

The Centre Democrat

Bellefonte, Penna.

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Entered in the postoffice at Bellefonte, Pa., as second-class matter.

Echoes From the Past

Fifty Years Ago

Manager Garman has a very strong attraction for his Opera House next Tuesday night, viz: Miss Lizzie Evans, the charming, someone and distinguished little actress. Miss Evans has the reputation of being one of the best sopranos on the American stage and by competent critics is acknowledged the peer of either Lotta Annie Pixley or Maggie Mitchell.

In this writing, what is left of the big snow that fell a week ago is melting rapidly under the warm rays of "Old Soles." It was a unusual snow and one that surprised the natives and made all the railroad men cuss, and passengers use hard language. The depth about Bellefonte was not as great as in other parts of the county as it came down here part of the time in the shape of rain. In Penns Valley the fall was estimated at about 20 inches, with a high wind that piled up great drifts. At Snow Shoe snow fell to a depth of 33 inches which made roads almost impassable and railroad communication was cut off for over a day.

Twenty Years Ago

The name of Robert S. Stover, postmaster at Millheim, was among a list of postmaster appointments sent by President Wilson to the Senate for confirmation. Dr. J. L. Seibert, of Bellefonte, county medical inspector, was in Centre Hall to see that a strict enforcement of quarantine in communicable diseases among children, which was in the form of a mild epidemic, was observed. Miss Ruth Shreckengast, teacher of the Dauberman school in Potter township, set a precedent in getting cheques when she provided a small oil stove on which pupils could warm food for their noon meal. At a result, the children were bringing a variety of foods, and were able to have a substantial noon meal. Thousands of tons of earth and rock became dislodged at the quarry of the American Lime and Stone Company near Coleville and slid into the quarry shortly after the men had quit work at the noon hour. No one was injured. Seven cars used to haul stone from the quarry to the kilns and some tools were buried. The slide partly filled the quarry and it was expected that it would be some time before all of it could be removed. Marriage licenses were issued to the following couples: William Johnson, Albery Curtis, and Lelia Litch. Howard Lester Lee Leathers and Alina Irene Solt, both of Howard; Gilbert S. Sowers and Bessie A. Saverool, both of State College; Raymond J. White, Beech Creek, and Relda Confer, Howard; William E. Klinger, Bellefonte, and Julia R. DeArmitt, Mifflinville; Evely Roy Shreckengast, Coburn, and Sarah Emma Martin, Woodward. Charles Houser and family, of near Lemont, escaped serious injury when their Grant touring car plunged over and embankment between Bellefonte and Pleasant Gap, after the steering gear of the machine failed. Mr. Houser's small son, Charles, was injured about the head. Lorenzo Runk, aged 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Runk, of Philadelphia, suffered a fracture of the right arm and was bruised about the head in a coasting accident near the public school building. The lad and several companions were on a sled which crashed into a car at a street intersection. The first thing to do to any cut, scratch, blister or wound, however small, is to wash it carefully with San-Cura Medicated Soap and then apply San-Cura Ointment. This is an Antiseptic Ointment that helps prevent infection. Antiseptic San-Cura Ointment is a great aid in healing minor sores, cuts, burns, itching piles and skin irritations. Use and see. At All Drug Stores, San-Cura and 25c. Pariah Drug Store.

Random Items

DEFENSE:

The local National Guard Artillery unit received its first 155 millimeter gun the other day. Upon receiving the news, we had a distinct thrill of pride. At last, we felt, here was concrete evidence of defense. The thrill was short-lived. We viewed the piece before it had been unloaded from the flat car and we got as much excitement from it as we did from the dead and smelly white that was exhibited on a flat car during a carnival here some months ago. The gun, definitely is on the ancient side. It looked as though it had stood on the public square of some village since World War times. Its solid-tired wheels gave the impression of neither fleetness nor modernity. Just as we were consulting ourselves, we thought it might be better than nothing, we learned that it hasn't been fired since 1932.

A reader who is in accord with this department's contention that the borough police car should not be painted in some easily distinguishable color, suggests that if Council still thinks the chief purpose of police is to be seen and heard, officers should be garbed in uniforms which are dipped in a hazardous solution so they can be readily spotted at night. Bells and sirens on the police car, used whenever the machine is in motion, would help Bellefonte people to know that their police were around, the reader adds.

In the death of Charles Gates, of The Democratic Watchman, Bellefonte loses its oldest newspaper reporter. And to those of us whose business is writing news, a paragraph appearing in the last column of Mr. Gates wrote for The Watchman represents the highest goal of any newspaperman. Wrote Mr. Gates: "In all the years we have not consciously written a word maliciously or venomously against any individual, organization or corporation. We have, at times, indulged in words of criticism but they were along the lines of constructive effort rather than censure or disparagement. We believe any newspaperman would be proud to have those two sentences for an epitaph."

A housefly in the summertime is a loathsome pest. But when a fly makes its appearance at Christmas time it is like the appearance of some foul plague. Where, you ask yourself, has the darned thing been hiding since fall? Its buzzing is five times as hateful, and its gurgly, luggy movements suggest the stopper into which we've often hoped all flies, everywhere, would fall and stay fell.

Our readers seem brimful of happy suggestions as the New Year approaches. The latest one is that Council change the northern entrance into Bellefonte from the present tortuous route past Beaver and Hey Roads on West Linn Street. The local route is a straight out Allegheny Street, and over the hill at the rear of the E. Edward Haupt property to join the concrete route to Mileburg at Pleasant View. That route is shorter and would have only one slight curve. The present winding road has been the cause of two fatalities, and many lesser accidents in recent years.

Anyone who saw Bellefonte's firemen at work at the Kusse fire Christmas Day, should know that this community has super fire protection. This was when local firemen worked on the assumption that the way to fight a fire was to put the most water on the blaze in the least time, and let others clear up what was left of the building. At the Kusse fire firemen at first devoted their attention to getting the blaze under control, using as little water as possible. Then, when the immediate danger was over, firemen divided into squads, working through the building they put all furniture under salvage covers; cleaned out rooms where plaster was in danger of falling; mopped up water as it dripped down and otherwise did everything possible to minimize the damage. On the third floor they shoveled out fallen plaster and charred wood. We feel certain that if anyone can think of anything Bellefonte's firemen don't do to make having a fire as painless as possible, they'll be glad to add that to their services.

Bellefonte Lady Gets 8000-Mile Greeting

Mrs. Parker, since L. Parker found that because of heavy demands he had to reserve time several weeks in advance. He notified Mrs. Parker by cablegram when to expect the call. Local offices of the Bell Telephone Company are authority for the information that Bellefontians can call friends in the Philippines anytime for a fee of \$19.70 for a three-minute talk. Twenty-cents of the fee is tax. One of the strange things about man is that you can easily persuade him to undertake almost anything that is not for his own good.

Two Girls Molested; Burglary Attempted

The attack was made during a heavy fog, which aided the assailant's getaway. Miss Sloop described him as being young, judging from the manner in which he ran from the scene. He wore no hat and had dark hair, she said. Miss Sloop was not injured, aside from minor bruises. About 7 o'clock the same night Miss Sepriah was alone in her apartment when she heard a rap upon the door, which is at the rear of the apartment. Because she lives alone and because the downstairs apartment is not occupied, Miss Sepriah does not go to the front door at night unless visitors call to her. As a result she ignored the knock, and was walking across the hallway leading to the door when she saw a window leader the door being forced. The action, she said, startled her, for the window always is kept locked.

Miss Sepriah screamed and the person shut the window, catching the curtains under the sill. The woman heard footsteps descending the outside stairway, and a moment later heard someone trying to enter the first-floor apartment. She got a revolver, locked up the apartment and went to her parental home on East Howard street. As additional proof of her experience, Miss Sepriah left the curtain in the position it was when the man shut the window on it. She is at a loss to account for the window being unlocked for the latch is always fastened, she said. Since the night she has been sleeping in the apartment at the family home on Howard street. The latest victim of the purse-snatcher is Sarah Esther Rhoades. About 11 o'clock Saturday night Miss Rhoades was walking home alone from a Bellefonte theatre when a man walked up to her, struck her violently in the abdomen and knocked her to the ground. In falling she struck the back of her head on the newly-paved road. Miss Rhoades' screams aroused neighbors and members of her family who scoured the area in an attempt to locate the man, but their search was fruitless. Miss Rhoades said the man had dark wavy hair and wore a light coat. After she screamed he fled through a nearby alley south toward Halfmoon Hill, she said. Miss Rhoades carried no pocketbook.

The girl suffered painful bruises about the abdomen and the back of her head. When she described her experience, her brother reported a short time before the attack he had seen a stranger answering the description of the assailant walking between Valley View and Coleville. After each of the attacks Bellefonte borough police were notified and conducted investigations, but up to this time no clue has been found as to the identity of the man. Earlier victims of the purse-snatcher are: December 7, Mrs. W. E. Crossley, of East Bishop street, attack on East Bishop street. December 10, Mrs. Harry Miller, aged 70, South Spring street, attack on East Howard street. December 13, Miss Sarah Cunningham, attack near home on Halfmoon Hill.

Local Couple Married 50 Years

The Groves went to housekeeping on the Grove farm near their present home. After 20 years on the farm they moved into the house they now occupy, and for 25 years Mr. Groves was the well known representative of the Grand Union Tea Company in this area, retiring from the post about five years ago. Handicapped by the loss of his left hand 37 years ago when the member was caught in a corn basketing machine, Mr. Groves did not allow the handicap to mar his active life. For years he covered his Grand Union route in a horse and wagon, and when cars came into popularity, he learned to drive. Mr. Groves is 78 years of age, while his wife is 77. Last December 9, both have enjoyed good health until the outset of Mrs. Groves' present illness, from which she is now recovering. They are members of St. John's Lutheran church, Bellefonte. Two sons born to the union are: Roy H. Groves, of Bradford, and Clair Groves, of Jostovia. A daughter is deceased. Mr. Groves is the last member of his immediate family while Mrs. Groves has one brother, Wade Evay, of Pleasant Gap. The Groves home and its small plot of ground is a portion of the old farm. Mr. Groves has been taken for the proposed new Veterans' Hospital for Central Pennsylvania, in the event the Veterans' Commission selects Bellefonte as a site for the institution. Widely known and held in high esteem throughout the Bellefonte and State College areas, Mr. and Mrs. Groves have the best wishes of countless friends for many more years of health and happiness together.

Relief Payments Show Slight Increase

Direct relief payments to needy Centre Countians during the week ending December 24 show an increase of \$298 and 34 checks over those of the previous week, according to State Treasurer F. Clair Ross. Payments for the week amounted to \$2,315 which was \$1,132 lower than those for the comparable week of last year. Current payments required 145 fewer checks than those of a year ago. Payments of the Bureau of Assistance Disbursements in the Treasury Department follow: Current week \$2,315-605 checks; previous week \$2,217-466 checks; comparable week 1939, 3,647-650 checks.

Brief Illness Fatal To C. L. Gates

The Watchman for 1940 went to press. After completing his work he went home, ill. The following day he was taken to the hospital where it was learned that he was suffering from an obstruction of the bowels. An operation was scheduled to have been performed Monday of last week, but his condition was so serious that the operation was deemed inadvisable. A native of Halfmoon township, Mr. Gates came to Bellefonte as a stenographer at Rockview penitentiary, and since that time he missed only two regularly scheduled meetings of Bellefonte Borough Council. As local representative of the United Press he covered more than 258 elections at Rockview penitentiary without ever having witnessed an election.

When electricities were adopted in Pennsylvania in 1941 as the local means of execution, Mr. Gates received the information by telephone from Rockview officials and then relayed the story to the United Press. Born December 29, 1863 in Halfmoon township, Mr. Gates was a son of David and Mary Solt Gates. As a youth he saw the Boys in Blue marching back to their farms from the Civil War. He went to school until he was 13 years old and then quit for two seasons. He had gone as far as he could in the country schools of that time, and he was needed to help support a family of 12 brothers and sisters. For several years he assisted his father in the building and later operated one of the first steam threshing outfits ever to be used in Central Pennsylvania. Mr. Gates came to Bellefonte in 1884 as solicitor and collector for the Bellefonte Republican. There's not a man in business here now who was active when I first came to town," he said several years ago.

His first important "year" was spent in 1896 when "Toke" the national address of Gov. Daniel H. Hastings found under the eyes of Harrisburg correspondents. Since he had handled the publicity for the Hastings campaign, the United Press hired him to supply the news association with 250 additional copies of the speech. Yet, when the time came to deliver the copies of the speech, Gov. Hastings decided to wait and release the address simultaneously to all the capital correspondents. Mr. Gates learned where the Governor's speech was being printed, and working throughout the night in the printshop, secretly copied the text. The United Press thus had copies of the speech days before the inaugural, and "scooped" political writers who had to wait for the Governor's prepared hand-out. Although he never witnessed an election, Mr. Gates did see four hangings before the adoption of the death chair. First of these was in 1899 when Seely Hopkins, of Phillipsburg, was hanged for a double murder. The rope broke from the force of Hopkins' body and when the trap was sprung, the condemned man fell against Mr. Gates, standing at the edge of the scaffold. Shortly before the turn of the century, William Eitinger, burly blacksmith, killed a constable at Woodford, then barricaded himself in his home with his wife and two children. Five hundred persons gathered outside the house, but did not know how to "smoke out" the blacksmith without harming his wife and youngsters. The nearest telephone to Woodford in those days was 13 miles away. Mr. Gates grabbed his phone and held the wire open all day and night to feed developments of the story to papers in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

Since the phone was 12 miles from the scene the reporter organized a courier posse which traveled in brief bursts each bit of news to him in the telephone. By midnight practically every morning paper in the state was looped into Mr. Gates' wire. The story ended when the blacksmith set his home on fire, sent his wife and children outside to safety and then shot himself. A man named "beat" was in 1925 when Aviator Charles H. Ames crashed on Nitany mountain. The wreck was not found for 12 days—but when it was Mr. Gates was the first reporter to hear about it and the first to reach the scene. The veteran newspaperman had many offers to go for larger towns, but declined because "I maintain that there is more human touch in the life of a small town newspaperman than in the work of any reporter or editor on the metropolitan papers. Here a man is in constant touch with his clients."

During his long career, until the past year when his health failed, Mr. Gates never took any vacation and never missed a day at the office. Sundays included about that. "While I can't boast about that," he said recently "it is a contrast to the youngsters of the present day who are all the time clamoring for shorter hours, longer vacations and more pay." For the past number of years Mr. Gates had written for The Democratic Watchman, now The Watchman, a column "Hodge-Podge of News Items" which was a regular feature of that newspaper. In the last edition of that newspaper Mr. Gates had the following somewhat prophetic paragraph: "For fifty weeks during 1940 this column has appeared as a regular feature, not counting the years that have passed since it was started. In all those years we have not consciously written a word maliciously or venomously against any individual or corporation. We leave, at times, indulged in words of criticism, but they were along the lines of constructive effort rather than censure or disparagement."

Mr. Gates had served as a member of the Bellefonte Borough board of auditors since 1918 and held that office at the time of his death. Although he was employed by a Democratic newspaper, the greater part of his life, he remained a member of the Republican party. Charles Lewis Gates is survived by two sons and two daughters: Edward L., telegraph editor of the Johnstown Tribune; Charles E., Gates of Mifflinville; Miss Winifred, at home, and Mrs. Lawrence Jones, of East Howard street, Bellefonte. Mrs. Gates, the former Phyllis E. Gray, passed away on June 16, 1937. Other survivors include two brothers: Earl Gates, of Drury, Colorado, and Bennie C. Gates, of Lehighville; sister, Mrs. Robert Kistenbauder, of Warriors Mark, and seven grandchildren. Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the home on North Spring street, with the Rev. H. Willis Hartsock, pastor of the Bellefonte Methodist church, officiating. Interment was made in the Union cemetery, Bellefonte.

Gap Woman Describes Life in Florida

had a fright. Windows rattled in the houses as one great detonation succeeded another. We Pennsylvanians immediately thought of blasting—but there are no quarries here. Such other suggestions as were made seemed equally fruitless. At last the afternoon paper arrived to solve the mystery. It was bombing. Target practice 20 miles out from St. Petersburg, which is miles south of us. The army is dropping bombs on a floating target in the Gulf of Mexico. We looked at each other with the same thought: "What must it be to people who are constantly undergoing it?" No word has yet been coined that is worthy of their indomitable spirit. Truly "There'll always be an Emerald," and everyone in this country who has an ancestor of English birth is entitled to lift his head high among his fellows.

An odd thing about Christmas here is the shooting of fire crackers. There is less advertisement of them in the city than in the rural districts. Nevertheless we see it, and people are buying them. Quickly enough to us Northerners, the stars do not use them on the Fourth of July—and that is all right, too. Once a year is enough and for some of us it is too much. All the cities are beautifully decorated with colored lights. Festoons of lights across the street in Clearwater, held up in the middle by a great binding star, making night life with day, until one hereafter between night blooms and the gorgeous colors produced by sun-sets. Our friends the Bauers, who lived in Pleasant Gap for 13 years, are happily settled in St. Petersburg. We visited them on Wednesday at their apartment and stayed for supper. They expect to remain in their present apartment until next fall at least. Strange as it may seem to readers of the Ladies Home Journal, they are next door neighbors to the Georces—that couple so happily described in the Journal's latest issue under "How America Lives—Meet the Georces of St. Petersburg Florida." (See January issue, 1941, page 45). There is nothing nicer than being here in St. Petersburg unless it is meeting friends who are also here. Already we have met another pair of friends from Altoona here for the winter. My husband and the other man "Jack" Waltz, having served in the same outfit during the Spanish-American War.

So far the influx of tourists is less than last year. While it is true that the vast number appear after the holidays, there are according to real estate men, fewer calls for cottages and apartments than is usual at this time. They blame this partly on last winter's cold, and partly on "better business in the north, which lets men to their work. The matrons here have a saying: "Only fools and strangers prophesy the weather in Florida." In a foregoing paragraph I wrote myself into the first class, for now, an hour later the sun is shining. St. Petersburg's evening paper will not be free today—as happens every day the sun does not appear before going to press. "How do we put in our time? You ask. My husband and I better and take. We catches enough to provide the table for ourselves and some of the neighbors. I go to the city library, do a little housework—attend such affairs as I care to. Woman's Club every Wednesday; Eastern Star every two weeks, sit in the sunshine, read, oh yes, read, write, work at a cushion top, drive to the beach with a lady in the same house who has her car here. visit two families of Pennsylvanians who are permanently settled here, and life long friends of ours, play a few games, go to church. There is always some thing interesting to do—and new and remarkable sights to see. Some of them I'll write about in another letter if this is worth printing."

Kills Copperhead Snake Mrs. A. S. McCool, who resides in Halls Hollow, northeast of Mileburg, had the unusual experience of killing a copperhead snake on Friday, December 27. She had gone to their spring to get a bucket of water, when she discovered the snake crawling along the path. She picked up a stick with which she killed the snake, but not before it had called and struck at her. It was about two feet in length. It is very unusual to find snakes crawling around in December. A clogged incinerator fue filled the halls of an apartment house on West Nitany avenue, State College, with smoke shortly after noon last Thursday. The Alpha Fire Company responded to the call and found that a pile pole thrust down the chimney ended the smudge. Mrs. Margaret J. Reese is the owner of the apartment house.

Turner Store To Move Into Crider Building

Leasing of the above-described store room space by A. C. Turner Co. illustrates aptly the progressive activity of that well known business house. Two large chain store systems had been negotiating with Mr. Dorworth from the day it first became known publicly that McCrory intended to vacate. Neither had come to a final decision when A. C. Turner Co. voluntarily stepped into the picture with a proposal that was accepted by Mr. Dorworth. Signing of the lease followed. To insure being completely established in Crider Exchange in ample time for the usual Easter holiday business rush in business, A. C. Turner Co. already has placed orders for new store fixtures including shelving, counters, and other equipment. Just one of many attractive features to be installed will be a brilliant electric lighting system and air-conditioning facilities. This program for expansion is a splendid testimonial by A. C. Turner Co. of its continued confidence in the present and future stability of Bellefonte and surrounding area as a business center.

Sunday School Lesson

JESUS AND HUMAN AFFLICTION

International Sunday School Lesson for January 5, 1941. GOLDEN TEXT: "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities."—Heb 4:15. Lesson Text: Luke 13-1-5, 10-17.

For the next three months, we continue our consideration of the Gospel of Luke—the universal Gospel. It will be well for us, as we start this new series of lessons, to remind ourselves of the general purpose of this series of studies. As stated by the International Committee on Improved Uniform Lessons, the purpose is: "To discover through the Gospel of Luke the warm human sympathy of Jesus and his regard for the earthly welfare and the eternal salvation of men, and to cultivate similar attitudes." If just a few of those who study this Gospel of Luke, or who listen to discussions of these lessons would be persuaded to put into practice the aims of this Committee, what a wonderful thing it would be for the world. After all, how useless it is for us to read, study or listen to the truths of the Gospel if we fail to put these truths into practice in our daily lives.

Jesus realized that he would have only a few years of active life to establish the kingdom of God. He did not expect his immediate and universal success but endeavored to present it to mankind so that its nature and methods could be understood and appreciated. He had sufficient faith in the ultimate response of men that he could give his life in order to illustrate more perfectly his mission and purpose. As he preached and taught during his three active years of ministry he made more comprehensive of the kingdom.

The thirteenth chapter of Luke's gospel begins with telling us how Jesus exposed the prejudices and errors of some Jewish critics. They wanted to know if some Galileans who had been slain by Pilate had been punished for their individual sin. The reply of Jesus showed that disaster should not always be considered a direct and positive retaliation for wrongdoing. We have never been able to understand how anyone could think that a God of love would be so vindictive as to inflict terrible suffering. We do not believe that these things come through the direct interposition of divine authority. They result from error and sin, not necessarily always by the injured party, but certainly as a result of violating God's will. "Deep down, buried out of sight, may be the master-passion which sways the life, the basal motive on which the character is built," says Hugh Black. "Men may make sacrifices for the kingdom of God, may be lavish of their time and their faith, may stand first for their abundant labor; and yet before the great Searcher of hearts may be with last. The words come to us with solemn warning that we may not deceive ourselves. We must not judge either ourselves nor others according to rank, or position, or ability or zeal, or honor in the Church, or any outside quality. There is another judgment, according to intrinsic spiritual worth, and that will be the final judgment of all."

CENTRE COUNTY HOSPITAL IN THE WEEK'S NEWS

Table with columns for Monday of Last Week, Tuesday of Last Week, Wednesday of Last Week, Thursday of Last Week, Saturday, and Sunday. Lists names of patients admitted, discharged, and other hospital activities.

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many years and only now in process of being vacated. The other is the store room vacated by the West Penn Power Co. when it moved recently to its beautiful new quarters next door. A. C. Turner will remove from Temple Court building, where they have been located nine or more years, in ample time to open up and be in readiness for business in Crider Exchange before April 1. Contracts were let yesterday for installation of new, modern store fronts and interior construction work and decorating. The two street floor rooms constituting the new business home of A. C. Turner Co. will be converted into one large store room with floor space considerably in excess of four thousand square feet. Plans under consideration for still greater expansion of the merchandising service include remodeling and utilizing the basement of the former West Penn Power Co. store room as an additional retail sales store room. The basement is of the same dimensions as the store room above. The entire

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