

Odd and Curious News

Recover Old Loot

The nearly forgotten, unsolved Cross Fork Postoffice robbery of 1916 rocketed from the files of the post-office department over the weekend with the discovery of a cache of four jars of pennies and one-cent stamps and several pads of loose stamps.

Boy Meets Bear

There's still bears in the Drifting hills. 6-year-old Ronald Hudish, of Drifting, is willing to admit after coming in close quarters with a 500-pound black bear on the 500-acre farm one morning last week.

Hen Under Hood

When V. G. Wallace, a mechanic, of Houston, Texas, started to grease the automobile of Mrs. Warren Carmack, he was startled to feel something peck him on the shoulder and to see two small eyes looking out of a hole in the drip pan.

Bullfrog In Rock

Henry Brown, a farmer, of near Richmond, Ky., picked up a round, light rock and was surprised to find it rattled when shaken. He broke open the rock and found it contained a small bullfrog in a hollow place inside.

"Good Turn" Pays

Six years ago Mrs. Albert Thrasher, of Detroit, befriended a beggar who had been hurt in an alley fight. Recently she was notified that the beggar had died and left her \$11,000.

Wrong Destination

Three hoboes who went to sleep in a boxcar enroute to Salem, Oregon, awoke with exclamation of decided surprise. During the night the car was switched into the grounds of the state penitentiary.

Pastor Will Retire

The Rev. William M. Long, for nearly fifty years a pastor of the Church of Christ, concluded his long pastorate Sunday, April 14, by closing his ministry with the Mt. Hall Church of Christ. The Rev. Mr. Long retired from the active ministry, Sunday, April 28.

\$5,500 For Beautification

A total of \$5,500 has been allocated to maintenance forces of the Department of Highways for forestry work on main highways and rural roads of this bi-county area during the year beginning July 1.

Convicted of Outrageous Crime

Oran Butler, 25, of Lock Haven, charged with being the father of his 13-year-old sister's infant son, was convicted by an all-male jury in the Clinton county court on Friday and later sentenced to serve from two and a half to five years in the Western Penitentiary at Pittsburgh.

Student Injured By Explosion

Nestor G. Kociubinsky, a junior at Penn State and former varsity boxer, suffered the loss of the middle finger of his left hand and received severe burns and lacerations about both hands about 3:30 o'clock last Thursday afternoon when a dynamite cap he was handling exploded on West College avenue, State College.

Coal Prices Not In Effect for 2 Months

Minimum prices on soft coal in the Phillipsburg area will not go into effect for at least two months. It was announced at Altoona on Saturday.

The Most Widely Read Newspaper in Centre County.

A Visitor in Seven Thousand Homes Each Week.

SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

Random Items

VOLUME 59

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1940.

NUMBER 18.

YOUTH STRUCK BY CAR APPARENTLY LEFT TO DIE UNDER EMPTY CABIN

Believed That Huntingdon County Boy Was Carried or Crawled to Where Body Was Found - Had Been Hitch-Hiking

The victim of an apparently brutal death, the lifeless body of 13-year-old Kenneth Putt, of Dudley, near Huntingdon was found near two empty summer cabins in the vicinity of Stoytown, last Thursday. Investigation revealed that the boy had evidently been struck by an automobile and left by the frightened motorist at the cabins some 100 feet off the Lincoln highway.

of the cottages, the boy revived sufficiently to crawl into the open before dying of shock and exposure. Kenneth left the home of his widowed mother Tuesday afternoon and said he was going to hitch-hike to visit a sister, Mrs. Esther McCormick, at Duquesne, Pittsburgh.

He stopped later that day at a Hooverville home and begged a meal and then started walking toward Stoytown. That is the last he is known to have been seen.

The boy lay in full view of hundreds of motorists who drove past until a state road department employe noticed "something" and went back to investigate. It is estimated that the youth had been dead eight hours when found.

Truck Kills Lad Near Houtzdale

Victim Mangled in View of Sister While on Way to School

In view of the schoolmates, including his 13-year-old sister, who were on their way to school, Ronald Lindenberger of Moran, near Houtzdale, was killed instantly when struck by a truck Friday. The lad's head was smashed and other bodily injuries inflicted.

The children were playing near a small stream that flowed beneath the road, on their way to school after lunch. A number of them had rubber balls which they dropped in the water at one end of the roadside abutment and would dash across to the other side to retrieve them. The Lindenberger boy was about 100 feet away when he was hit. Driver of the truck, Orville Shugar, 30, of Houtzdale R. D. 1, said he swerved his vehicle to miss the lad.

The small victim is survived by his parents and two sisters, 13 and four.

Howard Boy Hurt In Bicycle Mishap

Ankle Fractured in Collision With Auto at Mill Hall

Blair Barnhart, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Barnhart, of Howard R. D., became a patient in the Lock Haven Hospital, Friday evening, following a collision between the bicycle he was riding and an automobile driven by an unknown motorist.

The accident occurred at the first railroad crossing in Mill Hall. The boy, who has been staying with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Bradley, at Mill Brook Farm, was riding from Mill Hall to the farm at the time.

Young Barnhart is reported to have suffered a fracture of the right ankle and a slight laceration about the head.

German soldiers, drowned when their transport sank in the Kattigat, know who rules the waves.

Near Death From Gas

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Geyer, aged residents of Vicksburg, were saved from almost certain death from coal gas, when a plumber who came to their home to install a bathroom, found them unconscious. They had been overcome during the night, and it was four hours after they were found before efforts to revive them were successful.

Houtzdale Contractor Bankrupt. Michael Baker, Jr., a general contractor in Houtzdale, filed a voluntary petition of bankruptcy last week. Liabilities were estimated at \$138,251.50 and assets at \$6,821.80.

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At one time Centre county could boast with pride of having the oldest living resident in the State. This honor fell to the lot of a little old lady who had reached the remarkable age of 106 years and 1 month. Keen of mind and unusually active for one who had weathered the storm of so many years, her span of life might have been considerably lengthened had it not been for an unfortunate accident which befell her. This woman was Mrs. Nancy J. Barger, who died November 1st, 1898, in the humble log house at Curtin which had been her home for 86 years.

Grandma Barger, as she was affectionately known, fell and broke a limb and owing to her advanced age, the injury would not heal, finally resulting in her death. Her son, Samuel Barger, 80 years of age, was her only companion, and was able to attend to all the wants of his mother. The log house in which they lived was filled with old furniture which had been collected during their long lives.

The inside history of the life of Grandma Barger reads very much like a fairy tale. She was born on Middle Ridge, in Cumberland county, a short distance below Harrisburg, on September 14, 1791. Her father and mother, William and Rebecca Tate, were among the first settlers of the community in which she lived, and after having cleared a small farm prospered, as early agriculturists were wont to do.

Nancy was the fourth born of a family of ten. She had one sister and four brothers, all of whom married and reared large families. When Nancy was scarcely twenty years of age she fell in love with George Barger, a foreman by occupation. George was a handsome, stalwart man, and possessed many excellent traits, but for some unknown reason Nancy's parents objected to the match, and so the young lovers were separated.

George was drafted and served in the War of 1812, and Nancy's parents supposed that the childish love affair of their daughter was forever a thing of the past. Nancy, however, bided her time, and although she had many suitors for her hand, remained single, for she had promised George to remain true to him, and her promise she determined to keep.

At last the war was over and George returned home. He was now a full-fledged officer and even handsomer than when he had first shouldered a musket to defend his country's honor. He had come back to claim his sweetheart.

But Nancy's parents were still opposed to the match and although they could give no reason to the handsome young officer, they would not give their consent to their daughter's marriage.

Finally George and Nancy decided to run away and get married. This they did the next day, the ceremony being performed at the home of Nancy's sister, in Perry county.

The elopement only served to deepen the anger in the hearts of her parents, and two years later Nancy, after making a last futile appeal for forgiveness, persuaded her husband to remove to Centre county, where the Valentines, who had come up from Chester county to embark in the iron business, had built a forge and held out inducements for good workmen.

With Samuel her first born, then a babe in swaddling clothes, and her husband she started overland in a wagon for Bellefonte. Three weeks later they reached their destination, finding the town but a settlement of a dozen houses and three stores.

George found good employment in the Valentine works and staid about Bellefonte until 1820, when Roland Curtin, father of the War of the Rebellion hero, who had just been built near the site of the old forge at Curtin's.

During her stay in Bellefonte, Mrs. Barger saw many a pack train start to Pittsburgh with its load of iron, and the product that was not disposed of at that market was shipped in arks down Whiting creek to Bald Eagle, thence to the Susquehanna River and Havre de Grace. She was at the old Washington Furnace the day James Monks, the second murderer to be arrested in Centre county, was hanged, and up until the time of her death well remembered the incidents of the event.

After residing at Curtin's Works for a short while, they decided to move to Mill Hall, where they remained for a time and then came back to Curtin in 1832. From that time until the day she died, Nancy had been an occupant of the little house in Centre county.

Flowers That Bloom in the Spring Tra-La



SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO MEET

The Pennsylvania State College has been chosen by the Pennsylvania branch of the National Association of Secondary School Principals to administer a novel educational project this summer during which the classroom needs of "non-college" high school students will get a thorough airing.

By "non-college" is meant the 30 per cent or more students now in high school who are not planning to enter college and who, in some cases, are staying in school only because of Pennsylvania's compulsory age law. Many educators have felt that high school courses are geared too much to the needs of the prospective collegians, and not enough to the needs of the boy and girl who will go directly into skilled or semi-skilled occupations.

The University of Pittsburgh, the State Department of Public Instruction are cooperating in the project.

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\$129,000.00 MINE SEAL PROJECT SCHEDULED TO START ABOUT JUNE 30

Forty Abandoned Mines in Centre County Will be Sealed, According to Announcement by Centre County Sportsmen's Association

Work on the \$129,000 WPA mine sealing project designed to prevent river pollution and save fish life will get under way in the Phillipsburg territory June 30, members of the Centre County Fish, Game and Forestry Association announced on Monday.

Abandoned mines, totaling 40, will be sealed in Centre county while neighboring Clearfield county will have approximately 400 mines to be sealed.

Abandoned mines draining into Cold Stream, Six Mile Run and Black Moshannon are scheduled to be sealed as will abandoned mines in the Centre county side of Osceola Mills.

The drive to have the mines sealed was launched by sportsmen's clubs in Clearfield, Centre, Lycoming, and Tioga counties and was designed primarily to purify tributaries of the West Branch of the Susquehanna river where sulphuric acid forms in abandoned mines is washed into the river causing destruction of fish life.

A quota of \$23,000 is set as the counties' shares for the WPA project. This amount, \$11,000 was subscribed by county commissioners of Lycoming, Clearfield and Clinton counties. Clearfield county commissioners subscribed \$4000, while Centre county commissioners promised \$1100 if the remaining \$1100 of the

CONCERT PIECE

Over the radio the other night the Eastman School of Music played the first concert piece written to feature the bassoon. It seemed like a high price to pay to please the bassoon player.

The Fickle Finger of Fate has fouled this department! For two and a half hours, Friday, we watched the Chamber of Commerce flickie of Bellefonte, and nowhere did we see our photo. Since this department was not shown, we somewhat grumpily announce our choice of best shots in the film. Best portrait: Court House janitor John "Faraway" Switzer and pipe. Most photographed people: Undine truck driver and Bishop street school janitor Charles Saxton; Fire Marshal Phil Saylor; Sara Cunningham, clerk at the Water Department office. Most unexpected person, Mary Kathryn Flynn crossing street in front of camera. Best lens louse: some child who persisted in walking in front of the camera and shutting off the view in the rear. Most interesting industrial views: Wagner mill, City Bakery, Titan Metal Company. Biggest surprise: proficiency of Georgetowne Purcell's class in physical education at local high school. Suggestion for future pictures: pick bright, clear days for taking movies, use more light on indoor shots.

MUCH BETTER: This corner is happy to report that Monday's meeting of the School Board was entirely sane, orderly and constructive. Various matters were discussed reasonably and acted upon without quibbling. You couldn't feel any hate in the room, and all board members laughed on several occasions—once when a stretching reporter leaped too far back in his metal chair and clattered to the floor with a terrific clang. If the incident had happened at some of the previous meetings when everyone's nerves were tight as fiddle strings, people would have screamed and torn their hair.

It's none of our business who is chosen to succeed Mr. Moore, resigned, as a member of the School Board. But, in common with practically everyone else, we like to toy with possible candidates. In that spirit, together with the belief that we would truly represent the desires of the majority of Bellefonte citizens, we humbly suggest that Jesse H. Caum, Bell Telephone manager in the Bellefonte area, be considered when the election is held. Mr. Caum served part of a term on the board some years ago upon the death of an elected member. He is of the same political faith as Mr. Moore, and he has always shown a deep interest in Bellefonte and its welfare.

Child, 3, Struck Down on Highway

Port Matilda Tot Recovering After Narrowly Escaping Death

Three-year-old Edward Brown, of Port Matilda, had a narrow escape from instant death Friday afternoon when the child was struck and knocked down by a car six miles east of Phillipsburg on the Phillipsburg-Port Matilda road. He was taken to the Phillipsburg Hospital where he was treated for head abrasions. He is not thought to be seriously injured.

Thomas Hutchinson, of Brockway, operator of the car, said the child seemed uncertain about crossing the road and then suddenly stepped out into the path of the car.

The car, after knocking down the child, swerved off the road, hit a small tree and rammed against a clump of bushes. No one in the car was injured.

The youth was picked up from the highway by Hutchinson and immediately rushed to the hospital. Motor police said there were skid marks for 90 feet along the highway.

Blanchard to Get Insurance Rebates

Entitled to Reduced Premium Rates in Fire Protected Area

Due to the efficient protective work accomplished by the Beech Creek-Blanchard Volunteer Fire Company during the past year, the citizens of both towns have been granted substantial rebates on the fire insurance policies. The rebate is effective as of July 1, 1939, and all the residents who have not received the reduction are reminded to take the matter up with their insurance company.

It is pointed out that as fast as policies in effect reach the expiration date they should be re-written on the greatly reduced rates, averaging in some cases to as much as half the former rate.

These rebates to be turned over to the fire company as soon as received to pay off its indebtedness, since the low rates were brought about by the existing fire fighting organization. It is obvious, as is claimed, that if the fire protection now in force is allowed to diminish, rates will go up again.

Stork Too Rapid The stork traveled too rapidly for automobiles last Tuesday morning in Tioga county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bennett, Westfield, R. D., and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fazzaro, Elkland, were enroute to the Blossburg State Hospital when babies were born, a son to the former and a daughter to the latter couple.

Falls With Dynamite Lester Kyle of Quigleyville, is recovering from an injury to a foot and ankle, received when a ledge of rock on which he was working at Cedar Run gave way. A box of dynamite which he had on one shoulder fortunately failed to explode in the 25 foot drop.

POOH-POOH TO OLD BELIEFS SAY MODERN 'DOCS'

A list of beliefs to be ashamed of was compiled by the Educational Committee of the Illinois State Medical Society, meeting at Chicago.

The committee surveyed the field of home remedies and pooh-poohed the following beliefs: A coin in the lip or a cold key on the back will stop a nosebleed. An amber necklace will prevent or cure colic.

A potato in the pocket prevents rheumatism in the legs. Frog cause warts. Whiskey antidotes snake poison. Fruit seeds cause appendicitis. A pinch of nutmeg in the pocket prevents stomach ache. Fish and milk cannot be eaten together.

Said the committee: "All wrong. These beliefs are picturesque, but they just aren't so."

Faraway's Pipe: Court House janitor, John "Faraway" Switzer and pipe. (Continued on page three)

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Swastika Flies Over School

800 Angry Jersey Shore Pupils Refuse to Enter Building

A flapping Swastika flag was ripped from a top the Jersey Shore High school staff last Thursday setting off a spontaneous patriotic demonstration by 800 pupils. Then they enjoyed a holiday.

The young voices, unaccompanied, lustily sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and then recited the pledge of allegiance to the stars and stripes as the school janitor, Theodore Greenaway, slid down the pole with the emblem crumpled in his hand.

The janitor had to shinny aloft to tear down the Swastika because the flagstaff rope had been cut by those who hoisted the emblem during the night.

Police took the banner. There were no clues to those responsible. Neither was there an explanation for its appearance.

William Murray, Jr., district commander of the American Legion, said he had a report that 33 similar flags had been distributed for placing on public buildings in the state but no others appeared.

The students discovered the flag when they arrived for classes Thursday morning. They refused to enter the school but stayed on the grounds until it was lowered. Then the school principal applauded his charges and declared a holiday.

Dog Wins Top Honors Remembrance Derris of Orchard Hill, a swaggering little Pekingese owned by Mrs. Richard S. Quigley of Lock Haven, took top honors in his breed in stride to become an early favorite to capture the Virginia Kennel Club Dog Show Cup last week. Mrs. Quigley's prize Pekingese, which won the Hampton Roads Kennel Club Show at Norfolk earlier in the week was a center of attraction among the 40-odd dogs benched.

Episcopal Rector Gets Hero Medal

Williamsport Pastor Given Carnegie Award For Service of Woman

The Rev. St. Clair Hathaway, rector of All Saints' Episcopal church, Williamsport, was being awarded a bronze medal for bravery by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission for saving Mrs. Scott R. Wolford of that city from drowning in Pine Creek near Waterville, July 23, 1939.

Swimming in Pine Creek with a group of friends, members of the Dramatic Club of the Episcopal church, Mrs. Wolford had gone under for the third time, having lost consciousness, when the Rev. Mr. Hathaway plunged into the stream, fully clothed and saved her. The rector swam approximately 50 feet before reaching her, pulled her by her swimming cap and grabbed her by the hair. Through artificial respiration Mrs. Wolford was revived.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission convened Friday at Williamsport and awarded 13 medals. The Rev. Mr. Hathaway was one of the three Pennsylvanians so honored.

Young at 94. Mrs. Sarah Waters, of Mansfield, who recently celebrated her 94th birthday anniversary, isn't going to take a back seat for the younger woman of the community. Recently, Mrs. Waters motored from her River Road home to a local beauty parlor and had a permanent wave. She says she believes "one is only as old as one feels, and I don't feel 94 years old."

College Class To Build 'Lion Shrine'

\$5,000 Memorial to Be Erected on College Campus

The class of 1940 at Pennsylvania State College has voted to build a "lion shrine" on the campus as its memorial project. The shrine, to cost \$5,000, will be erected at a prominent place on the campus to serve as a center for pep rallies and other student gatherings. A carved Nittany lion, traditional Penn State symbol, will be its central adornment. A \$4,000 fresco mural has just been started in Old Main Building as a memorial to the class of 1932. Henry Varnum Poor, noted American muralist, is at work on the project.

Philipsburg Man Frustrates Thief

Surprises Robber in Act of Rifling Drawers in Florist Shop

Paul Harper, of Phillipsburg, who went to Chester about 18 months ago to clerk in the Messmer Florist Shop, had an unusual experience a few nights ago. Returning to the store after it had been closed for a package he had forgotten, he surprised a young man in the act of rifling the desk drawers. The thief, flourished an automatic pistol at Harper and fled through a rear door which he had opened by smashing a pane of glass.

Burgess Finest Self Burgess George W. Shade, of Shamokin, makes no exceptions when he enforces Shamokin's new parking ordinance. He fined himself after he had discovered that he violated a no-parking zone in a moment of forgetfulness. Borough police, backed with this determination of their chief executive, are conducting an intensive campaign of law enforcement.

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