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SECOND SECTION

The Centre Democrat

NEWS, FEATURES

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Odd and CURIOUS in the NEWS

ADAMLESS TOWN

Women seeking husbands should avoid the town of Roberts, Mont. Uncle Sam has called all the eligible young men. Roberts counted 400 inhabitants in the last census yet every man eligible for military service either has enlisted or has been drafted. John R. Sparks, recruiting sergeant of the district, said 90 per cent of the young men signed up for three-year enlistments and the remaining 10 per cent were drafted.

CAT WOULD HATCH

Investigating the cause of the distress of two mocking birds in her yard, Mrs. H. E. Rice, of Kinston, N. C., found a cat sitting on the eggs in the birds' nest which was seven feet off the ground.

'TRAGEDY TABLE'

Ola Thompson, of Grinnel, Iowa, has built a table of 576 inlaid pieces, each of which was taken from the wreckage of automobiles involved in fatal accidents.

Minister of Music For Two Churches

Thomas Welding Ward, B. M., graduate of the Westminster Choir School, of Princeton, N. J., has been engaged as a full time minister of music by the Methodist churches of Howard and Beech Creek, jointly served by the Rev. Wallace J. Cummings, of Howard. Announcement of this appointment came following action by the official boards of these churches last week. Mr. Ward had previously served both churches for a month in each, and trained the combined choirs of the Beech Creek and Howard churches, in cooperation with the neighboring churches at Milesburg and Unionville, for an Easter cantata participated in by nearly 75 voices.

Driver Arrested After Crash East of Martha

Lawrence Spontak, of North Braddock, driver of a car which left the highway 5 miles east of Martha Furnace about 12:30 Sunday afternoon, and crashed into a power pole, was charged with reckless driving by Motor Police from the Pleasant Gap substation who investigated the accident.

Spontak was traveling west at the time, and damage to the car was estimated at $200. Elmer Spontak, a passenger, suffered bruises of the left arm.

Beech Creek Woman Injured In Fall

Mrs. Jane Ellen Miller, of Beech Creek, was treated in the emergency room of the Jersey Shore Community Hospital last Wednesday afternoon after it was reported that she fell out of the car she was driving on Bridge street.

She escaped serious injury when the driver of a truck traveling behind her avoided hitting her by a narrow margin. The car she was driving came to a stop after continuing a short distance.

She was alone in the car and little could be learned of the cause of the accident. She was later discharged from the hospital.

Two Mt. Union High School Youths Killed

While watching a freight train approach on the next track, Donald McLean, 16, and James Riley, 15, students at Mt. Union High school were killed by a Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train as they walked along the tracks near Mill Creek, Thursday.

State police said the youths, who were watching the freight as they walked down the tracks, failed to see the passenger train approach. The train struck them head-on, killing them instantly.

State College Youth Enters Marine School

Edwin S. Jones, of State College, was one of the six Penn State seniors selected to attend the Marine Reserve Officers' Training School by Lt. Robert T. Raby of the Marine Corps, who interviewed 25 seniors, it was announced this week.

The group will report to Philadelphia for active service during the first part of July. On completion of the training, the men will be commissioned second lieutenants in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Snow in Maine

A two-inch snowfall routed summer-like weather in Northern Aroostook county, Maine, Sunday, and threatened to delay by several days the important spring potato planting.

Two Die From $150,000 Fire at Lewisburg When Explosion Wrecks Store

Forty Others Hurt as Blast of Flames Destroy Three-Story Building; Ten Companies Send 200 Firemen

A $150,000 fire and explosion at Lewisburg early Sunday resulted in the death of two firemen, and minor injuries to 40 volunteers and civilians.

A front wall is all that remains of C. Dreisbach's Sons hardware warehouse and store rooms, on Lewisburg's central square.

Charles D. Stephens, 56, was found 12 hours after the blast caught him and other firemen on the ladders. He was buried beneath the wall he had been scaling, and was not missed until he failed to appear at his home for lunch.

Charles L. Liddick, 32, was pulled from the wreckage five minutes after the explosion, which occurred about 5:30 a. m., an hour and a half after the fire was discovered. He was taken to the Evangelical Hospital, suffering head, back and chest injuries and shock, and died during the night.

Thousands of persons swarmed to the scene, the crowd being augmented by hundreds present for Mother's Day at Bucknell University.

Although no definite cause for the fire could be outlined, Fire Chief John A. Walters said the fire apparently started in a packing room, in the center of the structure.

Adjoining Store Damaged

Flames were discovered by Louis H. Harris, proprietor of a men's clothing store adjoining the Dreisbach building on the west. He said he was awakened by smoke and heat.

Harris' property was the only other to suffer heavy losses, with him placing damages at approximately $15,000. He said the explosion crushed and cracked the plaster walls in his building, that 30 windows were broken, stock and equipment damaged by smoke and water. A fire wall between the buildings, constructed approximately 35 years ago, prevented the spread of the flames, officials said.

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Hublersburg Girl Is Graduate Nurse

Mill Hall and Lock Haven Also Represented in Hospital Class

The annual commencement exercises of the Williamsport Hospital School of Nursing was held Friday evening in the Lycoming ballroom, Williamsport. Listed in the class roster were Miss Mary C. Hall of Hublersburg; Miss Rita Mayes of Mill Hall, and Miss Beatrice Bottorf and Miss Dorothy H. Fornoff, of Lock Haven.

Canon Stuart F. Gast, formerly of Bellefonte, now rector of Christ Episcopal church, Williamsport, presented the commencement address and the members of the class received their diplomas and school pins at an impressive service conducted by Miss Lulu M. Hipple, director of the school.

Members of the class will continue at the hospital until September when their preparatory training will end. At that time the honor students and the recipient of the McCormick award will be announced.

Marauding Pair Fire at Pursuers

Shoot at Father and Son When Discovered Breaking Into Cabin

Two stockily-built and khaki-clad youths, one of whom fired on a Hollidaysburg man and his son Sunday afternoon as the latter two gave chase after seeing them break into an Altoonan's cabin at Canoe Creek, are the object of a statewide state police hunt.

Clarence Leaper of Hollidaysburg and his son, Raymond, who lives near the cabin, owned by Frank Maloy, Altoona told state motor police they saw the pair emerge from the cabin, which they knew was unoccupied.

The father and son chased them into nearby woods, police said, until the one marauder turned around suddenly, pulled out a pistol and fired a shot.

The Leapers said they then abandoned their chase and told their story to police, who revealed later that a preliminary check by Maloy disclosed nothing missing from the cabin.

Both men were carrying black square suitcases, and wearing khaki coats and trousers, black and white caps and black shoes, police said.

Mules Run Away

A twelve-year-old boy who lives at the home of Arbose Levan, of Catawissa Township, Columbia County, suffered lacerations and contusions of the abdomen when a team of mules ran away. He was dragging a field and was pulled along the ground by the mules before he was able to free himself.

Ridgway Man Indicted

William C. Salberg, formerly employed at the Ridgway Post Office, has been indicted by the federal grand jury at Pittsburgh on charges of embezzling a money order for $1,400. The alleged offense took place March 4, 1941, according to postal inspectors.

The people of Centre County might gain much by giving loyal support to their schools, churches and community organizations.

Local Showers

WHY WHEAT QUOTA IS NEEDED

The Centre County Agricultural Conservation Committee, the members of which are W. F. Rishel, Blair M. Pletcher and D. J. Beck, all county farmers, discussed yesterday some of the things that have contributed to the present surplus of wheat which will probably make necessary the proclaiming of wheat marketing quotas for handling the 1941 crop.

The farmers of this country produce more wheat than the home market is able to use, the committee stated. During the past 18 years, farmers have produced an average of 109 million bushels of wheat more than was consumed in this country.

Exports in the past have furnished an outlet for much of the wheat produced in excess of domestic needs, the committee said, but since the outbreak of the present war, wheat exports have been almost entirely cut off by blockade. As a result, wheat has piled up in

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Centre County Operators May Run Mines at Lower Than Present Price Scale

Proposed Hearing in Washington Will Determine Extent of Change in Cost of Coal Production; May Drop 25 Cents

Coal producers in the Centre county vicinity may be required to operate on a minimum price schedule based on production cost figures as much as 25 cents below those on which the present price scale is based, as the result of hearings which will open in Washington on May 21, The Centre Democrat was informed Tuesday.

The hearing has been called by H. A. Gray, Director of the Bituminous Coal Division, Interior Department, to determine the extent of change in the cost of coal production and, later, to revise minimum price schedules in the light of present production costs.

Preliminary compilations of the Coal Division show that the weighted average cost per ton of producing coal in District 1, which includes the Centre county mines, was 25.44 cents less in 1940 than it was in 1937. Present minimum price schedules are based upon the 1937 cost figures.

The act creating the Coal Division provides that when the production cost in any price area shall be shown to have changed as much as 2 cents per ton, "the Division shall increase or decrease the minimum prices accordingly."

In the present case there appears to be no question but that the hearings will result in a decrease in the established minimum prices. Contrary to popular belief, production costs as reflected in the District including Centre county are shown by preliminary figures to have dropped sharply in the three years since basic production costs were established.

The 1937 cost, upon which present minimum prices are based, was placed at $2.3887 per ton. By 1938 it had dropped to $2.3083 per ton, and by 1939 to $2.1943 per ton.

The 1940 cost, on which future minimum prices will be based, has

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Farmer Guilty of 'Mercy' Slaying

Northumberland Jury Convicts Man Who Killed Ailing Wife

John H. Bogendobler, 52-year-old Northumberland county farmer, was convicted of first degree murder last week in the "mercy" slaying of his ailing wife, Clara.

The verdict, returned by a jury of eight men and four women after less than an hour's deliberation, carried a recommendation of life imprisonment. No date was set for sentencing.

Defense Attorney Louis Cohen, who indicated he would seek a new trial, told in the jury in his summation that Hogendobler lacked an adult's mind and could not distinguish between right and wrong.

Hogendobler said he shot his wife Clara in their mountain farmhouse last April 8 "to put her out of her misery because she had the asthma and was sick."

Trooper Albert Baceski testified Hogendobler at one time told him he "shot his wife for $1.36 she had in her pocketbook and because she failed to sign a deed to their farm to permit him to secure relief."

Pomona Grange To Meet May 24

To Convene at Pleasant Gap With Walker Grange as Host

The regular quarterly meeting of Centre county Pomona Grange will be held in Logan Grange Hall at Pleasant Gap, Saturday, May 24, with Walker Grange as host. Three sessions as usual, morning session promptly at 10 o'clock.

The afternoon session will consist of the annual Memorial service followed by a short period on What the Grange Is Worth. At 3 p. m. numerous conferences will be held with all Pomona officers as leaders of the various groups. All officers of the subordinate Granges are urged to make a special effort to attend the conference devoted particularly to his or her office. There will also be conferences for those not interested in any certain office.

After the closing of the afternoon session, during the period from 4 p. m. to the supper hour, games and amusements for the young people and all others interested will be led by Miss Laura Weaver and Mr. Herbert Gillmore, of Penn State Grange.

The evening session will feature a play by the Progress Grange young people, followed by conferring of fifth degree, completion of business matters and closing ceremonies.

Come to Pomona Grange, we'll be looking for you there. The Grange is worth a lot to you, if fun and effort you will share.

Tested Recipes Helpful

New ways to prepare delectable dishes, hints to lessen housework and other helpful aid for busy women will be found in the Housewife's Almanack, regular feature with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

Unusual Accident

Mrs. Ralph Losier, of New Albany, fell from her porch when the line on which she was hanging clothes broke. She is a patient at the Robert Packer Hospital at Sayre, suffering from a fractured leg.

Random Items

COINCIDENCE:

Dr. J. W. Claudy, Superintendent of Rockview, relates that prison officials were overjoyed, Monday afternoon, when the report came from Potters Mills that a one-armed man was trying to get lifts from motorists in that community. Early Monday morning Earl Pierce, a one-armed trusty at the prison, had taken unauthorized leave of the place.Guards rushed to Potters Mills to bring the fugitive back. But they're still wondering why a one-armed prisoner had to escape the same day that a one-armed stranger was thumbing his way through the county.

GOSSIP:

Man in public life well known in Bellefonte, was being taken to jail for rowdyism Saturday night when he fell to his knees on the sidewalk, pleading with the officer: "But think of my wife and children!" He talked his way out of it, this time.

LIME DUST REPORT:

Browsing through newspaper files the other day we saw an item wherein it was reported that at the January 20 meeting of Council S. M. Shallcross, of the American Lime and Stone Company, in a letter to Council, declared that the company had appropriated $20,000 for the elimination of lime and smoke dust from Bellefonte. The work of installing the first of several dust collectors at the plant, we recall, was to have been completed in May. In view of the many complaints heard daily about lime dust, this corner suggests that Council, at its meeting Monday night, be furnished with a report of what has been accomplished up to this time. All of us know that there has been little, if any change for the better, in Bellefonte's terrific dust storms.

FLASH JINX:

The annual Kiwanis Fishermen's Dinner seems to be a jinx for photographers. Last year "Pete" Hoffman, with a new and expensive camera, got everyone posed for a picture, snapped the shutter, and the flash bulb failed to light. Red-faced, he sat down, and while examining the camera the bulb flashed perfectly. Last Thursday night Arthur C. Hewitt stood on a chair to take a photo of the diners. Three times the flash bulb failed, and Hewitt, slinking back to his chair, was seen to mutter things to himself.

ROAST BEEF:

Thanks to the Kiwanis Club for the first roast beef this department ever remembers having eaten at a public dinner or banquet. Fish or fowl usually head banquet menus.

AGREEMENT:

Centre County's two candidates for District Attorney, William W. Litke, Democrat, and Musser W. Gettig, Republican, are reported to have reached an agreement. They are to draw straws as to which one shall kiss the babies under 16 years of age, and which the babes over 16. Politics seems to be getting more practical every day.

RADIO DEALERS:

We'd like to see every single radio dealer in Bellefonte turn out for the regular meeting of Council Monday night, to demand why Council makes chronic fibbers of them. When they sell radios they assure patrons that they're the "latest thing," that they're powerful, have good tone, and can get good reception of nearly every station. When the buyer settles himself beside his new machine for an evening of enjoyment, what does he hear? Buzzing, grinding, scratching, clicking, and, if he's lucky, he gets a little snatch of song or voice once in a while. As one who dabbled in crystal sets back in the days when you had arrived if your set picked up the Arlington time signals, we feel that we know what we're talking about when we say that even those signals were more satisfactory than the pandemonium we get over our modern and expensive radios these days. Most of the noise could be eliminated through enforcement of the boro radio noise ordinance.

RED LETTER:

Monday was a red letter day for Bellefonte Women of the Moose, for they entertained the Hon. James J. Davis, Director General and Pilgrim Governor, and also many other state dignitaries of the order. This corner always is somewhat amazed at the boundless enthusiasm of The Woman of the Moose. Whatever spring it is that gives them their energy, interest, activity and loyalty, should be piped into Bellefonte's Big Spring to help out the rest of us fumblers.

LANCASTER ALMANAC:

We know a Bellefonte woman to whom practically no world event,

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CENTRE COUNTY IN DAYS OF YORE

The following brief but interesting historical narrative was written by Richard J. Detwiler and published in The Centre Democrat a number of years ago. Quite recently it was handed to this department with the request that it be reproduced for the benefit of the younger generation who will profit by the historical facts it contains. The article follows:

Probably no town in Centre County is more talked about in foreign parts than the little village of Aaronsburg which nestles between Brush Mountain and the Seven Mountains in eastern Penns Valley. However, much of the alleged history connected with the town is only surmise and imagination which is the product of the active minds of people who have passed through the town and then invented an interesting story which was inspired by the wide streets and the town's location in the geographical center of the State. These stories make good newspaper articles but to the historian they are only fascinating fairy-tales.

There is no evidence to support the common belief that Aaronsburg was laid out with the intention of its founders that it was one day to become the capital of Pennsylvania.

Aaronsburg was laid out upon the Alexander Grant warrantee by Aaron Levy in October, 1786, and therefore bears the earliest date of any town in Centre County. In 1804 he conveyed all his interests in large bodies of real estate in Centre County to Simon and Hyman Gratz, and after that titles to lots were derived from the Gratzes. Levy was a Jew, but his religious scruples did not prevent him donating a lot to Jacob Stover and Michael Motz for the establishment of a Lutheran church. The church was built in 1794, and was called the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran church in Centre County.

Apparently Aaron Levy had hopes that his Town would some day acquire considerable size for his original survey for the town included 612 lots, nine streets and eleven alleys. The main street, which is one hundred feet wide, Levy named Aaron's Square, in honor of himself. The main intersecting street he named Rachel's way, for his wife; (she would have her way). Wine, Chestnut, Blackberry Alley, Mulberry Alley, Apple-tree Alley, Gooseberry Alley, and Liberty Alley were some of the names given the streets of the town. "Aaronsburgh" was the official name given the town in the original plan. It may be that some people get Aaronsburg confused with Northumberland when speaking of a town giving Harrisburg close competition in the vote for the state capitol—Northumberland failed in the heated contest by only a few votes. Aaronsburg, according to available records, was not considered.

In 1800, when Centre County was established, there was a triangular contest between Bellefonte, Milesburg and Aaronsburg to obtain the county seat. Aaronsburg was not considered very strongly, probably because it lacked an ample water supply and because of its location in the eastern extremity of the county. A heated battle raged between Milesburg and Bellefonte, Milesburg having the edge on Bellefonte because of its location at the junction of Bald Eagle Creek and Spring Creek—the head of navigation. Bellefonte finally secured the county seat because of the liberal donation of lands by Col. James Dunlop and James Harris, Esq.—early land holders of Bellefonte.

Tradition says that Bellefonte, desirous of securing the county seat, and realizing Milesburg's superior commercial location, had some of its inhabitants tow a raft-load of old furniture up Spring Creek to the town and then proceeded to notify the Assembly that "the first boat-load of furniture has arrived at Bellefonte." This message was supposed to have awakened the legislators to the commercial importance of Bellefonte, so they duly selected

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15 Youths Called From Clinton Co.

Contingent From Two Draft Boards Will Leave Lock Haven Today

The tenth selective service call in the nation's defense program will take 15 young men from Clinton county. They, with three others who will fill the places of three men who were rejected at the Altoona induction station Monday, will leave today, Thursday, May 15.

Those who will go from Draft Board No. 1 are: Ammon Schrack, Loganton, R. D. 2; Melvin R. Grenoble, Vito Ricardo, James G. Rockel, Robert L. Glaze, Floyd E. Mark, Lock Haven; Harold S. Bierly, Lamar, and Charles C. Mann, Lock Haven. Replacements from this board are William J. Kreamer, Salona, and Donald C. Arndt, Lock Haven.

The county's Draft Board No. 2 will send Charles B. Powell, Flemington; Guy T. Kryder, Woolrich; Herbert L. Ergott, Avis; Harold E. Englert, Lock Haven, R. D. 1; Roy H. Overdorf, Renovo; Ralph A. DeLorenzo, Renovo, and Harry W. Morgret, Farrandsville. Walter P. Baughman, of Mill Hall, is the replacement.

Naval Officers At Penn State

The 30 Naval Reserve officers who are undergoing intensive training in Diesel engineering at the Pennsylvania State College are graduates of 15 different colleges and universities, including the U. S. Naval Academy. One, who holds the degree of doctor of science, is a lieutenant, junior grade, in the Navy and the others are ensigns. The men were sent to Penn State from Naval districts in all parts of the country to take the same 16-weeks course of training that was completed there last month by 30 other reserve officers. The training fits them for posts as engineer officers on Diesel-operated warships.

700 Cars Ordered

An order has been received by the American Car and Foundry Company at Berwick for 700 automobile cars, for the Atlantic Coast Line. The order, which is the largest for freight car construction received in a long period, is for fifty-ton cars, 40 feet, 6 inches long, single sheeted cars with 14-foot doors.

Most of the people we know are baffled by their own ignorance.

Train Kills Man Near Coalport

Three Others Escape Injury When Truck is Hit on R. R. Crossing

Three escaped with minor injuries and a 57-year-old man was killed last Thursday between Fallen Timber and Flinton when a Pennsylvania Railroad engine crashed into a truck on a grade crossing.

John Keith, Fallen Timber, a passenger in the cab of the truck, was killed. W. M. Black, driver of the truck and two boys, Kenneth Keith, 15, son of the accident victim, and Paul Edminston, 18, were slightly hurt. The boys were riding on the rear end of the truck at the time of the collision.

Keith, who was rushed to a Coalport physician's office, died a short time after being taken there.

All four men were returning from tending a truck garden. The machine was driven from a wooded section on a private road up over a steep grade and then onto the railroad tracks.

Coroner Patrick McDermott, of Cambria county, said the engine, with a caboose, was not traveling fast at the time.

FAMOUS FEATURES IN 2 BIG COMIC SECTIONS

For fun and adventure turn to the big Comic Weekly "Puck" and the Comic Book, two great supplements in color. Every Sunday with the Baltimore American. On sale at all newsstands.

Retired R.R. Men Are Honor Guests

Tenth Annual Banquet is Held at Osceola Mills Catholic Church

Twelve retired railroaders of the Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, among whom were two brothers of Rt. Rev. Wm. Downes of Bellefonte, were guests of honor Saturday night at the banquet held at the Osceola Mills Immaculate Conception church.

The honored guests, employed at Osceola Mills and Tyrone, were R. A. Downes, assistant train master, J. L. Downes, train dispatcher, and C. P. Blair, engineer, all of Tyrone; C. M. Myers, brakeman, Julian; Paul Dietzel, clerk, Clearfield; W. P. Carroll, engineer, H. H. Hale, car inspector, S. P. Black, machinist, H. L. Hughes, operator, O. H. Peightol, conductor, all of Osceola Mills, and Joseph Haywood, trackman, Houtzdale.

John Redding, burgess of Osceola Mills, welcomed the retired railroaders. Introduced at the banquet were the Rt. Rev. Wm. Downes, Bellefonte, whose two brothers were among the guests of honor, E. C. Gegenheimer, superintendent of the Middle Division, Altoona, and Congressman James VanZandt. H. C. Hall, Osceola Mills, was toastmaster at the banquet.

The banquet was the tenth annual railroad event to be held in Osceola Mills for retired railroaders who work in the Osceola area. The majority of the guests had been retired from the railroad during the past seven months.

Youths Arrested In Forest Fires

Four Clinton County Young Men Charged With Firing Wooded Section

Four Noyes township, Clinton Co., youths were given a hearing before Alderman T. Mark Brungard, Wednesday afternoon, May 7th, on charges of setting forest fires in their home section, Noyes township, on May 1.

Two of the boys, Clifford E. Summerson, 17, of Brewery Run, and Harold Snyder, 13, of Shintown, will be returned to the juvenile court by Alderman Brungard, and the other two, Joseph Brennan, 18, and James Lockhart, 21, both of Drurys Run, were remanded to the Clinton County Jail in default of $1,000 bail each for the next term of Clinton County Criminal Court.

Information was made by J. Allen Underwood, acting district forester of the Sproul District, Renovo, and partial confessions made by some of the boys implicated the others.

The boys were arrested Wednesday by State Fish Warden George Cross, of Hammersley Fork, who was called in by the district forester's office to investigate a series of fires, covering a wide area in the Shintown district. The arrest of the quartet followed his investigation of the case.

Democracy is not assisted by careless criticism of officials, whether they serve local, state or federal governments.

Needed Money to Buy Wedding Suit

Paul J. Hatch, a 25-year-old jobless Blair county resident, confessed to Justice of the Peace C. A. Petterson, of Williamsburg, to setting fire to nearly 400 acres timberland near his home in Woodbury township so he could fight the fires and make enough money to get a suit of clothes to get married.

After Hatch joined the fire fighters three times, fire wardens became suspicious and detained him. He was not paid for fighting any of the fires.

Pheasant Conquers 4-ft. Blacksnake

Game Protector Lewis Estep, of Berwick, while traveling from Catawissa to Danville last week witnessed a fight to death between a four-foot blacksnake and a ring-neck pheasant rooster.

When he first saw them, the rooster was shaking the snake much as a dog shakes a rat, and when the pheasant flew away at Mr. Estep's approach, it left the snake with a broken back and with its flesh badly cut by the bird's beak.

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES'—Overcharged, Is Right!!! By POP MOMAND