



# The Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1944.

NEWS, FEATURES

## Random Items

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### Three Sons Burn to Death As Mother and Daughter Escape in Blair County Fire

#### Screams of Frantic Mother Arouses Neighbor Who Finds Log Home a Burning Inferno; Daughter Receives Burns

The frantic cries of a mother were not raised in time Sunday shortly before midnight to prevent the tragic death of her three teen-age sons when flames raced through their log home on the Frankstown road leading to Lakemont, Blair county.

### Parents and Son Hurt in Accident

#### Renovo Couple Treated in Hospital After Car Skids Off Road

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sykes and son, William, of Renovo were treated at the Lock Haven Hospital Saturday morning for shock, deep brush burns and lacerations, as the result of an accident to the car in which they were riding on Route 120, toward Lock Haven, which skidded on the icy road and went over the bank near Ritchie.

### Accepts Position

Mrs. Mary Catherine Walizer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn H. Walizer, of East Bishop street, Bellefonte, a member of the senior class at Millersville State Teachers' College, Lancaster, has accepted a position as librarian at the Turtle Creek Senior High School, and will begin her duties there on August 28.

### TO MEET IN HARRISBURG.

The 1944 state convention of the American Legion will be held in Harrisburg, Aug. 16 to 19, instead of at Uniontown. The change was made at the request of Uniontown and Harrisburg post No. 27 being making plans to handle 2,200 delegates.

### ANNOUNCE CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

For the third consecutive year, a conference on agricultural problems is scheduled at the Pennsylvania State College June 5 and 6, announces M. E. John, extension, rural sociologist and general program chairman.

### JUDGE KELLER WON'T SEEK FOURTH TERM

President Judge William H. Keller of the Pennsylvania Superior Court announced Thursday night at a testimonial dinner in his honor that he would not seek re-election at the expiration of his present term.

### HERE'S A MEAN THIEF

In line for place as the "meanest thief" for the year is the man who took a watch from Abraham L. Stryers, 70-year-old Lewisburg R. D. man, stating that he would return with \$25 in payment for it within two weeks. Mr. Stryers waited until the two weeks had passed and reported the matter to police when the man, whose name he does not know, failed to return.

### LOSES PART OF HAND

Fred Mark of Loganon, underwent amputation of his right hand last Wednesday night at the Lock Haven Hospital, after he caught his hand in a circular saw he was cleaning while it was running. Three fingers and the thumb were removed, leaving only the little finger.

### Winter Harvest Is Started



### New Auto License Plates Ready Soon

#### Motorist Required to Exhibit Only One Tag During Period

Despite a steel shortage, Pennsylvania's 1944 motor vehicle license plates will be ready for use long before the April 1 deadline.

### Teacher Defends Hep-Cat Music

#### Head of Penn State Music Department Thinks Jive Not So Bad

A suggestion that the younger generation's love of hep-cat music be utilized to arouse a better appreciation of classical music is advanced by Hummel Fishburn, head of the music department at Pennsylvania State College.

### ODD AND CURIOUS

#### Ben Sets Fire.

Felix Polaski, farmer, of Dunkirk, N. Y., believes that the heat generated by a hen, sitting out of season on a nest of eggs, created spontaneous combustion which ignited hay in his barn, destroying the building.

#### Double Humiliating.

While visiting in New York, James A. Watson, of Nearby Yorkers, had his automobile stolen. After reporting the loss to police, Watson started hitch-hiking home. The first car to pass him was his own.

#### His Fault.

When the truck arrived to deliver 200 gallons of fuel oil to his new house, Parker Rutherford, of Cherokee, Iowa, showed the driver where to put it. Rutherford was surprised however, later to find that he has 200 gallons of oil in his cistern.

#### Planned Economy.

State officials of Des Moines, Iowa, discovered a man and his wife on the social welfare assistance rolls had \$2,800. Both were in their nineties. "Why didn't you spend the money to support yourselves?" they were asked. "We were saving it for our old age," was the reply.

### Case For Treatment.

It's the same old story—about a man and a dog. But here's a new twist: Dr. Monte M. Trimble, veterinarian at a small animal hospital at Galesburg, Ill., was honored recently by the visit of a stray dog. The animal, which turned out to have rabies, was promptly given treatment in the hospital.

### AUCTIONEER HELD FOR OVER-CEILING TRACTOR

Paul E. Sanger, of Myerstown, Lebanon county auctioneer, was arrested last week and is being held under \$1,000 bail on a charge of selling two farm tractors above ceiling prices at a farm sale February 15.

### COLLEGE TEACHER TO RETIRE

Jay F. Stemple, 63, head of the science department of the Lock Haven State Teachers' College, where he had been instructor in physical science for 16 years, Friday morning announced his retirement, effective with the end of the second semester.

### SENTENCED TO DIE.

Raymond W. Pierce, Jr., 24-year-old ex-convict, of Philadelphia, has been sentenced to die in the electric chair at Rockview. The defendant, who admitted firing the fatal shot during a holdup attempt Jan. 22 at the John J. Felin Company meat packing plant, closed his eyes and swayed on his feet when he heard the judge's words.

### F. D. R. Top-Heavy Choice Over Best G. O. P. Rival, Fortune Survey Reveals

#### President Polls 60.2 Percent Against 28.4 for Dewey; Strong Feeling Shown Against Making Change In Wartime

President Roosevelt is a top-heavy choice for re-election over "the most favored Republican candidates," the results of a public opinion poll for Fortune Magazine reveal, the Philadelphia Record announced on Sunday.

### Voc. Junior Wins Project Awards

#### Spring Mills Boy Takes First Places in 3-County District

Melvin Miller, a junior in the Gregg Township Vocational School at Spring Mills, has been awarded a \$25 war bond, plus \$5 in cash, because of outstanding project work completed in farm accounts during the past year.

### Lt. Col. Gates of Tyrone, Is Killed

#### Engineering Officer Meets Accidental Death at Camp Pickett

Lieutenant Colonel Clayton S. Gates, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Gates, of Tyrone, and attached to the corps of engineers at Camp Pickett, Va., was instantly killed Saturday morning at Camp Pickett, while engaged in testing small arms.

### To Delve For Ore In Blair County

#### Iron Deposits Found Sufficient to Warrant Development

According to the Altoona Tribune, war department prospectors hunting for iron ore in Blair county have discovered enough ore to warrant development.

#### Under-Estimated.

He was greater than we thought him. He was kinder, stronger, too; All his life he sought perfection. And was better than we knew. Some admired, and some disliked him.

### INSTALLS LARGE INCUBATOR

A large incubator, with a capacity of 15,000 eggs, has been installed by Lee Rossman of Salona.

### HISTORY OF SCOTIA

By Harry M. Williams

Andrew Carnegie once said while visiting Scotia, "Man alive, we will all be burned up in a place like this!" For this reason we believe he lost all hope of making it a great mining town as he planned to do.

One Sunday in 1917 shortly after the noon hour a fire broke out in the vicinity of Red Bank and spread in the direction of Scotia. It looked pretty bad for a short while but George B. Thompson and a crew of fire fighters started a counter fire but their fire got out of control and it soon headed for Scotia. This was the closest the little town ever came to being burned out. The fire went up near the houses and along the south side of the superintendent's house. Weather-boarding had started to burn but with good help Mr. Thompson and his crew waded right in and prevented the house from burning.

On the same afternoon we had started over through the woods to near the Mrs. Frank Knoche farm where we had been lumbering and were in the act of protecting this timber and also the mine props that we had cut when we saw that we were trapped and the only thing to do was to start a fire and burn over a piece of ground big enough to insure our safety. We did this but were nearly suffocated by smoke and heat. If you think this wasn't an aw-

ful experience get in touch with Thomas Stine, now living at State College, Pa. We had known Mr. O'Donnell for years, as a policeman and as a friend. Last time we saw "Smoky" was last June, just before he sailed for North Africa. He talked about the war, and his idea of what war means to a soldier. He didn't hate anyone, but he considered the war as an unpleasant necessary job to be done. We thought at the time and we still think that if ever we get into the service we'd like to serve under the command of a man who had Smoky's realistic ideas of war. We had confidence in him and we know that if and when the real story of his last day on earth is told it will be revealed that he went down fighting to the last. He was our idea of a good soldier.

ADD: HISTORY DEPT.

In 1944 this happened. National magazines wrote polite letters to subscribers asking them not to renew their subscriptions because of the shortage of paper. Cream puffs, which used to sell for a nickel, dropped entirely off the market—at least locally.

HABERDASHERY NOTE:

Never knew until last week that you could buy paper collars and formal dress shirt fronts made of paper. You wear the collars once, turn

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### MYSTERY:

Here's a first class mystery to solve. Jim Weaver was in his home near the Wagner Mill, Sunday afternoon. The sun was shining brightly from the west. Suddenly there was a sharp report (and it must have been sharp, for Jim, whose hearing is very defective, heard it.) He said it sounded like the explosion of a 22 calibre rifle. Upon examining his cabin, he found a hole through a pane of glass on the sunny side of the house. A piece of the glass had been hurled inside, leaving a sizeable hole in the blind. Jim was the owner of a stray dog, a bullet from a pigeon hunter's gun, although he thought it was strange the shot had sounded so loud, and no one with a gun was in sight. Half an hour later another window was broken and the blind torn. Shortly thereafter while the other windows were being investigated, a stray dog and blind went the same way. Charles Wagner, who was at the mill, was called in to aid the investigation. No bullet holes could be found anywhere else in the rooms, and no spent bullets were on the floor. Examination outside revealed only a row of large casings protruding from the eave of the roof along the inside of the house. They were too high to have been hit by the "bullet" which struck the window. After you've figured out your solution, turn to the last item in this column for Jim's idea.

### Farm Deferments To Be Discussed

#### Centre County Hearing Held This Week at Harrisburg

Deferment of agricultural workers will be the subject of discussion at four conferences of chairmen and secretaries of county war boards to be held in Harrisburg this week, according to Clyde A. Zeiner, chairman of the Pennsylvania state war board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

### WATCH SPAIN:

One of Bellefonte's armchair generals says "Keep your eye on Spain," and the way he looks at it maybe he has something. Increasing pressure has been brought on Spain in recent weeks by Russia, the U. S. and England. The fireside strategist suggests that maybe the ground work is being prepared for opening the Second Front through Spain. He points out, however, that the double purpose of clearing out Franco's nest of Fascism and at the same time opening up a way to Hitler's Europe behind the vast fortifications he has prepared along the French Coast.

### BELLWOOD YOUTH LOST IN COLLISION AT SEA

Harvey Carl Trego, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Elliott Trego, of Bellefonte, is reported lost at sea, according to a telegram just received by his parents from the War Maritime Tankers corporation. He was serving in the merchant marine, transporting cargoes and convoys. No details regarding his identity deferment were given but the ship he was on had figured in a collision and fire.

### PENN STATE SELECTS 50 ROSE VARIETIES

Fifty hybrid tea roses of 184 varieties on trial in the Pennsylvania State College test flower garden last year have been put on a selected list by Dr. E. I. Wilde, ornamental horticulturist in charge of these investigations. These roses were chosen on a basis of performance. Dr. Wilde explains, and some selections might not be the choices of strict rose fanciers.

### TRIBUTE

The following tribute was written for the late Hon. John A. McSparrow, of Lancaster, a leader in Grange work and in many organizations dedicated to the betterment of mankind:

He was greater than we thought him. He was kinder, stronger, too; All his life he sought perfection. And was better than we knew. Some admired, and some disliked him. He was human like us all. But look backward since his passing. Memories of him we recall. Oh, we knew his faults and virtues. And we knew the life he taught. Was the one which Christ on Calvary With his precious life-blood bought. Countless times we heard him telling of the glories "overtone." When the saints of all the ages. Froze from sorrow, free from care, Wait to welcome all believers. To that home beyond the skies, Where all heartaches are forgotten. When its beauty meets our eyes. He had studied Bible history, And he knew it through and through; Scanned its depths and learned its meaning. He was wiser than we knew. He had dreams he shared with few. He was famous for his speeches. And was greater than we knew. One among us walked in beauty. And the long hard pathway trod; All his life he served his master. Loving man and fearing God. Oh, we know he was a great man. We admired him, it is true; But I still declare most strongly— He was better than we knew.

### CLARENCE GIRL HONORED.

Pfc. Margaret J. Basalla, of Clarence, was honored at WAC Day ceremonies at Newport News, Va., recently when she received the Good Conduct Ribbon. A member of the Transportation Corps at Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, Pfc. Basalla was given the award for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity demonstrated by faithful and exact performance of duty, and conduct worthy of emulation. A silk mill worker in civilian life, Pfc. Basalla is assigned to Motor Transport at Newport News.

### SENTENCED TO DIE.

Raymond W. Pierce, Jr., 24-year-old ex-convict, of Philadelphia, has been sentenced to die in the electric chair at Rockview. The defendant, who admitted firing the fatal shot during a holdup attempt Jan. 22 at the John J. Felin Company meat packing plant, closed his eyes and swayed on his feet when he heard the judge's words.

—Buy Bonds for future needs.

### HEADLINE: "N. Y. Threatens To Close Any Night Club Frequented By Girls Under 16"

That oughta make homebodies out of Jessel, Manville and Flynn!

### MAYOR LAGUARDIA comes out again and admits he doesn't like the idea of eating horse-meat.

Which ain't news. Whoever heard of a Little Flower eating a horse?

### SINCE writing this column last week the Russians recaptured close to a thousand cities.

And it took us almost that long to find a cab from Brooklyn to the Bronx.

### MATTER of fact cabs are so scarce in New York Henry Youngman is thinking of an idea to attach a meter to a hack's ankle and he carries you around pluggy-back.

Just saw a newsreel preview of next season's fashions in women's hats. They're really something. But exactly what something is nobody seems to know.

### IT'S DIFFERENT with the new bathing suits. They're not even something!

THOUGH the War Dept. officially reported that Pvt. Fred Judge had been wounded in action in Italy, Fred wrote his parents that he broke an ankle rushing forchow. No purple heart—just a stained shirt!

### A NAZI court in Plock, Poland, has fined a Polish housewife 1000 marks for owning an unpatriotic dog.

Seems the dog barked at a German colonel. The charge: "Bringing up her dog in a Spirit of Hatred for everything German." Suggestion: That the dog's mistress teach her pup to raise his leg and "hell" when he sees a Nazi officer.

### CHAS. A. JOPLING, 35-year-old of Wilkes-Barre (Pa.), and now we know why they call it Pa!

He got \$240 monthly as a private in the army, "cause he's got ten children. Guess he never heard of Ovaltine!

### LT. W. KENNEDY ducked a bomb and came up with a piece of metal in his mouth. First aid diagnosed it as a filling loosened by the blast.

THE special guard at the Railroad at Ft. Dix is named Private Pullman. I thought you had to be at least the President to get one of those!

### CHICAGO police have been asked by the Chief of Police of Milwaukee to find a stolen car. It's a pretty personal request—since the stolen car belonged to the latter.

SGT. GEO. JENSEN, who parachuted to earth from a burning Fortress told reporters: "The kisses given me by a pretty English girl when I came to med; me think I had dropped into heaven." He'll "carry" just the opposite reaction when he falls into the arms of his Cleveland fiancée.

### TIP: Next time you order a Martini make sure you get a full-sized drink by watching whether the bartender tosses in a smaller or a large olive.

Tossing in the larger olive gives the saloon one extra drink out of seven.—Mr. Ripley.

### C. W. KITCHEN, a member of the War Food Adm. warns "We'll see less food in our kitchen this spring."

Does that hold true of the little Kitchens too, sir?

### GIVE to the Red Cross—and help to get rid of the sign of the Double-Cross.

### SUNBURY SOLDIER TO DIE.

Frank H. Maritz, a soldier from Sunbury, who has been stationed at Fort Logan, Colo., was sentenced to die in the state's lethal gas chamber for murdering a 3-year-old girl whom he kidnapped and ravished. Judge Omer Smith set the execution for the week of June 18. Maritz was convicted of murdering Kathleen Ann Geist, a 3-year-old girl whom he saw at a tavern in Englewood, where the child had been taken by her mother.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

(By J. THOMAS MITCHELL)

#### OF THE LIVES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF CENTRE COUNTY

### CALVIN M. BOWER

Born 1842 near Woodward. With his education completed at the Union Seminary, he read law with Alexander & Orvis, and was admitted to the Bar in 1873. After the elevation of Orvis to the bench, a firm was formed known as Alexander & Bower. With Bower's intimate knowledge of the "Pennsylvania Dutch" dialect, he gained a large following among the inhabitants of Penn's Valley.

### WILLIAM H. BROWN

Born 1824 in Bellefonte. He was educated at the Bellefonte Academy, read law with James H. Rankin, and was admitted to our Bar in 1853. He became assistant editor of the "Centre Democrat" in 1854, and was elected County Treasurer in 1859 and again in 1862. In 1870 he, with A. Boyd Hutchinson, ran the "Bellefonte Republican" which he continued to publish until 1874. At that time, on account of failing health, he moved his residence to Kansas. He revisited Bellefonte in 1881 and died here in that year.

### WILLIAM BRYSON

Born 1875 in Bellefonte. He was the only son of Calvin M. Bower. He completed his education at Franklin & Marshall College, read law with his father's firm of Orvis, Bower & Orvis, and was admitted to our Bar in 1900. At first he assisted with his father's practice but, after his death, formed the firm of Gettig, Bower & Zerby. Later this firm be-

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