

Odd and CURIOUS NEWS

LATE BUT LEGAL

An Altoona housewife, Mrs. Clara Carson, had an experience while serving as a federal court juror at Seranton last week which she will not soon forget.

RUN OF BAD LUCK

Bad luck piled up for James C. Halbleib, passenger conductor for the Pennsylvania railroad.

STUFFED WITH CAT

After shooting his limit of gray squirrels on Berles Mountain, south of Millersburg, a Millersburg gunner was on his way out of the forest when he saw a wildcat standing in the brush.

SOME HUNTER

While hunting squirrels the Rev. Clement B. Meyers, pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian church at Dushore, Lycoming county, killed a very large raccoon.

Ligonier Nurse Dies In Action in Africa

Lieut. Gertrude G. Irwin, 24, army nurse, died in action in Africa, November 14, the war department last week notified her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Irwin, of Ligonier.

Direct Relief Letter - Direct Relief funds distributed in Centre county during the week ending Friday totaled \$492.50, according to G. Harold Wagner, State Treasurer.

Centre County Native Is Killed In Action During Fighting In Solomons

Private First Class William F. Zeigler, Flemington Marine, Reported Among Casualties; Was Born at Rebersburg

Private First Class William F. Zeigler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zeigler of Flemington, and a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Zeigler of Rebersburg, was killed in action in the Solomons fighting, according to announcement last week by the navy department.

Pvt. Zeigler, who would have been 19 years old on December 6, would have been a member of this year's



Pvt. WILLIAM F. ZEIGLER Courtesy Lock Haven Express

Port Matilda Truck Hits Trolley

Driver Mistakes Street For One-Way Thoroughfare in Altoona

A Logan Valley trolley car was damaged Monday evening at Altoona to the extent of about \$175 when a truck crashed into it on the Seventh street bridge near Green avenue.

Logan Valley authorities reported that a Third Avenue car, operated by Roy Dey, had just turned the corner from Green avenue onto Seventh street, when a truck driven by Joseph Way of Port Matilda, went around the car on the left side, thinking that it was still a one-way street, and when oncoming traffic forced the driver to move his truck to the right, he crashed into the left rear of the trolley car, damaging it extensively.

There was about \$20 damage to the truck. An estimate of the damage to the street car was \$175. There were no persons injured.

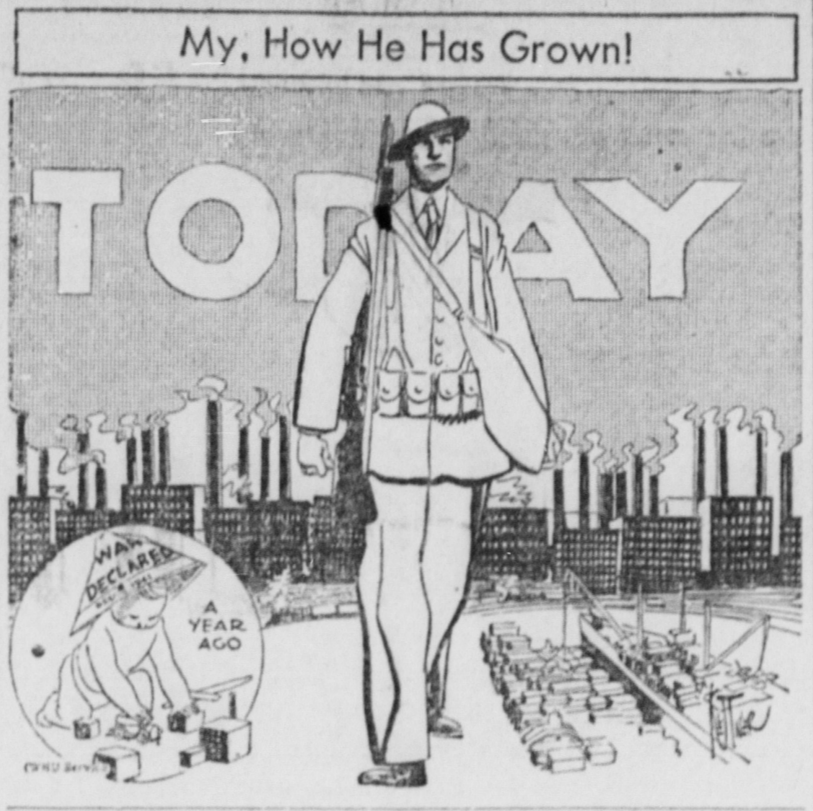
Three Convicted of Treason to Be Hanged

Three men convicted at Chicago of treason have been sentenced to death and their wives were each sentenced to 25 years imprisonment and fined \$10,000.

The defendants, convicted of aiding and sheltering Herbert Hans Haupt, one of the eight Nazi saboteurs who landed in America by submarine last summer, were:

Hans and Erna Haupt, parents of the saboteur; Walter and Lucille Froehling, the youth's uncle and aunt, and Otto and Kate Wergin, friends of the Haupt family.

Announce Appointment. Daniel W. Kocher, resident of Lock Haven, was named assistant professor and supervisor of ceramics extension at the Pennsylvania State College recently. Mr. Kocher graduated from the New York State School of Ceramics at Alfred, N. Y., in 1937 and since that time has been employed at the North American Refractories Company in Lock Haven.



TO HAVE LIVESTOCK ROUND-UPS

Beginning Saturday and continuing next week, 4-H Club members in many Pennsylvania counties will have livestock round-ups and sales which will add to the wartime meat supply, announces A. L. Baker, state club leader of the Pennsylvania State College.

Sixty head of baby beefs will be in the round-up at the Hatfield fair grounds. They will come from Bucks, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties for the round-up Saturday and the sale Monday. Lehigh and Northampton counties will have separate lamb club round-ups December 8.

Seven counties, Adams, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Mifflin, Lancaster and York will send 192 head

of baby beefs to the show and sale at the Lancaster stock yards, December 9 and 10. Twenty-six pens of lambs from Dauphin, Mifflin and Lancaster counties also will be shown and sold.

In the Tri-State Baby Beef Show at the Pittsburgh stock yards December 8 and 9, three Pennsylvania counties, Beaver, Fayette and Lawrence will be represented by 27 head.

Berks county club members will show and sell 26 baby beefs at Reading, December 9, and Perry county members will take 17 head to their show and sale at the Carlisle stock yards, December 11.

Giving until it hurts sometimes applies to the recipient too.

Husband of State College Woman One of 484 Victims of Boston Night Club Fire

Death Toll Mounting in Nation's Second Most Disastrous Holocaust; 1,000 Saturday Night Merrymakers Became Panic-Stricken

Centre county's share in the horrors of Boston's disastrous night club fire includes the death of Ensign Scovel B. Swan, 22, husband of the former Betty Mae Noll, of State College. Mrs. Swan received a telegram from the Navy Department, announcing her husband's death, just as she was packing her trunk preparatory to joining him. No details as to how he met his death were obtainable at this writing.

Ensign Swan's body will be sent to Kingston, home of his parents, for funeral services with interment in Jacksonville cemetery, east of Bellefonte.

Born in Kingston, December 24, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Swan, he graduated from Kingston High School in 1937 and from Penn State in 1941. He was married to Miss Noll on May 9 of this year. He was employed by the College as an assistant district representative of the War Training Program in Wilkes-Barre until he received his commission in September. On November 6, following completion of his indoctrination period at Newport, R. I., he was ordered to the Boston Navy Yard. On Thursday he was scheduled to leave for Yorktown, Va.

The terrific "flash fire" that caused more than 480 deaths and several hundred injured among a thousand panic-stricken merrymakers in Boston's Cocoman Grove—the nation's worst night club holocaust—was attributed to a tiny match flame in the hands of a 16-year-old busboy. The youth admitted holding a lighted match in one hand while he attempted to insert a light bulb in a twinkling the paper palm trimmings of the room caught fire and spread like lightning.

The horror scenes at the fire that started late Saturday night and those that followed never had been duplicated in Boston. Some of the bodies were so terribly burned that final identification may never be possible.

Long lines of relatives and friends stood outside the city's two principal morgues, waiting to be taken inside by two to see if they could identify the bodies lined up row on row.

Hospitals throughout Greater Boston were jammed with injured, some of them on the danger list. An unofficial estimate placed the injured at about 200. Blood plasma was rushed from Washington and a supply of sulfa drugs from Newark, N. J. Specialists in treating burns were flown in from other cities.

Deputy Fire Chief John F. McDonough testified that one door of the night club was equipped with a panic lock which would open under pressure but that this was out of order and the door was secured by another lock. He added, however, that although he found a number of bodies piled near this door, none was nearer than ten feet.

Bodies Piled Up. Bodies were found tangled and piled four or five deep, most of them frightfully burned, definite evidence that the crowd had been thrown into a fighting, clawing panic. Chairs and tables were tipped and scattered about the bodies.

The busboy who started the fire is quoted as saying: "A patron came into the place and unscrewed a bulb in the ceiling. This made the room too dark. One of the waiters came to me and asked me to screw the bulb back in. 'I stood on a chair to do it. I lighted a match and held it while I screwed the bulb in with the other hand.' 'The match set fire to a palm tree. That is how the fire started.'"

Going to church will not necessarily do a man any good, but, on the other hand, the practice has never hurt anyone.

EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF SEA BATTLE

(Note: In the following article John R. Henry, International News Service correspondent who was the only newspaperman to witness the battle of Casablanca, in which American warships sank at least 10 French vessels, describes in detail of what happened on that fateful morning of November 8. Mr. Henry points out by way of preface that there was no evidence that the French naval force would offer resistance until a shell from a French battleship screamed across the flag-ship of Admiral Robert C. Giffen. That first shot, which led to a running naval battle, is told in the following graphic story.)

Hostile French aircraft appeared like a swarm of hornets in the pale dawn sky today, and a few minutes later you were in the midst of a panoramic battle.

You stood there on the flying bridge, and, like your shipmates, hoping the French would not fight. None of you were afraid, but the suspense spawned a strange nervous tension that gnawed you inwardly. You waited and wondered whether

the next moment would bring French shells screaming at your ship. You reached into your emergency rations for a stick of chewing gum to keep your mouth from drying up during the intense delay.

Then it all happened. Their planes sputtering fire at ours—the rattle and boom of our anti-aircraft guns rising in angry crescendo—shells from French battleships, Jean Bart, screaming overhead into the ocean close by—Missiles from shore batteries whining around the ship—Thundering blasts of our main batteries slugging back at the Bart—Sharp warning that French fleet units had steamed out of Casablanca for combat.

And the furious seven-hour engagement that followed.

It's all over now. You feel as if you'd awakened from a weird, kaleidoscopic dream, and you must try to correlate the swift sequence of action for a press dispatch. You have seen America's greatest sea victory

in the Atlantic since the days of Samson and Schley.

Your ship, bearing the flag of Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen, directed the fight and was in the thick of it all the way. You are tired and nearly limp from lack of sleep and the strain of battle.

The events started when a clarion call to general quarters came over the loudspeaker system sometime after the 4 a. m. breakfast.

At 5:45 a. m. you grabbed the day's emergency rations—a can of sardines, a bag of candy and a pack of chewing gum and stuffed them into your gas mask bag, then hurried up the nearest ladder to the flag deck, adjusting your steel helmet as you went. You lugged along a kapok life jacket—just in case.

Admiral Giffen already was on the flag deck—had been there since 4:30 a. m. after a hasty breakfast of Navy beans and coffee.

The admiral, his lieutenant, chief signalman and Marine orderly climbed to the flying bridge. It is exposed on all sides to bullets, shrapnel

and shell. It was 6:30 when the Admiral sent planes into the sky for a reconnaissance over Casablanca.

Admiral Giffen meanwhile refused to open fire upon the harbor; he was ordered only to protect American troop ships from attack by French war vessels.

Moments later you heard the eerie scream of a shell. It plunged into the water uncomfortably close. Another fell on the opposite side. The Jean Bart had opened fire. It was 7:03 a. m.

Admiral Giffen was roaring out orders.

"Play ball!" he exclaimed. This was the secret signal for American ships to open fire. A terrific explosion nearly rocked you to the deck as your forward turret belched shells from all guns.

Jarring repercussions of the salvo snatched away your notebook. That quick footed chief signalman handed you a wad of scratch paper, and you began scrawling words that later look like a financial statement.

Woman Killed on Way To Funeral

Lock Haven Man Dies of Injuries

Intruder Flees Hail of Bullets

Youthful Burglar Gets Warm Reception in Home of Altoona Resident

Man Admits Theft Of Pocketbook Charged With Stealing \$135 From Hotel Room in Lock Haven

The case involving Miss Doris Johnston, 18, Fred Englert and Clyde Rachau, who had been held in the Lock Haven jail on suspicion of larceny in the disappearance of a pocketbook belonging to Miss Johnston's mother, containing \$135, was aired before Alderman T. Mark Brungard, in Lock Haven, Friday evening.

As a result of the hearing, Clyde Rachau was re-committed to jail after confessing to the theft, and Miss Johnston and Fred Englert were released for lack of evidence.

The handbag containing the money disappeared from a room at the Eagle Hotel, where mother and daughter have been staying since moving to Lock Haven recently from Clearfield county.

Also re-committed to Clinton county jail Friday night after a hearing before Alderman Brungard were Frank Lachat and Robert Basinger, who pleaded guilty to larceny charges resulting from the theft of gasoline from a truck parked in the Randecker garage, in that city.

IRA BENNER HONORED AT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION Mrs. Ira Benner held a birthday party at the Benner home at Rock, Thursday evening, November 19, in honor of her husband's birthday. Her son, Francis Benner, took his father to Mill Hill while the crowd gathered. The evening was spent in playing games and music.

The honor guest received many useful presents. Mrs. Benner presented her husband with a birthday cake that was made up of eight layers. The first layer on the plate was 42 inches around. The other layers were progressively smaller and were built up in the form of a tower which was then iced with the flag and war colors, red, white and blue, and bore red, white and blue flowers and candles to match. At 10 o'clock a supper was served by Mrs. Ethel and Alice Spicer, Miss Fike, and Mrs. Russel Glasgow.

When people begin to praise you, to your face, it might be a good idea to start an investigation of yourself—and them.

Every citizen owes a duty to the people among whom he lives, even if there is no way for them to enforce the obligation.

U. S. Enters Judgment For Income Tax Due Just in case any of you folks think the government will overlook your failure to pay your income taxes—U. S. officials last week filed in the Centre County Prothonotary's office a judgment against a Spring Mills man for failure to pay about \$188 owing on his 1941 Federal income tax.

Former Renovoite Killed. Private First Class Everett F. Larson, U. S. M. C., 22 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hilmer Larson, of Stamford, Conn., former resident of Renovo, was killed in action in the Solomons. He is a nephew of Adolph Ericson, of South Renovo. The young marine spent the summer of 1939 camping with Renovo boys on Kettle Creek.

Mill Hill Soldier Wounded. Private First Class Donald R. Flanigan, son of Mrs. Annie Flanigan of Mill Hill, was recently wounded in action. His family did not know whether he had been in the Solomons and the official announcement did not give any details. He has been in the Marines two years.

There are 103,769,999 people in the United States who know for certain that they could run the war better than it is being run.

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