

# OBITUARY

**CLYDE L. ALABRAN**  
Funeral services for Clyde L. Alabran, 58, of Pleasant Gap, Rockview penitentiary guard who died suddenly last Wednesday afternoon while walking on West High street, were held Saturday afternoon at the home, with Rev. Donald G. Raup, Lutheran minister of Boalsburg, officiating. Fellow officers at Rockview served as pall-bearers and interment was made in Centre County Memorial Park, Shiloh. Mr. Alabran was a son of Harlan and Sarah Wineberg Alabran and was born in Puncxsuney on November 4, 1885. Surviving are his wife, the former Mary Smith; a daughter, Mrs. Ray Timblin, of Puncxsuney; a brother, Thomas Alabran, of DuBois; and a sister, Mrs. Annie Philifer of Puncxsuney.

**MRS. MAUDE WELSH PLETCHER**  
Mrs. Maude Welsh Pletcher, 75, a native of Mill Hill, died at her Chevy Chase home in Washington, D. C. on October 1, after a long illness. Mrs. Pletcher, a daughter of Hepburn Welsh and Amanda Best Welsh, was born in Mill Hill in 1869. She is survived by her husband, Serenus S. Pletcher, a native of Howard, Pa.; a daughter, Mrs. Dwight Goldwin Howarth, and a granddaughter, Shirley Claire Howarth, all of Wash-

ington. Her two sisters who survive her are Mrs. A. Clark McClintock of Mill Hill, and Mrs. Charles S. Miller of Johnstown. Mrs. Pletcher spent her girlhood on a large farm bordering Mill Hill, and went to Washington when she married Mr. Pletcher in 1889. He preceded her there in 1895, at which time he entered the service of the U. S. Treasury Department, spending 42 years in government service. For years the Pletchers spent their summers in Centre county where the family has many friends. Mrs. Pletcher was a member of the Gunton-Temple Memorial Presbyterian church in Washington. Her nephew, the Rev. Howard A. Robb, pastor of Emanuel's Evangelical and Reformed church of Exton, Pa., delivered the funeral sermon. Burial was in Rock Creek cemetery in Washington, D. C.

### FARM CALENDAR

**Timely Reminders From The Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture**

**Fight Farm Fires**—The best way to fight any farm fire is to prevent it, say agricultural extension engineers of the Pennsylvania State College. Many of the 40,000 barns burned last year could have been saved by a few simple preventive practices. They urge elimination of fire hazards during Fire Prevention Week, October 8 to 14.

**Let Pastures Recover**—Pastures grazed short during the hot, dry weather should be given a rest this fall, remind extension agronomists of the Pennsylvania State College. The result will be some top growth for winter protection and renewed root system stored with necessary nutrients for winter and early spring.

**Control Grape Disease**—All disease leaves should be removed and destroyed as soon as the grapes are harvested to help control the black rot disease, say Penn State plant pathologists. Then spray next year with 8-8-100 Bordeaux mixture.

**Dry Potatoes Storage**—Special storage places used for potatoes should be thoroughly dry before the crop is put in them this fall, remind Penn State agricultural extension engineers. Windows or doors at both ends of the building will help circulate air.

### ANNOUNCE PROMOTIONS IN BELLEFONTE GAMS

The semi-annual initiation and promotion ceremonies of the Bellefonte G. A. M. S. were held in the gymnasium of the Army school building here, Friday.

The new corporals are as follows: Mary Smelizer, Martha Whipple, Phyllis Gross, Margaret Olsen, Beverly Osley, Susan Sheffer, Mary Jane Young, Margaret Brugger, Gaetano Catalano, Joan Crawford, Marsha Garbrick, Patsy Blaney, Faye Jones, Pat Kohlbecker, Lois Lane, Betty Dyke, Dorothy Gordon, Phyllis McKinley, Letitia Crowley, Pat Wetzel, Marilyn Rider, Naomi Shuey, Marjorie Fetzer, Rachel Naylor, Grace Kellerman, Shirley Kissel, Pat Rumberger, Evelyn Shively, Rebecca Cruise, and Audary Bryan.

The following were promoted to the rank of sergeant: Mildred Kellerman, Jean Blaney, Helen Kessling, Beverly Corman, Ethel Fisher, Mary Bartley, Mary Jane Webster, Margaret Whipple, Joan Roush, Isabel Sonsonson, Shirley Weaver, Shirley Yates, Mary Lois Bryan, Carolyn Clark, Phyllis Bryan, Norma Pifer, Anna Mae Brocky, Virginia Larimer, Jane Kellerman, Marie Roberts, Betty McElwain, Hermine Cori, Faye Stanley, Betty Holter, Joan Hartsock, Barbara Pritchman, Mary Rose, Lorna Shutt, Myrabelle Sheffer, Helen Harter, Grace Brooks, Shirley Thomas, Sara Kustanbrey, Dolores Martin and Barbara Price.

The new master sergeants are: June Martin, Jean Tucker, Josephine Bathurst, Louise Hockenber, Louise Mills, Annabelle Musser, Jane Hoover, Mary Jodon, Sally Shicemaker, Betty Ann Walker, Shirley Barnes, Ruth White, Kath. Jo Koller, Jo Ann Davison, Helen Berardis, Mina McGroarty, Mildred Hockman, Margaret Alexander, Jane Gordon, Frances Rogers, Peg Peters, Margaret Aikey, Betty Ritchie, Gloria Garman, Pauline Rider, Ruth Schlegel, and Pauline Rider.

The lieutenant is the highest rank in the local group, lieutenants being: Dorothy White, Pat Howard, Betty Knarr, Norma Hoppe, Gladys Bayle, Thelma Heaton, Evelyn Campbell, Marjorie Musser, Ethel Krape, Teresa Catalano, Dorothy Reese, Mary Alice Hartranft, Joyce Breen and Alene Boob.

After the ceremonies the decorating of the town for home football games was discussed. A weiner roast and various committees were appointed to complete the details.

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### Reviews Old Times

(Continued from page one)

be seen in the historical room of the Centre County Library. Also, in 1805, an Act of Assembly established the Bellefonte Academy. The ground for this building had been dedicated on the original plan of the town. It is tradition that a wooden schoolhouse was first built on the Academy lots during that year, but no definite record exists thereof.

The Act of March 28, 1866, erected the Borough of Bellefonte. This was done particularly to enable its inhabitants to establish and control a water system. By grants of both James Smith and James Harris the citizens were enabled to use a certain quantity of the water from the "Big Spring." A pump was placed in the "Spring," which was then outside of the borough limits, and a reservoir built on the Academy hill. This reservoir is now under the north wing of the building. The first water mains were of wood. They ran from the main supply west on Bishop street to Allegheny, and north along both Spring and Allegheny to Howard street, as well as from the "Diamond" to Spring street. Public hydrants were placed at the intersections of Bishop and Allegheny and at Spring and High, and one in front of the courthouse. Outside hydrants were placed in the lots along the water mains wherever the owners of these properties were willing to pay for their installation. Of course in those days there was no interior plumbing.

One of the first meetings of the Borough Council seemed to have been devoted to a sanitary ordinance. This was probably most necessary, since at that time only open sewage existed. We know of three principal runways of this nature which were always at least damp from the waters of small springs found in the hills of the town. One extended from a point east of Bishop street and Perry Alley across the present Brockerhoff and Rogers lots to the creek about the rear of the Bush Arcade. Another down the southern side of High street, and a third from south of the corner of Burrows alley and Allegheny street through the lots to the west and down Lamb street to the creek.

Garbage and filth of all kinds had been dumped indiscriminately into the street edges along these so-called waterways trusting to hard rains to wash them away. With cattle, hogs and sheep running loose through the streets, the resulting mess, especially in dry weather, can be imagined. The ordinance only partly amended the situation, but it was a step in the right direction. The members of Council in 1868 were Thomas Burnside, lawyer and judge, Elisha Moore, a property owner, and Pennington (the keeper of the Pennsylvania House, William Petrikin, our first storekeeper and justice of the peace, and Jonathan Hoge Walker, then president-judge of our district court.

The census of 1810 gave the town a population of 303 persons, including 19 "free negroes." These negroes were nominally free under the Pennsylvania statutes, but actually were much at the beck and call of their former masters who had bought them as they ever were. The year before the census had seen the arrival in town of Hamilton Humes. He was to become one of its great merchants and builders. A hotel, a business block, several stores and a bank were among his contributions. In the census year John Irwin, Jr., came from Bald Eagle Valley. He began his life here as a storekeeper, left that for the iron business, became one of the partners in the Howard Iron Works, was interested in the Snow Shoe Land Association and was elected as one of our Associate Judges. In 1811 a long felt want was supplied to the town by the establishment of an undertaking and burial service by Samuel Harris, one of the newcomers of that year. His plant was started in the same place now occupied by his grandson, Harlan Petrikin Harris, the business having been continued by both his son and grandson.

The second war with England, which began in 1812, made little impression on the mountain regions of Pennsylvania, although it was a slight boom for the iron trade in the way of making cannon and balls, musket fittings and bayonets. The Bellefonte citizens who enlisted during the first year of the war were James Armor, the cabinet-maker, and William Armor, landlord of the "Red Lion." Dr. A. W. Bayard, who was entered as a surgeon, Samuel Harris, the undertaker, Isaac Mallory, a carpenter, and Samuel Hunter Wilson, farmer and landowner. In the following year additional local names appear as entered in the country's service, who were William H. Blair, later a lawyer and a general in the Civil War; James Haggerty, John Hall, Jr., Hugh McClelland, David Mitchell, James Mitchell and John Silhammer. Silhammer was killed in the battle of Lake Erie. Some of the guns for Perry's ships, which won that naval victory were said to have been manufactured from Bellefonte iron.

In 1813 the first bank in this section of the state was established in Bellefonte. This was the "Centre Bank of Pa." which was located in a stone building at the northwest corner of the present postoffice lot. On the pavement corner in front of the bank was a watch-box from which Eli Cadwallader, a cooper by trade, used to call the hours of the night. In those days there was very little cash in central Pennsylvania and all bank notes, except those of the Bank of the United States at Philadelphia, were taken only at a discount. It was a truly wonderful experience for the local trader to get paid with a note on the Centre Bank and receive its full amount in cash. However, our citizens had not learned how to use a bank account. They swapped their other bank notes for "Centre Bank" notes, even at a discount, and then demanded specie. Very little thought was given by the ordinary person to the keeping of a bank account, it was cash they wanted. Of course this made a continued "run" on the bank's deposits and, in four years, it was forced to suspend specie payments.

Its affairs were eventually settled without loss of capital. Literally thousands of the early banks of the country underwent the same experience, but most of them failed because their circulation exceeded their capital.

The "American Patriot," Bellefonte's first newspaper, originated its first issue on Feb. 15, 1814. It was started by Alexander Hamilton, a nephew of our great Secretary of the Treasury, in a house just south of the bank. Mr. Hamilton ran the paper for three years, after which it changed both ownership and name. For the next generation this paper and its successor, the "Bellefonte Patriot," was the political organ of the then dominant "Democratic-Republican" party. It enabled Henry Petrikin, its owner after 1823, to control that party's movements in Centre county for many years.

At least ten years prior to 1814 James Smith, the owner of William Lamb's land west of Spring Creek, laid out at its southern end the town of "Smithfield." On March 18, 1814, an Act of Assembly was passed reincorporating the Borough of Bellefonte to include Smith's town. This extended the western boundary line of the borough from the stone wall around the present "Quaker" graveyard to the head of the "Big Spring," thence westward to Spring Creek, up the creek to a point opposite St. Paul street, thence by that street, and what was to be the western continuation of High street, and by "Smith" street (now North Thomas street) to the road leading to the Smith grist-mill, and thence to include the mill by Lamb street across the creek to the original northwestern corner of the borough.

The first county prison was at the north end of the present YMCA lot, but fifteen years of use and the little care given it had caused much deterioration in the building. In 1814 the county purchased lots 53 and 55, on the north side of East High street, now the property of Augustus Heverly, and built a combined Sheriff's residence and jail thereon. Twenty feet on the western side of lot 53 was opened as an alley running northward to Pike alley. Half a century later, in 1867, the county sold these lots and erected the present jail on the east end of the square dedicated to the use of "County Buildings" by the original proprietors.

In 1814 also, the Borough Council formally accepted the Town of Smithfield within its limits and, in that year, passed its first "fire protection" ordinance. In short, this provided that the owner of each dwelling house in the enlarged town should furnish "two leather buckets." Fire fighting was then accomplished by the formation of a line of men from the nearest hydrant to the site of the fire and the passing of these "leather buckets" filled with water from hand to hand until the fire was quenched, or, more often, burned out.

Up to the end of 1814 there is a definite record of buildings of some nature upon 63 lots of the borough, as well as of 29 additional families living therein whose residence cannot be determined. This record refers only to the original borough. On the Smithfield side of the creek an extension of High street was opened first as far as Dunlop street, the road running northward along the Smith mill-race. Before the street was opened a little iron foundry had existed south of the present "Watchman" building and the rest of the strip of land between the mill-race and the creek, as far north as the end of the Penn Belle lot, was occupied by the Hays shop and their extensive tannery yards. The first lots of the town of Smithfield seem to have been grouped around the southern end of North Thomas street, and the Hays home was now what we know as the P. Gray Meek residence. The stone portion of the present mill at Lamb street constituted the Smith grist-mill, a portion of the frame house of the Arthur Thomas estate was occupied by its miller, and Smith lived in the western portion of what we know as the Thomas homestead.

### BURNING BRUSH OFTEN THREATENS WOODLAND

Several thousands of acres of woodland and forests are destroyed each year by fire resulting from burning brush and leaves in the fall. W. W. Simonds, extension forester at the Pennsylvania State College, said as he urged greater care in burning brush.

Fires should never be started to dispose of brush on dry, windy days, he says. Waiting until rain or snow dampens fields and woods will permit better control. Many woods fires are started by fires running across grassfields to enter woodlots.

He suggests having ample help on hand to keep any fire within bounds, and never leaving an outdoor fire unattended while it is still burning.

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**WEATHER DETRACTS FROM LEAF COLOR THIS FALL**

Leaf coloration in many parts of Pennsylvania will not reach its usual standard of beauty this fall, outdoor enthusiasts were reminded today by Dr. Henry W. Popp, professor of botany at the Pennsylvania State College.

Pointing out that color changes depend somewhat on the weather, Dr. Popp explained that a series of rainy days following a period of hot, dry weather—such as occurred in many parts of central and southern Pennsylvania this year—is not conducive to good leaf coloration.

The most beautiful and varied leaves, he added, are produced by sunny days and cool nights. The state's best coloration, he said, will be found in the northern tier counties.

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