

E. K. Stock is Acquitted of Charges

(Continued from page one)

Stock declared that exits first would have to be marked before drills were held, Carpeneto testified.

Under cross-examination Carpeneto said he had no criticism of the manner in which pupils were marshaled from the building the morning of the fire, but added that some people said it was "lucky" they got out.

Under further questioning the fire officer said there had been two slight fires at the high school building in previous years.

Phil Saylor, fire marshal at the time of the fire, the next witness said the fire alarm was sent in at 8:55 a. m. He said that Stock told him as a rule teachers were not encouraged to call fire drills. Under cross examination Saylor said he had no complaint about the evacuation of the pupils from the building the day of the fire and said they showed good fire drill training. About 800 pupils got out of the building without a single person receiving a burn, scratch or other injury, he said.

James R. Hughes, former headmaster of the Bellefonte Academy, and member of the School Board until his resignation in April 1939, declared that the subject of fire drills was brought up in board meetings but that no action was taken. He said he never complained to Mr. Stock about not having drills often enough. Hughes quoted Stock as having voluntarily told him on one occasion "We haven't had any drills all fall at the Spring street school."

At this point, Board President Hartranft asked the witness, "Did you ever make a complaint about fire drills to the board?" Hughes replied he hadn't while Hartranft was on the board. Hartranft then declared: "I have a definite recollection that the matter was brought up." Hughes commented that he (Hughes) might have been absent at those sessions.

Miss Marion Volynch, secretary to the School Board and secretary to the Supervising Principal since 1935, was called upon to testify as to the ordering of microscopes and other apparatus from the Chicago Apparatus Company. The prosecution sought to show that Mr. Stock placed several orders, all for less than \$300, rather than placing a single order which would have been in excess of \$300. The school code provides that bids shall be let by the School Board in making purchases of \$300 or over.

Mr. Hughes, recalled to the stand, testified that wainscoting in the cafeteria and on a wall along the stairs from the basement to the boiler room, a 1-year-old maple flooring and baseboarding in a downstairs room and copper wire in the basement of the fire-razed building were given by Mr. Stock to Janitor James Wilson and other janitors, and that Mr. Stock admitted to him that he gave the material to the janitors.

"I reported the matter to the board but the board took no action," Mr. Hughes said. Mr. Hartranft broke in with the question: "We all thought that was all right at the time, didn't we? Mr. Wilson put in a lot of extra hours and no board members reproved Mr. Stock for giving away the material. You didn't object, did you?" Hartranft asked.

"No—you'd have voted me down,

as you always did," Hughes countered. Hughes said he visited the schools 2 and 3 times a week, mainly the grades and in about 4 years he only saw Mr. Stock visit classrooms on one occasion. He charged that Stock didn't supervise the teaching and grading work of teachers. He declared that Stock was partial in his dealings with teachers; that he cut the salaries of some teachers and not others.

At this point Mr. Hartranft declared: "The School Board always decides salary matters," adding, "Mr. Hughes, have you ever had any experience in teaching in public schools?" When the witness answered in the negative, Mr. Hartranft commented: "You've always taught in private schools where you could do as you like?"

Miss Volynch was recalled to identify a list of duties of the supervising principal drawn up by Mr. Stock shortly after the so-called transmigration of new board members had asked for Stock's resignation, late in 1939.

Phil Saylor recalled to the stand testified that on the morning of the fire Mr. Stock told him he had been a little late in getting to school that morning and had arrived shortly before 9 a. m.

Mr. Love commented at this point that nothing had been offered to show when Mr. Stock was supposed to get around in the morning.

Mr. Saylor guessed Mr. Stock couldn't have prevented the fire even if he'd have been there at 6 a. m. The prosecution rested its case at this point after withdrawing a charge of incompetence on the grounds that Stock "stated to the Athletic Council that there would be no more athletics, which statement was without foundation in fact, and was made in the presence of the high school principal and others."

Mr. Hartranft declared: "We've heard all this for two years. We want all of it now. Has Mr. Schad any testimony to offer?" Schad's attorney declared that there was nothing further and the defense began with the calling of Mr. Stock to the stand.

Under questioning by Attorney Love Mr. Stock recited that he has been employed by the Bellefonte school district for the past 23 years; 2 years as coach and teacher; 10 years as high school principal and 11 years as supervising principal. He is a graduate of Gettysburg College, received his Master's degree at Penn State, and has completed about one-third of his work toward a doctor's degree.

He has written articles for publication in some of the leading educational journals of the country and holds or has held offices in various state education societies.

Mr. Stock declared that he has been assigned no regular hours to report for duty and that he got to work about 8:55 on the morning of the fire. He hung up his hat and coat, exchanged a few words with his secretary and heard someone say they saw smoke coming from a ventilator. He said he immediately went into the hall to a fire alarm station but before he got there the alarm sounded. He remained in the lower hall while students were leaving the building, and remained there until all were out, when he went to the basement. There janitor James Wilson shouted for him to call the firemen. Stock said Wallace J. Ward, teacher, appeared on the scene and he gave instructions for Ward to turn in an alarm. Then, Stock con-

tinued, he followed Ward upstairs while the alarm was being given. Stock then returned to the boiler room where he aided in fighting the flames, using a garden hose. After the firemen came, he helped with one of the large hoses.

In regard to fire drills, Mr. Stock said it has been the policy ever since he's been in the school system to hold a number of fire drills early in the fall to accustom pupils to the routine to be followed. After they become proficient, Stock said, drills are discontinued during the winter because of the danger of colds and other illness from going outdoors in severe weather without extra clothing.

Stock said he was never asked to change that policy, and that he believed it was the intention of the State laws to teach children to clear out of the building safely and quickly.

"When the emergency came, we were prepared," Mr. Stock pointed out, referring to the fact that over 800 pupils were marched out of the structure without so much as a single scratch or burn to anyone.

In regard to the purchase of equipment, Mr. Stock testified that at a regular meeting of the board at the night of the school fire, the board upon motion by Charles Cook, seconded by James R. Hughes, unanimously gave the supervising principal authority to make all purchases, employ help and perform whatever other duties necessary in getting the schools reopened as quickly as possible.

"The Chicago Apparatus Company orders weren't the only things I bought," Mr. Stock declared. "I purchased from \$6,900 to \$7,000 worth of supplies and materials during that period," he added.

Referring to the charge that he gave away property owned by the school district, Mr. Stock said that after salvage operations had been completed, the janitors who had worked from 12 to 14 hours a day for two weeks, as well as on Saturdays and Sundays, without any extra remuneration, were asked for wainscoting and flooring. The material had no salvage value, Stock said, because it was water-soaked, frozen, tongued and grooved and nailed fast to the wall and floor. Most of it was destroyed in loosening it, he said. The janitors considered they'd made a bad bargain, Mr. Stock said, after they worked one Saturday afternoon and saw how badly the material was "chewed" in being removed. Stock said he knew nothing of any copper wire or other material being given away or removed from the building, and that he gave no authorization for the removal of such material.

The official testified that he visits classes as often as possible, and that he maintains a more close contact with teachers than the average supervising principal. He added that ever since he's held the office there has been some building program or other work in progress and that his time is greatly consumed.

Stock said he doesn't believe he has to make any apology for the time he spends in school duties, and under cross-examination he said that many times he gets to work at 7 a. m. and that although schools close at 4 p. m. he hasn't quit work at that time for ten years. He said it usually is 5 or 6 p. m. when he leaves and that he frequently works evenings and on holidays and Saturdays.

The complainant's attorney sought

to make a point of the fact that a letter to Stock from a representative of the Chicago Apparatus Company was signed "Charlie." "Do all salesmen sign their letters to you by their first names?" Sen. Thompson asked. Mr. Stock replied that some of them might, but he didn't recall how many.

Mr. Hartranft asked the witness: "Has anything new been brought up here this evening?"

Mr. Stock: "Only the charge that has been withdrawn."

Mr. Hartranft: "I'm glad that wasn't brought up. I was loaded for that!"

The next witness was Glenn Rogers, of Nittany, county superintendent in his official capacity he is required to rate all principals in the county at various times. He rated Mr. Stock on two occasions, and both times classed his work as "satisfactory."

Mr. Rogers explained that there are only two degrees of classification, "satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory."

Mr. Rogers further testified that from his observation of Mr. Stock's work and from the opinion in which he is held by other educators his ability and his work are "very satisfactory."

Miss Volynch, called to the stand, read into the record the minutes of the meeting of February 13, 1939, in which the motion by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Hughes, giving Mr. Stock power to make purchases, employ help and otherwise oversee the reopening of schools, was recorded. All members of the board had voted "aye" on the motion.

Ralph Dale, of East Bishop street, high school teacher, testified that Mr. Stock frequently conferred with him, attends his classes several times a month and otherwise keeps close check on teachers.

George Hazel, School Board member from 1927 to 1939, and president of the board when the motion giving Mr. Stock authority to make purchases was passed, testified that Mr. Stock always was a most satisfactory employe. Asked by Sen. Thompson whether the board approved the "illegal" purchases by Stock of microscopes, Mr. Hazel said he didn't think they were illegal and that the board approved the minutes and therefore approved the purchases.

"We invited citizens who had any complaints against the schools to attend meetings," Mr. Hazel said, "but never once did any one complain about Mr. Stock or the manner in which he conducted the school system."

Miss Mary Miles Blanchard, of West Linn street, a member of the school board from 1933 to 1937, said she had never heard any complaints about Mr. Stock when she was on the board; that Mr. Stock always gave complete co-operation to the board and had been a satisfactory employe.

Miss Hilda Leathers, of Howard, for 18 years teacher in the primary schools of Bellefonte, testified that Mr. Stock visits her classes about once a month and that in her opinion he is thoroughly competent.

In concluding his case the defense attorney commented that he could call a number of other witnesses but that he believed sufficient evidence of Mr. Stock's ability and competence had been presented.

When the board members were asked whether they wished to hear a summary of both sides from the respective attorneys, they indicated that such a summary would be unnecessary and the board retired into the jury room at 10:20 to emerge 27 minutes later with the verdict.

The complainant and his attorney were not in the court room when the verdict was returned.

HOWARD

The sale of the real estate and household of David Hannon will be held Saturday, Dec. 20 at 1 o'clock.

The Fairview school will give an entertainment this Friday night. Everybody is invited to this program.

Mrs. Robert Woodring of Bellefonte, spent Tuesday at the home of Mrs. Harold Betz.

Mrs. Lewis Kline of Hellam, York county, was seriously injured last Saturday while buying produce from a truck in front of her home. She was taken to York hospital for treatment.

Mrs. Harold Pletcher spent Tuesday in Lock Haven.

The ladies of the W. C. T. U. met at the home of Misses Anna and Nellie Hofer.

The children of the primary department of the Evangelical Sunday school will be entertained at a Christmas party in the basement of the church this Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.

The members of the P. O. of A. lodge will be entertained at a Christmas party Monday night in the lodge hall. There will be a special program and exchange of gifts.

Mrs. Girard Altenderfer entertained the ladies of the Sewing Circle at her home Tuesday evening.

Due to an error in last week's items concerning the new members admitted to membership in the Howard Civic Club it is necessary to make the following correction. The new members admitted are as follows: Mrs. Fred V. Pletcher, Nellie Williams, Elfrida Confer, Lois Allison, Mrs. Frank Wallace, Mrs. Cecil Pletcher, Mrs. Mary Allison, Mrs. Lewis Dorman, Mrs. Harold Amick and Mrs. Ralph Leathers.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gledhill of Phillipsburg, spent the weekend with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Gledhill.

A. H. Schwenk has been confined to his home with a severe cold. Miss Kate Smith of Unionville, visited with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beddel last week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Mayes of Lock Haven, were weekend visitors at the home of the latter's sister, Mrs. Daniel Butler.

Robert Pletcher of Camp Shelby, Miss., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Pletcher, of Howard, R. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Fickes of the Adams apartments, returned home from New York City Monday evening, after being called there last week on account of the serious illness of their daughter, Catherine, who is somewhat improved.

David A. Welsh had the misfortune of falling down three steps at

his home last Friday, fracturing a bone of his left foot. Mr. Welsh had his right foot amputated about 4 years ago due to a gangrenous condition.

Parent-Teachers Association meeting in high school auditorium this Thursday at 7:30 p. m. The primary and intermediate schools will present a Christmas pageant.

Birth Announcement: Dec. 6, 1941, at Oil City Hospital, Oil City, Pa., a boy and a girl to Glenn McCloskey and Ethel Hoy McCloskey. The little ones have been named Glenn, Jr. and Viola Francene. The parents were former residents of Bellefonte, R. D.

The Community Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Weber Farris and Thomas Ward, are progressing very nicely with their Christmas cantata, "Sing Messiah's Birth," will make their second appearance at the Howard High School auditorium Dec. 23. They will sing at Lemont Dec. 26, and at Lamar High School, Dec. 28.

The amplification system was installed in the Methodist church the latter part of the week. The dedication service was held Sunday at 5 o'clock. The sermon "Beauty for Ashes" was delivered by Rev. Wallace J. Cummings, pastor, assisted by ministers of the other churches of the community. The hymns and chimes from the organ were heard several times throughout the day. Thomas Ward, minister of music, sang several old hymns and Christmas carols Sunday and Monday evenings, being accompanied by Rev. Wallace Cummings at the organ.

The business places of the community have taken on quite a Christmas air, being nicely decorated. The Kline R. Wolf store has anything any child could wish Santa to bring, also nice gifts for adults, too.

War Victim is Reported Living

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to hold memorial services for the soldier, Sunday afternoon. It is believed that the services were not held, although the reason could not be learned. Word that Narehood was not dead wasn't received until eight hours after the scheduled time for the services.

According to arrangements announced by Narehood's brother, Gustaf of Pine Glen, the rites were to have been held at the George Narehood home at 1:30 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, with Jack Bain, of Surveyor, a missionary minister, in charge. The Rev. Mr. Bain had preached in the Hawaiian Islands during his career as a missionary.

Narehood, a member of the 42nd Bomber Squadron at Hickam Field, was the first Centre Countian reported to have been killed in the Japanese action at Hawaii last week. Several hours later word was received that Sgt. William O. Brandt, of Coburn, also had lost his life at Hickam Field. Since Narehood is believed to have survived, Brandt becomes the first casualty of the Japanese war from this county.

Bellefonte residents will recall that Charles McCoy, of this community, was reported killed in action in the World War, October 3, 1918, and was presumed as dead until December 31, the same year, when his mother received a pleasant little note from him. He was in New York, he wrote, and would be home as soon as he got mustered out of the army. He's been around ever since, hale and hearty.

Resigns as Manager

Guy A. Long, who has been manager of the Markland Hotel, Bellefonte, for the past several months, has resigned his position. Mr. Long, who expects to leave Bellefonte early next week, will be associated with the Coleman Hotel at Lewistown.

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CENTRAL PENNA. GAS CO. Bellefonte State College

Invite Public to Formal Opening

(Continued from page one)

Members of the associations and the public are invited to inspect both the new Bellefonte office and the new Holidaysburg office on these days.

The Bellefonte office is located at 13 East High street and adjoins the home of W. C. Smeitzer and is the office formerly occupied by Dr. Roan. New walnut furniture has been purchased, new floor coverings laid, and various conveniences installed. The Production Credit Association office is in charge of Robert Ziegler, assistant secretary-treasurer, of Centre Hall, who is assisted by Miss Jean

Fanning, stenographer of Bellefonte, and George Mothersbaugh of Boalsburg.

The National Farm Loan Association is represented by Robert Akers, secretary-treasurer, who is also assisted by Miss Jean Fanning as stenographer.

Both of these Cooperatives are run by farmers and make loans only to farmers. The Production Credit makes short-term loans at 4 1/2% for farm repairs, purchase of machinery, livestock, feed and seed and similar items. The National Farm Loan Association makes long-term loans to assist farmers in the purchase of refinancing of farm real estate and major building construction or repairs. Mr. Ziegler spends Saturday morning, Monday and Tuesday morning

in Centre county, and Mr. Akers is in the Bellefonte office every Tuesday.

The National Farm Loan Association of Centre county was organized in 1918, and now serves 124 members. The Production Credit Association was organized in 1934 and now has a total membership of 466 with 135 members in Centre county.

Boalsburg Lutheran Parish

Sunday school 9:30; worship and sermon 10:30; congregational meeting, election of officers, Shiloh—Sunday school 10:30 a. m.; worship at 9:30. Pleasant Gap—Sunday school 9:30; Christian Endeavor at 6:30. Annual Christmas Cantata by church choir, 7:30. L. J. Kaufman, pastor.

This Is How I Will Serve My Christmas Dinner!

I intend to serve this year's dinner just the way I did last year's. But, of course, this year I'll buy everything I need at Corman's because I am sure of the quality and I know that their prices are as low as possible. It will be a regular feast... turkey and all the trimmings.



HOME-DRESSED TURKEYS

PLUMP, TENDER, YOUNG TOMS

And I'll Make Some Cranberry Sauce - Of course I could have gotten some delicious cranberry sauce in cans at Corman's but father always liked it fresh. It wasn't difficult, though, and the berries were firm and tart and tender.

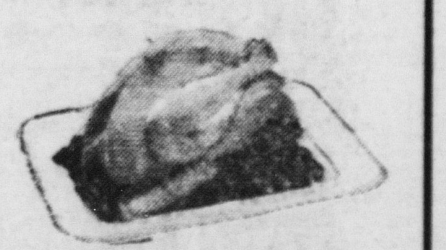
We had pumpkin pie, too, and, if I do say so myself, it was awfully good. This year I can get lovely pumpkin

- Cranberries - lb 20c
Sweet Potatoes 4 lbs 25c
Oranges - Dozen 33c
Celery - AT ONLY 2 stalks 27c

- PUMPKIN 2 cans 29c
SUGAR 5 lbs 35c
EGGS doz. 35c
BUTTER lb 40c

Home Dressed CHICKENS

Broil 'em, roast 'em, fricassee 'em, stew 'em... they're delicious and easy to prepare. Your family will go for these. Nice and fresh.



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Chestnuts - lb 39c
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Hard Candy lb 10c



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