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SIXTY-FIVE NORTHERN CAMBRIA BOY SCOUTS GET BADGE AWARDS

At District Court of Honor Held in Carrolltown Last Thursday Evening.

Approximately 65 Boy Scouts received nearly 300 awards during a largely attended Court of Honor of the North Cambria District of the Adm. Robert E. Peary Council last Thursday evening in the Parochial School hall, Carrolltown.

Guest speaker at the affair, which was attended by several hundred, was Assemblyman Thomas A. Owens, of Carrolltown.

Awards were presented by the following scout leaders: Second-class—Walter Hunter, scoutmaster of Troop 76; first class—Otto Strittmatter, vice president of the district; tenderfoot air scout certificates—C. M. Lehner, district chairman; merit badges—Charles Shambaugh, district commissioner; Ralph Brandt, scoutmaster of Troop 68; William Leary, scoutmaster of Troop 82, and Louis Haluska, scoutmaster of Troop 81; star awards—A. J. Lantz; life awards—C. M. Lehner; eagle awards and eagle palm—V. J. Gonnella, field scout executive.

The following scouts received the various awards.

Troop 67, Barnesboro. Merit Badges—Charles Martoia, 8; and Gregory Romett, five.

Troop 68, Barnesboro. Life badge—Joseph Sedlock.

Merit Badges—Ben Salley 3, Stephen Slavik 5, and Joseph Sedlock 5.

Troop 69, Barnesboro. Star badge—Dick Rhoa, and Robert Steele.

First-class badge—Robert Brown, Paul Bush and Thornton Atkins.

Second class badge—George Waldeman, William Oats and Ronnie Wharton.

Merit badges—Robert Brown 12, Thornton Atkins 3, Bernard Warrender 13, George Wildeman 2, Rich. Rhoa 2; Robert Lowmaster 1, and Paul Bush 2.

Troop 71, Carrolltown. Life badge—Dick Kelly.

Bronze palms—Fred Owens, Harry Erter and Jack Cunningham.

Merit badges—Dick Kelly 1, Fred Owens 2, Paul Gavalier 2, and Oliver Stoltz 2.

Troop 73, Hastings. Life badge—George Milchak, James Stitts, and George Kolonay.

Star badge—Andrew Holt, Regis Cronauer, and James Farabaugh.

First-class badge—Donald Strittmatter and Andrew Dumm.

Second-class badge—Regis Walanin, Ralph Walanin and John Mancuso, region in 1944 totaled 35, a boost of one over the preceding year.

Merit badges—Thomas Deitrich 2, Edgar Holtz 7, James Farabaugh 7, Andrew Holt 5, Regis Cronauer 4, Donald Strittmatter 4, Andrew Dumm 3, John McNeilis 9, Ronald Vancuso 3, Thomas C. Anna 4, Ralph Abel 3, Quentin Holtz 5, George Milchak 3, Ronald Collins 5, Patrick Donahue 3, Michael Vancuso 2, James Stitts 10, George Kolonay 10, and Paul Marazza 4.

Troop 76, Hastings. Life badge—Dewey Anderson.

Merit badges—Dewey Anderson 3, Wendel Madis 3, Allen Madis 5, H. Emerson Abram 3.

Troop 81, Patton. Bronze Palms—William Anderson and Richard Long.

Eagle badge—Alphonse Noel.

First class badge—Joseph Yancho.

Merit badges—Joseph Yancho 4, William Anderson 5, Alphonse Noel 4, and Richard Long 4.

Troop 82, Patton. Gold Palm—Donald Forsythe.

Life badge—Richard Hood, Clifton Deringer and John Leary.

Bronze Palm—Ralph Kuhnley.

First class badge—Paul Noel and Ben Winslow.

Merit badges—Donald Forsythe 2, Charles Swab 2, Richard Hood 14, Ben Winslow 5, Ralph Kuhnley 10, Thomas Sunseri 8, Clifton Deringer 15, and John Leary 6.

STATE POLICE SAY:

Weekly Reminder in the Cause of Safety.

Carbon monoxide takes its greatest toll in winter months. Fumes from an automobile exhaust system contain this deadly poison. Never keep your motor running inside a closed garage nor while sitting in your parked car with its windows closed. Have the exhaust system of your car checked to be sure it does not leak. Fumes from that system, entering your car, may cause you to fall asleep while driving, resulting in serious accident. Keep your car ventilated, even in winter, to prevent this happening to you.

KRUG IS AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART

The 114th General Hospital in England.—During a heavy Nazi counter-attack on positions his parachute regiment was defending, in Bastogne, Pvt. Douglas J. Krug, 19, of Ashville, Pa., was wounded in his right arm by shrapnel from a Nazi 88-mm. shell. He is recovering at this United States General Hospital in England where he has been awarded the Purple Heart.

Before entering the army one year ago, Pvt. Krug was employed on the farm of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Krug, near Ashville.

FALL PROVES FATAL TO NONAGENARIAN

Injuries sustained in a fall last November resulted in the death of 93-year-old Mrs. Catherine (Strittmatter) Schrift of Summerhill last evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Earl Beiter, Canton, O.

The aged woman had been visiting with her daughter for the past six months. Widow of Simon Schrift, who died Oct. 23, 1920, she was born Dec. 30, 1851, in Carrolltown, a daughter of the late Peter and Maria (Long) Strittmatter.

She and Mr. Schrift were united in marriage Oct. 2, 1871, in St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Carrolltown. To this union 14 children were born. Five children are deceased.

Surviving are these nine children: Mrs. Annie Kibler, Hastings; Mrs. Barbara Kibler, St. Boniface; Mrs. Mineral Point; Mrs. Lucy Lantz, Detroit, Mich.; Peter, Summerhill; Mrs. Elizabeth Dawson, Orlando, Fla.; Mrs. Martina Beiter, mentioned; Mrs. Monica Campbell, Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Mrs. Amelia Penatzer, Summerhill.

The nonagenarian was a sister of Paul Strittmatter of Hastings; Peter and Isadore, both of Patton; Anthony, Hastings; Mrs. Leonard Holtz, Hastings; Thomas, Brandywine Summit, Pa., and Sisters Hedwig and Scholastica of the Benedictine Order.

Funeral services were held Thursday morning in St. John's Catholic church, with interment at New Germany.

SEVEN MINERS INJURED AS MAN TRIP RUNS WILD AT STARFORD OPERATION

Seven miners were injured when a man-trip ran wild early last Thursday at the Glenside No. 6 mine of the James Coal Company at Starford.

Six were admitted to the Indiana hospital as patients and the other was sent home after receiving first aid treatment at the mine.

The men were injured in jumping off the runaway trip. It was understood the string of cars carried approximately 47 men and was descending a grade into the mine when a coupling from the hoist cable to the end car broke and the trip started to run wild, pushing the mine motor ahead of it.

BANNER GRANGE HAS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Philip Strittmatter was installed as master of the Banner Grange recently at the first meeting of the unit held since December 6th.

Other officers inducted include: Mrs. Ruth Stoltz, overseer; Faber Farabaugh, steward; Mrs. Philip Strittmatter, lecturer; Margaret Stoltz, chaplain; Mrs. H. M. Mohler, secretary; G. H. Dumro, treasurer; John Strittmatter, assistant steward; William Strittmatter, gate-keeper; Mrs. William Springer, lady assistant gate-keeper; Mrs. Helen Randall, Ceres; Mrs. W. A. Farabaugh, Pomona; Rose Strittmatter, Flora; and Mrs. John Eckenrode and Mrs. H. M. Mohler, executive committee.

Memorial services were conducted by the Chaplain for a former member of the Grange, Sgt. Benjamin Randall, Jr., killed in action in France. Mrs. Philip Strittmatter, lecturer, announced that the following members did not miss a meeting during 1944: Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Mohler, Mrs. W. A. Farabaugh, John Strittmatter, Betty Mohler and Margaret Stoltz. Readings were given by Helen Randall, Demetrius Strittmatter, Allard Nihart, Jr., Robert Burley, Mrs. John Eckenrode and Donald Dumm.

CRESSON SOLDIER WOUNDED FOR THE SECOND TIME

Sgt. George R. Williams of Cresson, who recently was awarded the Bronze Star medal for heroic action was wounded for the second time on Feb. 18th, in Germany, having been previously wounded in Sept. 18 in France, and received the Purple Heart.

Mother and Son Injured.

Mrs. Madeline Nastase and her son, Robert, aged nine, were injured on Monday afternoon when involved in a car wreck in Summerhill Township on the road leading from Ebensburg.

IT'S BEEN A TOUGH WEEK FOR US AS WE ARE MOVING

And Without Missing An Issue of the Newspaper, That's Quite An Accomplishment.

To the reader of the Union Press-Courier who may find delivery of his paper a bit late this week, the significance of it means but little, but to the management of this newspaper much water has flown over the dam since the issue of last week was printed.

In other words, as this newspaper reaches you the Press-Courier plant has been moved—at least in greater part—and the paper you read this week came off a different press and was issued from our new home on Magee avenue.

Of course, our moving is not nearly complete as yet, and it will take a couple of more weeks to finally accomplish that, but all our heavy machinery was transported and set up in the new quarters in the interim between last week and this, and the mechanical accomplishment of producing this week's paper all was executed in the new shop.

This, too, despite the fact that the editor was three days attending legislative sessions in Harrisburg. The business manager has won his laurels.

While we have great things planned for the future, we have no doubt that will in the not distant future give you a much better and a bigger newspaper, this week and for some weeks to come, we beg your indulgence. When we are all fitted up, and ready to do business in the manner we anticipate, we're going to hold "open house" some day, and we are going to invite all our readers and friends to come and see our plant, and we assure you that will be within the next month or so.

However, right now, our working conditions are a bit chaotic. Numerous intricate pieces of heavy printing machinery have to be at least partially torn down to move, and intricate adjustments don't always fit exactly as one would desire. But we have moved the "worst of it" and the biggest problems have been overcome.

For which we are thankful—but mighty tired.

CIHAN WITH GROUP GETTING CITATION

Allied Force Headquarters, Italy—Technician Fifth Grade Henry G. Cihan, son of Mr. Peter Cihan of Patton is serving with the 135th Military Police Company, on duty in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, which recently was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque.

The citation says that the plaque was awarded for "superior performance and outstanding devotion to duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks."

Activated in June, 1944, in Italy, the unit has always faced these "exceptionally difficult tasks." For a long time it policed almost 2,000 square miles. It now operates in the Peninsular Base Section.

In addition to its regular police and traffic control duties, the company, because of efficiency, has often been called upon to perform other duties. It cleared areas for troops preparing for the Southern France invasion, acted as honor and security guard for Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and guarded and transported millions of lire for the Allied Commission.

Overseas 24 months, Cpl. Cihan wears the Mediterranean Theater Ribbon with two Battle Participation Stars and he has been awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

LT. KIRSCH AWARDED BRONZE STAR FOR HEROISM IN ITALY

First Lt. Paul C. Kirsch, of Spangler, has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action.

He is serving on the Fifth Army front in Italy with the 135th Infantry regiment of the 34th (Inf Bull) Division.

When intense enemy artillery fire was directed upon his company's positions, Kirsch was given the mission of locating and destroying the German observation post directing the fire. Exposing himself to sniper fire, related the award citation, Kirsch searched until he found the enemy position and set up an observation post of his own.

As he adjusted fire, the Germans picked up his position, and it was hit seven times by shells, the first one tearing the roof off and wounding 7 men. Kirsch continued directing fire and finally knocked out the enemy observation post and a machine gun covering it.

While the flood conditions in the state of Ohio have been destructive, rivers flowing eastward did not reach flood stages.

MINE ACCIDENTS IN COUNTY ON SHARP DECLINE IN YEAR

State Department Lists a Drop of One Hundred Seventy Nine in Cambria Section.

Mine accidents in the Cambria Co. coal region dropped off sharply during the past year while production was plummeting to an all time peak. An accident decrease of 179 was noted in the seven districts of the state department of mines embracing coal pits in the Cambria County area.

During the year there was a total of 2,426 accidents in the seven districts, compared to 2,605 in 1943. This includes all lost time accidents and fatalities.

Deaths resulting in the county mine accidents resulting in less than 60 days lost working time during the past year totaled 2,055 compared to a total of 2,191 in the same district during the preceding year.

Serious injuries recorded in county mines dropped 44 during the year. In 1944, a total of 336 accidents resulting more than 60 days' lost time were listed, compared to 380 in 1943.

Coal production in the mines soared to 26,817,676 tons to reach an all-time record. This would mean that county mines produced 11,055 tons of coal for every accident—from a lost-time of one day to a fatality—during 1944.

Accidents recorded in the districts, including mishaps resulting in any lost-time, follow—Sixth district, 251, a drop of 55 from the 259 recorded in 1943; Seventh district, a drop of 39 from the 475 in 1943; Tenth district, 454 accidents; Fifteenth, 318; Eighteenth district, 220, compared to 235 during 1943; Twenty-fourth district, 385, a decline of 51 from 1943; and Twenty-eighth district, 328, a drop of 55 from the previous year.

PVT. WESTOVER WOUNDED.

Pvt. Nathan E. Westover, 21, of Westover, R. D., previously reported missing in action in Belgium, is in a military hospital recovering of wounds. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Vallie Westover. He was listed as missing January 4th.

MINERS PLEDGE FINE RED CROSS DONATION

A donation of \$4 per man has been pledged to the 1945 War Fund of Cambria County Chapter of the American Red Cross by four locals of the United Mine Workers of America, Bernard Timms of Barnesboro, has announced.

On the board of District 2, United Mine Workers of America, Mr. Timms revealed that the blanket contribution has been voted by Patton Local 842, Bakerton Local 1269, Marsteller Local 2246 and St. Benedict Local 2008.

Patton Local has 60 members; Bakerton, 850; Marsteller, 385, and St. Benedict, 180.

In other words, it was said, the Red Cross is assured a total of \$5,900 from the four miners' organizations.

GARDEN STUDY CLUB LEARNS OF HYBREDS

The regular monthly meeting of the Garden Study Club was held at Patton Drug Company Building on Tuesday evening with Mrs. Charles Snyder acting as chairman. Mrs. A. J. Yahner gave a talk on hybrids and all new seeds, which was very instructive. The members participated in a flower pronouncing bee. Mr. Steve Molner of the Florist Shop displayed flower arrangements and vases. Mrs. Gill Mrs. Walter Little, Mrs. B. Young, Mrs. Joseph Short and Miss Agnes Falcho also displayed beautiful potted plants and paintings. The Palmer House corner was the subject of discussion, the Garden Club members and the general public are asked for donations of trees and shrubbery to keep beautiful the city park. Any time from now until planting time call Miss Yvonne Yeger, chairman of park committee if you can make any donations for the park. Light refreshments were served and the meeting adjourned until March.

Hurt by 'Bomb.'

An experiment with a home made bomb last Friday afternoon cost a Cresson man a thumb and resulted in a serious injury to his left hand.

Anthony Zucco, 21, was manufacturing a bomb when an explosion of powder he was using tore off the thumb from his left hand, shredded a middle finger and burned the remainder of the hand.

Do your part in the Red Cross War Fund Drive. It's a paramount duty.

PFC. MALLOY WOUNDED IN PHILIPPINE BATTLE

Attorney and Mrs. Neice A. Malloy of Carrolltown were notified that their son, Pfc. Malloy 21, was wounded Feb. 10 near Manila in the Philippine Islands. The soldier was serving with a paratroop outfit when he was wounded.

Pfc. Malloy entered the service Mar. 13, 1944 and trained with the paratroopers in Ft. Benning, Ga., before going overseas about six months ago. He is a graduate of Carrolltown High School and was working in a war plant in Cleveland, O., when he was called to military service. A brother, Staff Sgt. Frank J. Malloy, is with the Army in the South Pacific theater.

POMONA GRANGE HOLDS MEETING

On January 27th, the Pomona Grange met in the grade school building in Ebensburg. A resolution was adopted by the Grange urging the draft boards to consider more seriously the necessity for food and the lack of replacements for any farmers which they might take into the army. The Grange also took action to establish an official newspaper, the executive committee being authorized to arrange for its publication.

The worthy master appointed the following committees: Legislative—Ed Jones, George Leiden, G. H. Dumm, Mrs. O'Hara and Miss Lenore Garrett; Home economics—Mrs. Hazlett, Miss Eastman, Mrs. Weise, Mrs. Phil Strittmatter and Mrs. Geo. Leiden.

The afternoon session was dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary celebration. Four Past Masters were in attendance and spoke a few words. They were J. A. Farabaugh, E. Jones, Ed Weise, and Philip Strittmatter. James Garrett was the only charter member present.

An address was given by G. H. Dumm, past secretary, who spoke of Grange achievement. He favored the cooperation of leaders of industry, agriculture and labor to settle their common problems. The state master spoke on the subject of Grange improvement. He asked for more activity on the part of the farm leaders. He announced Grange Day, when each member is to devote one day to Grange work during the year.

REPS. SNYDER AND KELLY PROTEST ANY FURTHER DRAFTING OF THE MINERS

Further drafting of "essential, irreplaceable" coal miners is opposed by two Pennsylvania coal region congressmen.

Reps. Snyder and Kelly told the House they understand that newest draft regulations will "take 70 per cent of all coal miners in Pennsylvania between the ages of 18 and 29."

That would mean a production drop of 12,750,000 tons a year, Kelly said. "I am well aware that we cannot win the war without troops," he remarked, "but neither can you place implements of war in hands of the troops, without coal."

Snyder said "practically 30 per cent of the nation's coal miners already have been drafted—a higher percentage, we have been told, than any other trade."

The mines have been stripped of younger men, the congressman said, adding that training replacements takes as long as two years.

MINER'S HOSPITAL NURSING SCHOOL GETS APPROVAL

The School of Nursing at Miner's Hospital recently received full approval from Pennsylvania State Board for continuance of their school for the year 1945.

The school has now been established since September, 1941. It is a member of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps program and living up to its pledge to supply federal hospitals with Senior Cadet Nurses. To date the enrollment for the school is 43 students. Of these 15 are senior students and will graduate in September of this year.

The full class of the school will be selected by the end of June. Any one interested in joining the Cadet Nurse Corps should contact Director of Nurses at Miner's Hospital for particulars.

CAMBRIA COUNTY GOES OVER TOP IN BLOOD DONORS

Cambria County has again gone over the top, to set an outstanding record in the drive for blood donors. Anxiety over the outcome of the drive which was expressed at the beginning of last week was dispelled when interest surged upward and continued through the week. At times it was necessary to turn away volunteers because the staff did not have equipment to take care of any more. The quota had been set at 4,700 pints; and the total went over the 5,000 mark by the end of last week.

COUNTY TAX WILL REMAIN SIX MILLS FOR PRESENT YEAR

Commissioners Envision Cambria Debt-Free at End of Seven More Years.

Taxation rate in Cambria county will remain at six mills during 1945, according to the budget approved the other day by the county commissioners.

Total anticipated expenditures for the year are \$1,542,504.56 as compared to the actual outlay of \$1,260,852.97 to operate the county last year.

The tax rate, approved by all three commissioners, remains the same as it had been since 1938, when it was reduced from 8 to 6 mills.

Commissioners plan to pay off \$400,000 of the county's bonded indebtedness this year and refund approximately \$239,918.75 worth of bonds.

Under the present plan of payment the county will be debt free of bonds in 1952, the commissioners said. Barring unforeseen circumstances the county will be able to retire all of its bonds for the first time in history by 1952 without increasing the present millage, it was pointed out by the commissioners.

Present bonded indebtedness of the county is \$2,996,671.18 and those bonds will be paid off each year as they become due. The amount payable each year will decrease as the bonds are retired and the interest rates decrease.

In 1922 the total bonded indebtedness of the county was \$9,182,324.20 and during the last 12 years the debt was reduced approximately \$6,000,000.

The county is expected to have a sizeable surplus at the end of the year with anticipated receipts and cash on hand reported at \$1,566,432.25 and the anticipated expenditures only \$1,542,504.56.

Payment of current taxes is fixed in the budget at \$785,000 as compared to the actual amount of \$768,392.16 collected in 1944.

Appropriations to the various departments, commissioners, court house, elections and the various offices are about the same as they were during the last year. Commissioners said that only slight changes were made in a few of the allocations.

MAY INSTALL WARD FOR MENTAL-ILL VETS

Two rooms in the Cambria County Home have been offered to the government for use as a ward for the temporary hospitalization of mentally ill war veterans. Capt. Kretz of the Veterans Administration Bureau, of Pittsburgh, and Commissioner Cyrus W. Davis made a survey last Thursday of the county home buildings.

There is a dire need, it is pointed out, for temporary quarters, where veterans can be hospitalized while arrangements are being made for their admittance to permanent government maintained hospitals. The two rooms at the county home would accommodate eight servicemen.

It is understood that the government would maintain the temporary quarters and provide the necessary personnel provided the rooms prove adequate. It was pointed out that the government is seeking to establish such temporary quarters in every county for the care of mentally-ill servicemen.

COOPERATION PLEDGED BY CAMBRIA LIQUOR MEN IN CURFEW REGULATIONS

The Cambria County Retail Liquor Dealers Association, retailers, met on Monday evening in Johnstown to discuss plans for the policing of industry to severe strict compliance with the emergency midnight curfew, as well as to all laws governing the liquor trade. The regulations were read and members reported that since the new curfew went into effect they have cleared their places of patrons promptly at midnight.

CRESSON SOLDIER HURT.

Pfc. Walter Prichard, 19, of Cresson, was wounded on February 5th, while fighting the Japanese on Luzon Islands in the Philippines. He has been in the service since July 19, 1943, and overseas for ten months. Two brothers, Cpl. John J. Prichard, and Cpl. Thomas Prichard, also are in the army.

Cpl. Kline Wounded.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kline of Hastings, were advised that their son, Cpl. Bernard M. Kline, 22, Hastings, was wounded slightly on Feb. 17th, in Germany. He entered the armed forces on Feb. 17, 1943, and was assigned to overseas duty five months ago.