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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1939

725 South Fifth Ave. PATTON, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 PER YEAR

Christmas Buying To Be Best in Many Years!

GAIN IN MACHINE LOADING OF COAL MAY AID OUTPUT

And Help Industry, But It Will Not Be Conducive to Securing More Work for Miners.

Machine loading of coal in bituminous mines is increasing rapidly, and may prove to be the salvation of the coal industry, according to a WPA research report, released the other day.

The report, issued in two large volumes, devotes much space to conditions of Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia.

It shows that mechanical loadings in mines account for only 7.3 per cent of the total soft coal output in 1929. By 1937 the percentage had risen to 20.3 per cent and in 1938 to about 25 per cent.

In another 10 years as much as half the country's soft coal output will be mechanically loaded, the report predicts. It admits that this will create many local unemployment problems but predicts that the more efficient methods should enable coal to regain some of its lost markets and pay good wages to about the same number of men now employed in the country's mines.

"If the cost of coal is reduced, new uses will be found, and former markets recovered, mechanical loading will result in the elimination of much of the backbreaking work of coal mining without exacting too great a price in terms of unemployment," declared Corrington Gill, assistant WPA commissioner, in charge of research.

"Technical progress has been a factor in aiding coal to meet its competition, and offers one means of the maintaining of adequate wage rates and working conditions," Mr. Gill stated.

"No student of the coal industry, however, foresees a revival of demand such as will lenable the industry to absorb any of the unemployed in other fields of labor. In fact, the most that can be hoped for is to maintain the present working forces."

The report states that the soft coal industry employed its maximum number of workers, 705,000, in 1923. The low point of employment, 406,000, was reached in 1934. By 1937 employment was up to 492,000 men.

The great reduction in employment cannot be attributed to the increased use of machines, the report explains. It is partly due to the fact that many mines which were opened to meet war time demands, had to be closed in the middle 1920's and partly to compete by oil, gas and hydro-electric power.

Statistics on coal loaded by mechanical means show that Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio trail the rest of the country in this respect.

While 20.3 per cent of the nation's soft coal production was loaded mechanically in 1937, only 11.7 per cent of the coal mined in this area was loaded by machine in the same year. In 1935, however, only 6.5 per cent of the coal in the local field was mechanically loaded.

COUNTY DPA CUTS FORCES; FOUR QUIT, 16 ARE DISMISSED

The Cambria County Department of Public Assistance Board, as it is expected to do, took steps to effect a drastic reduction in the relief staff at a special meeting last week. The force was cut by 2 operators—four resignations and 16 dismissals.

Of the 16 visitors dropped, 15 were working under provisional appointments and one as a probation appointee.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CONDUCT CONFERENCE IN EBENSBURG HOME

The second annual Catholic Daughters of America Conference was held on Sunday afternoon in the Knights of Columbus home at Ebensburg and was largely attended. Most Rev. Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle, of Altoona, attended the business meeting and also was a guest at the dinner held in the evening.

BARBER SHOPS WILL REMAIN OPEN ALL DAY DEC. 21ST

Because of the Christmas holiday, the Northern Cambria County Barber Shops, affiliated with the Barber's Union, which usually close on Thursday afternoons, will remain open all day on Thursday, December 21 to the convenience of the trade.

Press-Courier advertisements pay.

CAMBRIA JURY DOES NOT TAKE STAND ON HOME

For Juvenile Delinquents As Proposed to Them By Judge Greer Last Week.

The proposal of Judge Charles C. Greer that the county obtain a building for juvenile delinquents, met opposition on Friday afternoon before the grand jury from County Controller Henry L. Cannon and County Commissioner John Thomas Jr. The county officials declared that the suggestion was not practical. Judge Greer made the proposal to the grand jury when it convened on Monday of last week and Mr. Cannon and Mr. Thomas were called before the venire on Friday afternoon to give their views. Judge Greer had made the same suggestion to the September grand jury which took no action on the question.

Mr. Thomas asserted that if the county should construct a building such as proposed by Judge Greer it would require the expenditure of at least \$10,000. He pointed out that the state would have to give its approval to the plans and that the requirements would therefore be high. Mr. Cannon asserted that the question was not one for the grand jury to decide but should be left for the county officials. He also asserted that members of the court were not in accord as to the need of such an institution. The controller declared his belief that the situation regarding juvenile delinquents in the county did not require the expenditure of any funds for the construction of a building to house them.

The grand jury took no action on the matter. Their inspection of county buildings found everything in fine shape.

ASK COOPERATION

Of Patton High School Graduates of All the Years.

The Patton High School Alumni, which has been inactive for a number of years, recently reorganized. To make the organization a success, however, cooperation from more members is essential.

Members include all graduates and all who have completed two years in the high school. The latter must be beyond high school age. Faculty members, both former and present, automatically become members.

There are approximately 1,300 graduates of the Patton high school, one of the oldest high schools in the county. Considering numbers, Patton should have one of the largest and most active alumni organizations in the vicinity.

Officers will be elected at the January meeting, the date of which will be announced at the theatre and in the local newspaper. Watch for this announcement and attend the meeting. There are no dues.

ALUMNI TO DANCE

Patton Grads to Have Gala Affair at Brandon Dec. 26th

All folks who are graduates of the Patton high school are now of the Alumni. Whether you are actively affiliated with that body or not, you should by all means dance with your former school chums at the Brandon hotel in Spangler, on the evening of Tuesday, December 26th, from nine till one. It's the Patton Alumni Association's dance. Music will be furnished by Paul Flynn and his orchestra. Subscription, \$1 couple. Tickets are on sale at the Patton Drug Company. Make this dance an annual affair by patronizing it this year.

TRUCKER IS KILLED, ANOTHER INJURED ON CRESSON MOUNTAIN

One man was killed and another critically injured when their heavy truck and trailer went out of control on Cresson Mountain's grade and left the road on Monday night. Vern Mabis, 26, of Mansfield, Ohio, is dead, and Luther Owens, 26, was rushed to the Altoona hospital with a fractured skull and is in a critical condition. Mabis was driving the truck at the time of the accident and Owens was sleeping in the truck compartment.

Patronize the advertisers whose ads appear in this Christmas number of the Press-Courier.

Merchants are Better Prepared than ever to handle Shoppers' Needs with utmost Satisfaction

Contained in This Twenty-four Page Holiday Edition Are the Advertisements of the Merchants Who Are Soliciting Your Business, and Give You Helpful Suggestions.

Payrolls in northern Cambria county are better this Christmas season than has been the case since 1929.

More money will be spent for holiday purchases during this next week and a half than has been the case in the past decade.

Miners, particularly, will buy more than they could afford during the past many Yuletide seasons.

And this spending will take place not only in northern Cambria county and in Johnstown and Altoona, but practically all over the nation, and prospects are that a brighter and more prosperous Christmas is just ahead for hundreds of thousands.

And there are so many things to shop for. And most all of them are reasonably priced.

With the express idea of making it convenient for both merchant and his customers, this issue of the Union

Press-Courier was published. We have been painstaking in soliciting advertising only from merchants who are known to be established and who are trustworthy and we believe that the reader who scans the advertisements in this holiday issue, can rest assured that all merchandise and values are as advertised—and that satisfaction in all purchases will result.

We ask you to patronize the advertisers who have taken space in the 24 pages of this paper. They are carrying their message to you through this medium because they feel we are doing right by them. You will find the values offered to be of the best for the money asked. Read the advertisements—perhaps they will serve as an index of the things you want. They will give you hundreds of suggestions for gifts. Really, at this season of the year, the advertising of progressive merchants is NEWS.

Index of Holiday Edition Advertisers:

- PAGE TWO. Gately & Fitzgerald Furniture Co., Johnstown, Pa. Main Street Garage, Carrolltown. PAGE THREE. Mertens Bakery, Patton. Wojcik Jewelers, Patton. American Stores Company. PAGE FOUR. Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. Cordell's Hardware, Patton. PAGE FIVE. Westrick Motor Co., Carrolltown. Barnes Store Co., Elmhora. PAGE SIX. Davis Millinery, Patton. Huber's Hardware, Patton. Colver Store Company, Colver, Pa. Al's Outlet Store, Patton. PAGE SEVEN. The William F. Gable Company, Altoona, Pa. PAGE EIGHT. Grand Theatre, Patton, Pa. PAGE NINE. Punxsutawney Beef and Provision Company, Punxsutawney, Pa. PAGE TEN. Boy Scouts of America. Joe's Cut Rate Store, Barnesboro. J. Edward Stevens, Carrolltown. Fannie C. Wetzel, Carrolltown. PAGE ELEVEN. Karp's Jewelry Store, Barnesboro, Penna. PAGE TWELVE. Penn Furniture Co., Johnstown, Altoona, Indiana, Somerset. PAGE THIRTEEN. Sears Roebuck & Co., Johnstown and Indiana. PAGE FOURTEEN. The Tug Shop, Barton C. Winslow, Patton. PAGE FIFTEEN. Hoffman Ice Cream Company. Atlantic Refining Company. Eagle Printing Co., Barnesboro. Cowher Nehrig & Co., Patton. Reuel Somerville, Attorney. Bender Electric Company, Carrolltown and Johnstown. PAGE SIXTEEN. Binder Bros. Hardware Company, Barnesboro (2 advs.). PAGE SEVENTEEN. The Wolf Furniture Company, Barnesboro, Pa. PAGE EIGHTEEN. Louis Luxenberg, Jewelry Store, Barnesboro, Pa. PAGE NINETEEN. McCrory's Five and Ten Cent Stores. Wolf Furniture Store, Barnesboro, (2 advts.) Zanella's Dept. Store, Barnesboro. PAGE TWENTY. Brandon Beauty Shop, Spangler. Bakerton Supply Co., Bakerton. Hoover's Service Station, North Spangler. John R. Easley, Furniture, Spangler. Wolf Furniture Co., Barnesboro. PAGE TWENTY-ONE. The New Katz Pharmacy, Barnesboro, Penna. PAGE TWENTY-TWO. Gilbert Hotel System. Pennsylvania Edison Company. Westrick Motor Company, Pontiac. Binder Bros. Hardware Co., Barnesboro. PAGE TWENTY-THREE. Luxenberg's Clothing Store, Barnesboro. PAGE TWENTY-FOUR. Sharbaugh & Lieb Clothing Store, Barnesboro. Soisson Electrical Co., Cresson, Pa. First National Bank at Patton.

PATTON BASKETBALL TEAM WILL PLAY A 16 GAME SCHEDULE

A sixteen-game basketball schedule has been announced for Patton High School cagers. The slate will be launched on December 22nd against Reade township on the Mountandale floor and will close on February 26th.

Patton will compete in Section II of the Cambria County league, meeting Carrolltown, Barnesboro and Hastings, the other clubs in the circuit, on a home and away basis. The Patton High School girls will play preliminaries to games with Reade township, Coalport-Iriona, Portage, Carrolltown and Becarria township. The schedule follows:

- xDec. 23—Reade township, away. xJan. 5—Coalport-Iriona at home. xJan. 12—Carrolltown away. xJan. 16—Barnesboro away. xJan. 19—Coalport-Iriona away. xJan. 23—Hastings at home. xJan. 26—Reade township at home. xJan. 30—Gallitzin at home. Feb. 6—Barnesboro at home. Feb. 9—Hastings away. xFeb. 12—Becarria township away. xFeb. 16—Carrolltown at home. Feb. 20—Gallitzin away. xFeb. 23—Portage at home. xFeb. 26—Becarria township at home. x—Girls' preliminaries.

Tell advertisers you saw their ad in the Press-Courier.

THOMAS CITES ACCIDENT DROP IN MINE WORK

State Secretary Says Both Education and Legislation Are Factors in Matter.

State Secretary of Mines John Ira Thomas Monday night in an address at State College credited education and legislation for a sharp decline in Pennsylvania mine accidents and arrested mine mishaps were no longer excused as "natural occurrences."

Thomas told the Mineral Industrial Society at Penn State that bituminous fatalities have been reduced to 1.74 per million net tons in this state, as compared with 2.60 for the nation, and declared a study had shown that only 22.3 per cent of the mine fatalities in Pennsylvania were unavoidable.

"In the early days of mining, mine accidents were looked upon by those engaged in mining as a natural occurrence," he said in a prepared address.

He termed legislation requiring rock dusting as one of the greatest life savers in the \$700,000,000 industry in this state.

"During the 10 years preceding the passage of this law in 1929," he said, "513 lives were lost as a result of coal dust explosions in the bituminous mines of Pennsylvania. During the ten years following the passage of this act, 44 lives were lost in the same cause."

He praised the educational work of state and federal mine industry agencies and operators, some of whom, he said "go far beyond what is required by the mining law in the conduct of safety operations."

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SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS A RULING OF COUNTY BODY

The State Supreme Court upheld the contention of the Cambria County Commissioners in a ruling handed down last week.

In reversing a Cambria County Court opinion on an appeal by the commissioners in the case of Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation Assessments in the county the high court took the position that the commissioners had pursued the right course.

Under the act passed by the legislature in 1935 all surface lands suitable for growing of merchantable timber could be classified as auxiliary for-estate lands and taxed at the rate of \$1 per acre.

The Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation owned 456 acres of this type of land and applied to the Cambria County Commissioners to have the tax rate on it under the provisions of the 1935 act made \$1 per acre.

The land had been taxed at \$8 per acre. Attorney George M. Spence, the county solicitor, advised the commissioners that he believed the act to be unconstitutional, asserting that it violated a constitutional provision in that it exempted certain classes of property and created improper classification for taxes.

Attorney Philip N. Schettig, representing the coal company, agreed that a friendly test case should be taken into court. Hearing was before President Judge John H. McCann, who upheld the constitutionality of the act.

The county commissioners, however, appealed to the state supreme court, with the result that the judges of the high court upheld the viewpoint of the county officials and Attorney Spence.

The opinion is an important one, because in the event the act would have been held constitutional, tax rates on thousands of acres of land throughout the state would have been put on a tax class of \$1 per acre, a rate in most instances well below the normal assessment.

DR. DENNY ELECTED HEAD OF DENTISTS

Officers for the ensuing year were elected on Wednesday evening of last week by the Northern Cambria Dental Society at a meeting at the Brandon hotel in Spangler. Dr. H. B. Denny of Spangler was elected president for the ensuing year.

Other officers elected are Dr. H. A. Yezquel, Colver, vice president; and Dr. H. B. Kerr, Barnesboro, secretary-treasurer. Dr. J. L. Porias of Nanty-Glo served as president of the organization during the past year.

Read the advertisements. They are about the best news you can find at this time.

HIBBS SELECTED HEAD OF CENSUS STAFF IN AREA

Cresson Attorney Will Head 27th District Activities in 1940 Head Counting.

Attorney W. Lloyd Hibbs, of Cresson, former district attorney and former Workmen's Compensation Board referee, is one of several district and assistant district supervisors tentatively named in connection with the forthcoming census.

Attorney Hibbs will be supervisor for District 27, which includes Cambria, Indiana, Armstrong and Jefferson counties. His assistant will be Charles E. Brittan of Apollo. The District 27 headquarters will be located in Johnstown it was announced.

A native of Thompsonstown, Juniata county, the newly appointed district census chief has resided in Cresson since 1885 and has served as a member of the school board there for 14 years. Attorney Hibbs received his early education in the Cresson schools and later was graduated from Dickinson college, Carlisle, with an A. B. degree. He also received his M. A. from the same college. He was graduated from the Dickinson law school in 1909.

Attorney Hibbs was admitted to practice in Cambria county courts and was affiliated for a time, until its dissolution with the law firm of Leech and Hibbs. A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Hibbs was elected district attorney in 1931 and took office the following year. He was defeated for reelection in 1935.

The Cresson resident was appointed by Governor Earle as a State Workmen's Compensation Board Referee in May, 1937, with jurisdiction in Cambria, Indiana, Somerset, Clearfield, Clinton and Centre counties. Attorney Hibbs succeeded the late Edward Walsh of Barnesboro and held the state post until he was replaced by Governor James earlier this year.

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NEW WEIGHMASTER'S BLANKS TO BE ISSUED

Harrisburg.—New types of application blanks for weighmaster's certificates will be issued about the first of the year, William S. Livengood, r. secretary of internal affairs, announced last week.

Numerous arrests throughout the state on charges of short weight coal deliveries indicate that an indiscriminate issuance of weighmaster's certificates to all who apply leads sometimes to abuse of their use, Secretary Livengood added.

In an effort to assure all customers that they are receiving the weight of coal and other commodities represented by a conference will be held shortly with local scalers of weights and measures, retail coal dealers and others interested. This is the outcome of the first of a series of meetings with a committee from the Pennsylvania Sealers of Weights and Measures Association.

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HUNTER WHO KILLED COMPANION FOR DEER BLOWS OFF OWN HEAD

DuBois.—A hunter who was grief-stricken over fatally shooting a companion he mistook for a deer committed suicide.

The body of William Weise, 53, of Rathmel, was found in an abandoned mine last week, about 24 hours after he had killed his hunting companion, Marvin G. Gibson, 22. Rathmel, who was mistaken for a deer.

Grief-stricken over the incident, Mr. Weise left his home without a word to his wife. When he failed to return a search was made for him and he was found dead in an abandoned mine near there. His head was blown off with the same gun that killed Gibson.

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338 NEW CITIZENS MADE IN COUNTY LAST WEEK

Three hundred and thirty-eight applicants were admitted to citizenship during several days of naturalization court at Ebensburg last week. One woman appeared before Judge Ivan J. McKenrick on the last day of the session to find her citizenship opposed by her husband from whom she is separated. The husband asserted he was a carpenter, paperhanger and a cabinet maker but could not work because his wife had his tools and refused to give them up. "You give your husband his tools or you won't become a citizen," Judge McKenrick told her.

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