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Read the Ads.

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BOYS MEET DEATH IN FIRE

**Most Harrowing Tragedy of Recent Years
In Reynoldsville Occurred Sunday Morning
HEART RENDING SCENES AT FIRE**

Home of J. C. Ferris Destroyed, Two Children Cremated, Father, Mother and Two Other Children Painfully Burned.

The most harrowing fire tragedy of recent years in Reynoldsville occurred about four o'clock Sunday morning, December 4th, when the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ferris, on East Grant street, was almost totally destroyed, and in which two of their children were burned to death, two more badly burned, and they themselves so terribly injured by fire and cuts that the life of the mother, at least, is despaired of.

The story of the catastrophe is sickening in its horror. The family of six had retired Saturday night no thought of the evil that was to befall them before morning. About midnight Mrs. Ferris awoke and found that the baby of the home, who was suffering from a cold needed attention, and she went to the kitchen to prepare a poultice. The family used coal for fuel and after getting the poultice for the infant ready, Mrs. Ferris banked the fire in the stove, as had been done many times before, that it might hold and be in readiness for the morning. It is supposed the stove later became overheated, and ignited the paint on the walls of the house, which it is said were within eight inches of the side of the stove. It was about four o'clock in the morning when Robert, the second son of Mr. Ferris, a lad of four years, awoke, saw the flames coming through the bedroom door and ran in terror to his mother's room to alarm them. It was but a moment until the household was aroused, but even then the fire was found raging everywhere, escape by the stairs was cut off, and the floor was sagging beneath them as they walked. The father picked up the eldest girl, the mother the infant child, and calling the two other boys to them they ran to a window, broke it down, and then, clad only in underclothing, jumped from this second story window to the snow covered ground below. The father fell through the window and was safe except for a great gash cut in the calf of Mr. Ferris' left leg. The mother calling to the children to follow her and she would catch them, jumped with the baby. The clothes of both were in flames at the time and in a moment after reaching the ground she had rolled the child and herself in the snow to extinguish the fire and then turned to catch her children when they jumped. To her uttermost horror, she found that they had become frightened and turned back into the burning house. Calls were in vain and entrance to the house was impossible. In that moment of awful mental anguish, the mother became dazed, her mind wandered and neighbors who came hurrying to the rescue a few minutes later, found her sitting on the steps of her burning home, swaying backwards and forwards, wringing her hands in helpless woe and murmuring an incoherent song that she had frequently used to lull her children to sleep. Even as she sang it two of her children were passing into the endless sleep of death.

Strong men who came upon her in this pitiful state were transfixed with horror and stood as though frozen to the ground, and with their blood running cold. The boys who had failed to follow their parents to the ground, went back over the burning floor evidently in search of some other means of escape. Once, it is said, they were seen at the rear window trying to batter it down and escape from the raging fire around them but while they vainly struggled at the window, the floor gave way beneath them and they fell together into the furnace of flame below. In the morning when the fire had been extinguished, men entered the ruins to search for the bodies. It was long before they uncovered them under burnt debris. When, at last, near the foot of the stairs, they came upon them, the little lads were found locked in a close embrace, their flesh roasted to a crisp, and almost unrecognizable. The two bodies were taken up and carried to the undertaking rooms of Hughes & Fleming, where, after being prepared for burial, the bodies remained until Monday afternoon. Owing to the fearful burns, no one was allowed to see the remains after being placed in the casket.

In breaking open the window and jumping, Mr. Ferris was painfully and

GRANGE LECTURE POSTPONED.

The lecture of J. S. Briggs, announced to be given in the Horntown Grange Hall, December 17th, has been postponed until December 23rd. Prof. Briggs was forced to ask a postponement on account of important demonstration work in Washington county.

BOLNER GETS LIGHT SENTENCE.

John Bolner, who was tried in the Jefferson county court last week on a charge of murdering two men and seriously wounding his wife, was given an indefinite sentence of from three to twelve years in the penitentiary.

Elks' Memorial Was Impressive

Large Audience Listened to Eulogy of Departed Brothers.

An audience which filled every portion of the main floor of the Adelphi Theatre was present to witness the beautiful and impressive exercises of the annual Lodge of Sorrow of Reynoldsville Lodge No. 119, B. P. O. Elks, Sunday afternoon.

The stage, tastefully arranged for the occasion, with a large elk head and dial, emblematic of the principles of the order, conspicuous in the center, was occupied by the officers of the local lodge, the speakers of the day, and the members of the octette. The services was in charge of Exalted Ruler John H. Ewing, and the prescribed ritual of the order for such occasions was carried out in detail.

The eulogy was delivered by Clement W. Flynn, Esq., of Reynoldsville, and was a dignified and touching tribute to the worth of the brothers who have passed away, most of whom were personally known to the speaker, and whose words were the more sincere and tender on that account. These departed brothers are: John D. Nolan, William Degnan, Edward B. Phalen, Scott McClelland, J. A. F. Hoy, S. P. Evans, Daniel Stern, Sr., Page McNutt, S. C. Christ, and Grier O. Sweitzer. It is the motto of the Elks "to write the faults of their brothers on the sands, their virtues upon the tablets of love and memory," and the eulogy, without fulsome flattery, without harsh criticism, was a just and deserved tribute to the finer qualities of the dead.

Hon. J. M. Evans, of Sharon, Pa., who followed Mr. Flynn as a speaker, devoted his time to a portrayal of the value of fraternal organizations in promoting the progress of civilization, and in a prediction of the future when "the Brotherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man" shall form a basis on which all the races of mankind may unite to end strife. His tribute to the order of Elks was listened to with deepest interest. He is a plain and forcible speaker, thoroughly conversant with his subject.

A feature of the exercise which was highly appreciated by the audience was the beautiful vocal selections rendered by an octette and the instrumental selections of the orchestra. The invocation had been delivered by Rev. John F. Black, of the Reynoldsville M. E. church, and the benediction was also pronounced by him.

WORK DELAYED AT MEREDITH.

With the exception of the kilns, the old brick plant at Meredith has been raised to the ground, and everything is in readiness to go ahead with the construction of the new plant just across the railroad from the site of the old. The unexpected setting in of winter made it impossible to proceed with the laying of brick on the proposed buildings at present, but promptly with the coming of spring work will be resumed under the management of T. W. White.

The stock of the corporation is now being floated. The Mutual Stores Company proposes to establish a string of stores, in fifty or a hundred different towns and cities in various sections of the United States.

DR. CHARLES CALVERT ELLIS



A SAD TRAGEDY AT THE HOME OF CONRAD HEEMER

Mrs. Margaret Heemer Commits Suicide While Mentally Deranged.

SHE WAS A HIGHLY ESTEEMED LADY

Mrs. Heemer had Lived in Reynoldsville for a Good Many Years and News of Her Act was a Shock to the Community.

The community was shocked Thursday morning of last week to learn that Mrs. Margaret Heemer, wife of Conrad Heemer, one of the best known residents of the east end of town had committed suicide by hanging that morning.

Mrs. Heemer, who was about 50 years old, had suffered at various times from deep melancholia and while in these periods of depression had been carefully watched, as she would at times state her wish to die. At one time it was thought wise to place her in an institution for the care of the feeble minded, but she quickly regained her normal mental balance, and her relatives brought her home. In recent weeks she had given no sign of a return of the melancholy and was not watched as closely as before.

Thursday morning, when Mr. Heemer left home, Mrs. Heemer was still in bed, but talked with her husband and he noticed nothing unusual in her actions. He was gone from the house for about half an hour, and upon his return was horrified to find the lifeless body of Mrs. Heemer hanging from a gas pipe in a room adjoining her bedroom. Apparently she had left her bed immediately after her husband's departure, had gone into the adjoining room, made a noise by means of tying the arms of a night dress together, and while standing on a chair had slipped one end of this noose over a gas pipe projecting and placed the other end around her neck. She had then stepped from the chair and death ensued from strangulation.

Immediately after making the gruesome find, the county coroner, Dr. J. C. Sayers, was notified, and he made an investigation. The evidence of self destruction was so plain that an inquest was deemed unnecessary.

Mrs. Heemer was born in Indiana county in 1859. She was united in marriage to Conrad Heemer in Perry township, this county, thirty-three years ago and to the couple a large family was born. The husband and following sons and daughters survive: William Heemer, of Pittsburgh, Mrs. Pearl Trudgen, of Reynoldsville, Charles Heemer, of Eleonora, Walter, of Chicago Junction, Ohio, Miss Lilly Heemer, at home, Thomas Heemer, of Manila, Philippines Islands, Miss Kate Heemer of Reynoldsville, Guy Heemer, of Reynoldsville, Irene Heemer, Aldine Heemer, both at home.

Mrs. Heemer had resided in or near Reynoldsville for over twenty-four years and had gained the esteem of all who knew her as a lovable, warm hearted woman. The news of her rash act was a shock to scores of friends no less severe than to the members of her immediate family.

CENSUS FIGURES FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

Now Has 63,090, a gain of 3,977 in Ten Years.—Results in Other Counties

The Census Bureau at Washington, D. C., has completed the tabulation of the thirteenth census of the population of the counties of Pennsylvania, and issued a bulletin giving the figures.

Jefferson county, which in the twelfth census had a population of 56,113, has gained but 3,977 in the ten years, now having 63,090. Clearfield county, which had 80,614 ten years ago, gains 13,154, having 93,788 according to the latest returns.

The census figures for other counties in the state are:

Lehigh, 118,832; Blair, 108,958; Clearfield, 93,788; Fayette, 106,449; Cambria, 166,131; Erie, 115,517; Venango, 56,359; Mifflin, 27,785; Allegheny, 1,019,463; Carbon, 52,346; Lawrence, 70,692; Lackawanna, 343,186; Lycoming, 80,813; Jefferson, 63,090; Philadelphia, 1,549,008; Warren, 39,573; Washington, 143,680; Westmoreland, 231,304.

The population of the state of Pennsylvania has increased 21.6 per cent. which will give the state six new congressmen.

CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL PURCHASE A PIPE ORGAN

May be Installed in the Reynoldsville Church by Easter of 1911.

The various societies and members of St. Mary's Catholic church in Reynoldsville are now actively engaged in raising a fund for the purpose of purchasing a new pipe organ for the local church. It is expected that a generous donation will be made towards this project by Andrew Carnegie and that the combined funds of the local parish and donation will enable the church to secure one of the best instruments made.

ITALIAN BAND HAS RENTED OPERA HOUSE

An Italian band has been organized in Reynoldsville with thirty-six members, and there is a possibility that the number will be increased five or six more in the near future. The instruments, fine silver plated cornets and silver mounted clarinets, arrived last week and the band met to practice for the first time Friday night. The second floor of the old opera house building has been leased by this band and a competent leader, Prof. Nick Spent of Kane, has been engaged to give constant instruction until the band reaches a high degree of skill. Prof. Spent of Kane, the organizer and instructor of the Johnsonburg band, which spent two days in Reynoldsville during the Italian celebration.

We have learned of an instance where a piece of land located within one mile of Reynoldsville, one acre in extent, which had been carefully cultivated and a strict account kept of all expenses, both for materials and time, yielded its owner at the end of the present season over \$100.00 actual cash. This land was not exceptional in any way and had no more advantages than are possessed by thousands of half or quarter acre lots now laying barren or half of cultivated around the town, and the crop was just a good old staple like cabbage.

Piano boxes for sale at Hawkins Music Store.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that hereafter positively no bills of any nature for work done on township roads will be paid unless such work has been expressly authorized by the supervisors or the road masters. This applies especially to snow shoveling.

Supervisors of Winslow Township.

We are the only people in Reynoldsville who carry the Apollo Chocolates.

Reynoldsville Candy Works.