

# The Meyersdale Commercial.

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## TO CONSIDER DRILLING FOR OIL, GAS ETC.

The Commercial Club, of this place, whose function seems to be that of the usual board of trade had a visit on Monday of this week from Mr. P. L. Wally, of Pittsburg, the object of the latter's coming being to try to induce the people of this community to assist him in drilling for gas and oil.

Mr. Wally is an expert prospector, and at present has eight independent well drilling outfits in operation. He is sanguine of success.

Mr. Paul D. Clutton is the president of the Commercial Club and he will call a meeting soon of that body and it is to be hoped that a test drilling be made, and if no gas or oil is struck, the boring will indicate coal measures and may be an abundant reservoir of good soft water may be struck, and this would be a great boon to Meyersdale, as there is occasionally a shortage of water in dry times.

Ten years ago, Cleveland had no natural gas and today it has an abundant flow which supplies a great part of the city with the natural product. Connellsville and Uniontown in this section has a big supply of natural gas. Hooversville has quite a flow of gas that can be used for commercial and home purposes. A well was drilled at Rockwood and the drill passed through a layer of sand which is generally a concomitant of gas producing strata. Mr. H. E. Bowman is drilling for good soft water here in town struck a vein of gas which is being emitted with the flow of good fresh water and which Mr. Wally thinks may be separated and made use of as a lumiant. The suggestion to do something leading to an understanding of whether this rich country does not contain additional natural resources is a good one. The amount of money required to make a test that would settle this much discussed topic, is not large and it might add great wealth to this section. It is proposed to go down about three thousand feet.

### NEARBY COUNTIES.

### What is Going on in This Part of the State

A band has been organized at Humbert.

The Somerset Construction company has been awarded the contract for the construction of a brick highway two and one-half miles long, from Alliquippa to Monaca, in Beaver county. The contract price is \$80,000.

While smoking her pipe, Mrs. Elizabeth Irons, aged 82 years, of near Everett, the lace curtains nearby caught fire unknown to her and she was so badly burned that her death ensued in a few hours.

Powder exploding from an electric spark at the Enterprise Coal Co., Mine No. 2, at Garrett, recently very badly injured Alex. Ohler, and Frank Swarner, two miners. One of the men was carrying the small can of powder at this time.

Harrison Claycomb, a farmer of Somerset township, sustained fractures of the right arm and right leg, in a fall from the roof of his barn near Somerset last Friday. He was making some repairs to the roof when he lost his balance and tumbled to the ground. Mr. Claycomb is 50 years old.

Charles Jr., the two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deffenbaugh, of Earlston, Bedford county, was so badly scalded on Tuesday that he died that night. The little one and his brother were playing around the kitchen when the mother lifted a kettle of boiling water from the stove. The vessel was overturned, the contents covering the child.

### RELEASED FROM THE COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Mrs. W. S. Miller of Meyers avenue, this place who about two weeks ago was taken to the county hospital on the ground that she was of unsound mind, in a hearing before Judge Ruppel on Tuesday, was given into the charge of her pastor, Rev. J. C. Matson, as guardian.

Mrs. Miller's health is poor and she will require some medical treatment and care. Her commitment to the hospital was regarded as a little abrupt.

## HIGH FINANCE OF BERKLEY EXPOSED.

On Friday afternoon in court at Somerset, the Somerset Telephone Company filed answers in eleven equity cases which had been instituted against the firm by holders of alleged bogus stocks issued by H. M. Berkley while he was acting as Secretary and Treasurer and who later absconded.

The answers indicate that the par value of the stock issued by Mr. Berkley and put up as collateral to secure loans aggregated \$117,250. In some cases, the stock certificates were entire forgeries, while in others the certificates are alleged to have been raised from a small number of shares up to several hundred. In the entire 11 instances, the answers of the telephone company claim there were 15 genuine shares, of the par value of \$25 each, aggregating \$375, which was increased to \$117,250.

On this alleged fictitious stock, Berkley borrowed \$85,000. Besides the 11 cases in which answers have been filed, there are 15 or 20 other certificates outstanding and alleged to have been fraudulent, and on which suit has been brought.

According to the answers of the company, Mr. Berkley worked a fine system. He and his wife owned about 20 or 30 genuine shares of stock par value of about \$500 in the telephone company. Berkley instead of making out one certificate to cover all of his shares and another to cover all of his wife's shares, made out certificates calling for various numbers of shares, some for one, some for two, three, and five. In this way he had an opportunity of raising them to many times their original value.

Berkley is conceded to have been one of the slickest financiers ever in Somerset County. Outside of his telephone company, it is said that he owes between \$75,000 and \$80,000 in the capacity of Assignee, Trustee, Guardian, and in other trusted capacities.

The telephone company several weeks ago offered a reward of \$500 for the apprehension of Berkley. Berkley's downfall, it is generally conceded, was due to speculation in "bucketshops," where he hoped to make good and redeem all the telephone certificates put up as collateral; but the market went wrong and he was unable to handle his immense indebtedness.

## SUE HIGGINS AT THE DONGES THEATRE.

Commencing Monday, November 30th, the frolicking little actress, Sue Higgins, and her coterie of fun-makers will begin a week's engagement at Donges' theatre, presenting a repertoire of standard comedies in tabloid form with excellent specialties that will make the entertainment one of the best that has been seen here in some time.

Sue Higgins is the originator of this kind of entertainment and the fact that she has been overwhelmingly successful is assurance that she knows just what entertainment her patrons want. All her plays are worth while every member of her company is thoroughly capable, each little detail of stage management is carefully looked after, and consequently her performances are above the average.

On Monday next she will open her engagement with the delightful comedy success, "The Working Man," in which play she has scored signally for the past three seasons. This comedy is replete with bright and witty sayings, intense dramatic situations and comedy scenes galore. During the intermissions singing and dancing specialties will enliven the waits so that the entire performance will be a continuous one. In addition to the play the latest and best motion pictures will be shown and all this for a sum so small that it makes this attraction the biggest one for the money that ever came to town.

During the entire week Miss Higgins will not duplicate a gown worn by her. She will appear each evening in something new. Considering that she wears a different dress for each act and each play has three acts and she changes the play each night it can be readily seen that she has an abundance of dresses. One ermine coat that she wears in "The Dashing Widew" is valued at one thousand dollars.

Three and one-half pounds lima beans for 25 cents, special at Bittner's Grocery.

Carload Gold Medal Flour, at Habel & Phillips.

## ENTHUSIASM WAXING WARM IN PIANO RACE

The early edition of The Commercial this week, demanding that all copy be in the hands of the printer not later than Wednesday, rendered impossible a printing of the standing of the contestants in the Hartley, Clutton Co., Piano Contest this week. The first count was not made until Wednesday, and the list will be published in the window of THE WORKER'S STORE on Saturday of this week. Watch this paper for standing of the contestants after next week's count.

Never in the history of Meyersdale has a contest of any kind created the enthusiasm and interest that this contest is creating. In the homes, on the streets, in other business places one may hear the question on all sides, "I wonder who will get the piano at Hartley, Clutton Co's?" Mr. Clutton says that hardly a day goes by that some one does not ask him "How can you afford to give away all of those prizes?" He explains that the prizes are given out for work done for The Women's Store, that the contestants are trying to get their friends and neighbors to patronize that store and that these prizes are only a token of appreciation to the customers and friends of the store.

People of all walks of life are entering into the proposition determined to win a share of the beautiful prizes that are to be awarded, and every one is looking forward to having the grand prize, the beautiful Player Piano as a piece of furniture in their homes. The piano has been tested by piano men and music teachers in this community and pronounced a dandy, both in finish, construction, and tone qualities. A lady brought her little five year-old girl into the store the other day, and the youngster sat down to the piano and played one of the rolls of music with as much ease as her mother; the instrument almost plays itself.

Every day sees some new enrollments, and the contest is only starting. Remember that no prizes will be given out for two weeks yet, and that there is plenty of opportunity to enroll yet. The contest is still young, no person has piled up a big count, and the sooner you enroll the sooner the votes will commence to pile up for your number.

Silver spoons are given out with a limited number of the first enrollments, there are still a few spoons left and will be given to the first comers. Remember that no names are divulged, all voting and standings are conducted by number only.

The coupon that you find in this paper on another page, is good for votes when properly presented at the store, and would't this be a good time to renew that subscription to The Commercial, or possibly send a new subscription to some friend as a Christmas gift, remembering that each renewal and new subscription entitles you to 1,000 votes on the piano.

Again let us remind you, watch this paper from now on for standings and latest news of the contest.

## DEATH'S HARVEST.

MRS. CATHARINE GINDLESBERGER. Mrs. Catharine Gindlesberger died at her home in Holsopple, November 15th, aged 78 years. The funeral was held Thursday with interment in the Blough Mennonite cemetery. Her husband died several years ago but a number of children survive.

ANTHONY WERNER. Anthony Werner, aged 84 years, died Wednesday, November 11th, at his residence in New Baltimore. He was taken suddenly ill while attending mass in St. John's church about two months ago and had been confined to the house since. He is survived by three sisters and one brother.

DANIEL SIPE. A native of Jennings who for a number of years has lived in the west died Friday at his home in Dayton, Ohio, aged 68 years. For the past three years he has been a guard at the Soldier's Home at Dayton.

His body will be laid to rest beside that of his wife, Mrs. Margaret Sipe, who died June 13th, 1893. His surviving children are the following: Mrs. Annie S. Hummel, Mrs. W. S. Griffith, and Miss Lucille Sipe, of Johnstown, and J. M. Sipe, of

## RECENTLY MARRIED IN THE COUNTY.

Arthur G. Traup, of Somerset and Miss Ethel I. Woye, of Everett, were married at the parsonage of Trinity Lutheran church, Somerset, by Rev. I. Hess Wagner.

Amos Pyle, and Miss Louisa Neal, both of Boswell, were married at the courthouse by Clerk of the Orphan's Court Bert F. Landis.

James G. Kaufman, of Conemaugh township, and Miss Nellie L. Lohr, of Kantner, were married at the parsonage of the Stoyestown Lutheran church by Rev. J. S. English.

Alvan Reed and Miss Clara Smith both of Holsopple were married at Holsopple by Rev. A. Davidson.

George W. Tinkey, of Washington, Pa., and Miss Julia Virginia Peterman, of Upper Turkeyfoot township, were married at the court house by Clerk of the Orphans' Court Bert F. Landis.

Simon Clarence Nicholson and Miss Rose Beal both of Friedens were married at the parsonage of the Friedens Lutheran church by Rev. J. C. McCarney.

Miss Emma A. Yoder and John W. Lint, both of Jenner township, were married at the home of the bride's parents, by Justice of the Peace, Kore Kaufman.

## MASONIC BANQUET NEW YEAR'S NIGHT.

The annual Masonic banquet of the local lodge which is becoming to be quite popular and a great social event of the year will be held on New Year's night. The event promises to be a notable one. The committee of arrangements is at work already and true to Masonic principles of exactness the occasion will find all things in readiness. This committee consists of the following:—Dr. W. H. Ryland, and Messrs. Clarence Moore, Clyde Rowe, Conrad Glessner, James Hostetler, John Oates and Paul D. Clutton.

## TEACHERS INSTITUTE

Following is the program for a teachers' institute to be held at the Walker school in Summit township, Friday evening, Dec. 4, 1914, beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

Address of Welcome—Mary L. Gnagey.

Not how much, but how well—H. B. Saler.

Teachers opportunity—Esther Shumaker.

Do you think agriculture should be taught in the common schools?—A. G. Maust.

Current Events—Mae Moore.

Do you think Woman Suffrage should exist in the United States?—J. F. Schrock.

Reading—Orpha Meyers.

Impromptu class—Lloyd Shumac.

Essay—Nettie Maust.

What benefits have you derived from the county institute?—F. J. Fike.

Debate—Resolved—That it would be more profitable to annex Canada to the United States than Mexico.

Affirmative—W. E. Walker, E. R. Hay.

Negative—Samuel Mosholder, S. C. Witt.

Paper—Lillian Seibert, Sidney Lenhart.

All friends of education are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Full pound package of new dates or raisins for 10 cents at Bittner's Grocery.

We want you to try Gold Medal flour it is one of the highest grade straight spring patents \$1.70 per large bag, at Habel & Phillips. ad

## TURKEY SUPPER.

The ladies of the M. E. church will hold a turkey supper in the social room of the church December 10th, from 5 o'clock.

Fancy Norway Mackerel at 10 cents each at Bittner's Grocery.

Altoona. These brothers and sisters are also living: Mrs. Mesheck Beam, Edward Sipe and George Sipe, of Somerset; Mrs. E. B. Maurer, of Boswell; Mrs. J. L. Gallagher, of Latrobe and Mrs. E. S. Trent of Haverhill, Kan.

The Duplex Optical Co., of Philadelphia, claims wherever they have introduced their famous Duplex Lenses they have found it quite difficult to wait on all persons desiring their services. See their advertisement in this issue.

## MURDERS, THEN CONFESSES. DUE TO JEALOUSY

On Tuesday, Officer U. B. Fuller, of this place returned from Pittsburg where he had gone to give evidence concerning the arrest of George Daller, whom he had apprehended at Sand Patch the preceding Wednesday evening on the self-confessed charge of homicide.

The crime was committed two days before the arrest was made, and the scene of the deed was in a shanty near Charleroi. Those who were present were besides the murderer and his victim who was a young man of about his own age, a young woman and another man. Jealousy accentuated by whiskey was the motive of the affray. The men became entangled in a spirited argument, when Daller drew out his revolver and shot his opponent through the heart. Then without hat or coat the man left the house, but almost immediately he returned for these articles and started away again. He did not know whether the shot proved fatal or not until he got to Sand Patch and saw an account in a newspaper of the affair in which he learned that he had killed the man; it was at this stage of his wanderings as a fugitive from justice, that he made known to Mr. Keifer, the hotel proprietor at Sand Patch, that he was a murderer and that he desired to give himself up to the officers of the law. Accordingly the police of this place were notified and the arrest was made, Daller being brought to Meyersdale and placed in the lockup. The following day Pittsburg officers came for him.

## CASES FOR DECEMBER COURT

More than half a hundred cases have been placed on the docket for trial at the December term of Court commencing on Monday, December 7th. In addition to those previously reported are the following:

Joseph Naugle of Somerset Borough charged with furnishing liquor to persons of known intemperate habits; upon information of County Detective L. G. Wagner. To many of his acquaintances, the defendant has represented his business as that of real estate selling, and not "boot-legging" booze, as set forth in the County Detective's information. Naugle was committed to jail last week in default of bail.

John Willis, an assistant mine foreman of mine No. 119 of the Consolidation Coal Company, is charged with violating a provision of the mine laws in not requiring a certain entry to be made in as safe a condition as possible. The complaint was made by F. W. Cunningham, Mine Inspector.

A charge of adultery was lodged against John Helman and Hester Brown, by Constable E. M. Hayes of Paint township. The same officer has also charged Jacob Beener with maintaining a bawdy house, and encouraging idleness and drink, and furnishing a meeting place for persons engaged in immoral pursuits.

An offense against morality has been charged against John Simpson and James Nichols, by Calvin Berkey.

David E. Green has caused the prosecution of Irvin I. Good, charging him with the larceny of a suit case from the Gillette station on the Quemahoning Branch.

John Black, charged with assault and battery by Edward Merritt.

Irwin Bender, charged with assault and battery, by Mary O. Heneca

One of the most important cases set for trial is that docketed against Archibald Miller, Superintendent of the Loyalhanna Coal and Coke Company, who was arrested upon an information charging him with polluting a stream. The information was sworn to before Squire W. W. Knable by Raymond O. McIntosh, a State fish warden. The alleged offense was committed at Cairnbrook, the new mining operations of the Loyalhanna Coal and Coke Company, where it is alleged, poisonous and sulphurous water has been converted from the mine and emptied into Dark Shade Creek, being poisonous to fish and aquatic life.

The promoters of the International Train Pipes system of coupling for railroads and now in use on the Western Maryland, are looking for a suitable place to locate their plant. One of their representatives is investigating Cumberland as a suitable place to locate. They want 25 acres of ground and \$50,000. Meyersdale might get busy upon this proposition for we have advantages that are most inviting to almost any kind of industry.

## A CHANCE FOR MEYERSDALE.

Boiled cider, at Habel & Phillips.

Hammond dairy feed, the great milk producer, \$1.40 per hundred pound bag, at Habel & Phillips. ad

Did you ever see of such a combination of... the Commercial has for its subscribers?

## WHAT IS GOING ON AT THE COURT HOUSE

Judge Bell of Clearfield county, Friday opened the trial of the action of Mary L. Metzler vs. the United Railway company, an action to recover damages for a right-of-way, appropriated by the corporation.

A settlement was effected in the case of the Center Evangelical Lutheran church vs. the Manufacturers' Water company by the payment of \$850 to the plaintiff.

Emory B. Dayton, a policeman for the Quemahoning Coal company at Ralplton, entered suit against the Jenners Brewing company to recover \$5,000 damages, alleging false arrest. In his complaint he alleges that while in the performance of his duty he was arrested several times last July on charges of assault. The arrests, the complainant alleges, were made when he interfered with teams delivering beer to persons in the town of Ralplton. He declares that he was arrested and taken to Boswell to give bail in order that beer could be delivered in his absence. When the case of Dayton came to trial in court he was acquitted. The prosecutor was Joe Bobish, an employe of the Jenner Brewing company. The jury assesses the costs in the case on Bobish. Dayton alleges that the suits were instituted against him with malicious intent.

## Throughout the County.

The name of Dr. O. C. Schlag, formerly of Stoyestown, appears in the list of incorporators or the Twenty-fourth Ward Building and Loan Association, which was chartered last week by Pittsburg capitalists. The company is capitalized at \$1,000,000.

Andrew Prostanita of Macdonaldton has brought suit against the Brothersvalley Coal Company for \$15,000 damages. His claim is based upon the fact that his right arm was broken while he was operating a mining machine, which, it is alleged, was not in proper working order.

Mr. and Mrs. Mesheck Beam of Lincoln Township celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage recently at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Baldwin. A number of relatives participated in the event. Mr. Beam who served in the Civil War, is in his seventy-ninth year.

A verdict for eight hundred and fifty dollars has been returned at a special term of court in favor of Samuel G. Braucher and against Somerset Borough, because of a change of grade made on North East street in 1912, in front of the property owned at that time by Mr. Braucher, but which has since been sold to Dr. E. F. Shaulis. This was the second trial of the case, and the verdict is \$212 lower than the first one awarded the plaintiff.

A sequel of this fall's disastrous drought is a suit for damages filed in the equity court of Somerset county last week by Minnie J. Alwine and her husband, Jeremiah Alwine, prominent Conemaugh township agriculturists, in which the United Coal company is named as defendant. The company is charged with interfering with the riparian rights of the plaintiffs by pumping water from Benscreek five miles above the plaintiffs' 64-acre farm. It is alleged that the company conveys the water from the stream through a six-inch pipe, thereby diminishing the flow to such an extent that not sufficient water reaches their land to supply their domestic needs and irrigating a truck and dairy farm.

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