

Meyersdale Commercial

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MEYERSDALE, PA., THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1915.

\$55,000 Opera House Burned

Donges Theatre and Three Other Places Burned. Flames Threaten Whole End of Town But Gallant Fire Laddies and Strong Water Pressure Prevails. Commercial Building on Fire Three Times

Between five and seven o'clock this Thursday morning fire licked up about \$55,000 worth of property at the junction of Meyers avenue and Centre streets, this town, in which the sole loser was Mr. George Donges, the buildings destroyed being the large Donges theatre, his dwelling house which also contained the meat market of his son, Edgar, and also the building next to it occupied and owned by The Meyersdale Auto Company was damaged to the extent of nearly \$1,000.

James Hoblitzell, the civil engineer, who was on his way to make the Duquesne train, first saw the fire and gave the alarm. The Volunteer Fire department with Chief Campbell at the head responded quickly, but before they were ready to apply any water the flames had burst through the roof of the tall structure and as Mr. Dahl, a baker, who lives near the opera house saw the fire at the time the alarm was sent out, that there was fire in the basement, six stories beneath the roof, the inference is the fire started in the furnace part of a steam heating plant. This means that the entire building from roof to cellar was ablaze before a drop of water was attempted to put upon it. To try to stay this was entirely futile. The attention of the firemen was therefore directed to saving nearby buildings.

The sparks flew in showers and a strong southwest wind carried the burning embers to all parts of the town. Buildings were being ignited here and there but the whole town was by this time awake to its danger. The home of the owner of the opera house was just next to that building and it was soon on fire also, the men being unable to save it from complete destruction. The household goods were in part removed. The garage was the prey of the fire element, the roof of the long one-story building catching and destroying it pretty thoroughly. More valuable than this building were the 25 autos in it belonging to the various citizens of the town, besides several belonging to the proprietors of the establishment, Messrs. Plock &

Gurley, but fortunately these were all gotten out.

The residence of Mr. Harry Dively, the Glessner house, occupied by Mr. Clyde Rowe and the Commercial building were afire several times and it looked as if the Commercial would not make its usual weekly visit, but thanks to the very efficient fire department, we are still existent. We desire to express to them our sincere gratitude. That men will undergo severe privation and suffering, risk life and limb that the property of others may be saved is one of the highest forms of human service. We take off our hat to the Fire Laddies. May they sleep well and may some good things come their way.

The opera house was completely demolished, hardly one brick being left upon another. As wall after wall fell the flames would take an added spurt skyward seemingly bent upon some further devastation, but its force after an hour's rampage was spent and all breathed more freely once more.

The building was erected in 1904 and was the only place of its kind in town. In size it was 80 by 110 feet, 4 stories in front and six in the rear. Mr. Donges, the owner was in Somerset at the time of the fire, but he hired an automobile and came here as fast as the bad condition of the roads would allow. The loss is about \$65,000 covered about one-half by insurance.

There was a show in the opera house the evening preceding the fire and the manager, Mr. Clay Donges, and two of the actors remained about a half hour after the close of the performance, going to different parts of the building but they detected nothing amiss. As the evening was merely cool, there was no forced firing of the furnace.

The Donges Meatmarket will resume business in one of the Hocking store rooms next to the novelty store. Mr. Donges is undecided as whether he will rebuild or not.

The Tom Waters Stock Company which played in the opera house on Wednesday evening was the loser by the fire to the amount of about one thousand dollars in costumes and scenery.

POPULAR TEACHER DEAD

Miss Nelle Dom, one of Meyersdale's most popular grade school teachers, died last night at her home on Meyers avenue as the result of nervous prostration. For some time Miss Dom had not been in good health and preparation for Parents' Day ended in her fatal illness. Her mother, who is 80 years of age, is in a critical condition from pneumonia, brought on by solicitation for her daughter. Miss Dom was a graduate of the California State Normal school and has for many years been a teacher here. She was a consistent member of the Lutheran church and most highly respected. Besides her mother, three brothers survive: Henry, of Johnstown, Oliver, Pittsburg, and Thomas, on the B. & O.; also three sisters: Mrs. W. H. Klingaman, at whose home Miss Dom and her mother lived; Mrs. Lillian Meese and Mrs. G. W. Day, both of Pittsburg. The funeral will take place Saturday at 1 p. m. Miss Dom's pastor, Rev. D. W. Michael officiating.

BERLIN'S \$20,000 SCHOOL IS DEDICATED.

Very interesting exercises were held at Berlin Thursday that being the occasion of the dedication of the splendid new public school building.

In the afternoon the public enjoyed viewing the building and admiring the conveniences and appliances. Tea and wafers were served by the High school girls and Directors' wives. In the evening the dedicatory exercises were held in the reformed church which was filled. Pres. of the Board E. B. Walker, after reviewing the facts leading to the erection of the building, formally presented it to the townspeople. The Rev. Burkholder accepted it in the name of the citizens, while Principal J. C. Speicher spoke as representing the schools. Rev. John Brubaker, D. D., formerly at the head of the Berlin schools spoke. Dr. Hammerschlag, head of the Carnegie Tech. School of Pittsburg, made the main address of the evening. Other speakers were Revs. Stephan and Wiant.

The school is a two-story building with finished basement and is built of solid brick, faced with buff-colored brick, and trimmed with brownstone. It is 68 by 104 feet in size and occupies a very prominent location. It reflects much credit on Contractor S. G. Braucher. The total cost of the building, which contains eight grade rooms and a High School department, consisting of three rooms, is about \$20,000; this amount covering equipment, seating etc., as well as the cost of the ground, a plot of 200 feet square.

LADY WELL KNOWN HERE IS DEAD.

Word was received here Tuesday morning of the death of Mrs. Helen Wilson, which occurred at the home of her mother, Mrs. Annie Weber, in Pittsburg, on Monday night. Deceased was the oldest daughter of the late W. J. Weber, well known in Meyersdale. Mrs. Wilson's husband died only last August. And a short time after she was taken sick with typhoid fever from which she never fully recovered. She is survived by two small children, her mother and six sisters. Mrs. Wilson was well known here as she frequently visited at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Anna Weber. Mrs. Mary E. McKenzie and Mrs. Anna Hurley, aunts of the deceased, left here yesterday to attend the funeral which was held in Pittsburg this morning.

BROTHERHOOD DINES ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

The Luther Brotherhood of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of this place, to the number of 100 enjoyed a banquet on the evening of St. Patrick's Day. The ladies who served on the occasion wore green caps and aprons. The event was a most enjoyable one.

TRY GOLD MEDAL FLOUR—Money refunded if it doesn't make good bread. \$2.00 per large bag at Habel & Phillips.

10 Bars of Good Laundry Soap for 25 at Bittner's Grocery.

COUNTY LICENSSES GRANTED

Somerset county gains two new retail liquor licenses as the result of the decisions of Judge Ruppel handed down on Monday, but it loses one of its breweries for a year at least, unless an appeal is taken to a higher court and appellant is sustained. The new retailers will be Wilson K. Walker, of the Hite House, of Stoystown, who was refused last year and Frank Lowry, of Windber who recently completed the construction of a three-story stone hotel building in that place. The brewer's application refused is that of the Jenner Brewing Co., of near Boswell.

In the case of the Jenner Brewing Co. it was alleged that the company had violated the laws within the last year and the remonstrance against the granting of that application was a very strong one.

The refusals in Shade township were of a sweeping character. It was in the new Cairnbrook-Central City mining community that M. R. Brennan and Adam Stibick of Johnstown and John F. Werner constructed hotels, those of the first two named being very large structures. It was expected that at least two of them and perhaps the trio would be granted a license, but all were refused. Three applications in Windber were also refused. They are Nettie C. King, A. L. Gohn and J. T. & S. R. Metz.

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HELP BEAUTIFY OUR TOWN

Now that the spring of the year is fast approaching every person should get busy have their gardens and lawns cleaned up and put in shape for the planting of vegetables and flowers. That every home may have a flower garden at a very small cost the ladies of the Civic League will furnish seeds and plants providing the people will give their order to the solicitor that will call on them within the next week. Should anyone be missed, just call on Miss Jessie McKinley, secretary of the League, and she will take your order. A prize will be given on each street for the best display of flowers, vines and well kept lawns, the prizes to be two rose bushes or hardy vines.

The League is working hard to beautify the town and they should have the co-operation of all the people. Following is the list of seeds and vines you may select from: Tall nasturtium, dwarf nasturtium, morning glory, marigold, sweet alyssum, giant cosmos, petunia mixed, petunia white, phlox, Japan pink; each of the above one cent a package. Nicotiana, canary bird vine, ornamental gourd, salvia, or scarlet sage, two cents. The hardy vines are Japan ivy, eight cents; Clematis, nine cents; scarlet trumpet vine, seven cents; crimson rambler, fifteen cents and Dorothy Perkins, fifteen cents.

PROMINENT PHYSICIAN DIES

Dr. Oliver Getty. For Twenty Years Located Here Passes Away After Being Invalid For Five Years.

At midnight on Sunday, Dr. Oliver G. Getty, for many years a prominent physician of Meyersdale, died at his home in this place after having been an invalid for five years as the result of a stroke of paralysis.

Dr. Getty was born and reared in Grantsville, Md. He attended the medical school at Johns Hopkins university, graduating with honors, after which he practiced his profession in his native town for a number of years. He came to Meyersdale 21 years ago has been a prominent figure in this place ever since that time.

The deceased is survived by his widow and the following children: Dr. W. E. Getty of Pittsburg, Daniel B. Getty, Meyersdale; Gorman B. Getty of Pittsburg; Oliver G. Getty, Mrs. Edna Moore and Mrs. Eugene Hostetler, Meyersdale. Funeral took place Wednesday morning high requiem mass was celebrated at the Catholic church. The remains were taken to Grantsville for interment.

ANNUAL BANQUET OF COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The Commercial Club will hold its annual banquet, Friday evening, this week in the social room of the M. E. church. It will be served by the Woman's Bible class of the church. Besides the representative business men of the town, there will be present three prominent officials of the B. & O., three of the Western Maryland and members of the Somerset and Cumberland Boards of Trade. Any who wish may attend the banquet by previously notifying Mr. Paul Clutton. The plates will be 50 cents each.

JOHN J. ENGLE

Died in the hospital at Cumberland Friday morning as the result of liver and kidney trouble. He was aged 75 years and was a veteran of the civil war. Since 12 yrs. of age he was a devoted member of the Reformed church and had served in nearly every capacity in its interests. He was greatly esteemed by all. His wife and eight children survive. The funeral took place on Sunday at 2 p. m. Rev. Munn officiating. The funeral was one of the largest ever in that section, it being estimated that nearly a thousand persons attended it.

CHILDREN'S DEATHS.

Charles Edward, infant of John M. Housel and wife of Salisbury Junction, died March 10, and was buried the following day in the Reformed cemetery.

Edgar Wilson, the 8 month old child of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ringler, of the South Side, died March 15. Burial on Wednesday in the Union cemetery.

MINER KILLED AT BLACKFIELD MINES

Wm. Valentine, a Slav, was instantly killed in the mines at Blackfield Wednesday about 9:30 a. m., by falling slate. The remains, in charge of Undertaker Price, were brought to Meyersdale for interment.

MARRIED.

Swindell—Nicola. On Sunday afternoon, March 14, at 2:30 o'clock, Mr. John H. Swindell and Katie E. Nicola, both being highly respected young people of Meyersdale, were united in marriage at the Brethren parsonage by the Rev. H. L. Goughnour. A host of friends wish them the richest of blessings throughout their married life.

BRETHREN CHURCH—

Preaching services on March 21 at Salisbury in the morning, Summit Mills in the afternoon and Meyersdale in the evening. Sunday-school and Christian Endeavor at usual hours. All are cordially invited. H. L. Goughnour.

Don't fail to attend the May Millinery Opening Friday and Saturday, of this week.

It will pay you to buy your groceries at Bittner's Grocery and get "Glendale" Certificates.

7 lbs. of Good Coffee for \$1.00 at the Bittner Grocery Store.

PICTURE EXHIBIT TO BE VERY INTERESTING HERE.

If you delight in seeing copies of High School, Friday and Saturday, of this week. Admission 10c the proceeds to be used for the purchase of Elson exhibit in the basement of the pictures for our schools.



A READING FROM HOMER.



STRATFORD—ON—AVON.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE PROGRAM

The following is the program for the teachers' institute to be held at the E. Lichty school on Friday evening, March 26 at 7:30 o'clock.

Song.
Industry and Application, H. B. Saller.
School Economics, Jared Walker.
Political Science as Applicable to School Work, John Schrock.
Concentration, Sydney Lenhart.
Object of Promotion, Nettie Maust.
Select Reading, Mary Gnagey.
Topical Discussion, W. E. Walker.
Self-Direction, S. C. Witt.
Current Events, Mae Moore.
Solo, Ruth Commons.
The Miracle of Love, E. R. Hay.
Moral Training, A. G. Maust.
Topic for Discussion, F. J. Fike.
Spelling Contest—Lloyd Shumac and H. B. Saller, captains.
Paper, Mrs. Velma Beals and D. C. Handwerk.

HOOVERVILLE.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Naugle have settled down on the farm they bought near this place a year ago and where Mr. Naugle's father, Josiah Naugle, has been living and who has a saw-mill thereon. A new barn was built last fall and everything will be put in first class condition. The young couple were married last fall.

GLADE CITY.

Jos. Long was confined to his home last week with tonsillitis.
Rev. D. W. Michael preached to quite a large gathering of people at Keystone Junction last Sunday; he will preach at Glade City at 3 p. m. Sunday next.

THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

Rev. E. B. Boyer, who has been pastor of the Confluence Lutheran church for a number of years, has resigned and will leave that place in the near future.

Lamb & Thomas, a well known lumber firm of Windber last week brought suit against the Summit Milling & Lumber Co. to recover \$1700 for sawing timber on a track in Stonycreek township.

Bruce Phillippi, of Canora Saskatchewan, Canada, formerly of Berlin, and Miss Pearl Vandersloot, of Johnstown, were united in marriage at the latter place on March 6 by the Rev. J. N. Scholes, pastor of the First Christian Church of that city, witnessed by friends of the bride and groom. Mr. Phillippi departed for his home in Canada, last Monday morning but Mrs. Phillippi will remain in Johnstown until the coming June 1, in order to complete the current term as a teacher in the public schools of Dale. Bessie Kelley, aged 3 years, was fatally mangled by a trip of mine cars at the Reading operations at Kimmelton, recently. The accident was witnessed by the child's mother and she narrowly escaped the same fate in an attempt to rescue the little girl. The latter was picking coal under the cars and the motorman did not see her.

Ex-County Commissioner Hiram P. Hay, of Brothersvalley township, as the result of a fall some time ago, was operated upon a few days ago for the removal of a blood clot on the brain. He is resting well and it is believed that he will recover. Mrs. Hay remains at his bedside in the hospital.

BEAUTIFUL ALUMINUM ROASTER

Beautiful Aluminum Roasters—Given away to cash customers at Habel & Phillips.



Pope Motor Cycles and Bicycles, the standard of the world. We have this and other lines to select from. Get our prices and see our line before buying. Bicycle tires and supplies, all parts and repairs for bicycles, any make. T. W. Gurley, Sporting Goods.

Everybody will attend the "Nationally Advertised Goods Celebration in Meyersdale on March 22 to 27.