

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. Three of the jars and the loose stamps were found by H. J. Shephard under a rock he had selected for a rock garden at his home at Cross Fork. The fourth jar was found after an inspector and Postmaster Luke Binder, Remov, were called. The belief is that the loot was hidden on the Cross Fork property, which was not then owned by Mr. Shephard, for later recovery. Stamps in the jars were in a fair state of preservation but those unprotected were believed to have been eaten by mice.

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. While playing in the fields near his home the youngster heard his dogs bark. Running to investigate he saw a shining black bear reared on its legs ready to meet the attack of the dogs. When the dogs were called off the bear ambled slowly into the woods.

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. Upon loosening the bolts holding the drip pan, out came a small white Bantam hen and out rolled a small egg. How the hen got into its unusual perch is not known.

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. The only explanation Brown could offer was that a tadpole entered the rock through a small hole and developed into a frog 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. The man was Nathan Kanover. Mrs. Thrasher is a practical nurse and has eight children.

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 Mill Hill Church of Christ. The Rev. Mr. Long retired from the active ministry, Sunday, April 28. A duet sung at his birthday service by his daughter, Miss Virginia Long and H. A. Harchner, was dedicated to the pastor.

\$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. Centre county will get \$2,400, Clearfield county, \$3,200; Clinton, \$1,900; Cameron, \$800; Elk, \$800; McKean, \$1,900; Potter, \$1,900. These counties comprise District 2.

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. The girl, Vivian Rosetta Butler, residing at Sugar Run, Clinton county, is the mother of an infant son born in February. The parentage of the child was the matter of dispute when the trial opened. Dr. Painter, told of attending the

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. Walter A. Jones, secretary-treasurer of the Bituminous Coal Pro-

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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.

A sister, Miss Leah Putt, made the identification nearly 24 hours after the boy's body was found. His mother, Mrs. Lena Putt, is an invalid widow.

Coroner F. E. Saxe theorized the youth had been struck by an automobile and left to die by a frightened motorist. Placed under one of the cottages, the boy revived sufficiently to crawl into the open before dying of shock and exposure.

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.

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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 transports sank in the Katisgat, know who rules the waves.

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.

GRANDMA BARGER LIVED TO BE 106

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

\$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

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 Quiggleville, 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.

Philipsburg Man Frustrates Thief

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.

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' 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 1922. Henry Varnum Poor, noted American muralist, is at work on the project.

Williamsport Pastor Given Carnegie Award For Service of Woman The Rev. St. Clair Hathaway, rector of All Saints' Episcopal church, Williamsport, has been 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.

Swastika Flies Over School 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.

800 Angry Jersey Shore Pupils Refuse to Enter Building

Swastika Flies Over School

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 Rememban 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.

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' - "Stone Walls Do Not a Prison Make"



By POP MOMAND



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