

A GENERAL NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

AN ATTAINMENT OF THE LARGEST GENERAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA.

Recognized and Endorsed by More Than Fifty Local Unions and Central Bodies Over Cambria County and Adjacent Mining Areas.

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1939

7th South Fifth Ave. PATTON, PA.

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## CLERKS UNION HAS ENJOYABLE DINNER AFFAIR

Second Anniversary Fete Held Last Week at Brandon Hotel With Big Attendance.

Highlighting the development and organization efforts of the Joint Council of the Wholesale and Retail Employers of America, of this section of the state, was the banquet held on the occasion of the second anniversary of this active CIO union, held at the Brandon hotel, Spangler, Wednesday evening of last week, and with an attendance of more than 125, the plans of the committee were up to and away past their fondest expectations.

Plans for the affair had been in progress for several weeks and particularly pleasing to all concerned was the presence of many employers and their representatives, and the harmonious atmosphere that prevailed throughout the gathering. The committee in charge of the affair were Elmer Burger, International Vice President of the clerks union, as chairman; Meade Retailick, of Colver, and Kenneth Grazer, Thos. A. Owens of the Press-Courier, acted as toastmaster at the banquet.

Significantly honoring the local Joint Council, their international secretary, treasurer, John Cooney, of New York City, made an special trip to Spangler to be present, and he spoke briefly but effectively on the progress of the industrially organized union of which he is an executive officer. Also present from the ranks of labor and likewise a speaker, was William Feeney, director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of Vandergrift, Pa. Elmer Burger was the third labor speaker and pointed out objectives of the union and topics of interest to it.

A number of representatives of employers talked briefly, and all were in the spirit of unity and understanding.

Guest speaker of the evening was Hon. Harve Thibbott of Ebensburg, representative in Congress from the 27th Pennsylvania district, who gave an interesting talk on citizenship and the future leaders of thought in this country. Mr. Thibbott also commented on his impressions of congress.

All in all, the second anniversary banquet of the Clerks will be remembered as a grand and glorious success. Music for the banquet and the dance which followed, was furnished by Clem Furberg's Orchestra of Carrollton.

## LABOR SHEN PERILED IF U. S. ENTERS WAR

Washington—Thomas Mooney said the other day that American labor will find itself in a virtual "strait-jacket" if the United States enters the European war.

Modern economy, he said, has reached a state of decay that requires "doctoring" which he said will be administered in the stress of modern mechanized warfare, at the expense of the rights of labor.

Mooney said labor may be "strangled" even before a declaration of war "through the flimsy excuse of an emergency."

"The threat of war may force the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations to combine in a mutual self defense," he said.

"However," he added, "I think intense force in the unions are more likely to force some kind of unity in order to meet the common problems of all labor."

Mooney dropped in to look over the new Committee's handling on un-American activities. He described the committee as a "blatant attempt to smear the New Deal."

## HOLIDAY EDITION PRESS-COURIER OUT NEXT WEEK

Annual Issue, As in Former Years, Offers Merchants Fine Advertising Medium.

Next week, under date of Thursday, December 14th, the Union Press-Courier will issue its annual holiday edition. As in past years it will afford merchants an excellent advertising medium, to reach hundreds upon hundreds of homes not reached by any other medium.

Only once a year does the Press-Courier issue a special edition, and that is upon this occasion. Because of this fact, coupled with the great coverage given by five thousand copies sent through the mails to blanket the mining towns and other communities as well as the rural delivery routes in Northern Cambria, advertisers usually grasp the chance to have space in this edition.

This year the edition already gives promise of surpassing past achievements. With better working conditions and bigger pay rolls prevailing, the potential buying power that this edition will reach is well worth merchants' consideration.

Remember next week is the time your copy, reaching this office by next Tuesday at noon, will insure insertion.

As a criterion of the volume of next week's Press-Courier, this week's edition has reached 16 pages without any promotion on our part. We ask our readers to carefully scan the ads in the paper, both this week and next, and you can also do in a favor by telling the merchant you saw his ad in the Union Press-Courier.

HOPKINS SEES BOOM HOLIDAY SEASON AS

Washington—Secretary of Commerce Harry C. Hopkins predicted the other day the best Christmas trade since the boom year of 1935.

He based his forecast on increased consumer purchasing power and the extended holiday buying season resulting from the change in buying day dates in at least about a half of the states.

"There is no better indication of the ability of American families to buy goods and services than the amount of wages, salaries, dividends, interest and other types of income they are receiving," he said.

"The substantially higher payrolls disbursed in recent months mean better buying power and a larger purchasing power which will, no doubt, be reflected in Christmas sales."

Added to the greater consumer buying power is the extended shopping season itself which should stimulate earlier and protracted sales volume.

In his analysis of the business outlook, Mr. Hopkins said that income payments for individuals during October were \$6,500,000,000, a gain of over three hundred million dollars over October, 1938. In the first ten months of this year individuals received about \$2,650,000,000 more income than in the same period a year ago, he said.

CIO AND BETHLEHEM PLANNING NEGOTIATIONS

The CIO Steel Workers Organizing Committee has announced that Bethlehem Steel Corp. has invited SWOC committee to meet with management representatives at each of Bethlehem's plants, following union demands for negotiation of a signed contract.

The steel union made public a letter from George W. Vary, Bethlehem manager of industrial relations, to Clinton S. Golden, regional SWOC director, in which Mr. Vary pointed to machinery set up in each Bethlehem plant for discussing employer-employee relations.

Mr. Vary's letter followed SWOC charges that the company was evading union efforts to negotiate a signed contract and demands that the steel company abide by the law of the land and deal with union representatives.

Mr. Golden expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Vary's letter and, in a letter of reply, asked Bethlehem to state specifically whether the company is prepared to negotiate a contract with the union.

North Cambria Community Sales will be held the next four Saturdays, Dec. 9, 16, 23, and 30, at farm adjoining Patton through, sale will start at 1 o'clock. Cattle, horses, hogs, poultry, and lots of miscellaneous articles for the December sales such as New Clothing, New and Used Hardware and Tools, Machinery, Grain, Produce, etc. Come to buy or to sell. Terms cash—COL. G. G. BLOOM, Manager.

## Lewis Moves to Organize the Building Industries

Washington—Congress of Industrial Organizations President John L. Lewis on Tuesday night of this week ordered full speed ahead in a campaign to wrest control of labor in the construction industry from the American Federation of Labor and told his regional directors and organizers to "let no feeling of consideration for the

## 912,000 TO GET BENEFITS UNDER OLD AGE SECURITY ACT IN 1940

Washington—Social security board officers estimated the other day that approximately 912,000 persons will receive benefits during 1940—the first year payments are made under the old age insurance plan of the Social Security act.

The old age insurance system to which workers and employers in covered industries have been contributing for three years becomes effective on January 1st. Officials estimate that between 45 and 50 million wage earners are covered by that plan.

Jan. 1 will be the date when the first monthly benefits become payable to those who can qualify. In that category the board believes there will be 912,000 persons before the end of 1940. That estimate is based on the assumption that there will be 45,000 primary old age beneficiaries—that is, persons 65 years of age or older—who are fully insured in their own right; 125,000 wives and 20,000 widows over 65; 78,000 young widows with dependent children; 194,000 dependent children; and 10,000 dependent parents.

The benefits will vary from \$10 a month to a maximum of \$85 a month, depending on the previous monthly average wage and the length of time employed before applying for a pension.

Last year congress amended the original act passed in 1935 to limit the age of the act and include more than one million workers not previously covered by its provisions.

Among the changes made by Congress were the advancement of the date for the payment of old age benefits from 1941 to Jan. 1, 1940; additional benefits to wage earners for dependents including supplementary benefits to wives and dependent children; monthly benefits to survivors of covered workers; and maintenance of the tax rate at the current level—one per cent paid by worker and 1 per cent by employer—until 1943.

Application of the old age insurance plan is complicated and varies with individual cases.

General requirements for those to receive benefits beginning Jan. 1st, however, are: A worker must be 65 years old and retired; he must have been employed at work governed by the pension system for six calendar quarters after 1936; in each of these quarters his covered wages must have been at least \$50.

If a worker upon reaching the age of 65, cannot fulfill these work requirements, he can continue to work and file his claim after acquiring sufficient wage credits. Likewise if a worker does not wish to stop work at the age of 65, he can continue and file his claim when he does retire.

## MAJOR ORDERS ARE BESTOWED UPON FIFTEEN SEMINARIANS

Major and minor orders were conferred upon a group of seminarians at St. Francis College, Loretto, at an impressive ceremony last Sunday morning in the college chapel. Most Rev. Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle of Altoona, conferred the honors.

Among those ordained as deacons, whose next step will be elevation to the priesthood, were Fraters Charles Dugan of Patton, and Frater Cornelius Sbarbaugh of Carrolltown.

## LOTTERIES IN PENNSYLVANIA ARE BANNED BY THE STATE POLICEMEN

Harrisburg—A warning came last week from the head of Pennsylvania's police to every lottery in the state raising funds for charity or any other purpose to go out of business or face prosecution.

Commissioner Lynn G. Adams said officers were notifying every lottery group that we know about that we expect them to stop of their own accord.

Citizens Adams said he realized "some lotteries are run on the proposition that they are doing a beneficent work for their community, and advised: "If Pennsylvania wants beneficent lotteries it is up to the legislature to provide for them. As it is they are against the law and they all commander the same head."

State police first cracked down on lotteries in Schuylkill, Northumberland and Carbon counties, where the main streets of communities were dotted with headquarters of ticket sales and weekly payouts for lucky numbers.

## 275 MILLION GALLONS OF ICE CREAM SOLD

State College—The ice cream industry uses approximately 121 million pounds of sugar to supply the national per capita consumption of two gallons a year.

In addition 150 million pounds of butterfat goes into the nation's frozen confections, according to L. E. Parkin, dairy husbandry expert at Penn State College.

Parkin bases his estimates on the 275 million gallons of ice cream produced in the United States last year.

## HUMAN-BRAWLEY NUPTIALS RECENTLY AT ST. VINCENT

Mrs. Mary Martha Brawley, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Brawley of Carrollton, became the bride of Rupert P. Dumas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dumas of Ebensburg R. D., at a ceremony performed preceding a solemn nuptial high mass in St. Vincent's academy at Loretto, recently. Rev. P. Macmillan Dumas, O. S. B., of St. Vincent's College was the celebrant of the mass. He is a brother of the bridegroom. Rev. Malachy Brawley, a cousin of the bride was the deacon.

## CENSUS TAKERS WILL SOON BE AT A GIGANTIC TASK

And This Time the Government Will Authorize Several Questions on Private Life.

Washington—The questions to be asked in the 1940 census soon to be shown to the public in a personal sort of way, will pry into corners of American life that have never been fully explored.

In addition to the time worn job of finding out how many people live in the United States, and where—so that each state will know how many members of congress it is entitled to—the census will ask a group of questions whose answers will be pieced into a mosaic of social conditions.

A few of the new topics are:

- Whether homes are owned or rented and their value.
- School attendance and the highest grade completed.
- The citizenship of foreign born residents.
- Changes of residence in the last 5 years.
- Whether persons have jobs, are seeking jobs and if not, why not? If they have been looking for jobs, how long have they been out of work; if they have jobs, what are they working at.
- Their salaries, wages or income and the source.
- What persons have social security accounts and the proportion of their wages or salary subject to tax.
- Besides the material which will furnish the meat for economists to feed upon for a decade, a separate list of questions is being prepared for a possible housing census.

All these new topics on which the New Deal economists have been seeking light for the last four or five years. Many of the administration's social endeavors have been aimed at the improvement of the conditions of the workers.

Director Golob pointed out that general assistance is but one of the programs provided. The other classifications include the blind, those who receive old age pensions and the category in the aid to dependent children category.

Records available as far back as October 6, 1934, show the low point of the five year period to have been set on May 15, 1937, when 2,398 cases were on record. Highest caseload on record during that period was recorded September 7th, 1935, with 10,653 cases.

The caseload decline which resulted in the present two-year low was started during the week of August 12 when 5,077 cases were on record. And since that time the Cambria county general assistance load has dropped rapidly. Private employment and the WPA assignments in that order of importance are credited as being the chief factors in the sharp decrease.

On the accepted basis of 24 persons per general assistance case, the 2398 case drop from mid-August to the end of November represents approximately 1,907 persons who were severed from state aid during the three and one-half month period.

## COAL MACHINES HURTING LABOR

Pittsburgh—Compared with 1938, mechanization in bituminous coal mines is causing a "considerable" lag in employment, but current aggregate payrolls have advanced sharply to improve the position of the worker, the University of Pittsburgh reports.

The University figures, based on the Pittsburgh district and the 1938 average, set last October's employment index at 75 and the October payroll index at 110.

The bureau explained these figures indicate that in October 73 miners were doing the work performed by 100 men in 1938, but were receiving ten per cent more in aggregate pay than the 100 received ten years ago.

Pointing to the present day advancement of the employer miner, the university observed federal and other statistical agencies estimate the cost of living for the present day wage earner at 30 per cent less than in 1938.

Statistics of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee asserted a similar situation existed in the steel industry.

The State Department of Labor and Industry reported 18,406 injuries in October, more than one accident for every minute of the working day.

The injuries showed an increase corresponding to the accelerated pace in industries. Anthracite mining led the list with 1381 injuries but bituminous mining and iron and steel, chief industrial activities in our section, ran second and third. There were 1239 injuries in bituminous mining and 1082 in steel and iron.

A total of 122 of the accidents were fatal.

## INDUSTRIAL INJURIES INCREASE WITH BOOM

Anthracite coal exported from the United States in September of this year amounted to 400,000 long tons, valued at \$427,000, compared with shipments in September, 1938, of only 120,000 tons, valued at \$1,071,000.

Bituminous coal foreign shipments from the United States in September 1939, increased almost half a million tons to 1,533,000 long tons valued at \$6,222,000 compared with 1,020,000 tons valued at \$4,622,000 shipped abroad in September 1938.

## 1940 PORTLAND CEMENT STOCKS WILL TOP 1938

Harrisburg—Market receipts of both dressed portland cements are expected to continue larger this fall and winter than last, according to the Production Control Executive Service of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Storage stocks of cements and portland are now larger than last year and are expected to be above the 1938 levels on January 1, 1940.

SHOPPING WEEKS LEFT

WGA NO. 42 LAMBY JUST BANG!

1939

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

## COUNTY RELIEF CASELOAD HITS LOWER LEVELS

Nearly 8,000 Persons Severed from State Assistance in About Three and A Half Months.

Dropping to the lowest point in a two year period the general assistance caseload of the Department of Public Assistance in Cambria County is within approximately 350 cases of reaching a new five year low it has been announced by Edward R. Golob, executive director.

The general assistance caseload on the last day of November stood at 2,398 cases, lowest point since January 1, 1938. Previous low mark for the county caseload, within the two-year period, was 2810 cases as of April 16, 1938.

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## YOUNG PORTAGE NINROD KILLED BY COMPANION

Paul Hudak, 21, Portage, was killed instantly about four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon when struck in the back by a high powered rifle bullet fired from a gun in the hands of his best friend and hunting companion, Paul Bernie, 22, also of Portage R. D.

The bullet from the .35 caliber rifle entered the victim's back below the shoulder and emerged through the chest. The bullet was believed to have passed through his heart.

Bennie informed Coroner Patrick McDermott that he and Hudak were hunting near Mountaineer on a wooded section about 350 yards from the highway when they spied two deer. Bennie said that Hudak was standing directly in front of him and therefore he did not shoot at the animals.

He told of attempting to move to the side and away from the back of Hudak and while he was walking his gun was accidentally discharged. Bennie informed officers that he was not aware that his gun had been discharged as he did not feel any recoil.

However, he told of seeing his companion fall on his side and lie still. Bennie said that after he realized Hudak had been shot he ran from the woods and "hitch hiked" a ride to Portage where he notified police authorities.

## U. S. COAL EXPORTS RISING SHARPLY

Washington—United States exports of anthracite and bituminous coal increased sharply in September, 1939, as the result of war abroad, according to the Fuel Section, Metals & Minerals Division, Department of Commerce.

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