

JUST THE THING!  
One year's subscription for THE STAR would be just the thing for a Christmas present for your friend.

WHY NOT?  
Send your friend THE STAR one year for a Christmas present. For fifty-two weeks they would be reminded of the giver.

## Seven Children Burned to Death at Sykesville Monday Night

### An Explosion of Gas In a Cook Stove Spread the Flames Through the House PARENTS AND AN INFANT ALONE ESCAPE

Family of Samuel Bruno, an Italian, the Victims.—Only the Charred Trunks of the Little Ones Remained After the Fire Had Spent Its Fury.—All the Victims Were Between the Ages of Two and Twelve.—Parents Made a Heroic Attempt to Rescue their Offspring But were Forced to Jump From a Second Story Window to Save their Own Lives.

ONE of the most frightful catastrophes recorded in recent years in the county occurred at Sykesville between 11.00 o'clock Monday night and 1.00 Tuesday morning, when seven children, six of the family of Samuel Bruno and one the child of a neighbor, were burned to death while they slept. The residence of the Bruno's was located a short distance back of Smith's Hotel, in Sykesville, on the road to the park. Monday night the family had retired early, some sleeping on the first floor and a number of the children on the second. The fire in the kitchen stove had been banked at the time of retirement and it is supposed that gas had accumulated under the coal, which exploded, scattering the burning coal and the flames about the room. It did not, however, awaken the Brunos, who were roused only by the heat of the burning walls around them, and long before that the fire had spread all through the building. Grasping an infant that slept beside them, both father and mother bravely mounted the stairs already burning beneath their feet, in a vain attempt to rescue their children on the second floor. At the top of the stairs they found everything ablaze. The beds on which the children slept were wrapped in flames and no voice or sound of life responded to their cries. Even while they plunged through the smoke from room to room the burning roof over their heads commenced to fall upon them and they were forced to fight for their own lives. They found their retreat by means of the stairs cut off, the passageway burning so furiously that they had to rush through a room filled with smoke and fire to a window which they broke open, and after throwing the infant they carried to persons below, both the man and his wife jumped from this second story window to the snow covered ground below. Their scanty clothing was charred and their persons badly burned, but their injuries are not serious.

Sykesville has no fire fighting apparatus and while a bucket brigade did good work in protecting other property, it was impossible to control the flames or make any effort to reach the children in the building until the fire had exhausted itself. When the embers had cooled, a party of citizens commenced the search for the burned bodies. Of the youngest child, only a few burned white bones remained. Of the older ones, in most cases, only the charred and ghastly trunks could be found. In the fierceness of the heat the arms and lower limbs had been burned completely away. The remains were collected and given to Hughes & Fleming, the Reynoldsville undertaker, to be prepared for burial.

Of the seven children burned, the oldest was about twelve years of age and the youngest barely two. One of the unfortunate children was the daughter of Antonio Pracole, a friend of the Bruno family who had spent the evening with the Bruno children and instead of going home, had decided to spend the night there. It is doubtful if any of the children suffered greatly, the indication being that all were suffocated by the fumes and heat without awakening. All that remained of the children was put into one casket and buried in the Soldier Hill cemetery yesterday afternoon.

The property loss to Mr. Bruno will amount to about \$1,200.

### Hot Water Heater Exploded Monday.

Monday afternoon of this week the editor of THE STAR had a very narrow escape from serious injury at least. The dwelling we occupy is heated with hot water, and after being absent five days, we filled the radiators with water and put a fire in furnace. About one hour and a half after the fire had been started, and the radiators were hot, we were in the cellar and had just turned away from in front of the furnace, having only taken four or five steps, when there was a heavy explosion and instantly the cellar was filled with smoke and steam. When the smoke cleared away we found that the top had been blown off the furnace and one front door blown off. Had the explosion taken place a quarter minute sooner my editor would have received the full force of hot water, pieces of furnace, &c., full in the face. The furnace was so badly wrecked that a new one will have to be put in. The cause of the explosion is a mystery. It is the first case known in this section of a hot water heating furnace exploding.

### Punxsutawney, Too, Bids for the Institute

The Punxsutawney Spirit clipped the item from last week's STAR relative to holding the institute at other places than Brookville and comments on it as follows: "Everyone will agree with the editor of THE STAR that Brookville, should not have a monopoly on the institute. It would be an excellent idea to pass it around to Reynoldsville, Brookville and Punxsutawney, Brookville likewise taking its turn every fourth year. When it comes, however, to advancing claims to the institute, Punxsutawney has everything that could be asked for, and is undoubtedly better situated and equipped to take care of the big event than any other town in the county. Punxsutawney has excellent railroad facilities and is easily accessible. It has more hotels and can accommodate twice as big a crowd as any town in the county, and the quality of the hostilities is not to be questioned. There are twice as many school teachers here as in any one borough in the county, and, as for a suitable place to hold the convention, can Brookville, Brookwayville or Reynoldsville offer such a place as the Jefferson Theatre?"

When Mr. Fisher's new theatre is completed Reynoldsville will have as good theatre as Punxsutawney has. We will not take a back seat for accommodating the county institute.

### Annual Meeting.

Reynoldsville, Dec. 18, 1909. Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Reynoldsville & Falls Creek Railroad Company will be held at the Company's office in Reynoldsville, Pa., on Tuesday, January 18, 1910, at 5.00 p. m. for the purpose of electing a President and a Board of Directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

LUCIUS W. ROBINSON, Pres.  
B. M. CLARK, Sec.

### Notice to Stockholders.

Reynoldsville, Pa., Dec. 18, 1909. Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the Jefferson & Clearfield Coal & Iron Company will be held at the Company's office in Reynoldsville, Pa., on Tuesday, January 18, 1910, at 2.30 p. m. for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

LUCIUS W. ROBINSON, Pres.  
LEWIS ISELIN, Secretary.

### Stockholders' Meeting.

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Reynoldsville, Pa., for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before it, will be held in the Banking Room on Tuesday, January 11th, 1910, at 3.00 p. m. K. C. SCHUCKERS, Cashier.

### Hon. E. Heath Clark Expired at Brookville

Was Once Judge of Jefferson And Clarion Counties.

Hon. E. Heath Clark, a former judge of the Eighteenth judicial district, comprising Jefferson and Clarion counties, died at his home in Brookville Friday morning, December 24th. His health had not been good for some time but final dissolution came very unexpectedly. Judge Clark was born in 1839, making him about 70 years old at time of death. He studied law in the office of George W. Ziegler, in Brookville, along with W. P. and George A. Jenks, and was admitted to the bar in 1866. The trio who had studied law together in Ziegler's office later formed a law partnership and all three rose to high distinction in the state in their profession. In 1891 Mr. Clark formed a new law partnership with George W. Means, to which firm Mr. Clark's oldest son, B. M., was afterwards admitted under the firm name of Clark, Means & Clark. In 1891 E. Heath Clark was elected president judge of the counties of Jefferson and Clarion, the Eighteenth district, on the Democratic ticket. In 1895 this district was divided, Jefferson county having gained the necessary population to entitle it to its own court. Judge Clark remained on the bench of the Clarion district. At the close of his term he returned to Brookville and has since been one of the county seat's most highly esteemed citizens. Funeral services were held at Brookville at 2.15 Monday and burial was made in the cemetery at that place.

### Patrick McEnteer Passed Away

Well Known Old Resident Expired Suddenly Last Saturday Morning.

Patrick McEnteer, one of the best known of the older residents of West Reynoldsville, died very suddenly at the home of his son, Thomas C. McEnteer, on the west side, about 6.00 o'clock Christmas morning, December 25, 1909. He had been very feeble for several years and death was the result of the gradual decay of old age. Saturday morning as he was rising from his bed he fell backwards and before others in the home hearing the unusual noise could hasten to him his spirit had fled. The funeral was held at the Catholic church at 9.00 a. m. Monday morning, Father P. J. Lynch celebrating the mass. Burial was made in the local Catholic cemetery. Henry Priester was funeral director. Six grandsons were pall bearers.

### Lewis's Greeting To Local Miners

The Re-Elected U. M. W. Of A. Chief Speaks.

Thomas L. Lewis, recently re-elected president of the United Mine Workers of America, has issued a letter to the local unions of which the following is the substance: "It is well known to our members that wage agreements expire on March 31st, 1910, and new agreements should take effect on April 1st. Every local union should be equally interested in preparing for any issue that may present itself when we meet in our international convention and later when we meet the operators to negotiate wage contracts. It is unnecessary for me to suggest that the ablest men in the ranks of the miners should be selected as delegates to the annual and joint conventions. Men selected as delegates should have your confidence and be able to represent you fearlessly and intelligently. "This is a time of the year when gladness and sunshine should be in every home. We realize that there is not that joy and happiness in the homes of many of our members that should exist, due to the uncertainty of mining conditions and the failure of many of our members to secure that employment necessary to bring comfort and happiness to the homes of those dependent upon our fellow workers. Every member of the organization should do what he can to encourage his fellow-worker and to say and do those things that carry hope into the hearts of our people and joy and happiness in the homes of the mine workers."

### The Pennsylvania Wants Good Roads

Working in Harmony With Farmers for Improvement.

Following up its campaign in the interests of good roads in the states through which it operates, the Pennsylvania Railroad has arranged with D. Ward King, the good roads expert, to deliver lectures on methods for making good roads. The series of talks was started at Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 27th, and addresses will be given by Mr. King at other points in the state in the near future. For the past few months the Pennsylvania Railroad has made a study of the good roads movement and on November 18th its activities in this line were started with a meeting of its agents from the Williamsport and Susquehanna Division at Williamsport, Pa. These employes of the railroad were addressed by experts in the use of the King Split Log Drag, a device which farmers themselves make after patterns furnished by D. Ward King. The meeting at Williamsport was followed by a meeting of the General Manager's staff in Philadelphia on December 17th, at which time there was a discussion on the methods for improving the roads radiating from the company's stations. The object of all this campaign is to make the roads to the railroad passable so that farmers can receive and deliver freight during all kinds of weather. There are approximately 90,000 miles of country road in the state of Pennsylvania, and of the total only 2,000 miles are macadamized. In view of the fact that it will cost approximately \$10,000 per mile to macadamize these roads, the solution of the problem of improving the country roads in the state of Pennsylvania, lies in the employment of less expensive means. It is to introduce such methods to the farmers that the railroad company has undertaken its good roads campaign.

### Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Citizens National bank, of Reynoldsville will be held in their banking rooms on Tuesday, January 11, 1910, at 1.30 p. m., for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before that body.

J. W. HUNTER, Cashier.

### Could Not Be Better.

No one has ever made a salve, ointment, lotion or balm to compare with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Its the one perfect healer of cuts, corns, burns, bruises, sores, scalds, boils, ulcers, eczema, salt rheum. For sore eyes, cold sores and chapped hands its supreme. Infallible for piles. Only 25c at H. L. McEntire's.

## The First National Bank

OF REYNOLDSVILLE.

Capital and Surplus \$175,000.00  
Resources \$550,000.00

JOHN H. KAUCHER, Pres. J. C. KING, Vice-Pres. K. C. SCHUCKERS, Cashier  
John H. Kaucher J. C. King Daniel Nolan John H. Corbett  
Henry C. Deible J. S. Hammond R. H. Wilson

Every Accommodation Consistent with Careful Banking

## IF SANTA CLAUS BROUGHT YOU MONEY FOR CHRISTMAS

You will be wise to start a bank account with it in the Peoples National Bank. The giver will be pleased that you have made such excellent use of the money, and it will serve as a nest egg, to which other cash may be added at any time; and as all deposits earn a liberal rate of interest, compounded semi-annually, the fund will grow in a way which will surprise you. Money may be sent by mail and withdrawn in the same way. A postal card will bring you particulars of our mail system.

## The Peoples National Bank

Oldest bank in the county. REYNOLDSVILLE, PA.  
Capital and Surplus \$125,000.00. Resources \$550,000.00

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SAID, "If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some."

Do you know where you could borrow a few hundred dollars if sickness or misfortune should come to you?

The time to save is while you have health and are able to work.

We invite you to open an account with this bank. One dollar or more will do it. Better do it to-day.

## THE CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK

## Dirt Flying.

One hundred more men arrived on Saturday at Mahoning to go to work on the new Shawmut railroad and despite the cold weather great progress is being made. Twelve steam shovels are now in active service and a dinky engine used for hauling cars of dirt is running daily in the vicinity of Reedy's Mill. A good start has been made on the tunnel near Mahoning and the advance guard under the direction of D. L. Nulton, of Kittanning, is now located about four miles up the creek.