Ind. Sheriff Marvin Idle picked him up, gave him a broom and made him go back over his whole route, sweeping, while the sheriff rode beside him. The sheriff kept the hiker in jail overnight and then told him to leave the county.

### Pigs Must Eat

Radio listeners of Wilkes-Barre were puzzled by a Red Cross food relief appeal for 500 pounds of "beefery food"—waste from the manufacture of beer. The explanation is that about 100 pigs had been stranded for three days on a railroad trestle near Plymouth and although safe—they were hungry.

### Coughing Costly

A coughing spell cost Edward G. Hallquist, of Titusville \$18. He said a Negro woman seized his wallet and fled while he stood on the sidewalk coughing.

### Announce Low Bids

With a bid of \$39,837, M. E. Wilt and Sons, of Millersburg, were the low bidders for the construction of a 55 mile macadam and an I-beam bridge over Fishing Creek at Lamar, the Department of Highways has announced. The Paul Construction Co., Inc., Crescon, with a bid of \$247,490, was low bidder for the construction of 4.83 miles of macadam 22 feet wide between State College and Pleasant Gap.

### First Altoona White Child

Captain S. T. Moore, first white child born in Altoona, died recently at Cumberland, Pa., in his 90th year. In his earlier years Moore had been employed by the Pennsylvania railroad as a passenger conductor.

## State to Enforce Health Test Before Issuing Marriage License

Any of you folks contemplating marriage this Spring? Just in case you don't know it, allow us to advise you that a new law requiring the pre-marital tests for contagious social disease, passed by the 1939 legislature, will go into effect May 17.

After that date, all applicants must present a physician's statement to the official who issues the license, certifying that they are free from syphilis in a contagious stage before a marriage license may be issued. The State Health Department warns that applicants for marriage licenses should allow approximately two weeks for completing the tests before going to the official who issues the license and following its issue the license must be used within a 30-day period.

### Pre-Natal Tests

Another law, providing for optional pre-natal tests of pregnant mothers, will take effect June 24.

## SUMMERLESS SUMMER IN 1816

If you think that Spring is a long time getting here, read this and shiver. According to an old newspaper clipping in the possession of R. W. Yost, Williamsport, we had a summerless summer following a winterless winter in the year 1816.

The article states that unusual weather was experienced that year throughout the northern and eastern parts of the United States. January was so mild that most persons allowed their fires to go out. February was not cold. March, from the first to the sixth, was windy. It came in like a lion and went out like a very innocent lamb.

The Most Widely Read Newspaper in Centre County.

A Visitor in Seven Thousand Homes Each Week.

SECOND SECTION

# The Centre Democrat

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## HOUTZDALE ASSURED IDLE COAL INDUSTRY WILL BE REVIVED

Fund of \$25,000 Raised by Citizens of Houtzdale and Nearby Towns to Aid Re-opening of Mine

Houtzdale, the little coal mining town whose chief industry was paralyzed when the Brookwood Shaft shut down on March 15 of this year, is again jubilant over the assurance that the mine will resume operations within 60 days.

This fact was made known over the weekend by W. O. Guibranon following the announcement that the \$25,000 needed to re-open the idle mine, had been raised by Houtzdale citizens.

Guibranon indicated that at least 60 days would be needed before the mine would be able to operate because of the cleanup work which has to be done in the mine as well as the time period needed for construction of new mine cars. Stating that the mine cars now

in the shaft are too dilapidated for further use Guibranon, who offered to take over the idle mine if \$25,000 in loans were raised to help him buy new equipment, said that, at least, 60 days will be needed for the construction of 300 new mine cars which must be purchased before the mine can operate profitably.

The \$25,000 asked by Guibranon was raised in the nearby coal town in exactly six days. At a meeting held at Houtzdale Sunday \$9,000 was subscribed by Houtzdale residents. Since that time Guibranon has led the drive to raise the remainder of the needed \$25,000.

The \$25,000 in loans will be paid off by a sinking fund into which Brookwood Shaft Corporation as the new company will be called, will pay five cents on every ton of coal mined.

This marks the second time within three years that Houtzdale residents have had to dig down in their pockets to keep Brookwood Shaft, which employs 275 men, working. In 1937 residents raised \$10,000 in donations so that the Bird Coal Co. of Johnstown could operate the mine.

Business is not a crime, even in business, but rascality and fraud are, whether called "trade customs" or something else.

—Read the want ads.

## Home Destroyed Near Philipsburg

Leonard Scuder Family of Cold Stream Victims of Fire Fiend

Fire of unknown origin last Friday night leveled the Leonard Scuder home at Cold Stream, near Philipsburg. The estimated loss of \$2,800. Nothing was saved from the structure and all that remains of the five-room house is the steps that led up to it.

The home was a mass of flames before it was discovered by the maid working at Dr. Lynn's, next door. The Scuder family was visiting at the nearby Beagle home at the time.

Philipsburg firemen answered the call which sounded at 8:25 o'clock, but could do nothing to save the flame-consuming property.

The house was owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Beagle, who live in the adjacent house. The building is said to have carried \$500 insurance, while the tenant had \$1,500 insurance on his household goods.

## Bank Officials Die Day Apart

Loganton Bank Sustains Loss of President and Vice-President

Guy Stover Boone, 58, president of the Loganton National Bank, died at his home at Loganton last Wednesday, after a week's illness with leukemia. His death came within 24 hours after the death of John A. Shreckengast, vice-president of the bank.

Mr. Boone was a native and life-long resident of Sugar Valley and had been a member in Loganton since 1910. He was married and had three children. He operated the Loganton and Woodward stone quarries, was a school director and a member of the Odd Fellows lodge.

He is survived by his wife, Myrtle; one daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Douthett; one son, Mr. Guy Boone; and a sister, Mrs. Laura Meyer, Loganton.

Interment took place Friday in the Fairview cemetery, Loganton.

(Continued From Last Week)

(A story of Scotia and its activities during the years when the mining of ore was at its height. Reprinted from an old issue of the Belleville Republican.)

On one's first visit to Scotia he is amazed at the magnitude of the operations. Tons upon tons of dynamite are used in blasting out the ore in the mines. Immense steam shovels or excavators as they are called, dig out the ore and lift it into small cars.

One shovel full of ore fills a car, and while it is being shoveled onto a siding another car is shot into place and receives its load from the next shovel. In a few minutes six or seven cars are loaded and ready for the washery. There they are attached to a cable and a moment later, finds them many feet in the air, weighed and standing at the very top of the washery.

A visit into the washery. Picture to yourself a large room full of ponderous and rapidly moving machinery, endless chains of steel buckets, some loaded with ore and



## Quotes Bible to Defend Court Ruling

Counsel for the Minersville, Pa., school district quoted the Bible to the U. S. Supreme court in support of the contention that compelling school children to salute the flag does not violate religious freedom. In a brief filed last week preparatory to arguments later this month on an appeal from a third U. S. circuit court decision, the school attorneys asserted.

"The commandments of Jehovah, as set forth in the Bible, do not prohibit the saluting of a national flag but on the contrary approve of that practice."

To back this assertion, they quoted Matthew: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, unto God the things that are God's."

Lillian Gobitis, 12, and her 10-year-old brother, William, were expelled from Minersville public school because they refused to salute the flag as required by a school board regulation.

The U. S. circuit court ruled in Philadelphia that the requirement interfered with religious freedom as represented by the children's membership in a sect which forbids homage to any "graven image."

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## METHODISTS BRING CONFERENCE TO END AT CLEARFIELD

Net Gain of 2,591 Reported in Membership Throughout Conference District During the Last Year

The Central Pennsylvania Methodist Conference reported a net gain of 2,591 in the membership of conference churches during the last year, as the sessions came to a close at Clearfield on Monday.

Altogether there were 6,902 new members, but deaths and losses from removal of members trimmed the figure.

Appointment in the Williamsport district, of which Centre county is a part, were as follows:

Williamsport district: O. L. Gordon (supply) Clearfield-North; A. S. S. J. Schuchart, East Main street church, Lock Haven; G. C. Weimer, Trinity church, Lock Haven; M. F. Kerstetter, Milesburg-Unionville; B. S. Herrold (supply), New Millport; Parker Gardner (supply), Oriele-Ankendorf; W. F. Glenn, Penns Valley; Ivan L. Miller, Pleasant Gap; W. H. Rissmiller, Port Matilda; John A. Hoover (supply), Trout Run; Wallaceon, to be supplied; H. S. Ward, South church, Williamsport. Rev. H. Willis Hartsock was returned to the Belleville church.

Four ministers were retired. They are David B. Kauffman, of Milesburg and Unionville; George M. Froenfeiter, of the Millville church, and George F. Boggs, of Fifth Street church, Huntingdon, who reached the retirement age, R.

Carey Dershen, of East Waterford was retired because of physical disability.

Four new appointments among churches of Altoona were announced as follows:

The Rev. J. H. Greenwalt of the Eighth Avenue Methodist church for six years will exchange pulpits with Rev. W. L. Armstrong, pastor at Emporium for four years. The Rev. H. W. Glasco of the Fifty-eighth street church for six years will go to Huntingdon and be replaced by the Rev. B. L. Stenger of the Shicksville church for five years.

The Rev. Gordon Hinkle, pastor of the Lyswen church will be replaced by the Rev. H. F. Brumbaugh, pastor of the Diamond church at Hazleton.

The Rev. R. S. Oyer, pastor of

(Continued on page five)

## Coal Gas Fumes Fell 7 In Home

Lewistown Family and Physician Are Rendered Unconscious

Coal gas fumes, unnoticed for hours, felled five men and women, a three-year-old boy and the physician who came to treat them, at Lewistown last Friday morning. All were treated at the Lewistown Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Fay Henderson awoke about 5 o'clock in the morning to find their son Keith, ill and almost unconscious. They called Dr. R. Reid Leopold and Mrs. Henderson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gray.

The physician arrived, started to treat the boy, and saw the parents collapse. Then Mrs. Sara Hoffman, the housekeeper, was overcome. By the time the Grays arrived, the doctor, too, was unconscious.

The Grays called Dr. Samuel Swigart and then fell victims to the fumes. Dr. Swigart sent the seven to the hospital where all recovered after treatment.

The coal gas escaped from a leak in the Henderson's furnace.

## Philipsburg Lad Carries Buddy on Back to Hospital

After his friend, Bernard McGarry, 6, had his leg broken when he was run down by a bicyclist on the North Philipsburg road last Thursday, nine-year-old "Chapple" Simler packed his injured buddy on his back and tottered towards the Philipsburg State Hospital.

The bicycle victim was walking along the road after school had been dismissed, when he was run down by a rider who allegedly told the youngster "not to bawl—you're all right."

"Chapple" aided his young friend and was carrying him on his back when Norman Womer, hearing the cries of the injured youngster, helped take the youth to the hospital where he was treated.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN BANKRUPTCY CASES

Meetings of creditors in two Centre County bankruptcy actions are scheduled to be held in the United States District Court at Scranton on Tuesday, May 21, it was announced last week.

Both meetings are scheduled for 10 o'clock a. m. One of the cases is in reference to Katherine Kelley Lowther, individually and trading as Mary-Kay Coffee Shop, of State College, who was adjudged a bankrupt on August 8, 1939. The other is in the matter of Mary Eleanor Lowther, individually and trading as Mary Kay Coffee Shop, State College, who was adjudged at the same time.

Money orders issued exceeding in number those issued during any previous year. In dollar value, however, the \$2,058,164.89 money order business reported for 1939 was slightly less than the total for either of the two previous fiscal years.

## Random Items

### PORTRAIT OF SLAYER:

A former New York crime investigator, now located in Altoona, last week told a Centre county official that when the slayer of Rachel Taylor is found he probably will answer this description. The man will be blonde and will be found to have an over-active thyroid gland. He will be of a shy, retiring nature, of the "lone wolf" type. The Altoona bases his description upon long experience with the types of person who commit such crimes.

### BUMP ON LOG:

Penn State College, as an institution, has exhibited about as much apparent interest and activity in solving the crime which claimed one of its students as a victim, as the proverbial bump on a log. It would seem entirely proper if the college veered out of its way far enough to offer a sizeable reward. The college, it seems, should have been the first agency to offer a reward. It hasn't even been the last one, so far.

### INTERNAL ADJUSTMENT:

The Belleville School Board, through the resignation of H. S. Moore as president, has an internal adjustment. The new president, whoever he may be, will probably appoint his own committees and may make other adjustments in the board set-up. Meanwhile the school district is getting no closer toward its chief aim—a new high school building.

### HERE AND THERE:

Have you heard your name rumored as a probable suspect in the Taylor murder? It's quite the thing... Curtin street woman is bemoaning the loss of an expensive set of tooth brushes. Towser used the brushes to sharpen his teeth... Have you noticed the hatches of flies of various kinds apparent in the air these warm evenings? Maybe flies will be effective bait on April 15... After the rich diet they've become accustomed to at school board meetings in the past few months, newspaper reporters were left somewhat cold by the quiet and swift progress made by the board Monday night. Of course, nothing important was discussed and only three members were present. If things continue this way, the board meetings are liable to be attended by only one or two reporters, instead of four. And would that hurt the board's feelings... With the advent of Spring, there are warnings in Europe. Much as we hate war, it would be a relief if they'd fight it out and get it over with. It is often worse to sit on a powder keg, not knowing when it will explode, than to go through the blast and find you're not hurt so much, after all... Don't forget to see yourself in the movies next Friday, April 19. If you've been around Belleville the past week, the chances are that you've had your picture taken, even though you don't know it. What's worrying us is what our grandchildren might say about us if forty years from now the Chamber of Commerce should dust off the film and show the youth of 1980 what the old fogies of 1940 looked like. There ought to be a law.

### SONG OF THE YEAR:

This department's nomination for the best vocal rendition of 1940 goes to Jesse H. Caum, for his rendition of "The Curse of an Aching Heart" at the recent Ladies' Night program of the Belleville Kiwanis Club. It was stupendous, amazing!

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

In last week's turmoil we neglected to mention a present we received. It was from Druggist Donald R. Everett, who sent us a bottle of the tonic which was stored in the Belleville Trust Company building some 20 years ago and which worked remodeling the building found was a reliable "bracer." Being busy when the present arrived we set the bottle on the edge of the desk and finished our task. When we turned, the bottle was gone. If the stuff is that good, we hereby enter the open market to purchase the stock of the now defunct company which manufactured it. We also have eating at our vital and insatiable desire to know who the hell took the bottle.

### Port Royal Man Killed by Train

William Saylor, 70, a resident of Port Royal, Juniata county, was killed instantly when struck late Tuesday afternoon by the fast west-bound Duquesne express, train No. 75, of the Pennsylvania railroad. Reported walking across the main line of the Middle division from the east to the west side, Saylor had his body cut in two shortly before 5 o'clock.

### Report Finding 50 Dead Deer

While staking out a camp site a few miles from the Cameron county line, Howard Dodge and Bud Bodmer, declare they found 50 dead deer and many other apparently weak from hunger.

## 'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Clarice Has Some Ideas, Too

