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LIGHTNING STRIKES BARN.

Storm in Wells Valley Saturday Shocks Several People and Burns Barn. Picnickers Save House.

During the severe electrical storm that passed over Wells Valley last Saturday, lightning struck the barn belonging to Mrs. Hattie Barcroft and burned it to the ground, together with two calves, all feed, grain, hay, and farm machinery which was stored in the building. Her son Stacey, of York, is visiting his mother, and saw the fire in time to run his auto out of reach of the flames, but made a narrow escape from having the store of gasoline take fire and explode.

There were several strokes of lightning in close succession, which drove the family from the porch into the house, a moment after which another stroke caused one of them to peep through a window blind when he saw smoke issuing from the roof. Embers from the burning roof fell on the hay, straw, &c., and quickly set fire to the whole structure. We were unable to learn the amount of damage sustained by Mrs. Barcroft, but were assured that it was great, and that the very small amount of insurance will not but a short way towards covering the loss. A picnic was being held at Cold Spring, nearby, and by the very prompt help of the picnickers the house was saved; otherwise it surely would have been burned.

At least two people made narrow escapes from being electrocuted during the storm, namely G. A. Horton, and Leda Amick, who happened to be touching a wire fence about 1,000 yards from where the barn stood. Both were shocked severely. But one of Mr. Horton's fingers was in contact with the fence, but that was enough to draw the electric fluid.

This property, to the older people, may be better known as the Samuel Willet or the Frank McMain farm near the Valley M. E. church—the latter having built the barn.

Fire Near Dane.

On Wednesday morning, August 5th, the farm house belonging to Harry Lear, and occupied by Scott Wible, a mile north of Dane, was burned to the foundation, together with all the contents, with the exception of a bed and two pillows. Mr. Wible was at home at the time, and Mrs. Wible escaped with what she had, which did not include shoes. Mrs. Wible had just finished ironing the week's family wash, and was preparing to bake bread, when she discovered that the filling about the stovepipe was smoking. She attempted to call the neighbors, but when they arrived it was too late to save anything. Scott Brant attempted to enter by a back window to fetch some clothing that Mrs. Wible said was hanging near the window in the sewing room, but he was pulled out of the smoke-filled aperture as they sought the risk too great. Neighbors liberated some chickens and removed some tools from a shop which was burnt. There was no insurance on the house, nor on the contents. Fire originated from the pipe of the kitchen stove. The house was built of logs, weather-boarded and painted, and made a fierce blaze. The loss has not been estimated; but was severe, as the house was new, and much good clothing and household goods were destroyed.

An automobile party composed of Mrs. Harvey Strait and two sons Gordon and Harry; J. S. Gordon, Mrs. Annie Markhart, and son; Misses Lizzie Hunter, Marie and Margaret Nelson, and Messrs Peter and Al Gordon, spent last Wednesday in the home of Mrs. Mary at near Saluvia.

Mrs. Arabella Erwin Diehl.

Mrs. Arabella Erwin Diehl, wife of Mr. James F. Diehl, and mother of our former Presbyterian pastor, Rev. John M. Diehl, died at her home in Adams county, Thursday evening, August 6, 1914, the result of chronic cardiac disease, aged 68 years, 8 months, and 24 days.

Her maiden name was Pomeroy, and she was born in Concord, Franklin County. Surviving are a husband and eight children; Rev. Frederick at Wellsboro, Pa.; William Pomeroy, at Seitzland, Pa.; Oscar Nevin, York, Pa.; Rev. John Maclay, Greencastle, Pa.; Robert Black, Gettysburg, Pa.; James Erwin, M. D., Trenton, N. J.; Elizabeth Maclay, at home; Samuel Reynolds, student at Princeton Seminary. Three brothers, Robert Pomeroy, John Pomeroy and William Pomeroy, all of Shelby, Iowa; and one sister, Elizabeth Pomeroy in Concord, Pa.

Mrs. Diehl was well known in McConnellsburg, she having visited her son, John M., while he was pastor of the Presbyterian church, and was greatly loved for her sweet Christian character. Her remains were laid to rest in Evergreen cemetery, Gettysburg, Pa., on Monday, August tenth.

League Social.

The Epworth League, of the M. E. Church of this place, held a delightful social on ex-county Treasurer C. B. Stevens' lawn last Friday night, in honor of Rev. J. V. Adams and family who were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens. The lawn was beautifully decorated with Japanese lanterns, and the moon, which was at its best that night, added brilliancy to the occasion. A cozy nook had been prepared under the grape arbor that spans the brook that flows through the lawn, thus affording a retreat for those who did not care to engage in the more active sports and amusements incident to a lawn fete, but were very highly entertained by Mrs. G. W. Reisner who brought out her splendid victrala.

After refreshments, the young folks were delightfully entertained by the Adams family who are talented vocal musicians; and by Mrs. J. V. Royer in some of her recitations. It will be remembered that Mr. Adams led the music for several years for the County Institute, when he was pastor of the Methodist church in this place, some fifteen years ago.

The Bishop's Address.

Bishop Sansford, of Harrisburg addressed an immense audience on the Court House lawn last Sabbath evening. His subject was "The Saloon Must Go." The Bishop drew word pictures of the conditions arising from the presence of the open saloon in America which not only harmed the male portion of our citizens, but he gave an account of how our women were being drawn into the trap. He said that by actual count for twenty-six hours 1496 women of all walks in life entered a certain saloon on Diamond Street in Pittsburgh; and that in the mean time, other saloons in the city, and in other cities, had catered to the appetites of proportionately large numbers of women. He called attention to the growing sentiment that rum be abolished from our land, until politicians of all parties have been forced to put a local option plank into their platform. And not only this; pressure has been brought to bear on our lawmakers to such extent that bills pertaining to the rum traffic dare not be ignored as was formerly the case so that some progress has been made in legislating against the business. The Bishop freely predicted that enough states would soon ratify the proposed amendment to our National Constitution to abolish the saloon from this great country. Nine states have already done so, and seventeen more are about to follow.

BEDFORD AUTOMOBILE STOLEN.

Thief Headed Toward Eastern Markets, Run Out of Gasoline on Cove Mountain.

Early Monday morning as Reed Grissinger was getting ready to start to Fort Loudon with E. R. McClain's freight wagon, he noticed a five-passenger Hupmobile car pass somewhat hurriedly through McConnellsburg with no occupant except the driver. As the driver of the car began the ascent of the mountain east of town, he generously gave seats to George Stech and Mart-in Wolf who were going to work on the State road that is being built across the mountain. On account of the fact that the driver was something of a novice, that his radiator was leaking and gasoline nearly exhausted, he had considerable difficulty in getting the machine to the top of the mountain. Stech and Wolf leaving him at the quarry about a mile west of the top.

About the time this was taking place Farmer Scott Stuckey, who resides along the Lincoln Highway, four miles west of Bedford, made the discovery that his new Hupmobile had been stolen from his garage during the night. His sons hastened to Bedford, and soon the telegraph and telephone wires were hot flashing the intelligence east and west. Shortly a reply was received from Cline's garage in McConnellsburg saying, "Machine as described passed eastward through McConnellsburg about 7 o'clock this morning." The boys then went to the Keystone garage in Bedford, and at 11 o'clock, the two Stuckey boys, with Earl Swartzwelder hold of the steering wheel, in a big six-cylinder Cole, were hitting the pike less than sixty-miles an hour in the direction of McConnellsburg. At Harrisonville, 6 miles west of McConnellsburg, they learned that a stranger with a Hup, had applied for five gallons of gas, saying that he was in a hurry and that he would pay for the gas on his return the next day. Merchant Hollins-head wisely kept the gasoline. The pursuing party got no further clue of the missing car except what they got from the garage in McConnellsburg and the workmen on the mountain, until they reached Gettysburg, where they were informed that the car had been found near McConnellsburg, and was safe in the McConnellsburg garage.

As Reed Grissinger was returning from Fort Loudon Monday afternoon with the freight wagon, he met the Stuckey party about a mile west of Fort Loudon, and from them learned of the theft of the automobile, and told them that he had seen a machine like the one described, pass through McConnellsburg early that morning. Further up the mountain road he met a man walking, whom he at once recognized as the driver of the Hup that he had seen in McConnellsburg. It then occurred to Grissinger that the machine had been left along the road, and he began to look for it. When he reached the top of the mountain, he saw where a machine had left the road and had been driven off into the woods. He followed the tracks, and did not go very far until he came upon the machine in a secluded spot, the machine having been turned around and headed for the pike. The driver of the car had taken the precaution to put the switch plug in his pocket when he left the machine, but a cotten pin or small key in Reed's pocket did the trick, and soon Reed was emerging from the woods with the machine. He placed the freight wagon in the care of Herbert Helman, and Reed took the automobile to McConnellsburg, placed it in the garage, and the information was telegraphed to the Chief of police of Gettysburg who notified the Stuckey party,

Made Good Roads.

The citizens of Millerstown, on the river above Harrisburg, are wise; they did not propose to be caught with bad roads this fall; so they turned out and made a frolic of fixing them last Friday, and now they are in fine shape. They fixed 'em right, too, didn't go along throwing some leaves and sods into the middle of the road to be washed away by the first shower, like we used to do when we "worked" out our tax. Perhaps some good stories were told to enliven the occasion, but this time the workers meant to get something for their labor. Do you remember how we used to "work out our tax" by taking a light shovel and follow along after a plow and throw a few scofuls of dirt into the road while we "chewed terbacker" and told stories, and then got a receipt for our share of the tax. Those were great times, weren't they? Let's see—this is about the eighth time we have reminded ourselves that the outlying roads will not be reached by the State for several years, and that they will soon be hard to distinguish from a hole-in-the-ground if we do not turn out and fix them ourselves.

Had Narrow Escape.

On Wednesday, July 29th, B. S. Winegardner of Clear Ridge, and two women narrowly escaped death on the E. B. T. railroad tracks, near Three Springs, when a locomotive tossed their wagon. Mr. Winegardner had on a load of country produce, and a Mrs. Rinker and her daughter were on the wagon with him. It seems that he was on the second crossing below the Three Springs depot while the 9:15 train was bearing down on them, but which was hidden from view by a house. Had the wagon moved only six inches more it would have escaped being hit by the engine, but the rear of the wagon was caught and tossed about a rod. Bert received a bruised hip and knee; Mrs. Rinker received bruises on her wrist, and the daughter escaped without a scratch. The top and one wheel of the wagon were demolished, together with 100 dozen eggs. Had it happened one second earlier, we would doubtless have a far different story to tell.

Reisner-Betts.

On Monday, at noon, August 10, 1914, Mr. John H. Reisner and Miss Bertha Betts were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Betts, of Kingston, N. Y., by the Rev. John A. McIntosh, D. D., of Ithaca, N. Y.

Mr. Reisner is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Reisner, of McConnellsburg, Pa., is a graduate of Yale, and will receive his A. M. degree this fall at Cornell. Mrs. Reisner is a graduate of the School of Domestic Science at Pratt Institute, and also a graduate of Cornell, in which institution she afterwards became an instructor in Domestic Science. Mr. and Mrs. Reisner will sail for China this fall, where they will accept positions as members of the faculty of the University at Nanking.

Mr. Reisner and his bride came to McConnellsburg Tuesday evening and are the guests of the groom's father, at whose home a reception was held on Wednesday evening.

who by that time had arrived in that town. They at once turned about, and were in McConnellsburg by midnight. The machine was found with but little gasoline in the tank. It had been run hot, and the radiator damaged. It required but a short time Tuesday morning for O. L. Grathhead to put it in trim, and the party left here about nine o'clock, much pleased that they had recovered the stolen automobile.

COUNTY AGENTS' WORK.

Letter of Explanation of the Establishment of County Agents and the Work Done by them.

Knowing that many of our readers are anxious to know how far the work of the Agricultural Extension Bureau has succeeded in establishing Agent, and what duties are required of the agents the NEWS asked the Experimental Station at State College, Pa., for information, and received the following letter for publication;

Pennsylvania has eleven county agents in the field and other counties are actively promoting the organizations to secure an agent.

The county agent movement is an effort to place in as many counties as possible men with a thorough, practical and fundamental knowledge of agriculture to cooperate with the farmers individually and through their organizations towards the solution of farm problems. Its purpose is to make the best agricultural information of the day common and applied knowledge. The county agent becomes the link which more closely connects the farmer with his Experiment Station. Their activities are wide.

The men who serve as county agents do not pose as knowing all about agriculture. They serve rather as students and helpers. They spend their time studying the farming interests of their respective counties both from the standpoint of production and of distribution. They study plans, methods and practices, and aid in improving them when this can be done. They bring from farm to farm information as to the best methods practiced by farmers in the different localities and the results obtained by the Experiment Stations. They study the marketing and transportation conditions and aid in bettering them whenever they can. They also conduct county-wide movements, such as campaigns for special purposes. The up-building of the soil by the proper application of manure and fertilizers; the testing of seed corn; the renovation of old orchards; the proper use of spraying materials to prevent insects and plant diseases; the promotion of the livestock industry through the use of pure-bred sires; the increase of breeding herds and community breeding; the organization of exchange bureaus for feeding stock and pure seed; the planning of balanced rations for farm animals; the making of surveys of the cropping system and business management of the farm are some of his activities.

The organization of breeders' associations, cow-testing associations, and other producing associations; the organization of boys and girls clubs and contest work in corn, tomatoes, pure-bred livestock, etc., are other lines of activity, some of which are undertaken by every agent. In addition, the agents may be active in other ways, such as promoting good roads, better rural schools, more social life, and better conditions in general.

Each man emphasizes some special line of work and makes that his leader. Its nature necessarily depends largely upon the needs of the county. The work also varies with the character and personnel of the bureau backing him. As no agent can be a specialist in all lines of agriculture, each one calls upon the specialists of the College, when help is needed. All agents are in close touch with the College at all times and do their work under its general direction and supervision.

The agent's work is effective in proportion as the interest and cooperation of the best farmers of the county are enlisted. That this may be secured, the organization of a farm-bureau composed of the best farmers of a county is necessary. Each member then works shoulder to shoulder with

Timely Topics.

Last week, a correspondent reported that "oats filled well, considering the short straw." A "scientific" man would tell us that plenty of berry-making acid phosphate had been used on that land; else, both the straw and the heads would have been short on account of dry weather. From another source we heard of stiff, long straw, but poorly filled, this indicates an abundance of stalk-making potash, and perhaps nitrogen; but it plainly indicates the need of acid phosphate. It is by just such tests that our experimental stations would have us learn to be our own "soil doctors;" and it is to teach us a hundred more things that the Station is anxious that each county should arrange to keep a live man (agent) at work.

A question that will come up for solution of wheat-seeding time is the price to pay for fertilizers. "Cheap" fertilizer is not necessarily "poor" fertilizer. Acid phosphate is "cheap" but is good, if the land needs it; but it would be "dear" at \$10 a ton if the land does not need it. The men who had short straw and well-filled heads, would perhaps better buy nitrogen at \$50 per ton, and potash at same price while the long strawed field need only \$13. acid goods. In either case, about the same amount in dollars should be spent per acre. See the point? This is where the economy of having a county agent comes in—he saves us from buying useless goods if we cannot determine the kind to buy.

One phase of farming that is receiving more and more attention in Pennsylvania is the production of meat, and wool. There is not a shadow of doubt as to prices. Nowhere in the United States is there enough cattle to supply the need for meat. The same is true of the whole world. Fulton county once sent great droves of stock cattle to market. Last week a herd of eighty cattle were driven into McConnellsburg and sold to the highest bidder. When we were boys we had cattle and manure, and we had grass to plough down by turning it under with a drag-chain attached to the plow. Do you remember those days?

The fellow farmers of his county. Being in touch with them he is inspired to better effort on his own farm and to serve as a source of inspiration to others. The agricultural conscience of the people soon becomes aroused and their attention is focused not only on increased and more economical production of agricultural wealth, but also on its proper use.

The prime requisites for an agricultural agent are that he must have been brought up on a farm, or have spent the greater part of his life on the farm, that he be a good organizer and that he have a strong, pleasing personality.

Not less than \$2500 is necessary the first year. This covers the salary of the agent, office and traveling expenses.

An agent usually spends one or two days a week in the office where he can be reached in person or by telephone. The balance of the time is spent in the field.

The funds are provided cooperatively by the Pennsylvania State College, the Department of Agriculture and the local organization. The county commissioners are authorized to appropriate not to exceed \$1500 a year for this work and the local funds may be provided in this way or by local subscription.

The reports from all the counties where agents are at work are to the effect that excellent service is being rendered.

I trust that in the course of the next couple of years we may have sufficient funds to make possible more systematic work in your county.

Very truly yours,
M. S. McDOWELL.

ALL IS NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS.

Little Talks on Health and Hygiene by Samuel G. Dixon, M. D., LL. D., Commissioner Health.

In these days of magnificent hotels we are attracted by the toilet rooms, radiant with porcelain bath tubs, lavatories and tiled walls.

After a long day's travel by train or motor the sight of such immaculate fixtures tempts us to turn the tap to see the rushing water flow against the white enamel bath tub and prepare to take a plunge. Our confidence is won by the beautiful design and the cleanly appearance of the entire finishing of those modern toilet rooms. The sanitation, however, is halted by the mysterious workings of the fixtures. A pretty porcelain cross shaped handle stands out from the running spigot gradually backs up into the tub or basin. It is the little piece of waste pipe that extends from the outlet in the tub back to the plug that soon becomes dirty and retains the germs of disease of the skin and mucous membrane of the previous bathers that is filled by the first flush of water and then gradually fills up into the tub or basin in which you wash.

The person having used the basin just previous to yourself may have had tuberculosis and have rinsed his or her mouth into it. More or less mucus from the mouth will settle on the sides of this little piece of pipe which is a part of the basin, and cannot be reached to cleanse. This sort of plumbing is dangerous to life and should be legislated against. Until we can have the evil removed those traveling or using public bath tubs or basins, to guard against contracting disease, should run the hot water through this pipe for ten or fifteen minutes before turning the plug of the fixture.

The shower bath is the safest for public use.

Good Chance to Advertise Us.

Speaking of marking the Lincoln Highway to make it interesting to tourists, reminds us that there is a look-out on top of the Cove mountain that should be marked by a hand-board, and a path made to it. Thousands of tourists pass within 150 yards of this magnificent view, who would be glad to "take it in" if they knew it was there. All the hundreds of Southerners who pass this way would also feel kindly towards us if the Confederate graves east of town were marked in a manner to attract attention. Another thing that would be appreciated by tourists, would be historical cards, on which bits of local history were printed. A brief history of the Forbes road; accounts of local skirmishes during the Civil war, guides to Confederate graves, and many other interesting items would be gladly paid for by curio hunters. Let's wake up and make a noise like a live place.

Pastors Out of Town.

Rev. J. L. Yearick will be absent over two Sundays—August 16th, and 23rd, on his summer vacation, which he will spend in Philadelphia, Souderton, and Bethlehem, Pa. Mail will reach him at Philadelphia, care of the Publication Board of the Reformed Church, 15th and Race streets and at Souderton, Pa. He will return August 27th.

Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Grove started on their summer vacation yesterday. They will stop at Lewistown, Pa., for two days to visit Mr. Grove's nephew, Rev. W. B. Grove, and Mrs. Grove's cousins, Mrs. Nellie Corbiñ, and Mrs. Grace Owens. From there they will go to New Wilmington Pa., to attend the Missionary Conference. Thence to Chautauqua and Niagara Falls. They will be absent about two weeks,