

The Centre Democrat

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EDITORIAL

Times change. About two years ago we were smiling over the efforts of the Germans to get along with synthetic rubber.

We have no idea whether this war will be followed by another depression, or not, but we are on the safe side and plan our affairs that way.

An old-timer is one who can remember when there was some criticism of the Government for its extravagance in giving away free seeds.

Everybody will contribute to the success of the President's Birthday Ball, which is designed to raise funds for the war upon infantile paralysis.

American soldiers and sailors may have been surprised by the Japs but we are willing to wager that they have already surprised their enemies.

Those who remember the first World War remember the war gardens and the meek days. This may give some people a faint idea of what may be ahead of them.

Centre county is responding to the appeal of the nation by buying Defense Bonds and Stamps. This is the one way in which every stay-at-home can assist the war effort.

WANTED: A NAVAL VICTORY

Admiral Thomas E. Hart, Commander of the U. S. Asiatic Fleet and recently appointed to command the entire naval forces of the United States in that area, reached his headquarters in the Netherlands East Indies by submarine.

The Navy Department also reports that the entire Asiatic Fleet, with all warships intact, is in comparatively secure waters. Moreover, the "fleet train," the slow-moving collection of supply ships, tankers, cargo vessels, tugs, tenders, repair ships and other auxiliaries is also safe.

It is suggested by a writer in Washington that the feat of seamanship involved in evacuating these vessels will "one day be ranked among the notable episodes of the war."

In view of the difficulties surrounding the operation, this observation may be true, but the people of the United States, it may be said, are not greatly elated over "naval episodes." What they would like to hear is news of a naval victory, resulting in the smashing up of some of the Japanese squadrons operating with almost reckless abandon at widely scattered points in the Far East.

UNITED LABOR A POLITICAL FORCE

The unexpected move of John L. Lewis, founder and former president of the Congress of Industrial Organization, to resume peace conferences with the rival American Federation of Labor, is a step of momentous importance.

The division of American labor has threatened the stability of gains made in recent years. Naturally, when labor organizations stop fighting each other, they will be able to do a better job for the laborers they represent.

Local Citizen Spins Breezy Yarn of Hunting Skill in Pioneer Days

(The following tale was unfolded by a Bellefonte resident whose name we are requested to withhold. We can vouch for the good character of the writer, but are inclined to believe that he is suffering from a mild attack of "imagination." So hold your hats, here we go):

"Hello, folks, I want to tell you of my experience as a hunter. It was in the year 1841 that my wife and I decided to go to the gold fields of Arizona. You know at that time there was no cars, so of course we traveled on foot. Took us just three months. We arrived there on Saturday and on Monday we built our cabin. Tools were not too plenty but we managed to get it built.

"Then my wife said we must have meat. I put on my hip boots, as the snow was three feet deep, and three miles to the river which was one mile wide. When I arrived there the first thing I saw was a flock of ducks—about 12—in the middle of the river, and nice 200-pound buck on the other bank.

"Now what should I do? I had my sawed-off shotgun with a load of shot in it and had one bullet in my

Looking into the future a bit, it seems probable that eventually the nation may find that the unified labor organization will become a political party. This does not mean that labor will, of necessity, nominate its own candidates, but that the leaders of labor will attempt to mobilize the labor votes to influence national policy and secure full recognition of the rights of labor.

There is nothing inherently wrong with this but there is always the possibility that labor leaders will over-reach themselves and, conscious of their political power, attempt to secure unwarranted gains for labor. This, in the long run, would be destructive to the true interests of American labor and, consequently, it is to be hoped that the labor organization will be headed by responsible officials who will exercise their power with judgment and wisdom.

THE WAR SITUATION

During the first six weeks of the war in the Pacific, the United States has suffered some loss of face, not only in China, the Netherlands East Indies and Australia, but in certain South American countries.

Obviously, no war can be successfully fought if generals and admirals are compelled to conduct operations on the basis of popular opinion. Just the same, a democracy at war, as in peace, has to give attention to the matter of public opinion, as it is manifested at home and in the nations allied to its efforts.

Chinese Are Concerned

The Chinese, both in this country and in China, have expressed disappointment over statements by American and British officials describing Hitler as the No. 1 enemy of the United Nations. The elation which followed the outbreak of war between Japan and the United States and Great Britain has somewhat disappeared with American and British defeats in the first stages of the war in the Far East.

It is perfectly natural for the Chinese to be concerned lest they be relegated to the background while the war against Hitler proceeds in Europe and Africa. Nevertheless, they would be foolish to ease their pressure upon the invading Japanese. Moreover, they should understand that this country is now at war with Japan mainly because we refused to give Japan a free hand in China and the Far East.

United Nations Cannot Ignore Japan

Without pretending to know the distribution of the ships, guns, planes, tanks and manpower of the United Nations, and without any title to the role of strategist, we think that it would be an unfortunate mistake for the people of this country to believe that they can win the war against Hitler while ignoring the war against Japan. While the overthrow of Hitler would be followed, no doubt, by an early termination of the struggle with Japan, the burden of defeating Hitler might become incomparably greater if we permit Japan to make a clean sweep in the Far East.

At this time, as we see the situation, the main hope of defeating Hitler in 1942, or 1943, is the powerful Red Army of Soviet Russia. The Russians are fighting and killing the Nazis in a campaign which bids fair to be disastrous to Hitler's ambitions. The bright prospects of the Soviet, however, can be dimmed by events transpiring in the Far East.

Far East May Affect Europe

For example, if Japan captures Singapore, invades Burma and occupies the Netherlands Indies, large Japanese armies will be freed for operations elsewhere. Obviously, this would invite a Japanese attack upon Russia in the Far East, timed to coincide with another offensive against Russia by Germany. Forced to fight on two fronts, the Russians would face tremendous difficulties and they would be unable to exert any pressure upon Japan in the Far East.

Naturally, we expect American soldiers to bolster the British position in North Africa and American supplies to play a tremendous role in the war efforts of Great Britain and Russia upon other fronts. Moreover, the war situation justifies prompt attention to both of these matters. Nevertheless, there is considerable anxiety among the people of this country lest the needs of the Far Eastern situation be overlooked.

Confidence in Our War Leaders

In stating these views, we are conscious of the fact that responsible officials in this country are thoroughly acquainted with the facts of the war situation in every sector and familiar with the potentials of power available for use in the widespread conflict.

We have every confidence that the war leaders of the United Nations, led by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, are industrious, capable and deserving of our thorough support. Consequently, while we are willing to review the war situation, we are unwilling to criticize our leaders or attack the judgment of their competent military and naval advisers.

TAXES WITH A SMILE

Up to now no one has ever really enjoyed being taxed. For thousands of years, taxation and tribute were so nearly synonymous that today it is hard for the average man to realize what his money is buying for himself and his children, or that, in a democracy, it actually represents one part of his contribution to a common cause. But since the Pearl Harbor visitation—

A woman customer was examining a tray of watches in a Boston store. "I'll take that one," she indicated. "Fifteen dollars, isn't it?"

"Oh," said the customer, "I had almost forgotten—but I am happy to pay it. I'm proud that I can pay it. My son, you see, is in the Service."

It is happening everywhere. People who have already given generously, people who have heretofore been reluctant to give, people who might not be able to help in any other way are coming forward, not merely with cheerfulness but with alacrity.

"Tax us some more, if necessary," they say. "We know what we shall be paying for, and we can take it."

They can take it. All of us can. For behind the material items of guns and planes and equipment that must be bought, we can see now, clearer than ever, the precious intangibles of liberty that must be preserved. And the cost will not be too high.—The Christian Science Monitor.

through his upper jaw. I then reached down and bent it over. "In awful pain, the bear started to crawl down the tree. Right there and then, I thought it was foolish for me to crawl down, so I jumped on his back and commenced to reach in my pocket for my knife, which was just a pen-knife. However, by the time we reached the ground I had his throat cut.

"Then came the job of my life, figuring how to get all the same home. Well, I soon gathered the honey, bear, ducks, deer and fish together and started for my new home. My wife waiting up for me, was certainly surprised upon my arrival, to learn that I had secured all that game with one shot.

"Now believe it or not, "GUESS WHO?"

Relief Fund Report Direct Relief funds distributed in Centre county during the past week ending Friday totaled 1,113.60, according to G. Harold Wagner, State Treasurer. This amount was paid to 293 cases. Last week, 286 cases received a total of \$1,072.40.

The man who learns to read and assimilate the contents of other minds is the possessor of real intelligence.

THE OFFICE CAT
"A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

Puzzler For Papa A fond parent was discovered by his wife one night standing over his baby's crib. Silently she watched him. As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw in his face a mixture of emotions—rapture, doubt, despair, admiration, ecstasy, incredulity. Touched and wondering alike at this unusual parental attitude and the conflicting emotions, the wife with eyes glistening arose and slipped her arms around him.

"Why so thoughtful, dear?" she said in a tremulous voice. "For the life of me," he burst out, "I can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for three forty-nine."

Final Blackout A story is told of the colored lady who was expecting a blessed event and kept nagging her husband for snow.

"Ah's done got a great whim fo' it, Rastus," Mandy declared. "Can't get yo' no snow in Alsbam, Mandy. Don' yo' know we're a thousand miles from where it grows?"

"Well, Rastus, do yo' all member how Mrs. Jones' baby was marked wid strawberries?"

"Yes."

"Well, dat was cuz she had a whim fo' berries an' couldn't git 'em. An', Rastus, yo' all recall the terrible yellow color of the Smith baby? Well, that was cuz she had a whim fo' oranges and couldn't git 'em."

"Now, listen to me, Rastus, Johnning Brown, don' put the blame on me fo' our next chillin is white."

Let The Siren Scream From Camp Shelby Reville we reprint the following instructions on what to do in case of an air raid. We might add that what you read here is neither suggested nor endorsed by the government:

"1. As soon as the bombs start dropping, run like hell. (It doesn't matter where, as long as you run).

A. Wear track shoes if possible; if the people in front of you are slow and you have to step on them, the spikes will keep you from slipping.

"2. Take advantage of opportunities afforded when sirens are sounded, for example: A. If in a bakery, grab a pie. B. If in a tavern, grab a beer. C. If in a movie, grab a blonde.

"3. If you find an unexploded bomb, pick it up and shake it well. (Maybe the firing pin is stuck). If that doesn't work, leave it in the furnace. (The Fire Department will come later and take care of things).

"4. If an incendiary bomb is found burning, throw gasoline on it. (You can't put it out anyhow, so you might as well have some fun). A. If no gasoline is available, throw a bucket of water on it and lie down. You're dead.

Explanation: The properties of the bomb free the hydrogen from the water, causing rapid combustion. (In fact, it will explode with a neuva bang).

"5. Always get excited and holler bloody murder. (It will add to the fun and fusion, and scare hell outta the kids).

"6. Drink heavily, eat onions, limburger cheese, etc., before entering a crowded air-raid shelter. (It will eliminate unnecessary discomfort from people crowding too closely).

"7. If you should be the victim of a direct bomb hit, don't go to pieces. (Lie still and you won't be noticed.)"

Cleaned Them Out A gangster rushed into a saloon shooting right and left, yelling, "All you dirty skunks get out of here!"

The customers fled in the hall of bullets—all except an Englishman, who stood at the bar calmly finishing his drink.

"Well," snapped the gangster. "Well," replied the Englishman, there certainly were a lot of them, weren't they?"

What! No Buller Brushes? A salesman who had been out of work for many months, rushed home one night to his wife with good news.

"Honey," he grinned, "I just got a job as a salesman." "What are you going to sell?" inquired the excited wife. "Underthings for nudist colonies," he explained.

"But, dear, what kind of underthings can you sell in places like that?" "Cushions."

So He Couldn't Take It? (Houghton, Ia., News) "A house-to-house peddler unloaded a supposedly good quality groom (broom) off on Miss Elbra Cowles Monday morning, but by noon the bristles were coming out by the handful. Now, Elbra wants her money back and the peddler has vanished."

Breaking It Gently Murphy, one of the best railroad engineers the road had, met with a fatal accident and his best pal was called upon to break the news to Murphy's wife. Wanting to break it gently he proceeded in this fashion:

"Mrs. Murphy, do you know that Lincoln is dead?" "Why, yes, of course." "Well, so's your old man."

Perfectly Proper Rastus and his bride-to-be Mandy, went on a shopping tour. When it came to a choice of bedroom suites the couple were quite undecided.

"Do you want twin beds?" asked the polite salesman. "No," replied Mandy, looking at Rastus in an embarrassed sort of manner. "Ah thinks it am best jes to get an ord'ary bed an' let de good providence decide."

Who's Who and Who Isn't "Who's Who in America" may be a popular book over here, but in the Reichland the most popular reading is "Who's Yoo Hoo in Germany" by Hitler.

No 'Adulteration' Mandy (arguing to liquor store clerk)—"Listen heah, yo white trash, when Ah asks for straight whiskey, Ah wants straight whiskey, and when Ah wants an adulteration Ah'll let yo' know."

Socks Appeal A recent survey gathered to date shows that 6,000,000 girls in this country have returned to cotton hose.

Blackout There was a loud noise like the rent falling due, on the third floor. "What dat?" cried a colored tenant of the second floor. "Who say 'what dat'?" demanded a voice on the third floor. "Who say 'who say what dat' when I say 'what dat'?" came back from the second floor.

She Got Him Wrong "Madam," said the salesman, "I represent the Mountain Wool Company. Would you be interested in some coarse yarns?"

"Gosh, yes," said the gushing housewife. "Tell me some." Office Cat Puzzler Why is it that when you take out a girl you squeeze her waist, kiss her lips, mess her hair, neck her neck, and then ask her old man for her hand?

She Wants 'That,' Eh? (Argyle, Miss., Press) "Will swap engagement ring for used car or that? Miss Arley, Tel. 0002."

Playing Safe Amos—"Did Brudder Avery give de bride away?" Andy—"No, sah, he gonna let de groom find her out for hisself."

Definition Department FIB—A lie that has not as yet cut its teeth.

That's all, folks. Marriage is still a fifty-fifty proposition. A woman gets a ring on her finger and a man gets one in his nose. —SCAT."

LOUISA'S LETTER

LETTERS ANSWERED

Dear Louisa: I wish you would write something in your column about visitors who come when you are not expecting them but fall to arrive when one is looking for them.

This Christmas I invited two of my nieces to visit me and they accepted the invitation. In the meantime, my husband and I received two invitations to spend the holidays with people we like very much but had to decline because we were expecting these girls.

This was bad enough, but what capped the climax was receiving a telegram on Christmas Eve, after supper, saying that they could not come. We found out later that they did not come because of a dance in a distant city to which they had received belated bids. I had prepared a delicious dinner and had plans for their entertainment. At that late hour we could not go out to our friends and it was useless to invite anyone in to share our meal as everyone had already planned for Christmas Day.

I never expect to invite those girls to visit me again.

MRS. C. S. J.

Answer: I do think your nieces' conduct was inexcusable, and I blame their mother, too. If they had been sick, or had some good reason for not coming it would have been unfortunate, but not provoking. All boys and girls should be taught responsibility and dependability in the carrying out of promises.

If these girls had any idea of going to the dance, they should never have accepted your invitation, or they should at least have let you know in time to alter your plans.

LOUISA

Dear Louisa: I am engaged to a man who has one fault. He drinks, and at times drinks too much. I am only seventeen years old and my parents are bitterly opposed to our marriage. I am thinking of eloping because of this.

He loves me dearly and I am sure he will stop drinking after we are married—in fact, he says he will. I don't know why I hesitate but I would like to know what you think of my problem.

JEWEL S.

Answer: Your problem today is very slight in comparison to the ones you will have to solve if you marry a drunkard.

Look about you and see what the wives and children of drunkards go through. You see weary, despairing women, and nervous, worried little children who are denied not only luxuries but the very necessities of life. If you want to live a life waiting up at night for a sudden tramp to come home to you, if you want to nurse your children through illness alone while the man who is supposed to care for and protect you, lies helpless or tends the air with delirium, if you want to drink the dregs of degradation, then my advice to you is to marry a man who drinks too much.

But Jewel, you are too young to marry anyone for several years yet. At seventeen your ideas are unformed and the man you admire now will probably seem unattractive to you when you grow older. And remember this, your mother and father know more about life than you do, and while I do not approve of parents choosing their daughters' husbands, girls will do well to listen to their advice about the men with whom they associate.

LOUISA

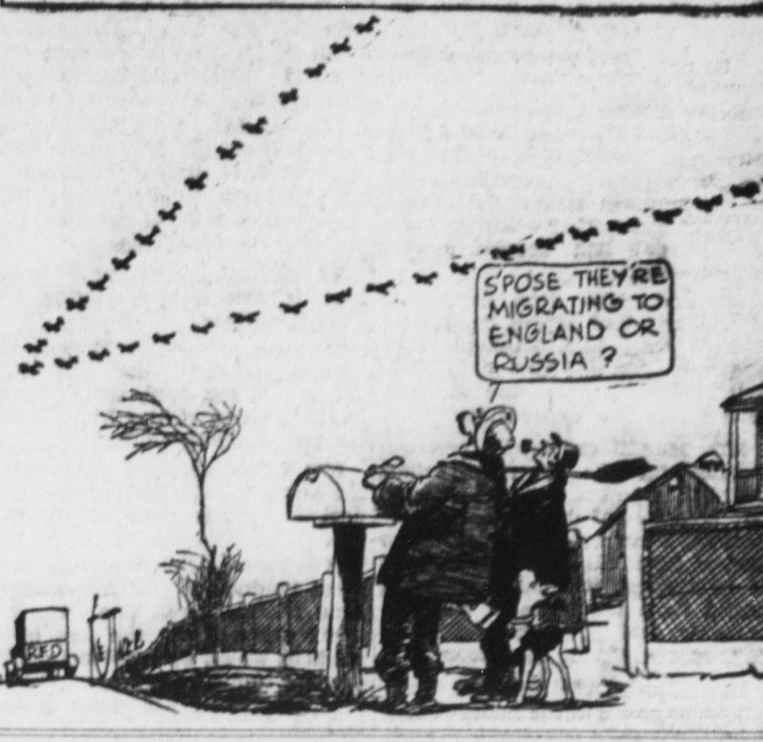
AS I SEE IT

By Horace Senty

There's a chap who kin always sell hisself n' they never put that guy on the shelf. He's the one who in life gits the highest bid, He's the feller who said "I will" n' he did.

There's heaps o' folks always sayin "I can't." Excuses by the yard they kin chant. In lifes dark background them folks must stay hid, to make room for the feller who could; n' he did. Then there's thousands of loafers who'd like to be rich, so they could have butlers n' chofers n' sich. While the loafer was standin achawin his quid, the hustler said "I'll git rich; I'll be did. In life's game, there's players who die on third base, Per that kind of game had hit too fast a pace. But the feller to win with a grin as he slid, was the feller who said "I'll git home;" n' he did. You have heard of the guy who thinks that he ought, but doin the job never follows his thoughts. So he gits pushed aside by the go gittin kid, who not only thought that he ought; but he did. Our production must rise to a dizzy height. The producers went to them fellers who might, It's dem kin that makes a demagogue kid, startin too late n' waitin for Fate; like they did. There ain't no more room for the fellers who want. We're lost intrest in what they could do but dot. When this here war's won n' we've lifted the lid, them as won it was fellers who would; n' they did. It's the people who kin n' the people who will, that's gonna help U. S. Sammy over the hill. So agin I repeat, him as gits the high bid; is the feller who said "I will;" n' he did.

"American Eagles"



Query & Answer Column

M. C.—How many Negroes are there in the Army Air Corps? Ans.—The Army Air Corps says that as of December 1, 1941, there were approximately 2200 Negroes in the Air Corps.

A. M.—I have often heard the remark that battles affect the weather. Is this so? Ans.—The Weather Bureau says that the rather widespread impression that rains are commonly caused by battles has been found, by a critical examination of past records, to be unjustified.

J. E. D.—Did the revolution in Germany occur before or after the first World War ended? Ans.—The revolution in Germany broke out November 3, 1918. The Armistice was signed on November 11.

A. L.—Do the Chinese really eat birds' nests? Ans.—The nests of certain species of swift are put together with saliva. These are used by the Chinese to make a soup, which is regarded as a delicacy.

J. McE.—Please advise when and by whom, the name of Siam was changed to Thailand? Ans.—Prince Aditya Dirabha, Regent of Siam, affixed the royal seal on a decree which officially changed the name of the kingdom of Siam to Thailand on June 24, 1939. Thailand is the ancient name of Siam. The native form is Muang Tai and means Land of the Free.

F. E. H.—What was the amount of the biggest purse ever received by a prize fighter? Ans.—It was \$960,445 received by Gene Tunney in his fight with Jack Dempsey in 1927.

B. W.—How much is the present British tax on a package of cigarettes? Ans.—Eighteen cents.

C. M.—What was the Colossus of Rhodes? Ans.—A bronze statue of Apollo, situated at the port of the city of Rhodes, on the island of Rhodes, in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Asia Minor, north of Alexandria. It was erected by Charles of Lindus, who spent twelve years in casting it. It cost about \$250,000 and was completed about 280 B. C. Its height is variously estimated as 90 and 120 feet. Fifty-six years after it was erected the statue was thrown down by an earthquake and lay in ruins until 653 A. D. when the Arabs sold the pieces to a Jew of Edessa for old metal.

G. K.—How long a time elapsed after Giuseppe Zangara attempted to assassinate President-elect Roosevelt and killed Mayor Cermak of Chicago, before he was executed? Ans.—The shooting occurred on Feb. 15, 1933, and Zangara was electrocuted thirty-three days later, on March 20.

J. T. H.—How old is General Wavell? Ans.—Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell, K. C. B., cr. 1939, was born in 1882.

N. V.—Why didn't the early western settlers domesticate the bison? Ans.—The bison has not proved docile and is of little value as a farm animal.

C. B. T.—What part of our National income is in the form of wages and salaries? Ans.—Of our 1940 income about 62 per cent was received as salaries and wages.

J. S. M.—Who discovered safety glass? Ans.—It was discovered by accident in the laboratory of a French scientist named Benedictus, in 1904.

W. T. R.—What is the total amount paid in salaries in the United States? Ans.—Salaries and wages in 1941 total approximately \$60,000,000,000, one-fifth greater than in 1940.

V. F.—Is there a statue of Frances Willard at Washington, D. C.? Ans.—A statue in honor of Frances Willard was erected in Statuary Hall in the Capitol in 1905.

V. M. J.—Will the boys who were drafted for the one-year period prior to the extended service law be released? Ans.—The War Department says that according to the present policy men will not be released from the Army except for disability or incompetence.

D. K.—I would appreciate your telling me which is correct, "The avenue is lit up," or "the avenue is lighted up."

Ans.—It is said of the preposition in English, the sentence about which you have inquired should read, "The avenue is lighted," or "The avenue is lit." The past of the verb "to light" assumes two forms which are indicated above.

A. T.—Where did the battle between the Alabama and the Kearsage occur? Ans.—The Alabama had put into Cherbourg, France, for refueling and overhaul. Before this was completed the Kearsage arrived. The battle took place within sight of land. Special excursion trains were run from Paris and on June 19, 1864 the bluffs near the city were packed with spectators to see the fight.

E. E.—When was the Great Seal of the United States adopted? Ans.—The Great Seal of the United States was adopted June 20, 1782.

F. M.—Did George Washington own flour mills? Ans.—He had two, close to Mount Vernon, and accepted custom grinding from his neighbors. Most of the flour went ultimately to the West Indies, and probably the greatest part of the farm revenue came from this source.

L. W.—Alexander Hamilton was born in the West Indies and came to the United States as a young man. Would he have been eligible to hold the office of President of the United States? Ans.—Yes, because he was a citizen of the United States when the Constitution was adopted. The Constitution states: "No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of the Constitution shall be eligible to the office of President."

P. B.—What is letter air mail postage rate to the Canal Zone and how long does it take for a letter to go from eastern U. S.? Ans.—Air mail from New York City to the Canal Zone takes one day. Postage is 15 cents for each half ounce.

A. D.—What is the meaning of the Feast of the Epiphany? Ans.—It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas and is observed by all branches of the Christian church. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek and means a manifestation. It is applied to the manifestation of Jesus as the Christ. Popular names for this festival in the United States are "Twelfth Day," and "Little Christmas."

COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS AG SHORT COURSES The School of Agriculture at the Pennsylvania State College announces two four-week short courses in animal and dairy husbandry to begin on February 4.

A. L. Beam, director of short courses in agriculture, points out that opportunities are present for employment in these fields and that knowledge gained in the short courses would naturally serve as an employment aid.

Although the School of Agriculture does not agree to find employment for its students, Professor Beam says that the demand is great for such work as testers for dairy herd improvement associations, and that seven Pennsylvania associations are without testers at the present time.

This is the time of the year when it's a good idea to be sure how thick the ice is.