

Outlook of County Finances Portrays Problems Ahead

New Commissioners Have Big Job to Do

Cambria County residents may be forced to dig a little deeper in their pockets next year to pay county taxes.

No definite announcement to this effect has been made. But persons familiar with the county's financial situation foresee a probable rise in the tax next year.

County commissioners have made no commitments in this respect. However, they generally concede an increase in the millage rate is highly probable.

The probability is reflected in a review of 1947 financial records. Two factors dominated the situation that will confront commissioners when they begin their 1948 budget studies:

1—Costs of operation have mounted steadily. 2—Income has fallen short of anticipation.

A review of expenditures shows that the county—like individuals—is up against a spiral of inflation that is shooting costs generally upward.

Salaries and costs of materials, supplies and general operation have risen above expectation.

For example, the cost of maintaining prisoners in the county jail was, at the end of November, about \$11,000 over the anticipated cost for the entire year.

Maintenance of county residences in state penal or correctional institutions already exceeds the budget figure by more than \$8,000.

Elections cost about \$6,000 more than the budget allowed. On down the line the story is similar.

Meanwhile, revenue has not reached expectations. It is believed that by the end of the year the total receipts for 1947 will be some \$200,000 short of the amount anticipated.

One factor in this respect is a drop in the estimated income in the various fee offices available of deeds, probatory, clerk of courts, register of wills and sheriff.

Fees have not reached estimates in these offices while the cost of operating them has climbed.

Rising costs have been eating into the county treasury for several years. However, in previous years a raise in the tax millage rate has been avoided by the expedient of refunding bond issues.

During the past year, for example, debt service requirements called for an expenditure of \$516,000 for bond retirement.

To do this the county issued \$388,000 in refunding bonds. Thus the actual debt reduction was only \$148,000.

By refunding, the county prolonged payment of the debt but made additional money available to meet operating expenses.

Records indicate that this year the county refunded more than the usual amount in order to leave more available cash for current expenditures.

SPECIAL PROGRAM CHRISTMAS DAY

A special half-hour program of Christmas carols and songs will be presented by the sponsors of the "North Cambria Program" over Radio Station WJSW (1290) on Christmas Day at 12:30 p. m.

A carefully selected selection of favorite recordings by well-known artists, News of Northern Cambria Co. and Christmas greetings from the sponsors will make up the half-hour program.

This Thursday will mark the 30th consecutive week that the "North Cambria Program" has been on the air over WJSW, and the 89th week it has been well received by residents of this area.

Rich Hill Mining Co. Wins Safety Award

James Logan Speaker At Holmes Assn. Meet

North Cambria Council, Joseph A. Holmes Safety Assn., last Thursday night awarded the safety banner for November to the Rich Hill Coal Mining Co., Haselton, Pa.

The Hastings concern won the banner for the perfect safety record in three mines—Nos. 1, 2 and 3. It was the first banner to be won by the company this year.

James Logan, veteran mine school instructor of Spangler, told the group of the benefits derived from regular safety meetings.

He claimed that men who do not attend these safety meetings are not as well qualified to do their jobs as those who attend safety affairs regularly and discuss the problems relating to the coal industry.

George Nicholson addressed the meeting briefly. He urged miners to think and act safely.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7 p. m., January 21, in the Parish House. A summary of safety standings of mines in the chapter will be given for the year at that time.

Westover Remains In Miners' Hospital

Lawrence Westover, 39 year old World War II veteran from Westover R. D., who shot off his left leg with a shotgun blast, remains in a serious condition at the Miners' Hospital, Spangler.

Hospital attaches said Westover is suffering from severe shock and loss of blood.

Surgeons said when Westover gains strength he will be obliged to undergo another operation for amputation of the leg above the knee.

The man told authorities he shot off his limb because he was unable to bear the severe pain which he suffered from the wound while serving with the Army in New Guinea, Westover placed a 12-gauge shotgun against his leg and fired the full blast into the member. The leg was mangled so badly that surgeons had to amputate immediately.

Nicktown Church To Mark Christmas

High Mass in St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Nicktown, at Midnight, will mark the observance of Christmas. Rev. Father Kevin Spangler, O. S. B., announced yesterday.

Special music will be provided by the church choir under the direction of Cyril R. Stevens, church organist. Included on the program will be Mass in Honor of the Child Jesus by Wilkens, Adeste Fideles will be supplementary Offertory and the Proper will be sung in Psalm Tones.

Other Masses will be at 8 and 9 a. m. The former will be the children's Mass.

Plans for future meetings of Cambria County farmers were outlined at a series of meetings held at various locations in the county during the week ending December 15.

Electric Lighting Ready at Historic St. Joseph's Church

Many of the rustic characteristics of old St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Hart's Sleeping Place in Northern Cambria County will be missing when members of the 117-year-old parish attend Divine Services on Christmas.

Instead of attending the Midnight Mass in the dim shadows of candlelight they did formerly, members of the congregation will pray the Mass in the brightness of the most modern lighting.

Electricity was installed for the first time in the church. The REA lines run within 200 feet of the edifice and to affix the services it was necessary to place only two poles. The building will be illuminated with fluorescent lighting.

Built in 1830, the church is the third oldest in Cambria County. It was the center of Catholicity in the Northern Cambria area until the church was built in Carrolltown. Even so it has been in continuous use all those years.

The original construction, which still is the frame work of the present church, was of logs between one foot and 18 inches thick. During the course of time it has been transformed completely, when the interior and exterior was covered with weatherboarding.

However, the interior and exterior are undergoing another change. The inside was lined with slatex and the outside is in the progress of being covered with white shingles. This work not only beautifies the church, but also provides much needed insulation.

Father Valentine said confessions will be heard from 11 p. m. to midnight Wednesday. Other Masses will be said at 8:30 a. m. and 9 a. m., Thursday. The latter will be the children's Mass so that it will not be necessary for them to attend the midnight service.

New District Attorney Lists Names of 4 New Assistants

McDonald, Kaminsky, Smorto, Wolfe Chosen

District Attorney-Elect Samuel R. DiFranco last Thursday announced the appointment of four assistant district attorneys. They will take office when DiFranco is sworn in as successor to W. Stephens Mayer on January 5th.

The appointments were made on the recommendation of the Cambria Co. Democratic Committee, of which John R. Torquato is chairman.

Heading the staff as first assistant district attorney will be Attorney David C. Wolfe, Westmont. Other Assistants will be Attorneys Arnold D. Smorto, Barnesboro; Alton A. McDonald, Ebsensburg; and Harold Kaminsky, Westmont.

In announcing the appointments DiFranco said: "I believe the people of Cambria Co. will be very well pleased with the selections I have made with the cooperation of the Democratic Committee, of men who will serve me as assistant district attorneys. They are young and aggressive. They have won the reputation and are among the outstanding men of the Cambria Co. Bar. Three of them served their country as G. I.'s in World War II. The fourth was unable to serve, although he endeavored to, because of a physical disability.

DiFranco also is a veteran of World War II having served with the Navy. Attorney Wolfe, who was DiFranco's campaign manager, is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George E. Wolfe. His father was one of Cambria Co.'s foremost attorneys for many years and was prominent in Democratic party affairs.

The new first assistant district attorney was graduated from the Johnstown Catholic High School in 1932. He was graduated from the University of Virginia in 1936 and from Dickinson Law School in 1939. He was admitted to the Cambria Co. Bar the same year.

Attorney Wolfe is a junior partner in the law firm of Spence, Custer and Saylor, having been associated with the firm since 1942. When discharged, in March, 1946, he had risen to the rank of major. He served with the Ninth Corps Artillery in the Hawaii and the Philippines. Attorney Wolfe is married and the father of three children.

Attorney Smorto has been active in Democratic politics for several years. He has won a reputation as a public speaker. Smorto was graduated from the Barnesboro High School in 1930, from St. Francis College in 1935 and the law school of the University of Pennsylvania in 1938. He was admitted to practice in April of 1939.

Smorto served his law clerkship under Attorney C. Randolph Myers, Ebsensburg. He now is a member of the law firm of Smorto, Wildeman and Peduzzi, with offices in Ebsensburg and Barnesboro. Smorto is married and has two children.

Attorney McDonald was graduated from Ebsensburg-Cambria High School in 1931. He attended Dickinson College and law school, being graduated from the latter

in 1943. He entered the army as a private in 1942 and was discharged as a first lieutenant in 1946. He saw service with the 261st Infantry Regiment, 65th Division, in Europe, the Rhine and Germany and Austria. He was admitted to the Cambria Co. Bar in 1944 while still in the service. Following his discharge from the service he became associated with Attorney C. Randolph Myers.

McDonald is married and the father of three children. He was graduated from the Johnstown High School in 1921. He attended Washington and Jefferson College for a year and then entered the University of Pittsburgh, being graduated in 1925. He was graduated from the Pitt Law School in 1928, and was admitted to the Cambria Co. Bar in 1944.

Kaminsky entered the Army in Aug., 1942, and was discharged in June, 1945. He will be the only bachelor on DiFranco's staff of assistant district attorneys.

State Control of UMW Welfare Fund Seen by Senator

State Government Body May Study All Phases

The United Mine Workers of America Welfare Fund has reached "such proportions" that some form of state control of it may be necessary, according to the thought of Senator Montgomery F. Crowe, East Stroudsburg Republican.

S Senator Crowe commented on the fund in John L. Lewis' organization following a meeting of a legislative committee which he heads to reorganize the state's group insurance laws.

"It appears that there may have to be some definite administrative (state) control of such a fund," Senator Crowe said in pointing out the \$4,500,000 contributed to the welfare fund by the Pennsylvania anthracite operators and the 20 million dollars paid by the bituminous coal mine operators.

Senator Crowe said that his joint State Government Commission sub-group would study all the phases of life, health and accident insurance and present regulatory legislation to the 1949 general assembly.

Lang Ave. Couple Married 55 Years

William C. Elms' Have No Special Celebration

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Elms, of 620 Lang Avenue, Patton, observed their 55th wedding anniversary last Friday at their home. There was no special celebration.

They were married Dec. 19, 1892 in Bentland Clearfield Co. Mrs. Elms is the former Margaret Stokes. The couple lived in Bentland for several years before moving to Patton in August of 1895.

Mr. Elms retired in 1939. For many years he was employed in mines of the Chest Creek Land and Improvement Co. He was injured in 1919 and then entered the employ of the Grand Union Tea Co.

They are the parents of nine children, six of whom are living—Thomas and William Jr., both of Patton; Mrs. Emily Anderson, of Patton; E. D. Walter, DuBois; Mrs. Rachel Sherron, St. Benedict, and Jessie, Baltimore, Md.

Dorothy Dietrick Expires Suddenly

Dorothy Mae Dietrick, aged 27 years, died suddenly at 1:30 o'clock last Saturday morning, at the home of her parents, Wilfred and Mary D. Dietrick, DuBois, Pa. She had been ill for some time.

Besides her father and mother, she is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Charles and Donald Dietrick, of Baltimore, Md.; Robert Dietrick, of New Kensington; Leroy Dietrick, of Patton; and Ralph, Alan and Eleanor Dietrick, at home.

The deceased was born in Patton on March 1, 1920, and had spent her entire life here. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Patton, where funeral services were held with a mass at nine o'clock Tuesday morning. Burial took place in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Kiwanis Group Has Christmas Party

On the evening of December 18, members of Northern Cambria Kiwanis Club, with their wives and guests gathered in the Central Hotel, Carrolltown for their annual dinner and Christmas Party.

Soloists for the evening were Mrs. Plummer Harvey and Mr. Joseph Boes. Mr. Harvey sang "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"—Traditional French, and "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabelle", French Provencal. Mr. Boes sang: "O Holy Night" by Adam, and "Silent Night" by Gruber. Mr. Boes also led the group in the singing of Christmas Carols. Mrs. Frazer was accompanist for the soloists and played for the singing of the Carols.

A number of interesting games had been prepared by the program committee. The whole group joined with enthusiasm in the playing of the games. Gifts were exchanged.

The regular dinner meeting will not be held this week, as the meeting night falls on Christmas.

ANNOUNCE BIRTH Mr. and Mrs. Charles Faraubaugh of Carrolltown announce the birth of a seven-pound son at the Miners' Hospital, Spangler, on Sunday, Mrs. Faraubaugh is the former Miss Alice Spanghour.

Area Students Are Eligible To Enter Poster Campaign

Co. Medical Society Sponsors of Campaign

Every student in Cambria Co.'s public and parochial schools, from the first grade through the 12th, is eligible to compete in the annual health poster contest sponsored by the Cambria Co. Medical Society.

Cash awards will be presented for prize-winning posters in each of the three classes of contestants, grades one to six, grades seven to nine, and grades ten to twelve. There will be a first, second and third prize in each of these groups and all winning posters will be entered in the statewide contest conducted by the State Medical Society next fall.

Contestants have until next Apr. 15 to complete their posters and have them in the hands of Dr. Arthur Miltenberger, 340 Locust St., Johnstown, who is the chairman of the health poster contest in this county. Judging for the prizes will take place not later than Apr. 30, and the awards will be made early in May.

Health poster contest rules have been sent to the art instructors or principals of every school in the county. If any have been missed, Dr. Miltenberger will send information on request. The rules are few and simple, with awards offered on the basis of the health message presented, the originality of design, and the neatness and general appearance.

Subjects as periodical physical examination, proper food, common cold control, eyesight protection, diphtheria immunization, tuberculosis prevention, mental health and avoiding home accidents are suggested for posters, and other ideas may be obtained from the family physician, the school doctor, life insurance companies or local health agencies.

Aged Patton Lady Called by Death

Jacob D. Blair, Aged Pattonite, Dies Saturday

Mrs. Mary Glass, aged 99 years, died last Saturday morning at 8 o'clock after an illness due to her advanced age. She was born in 1848 in this section, and was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Brandt. Her husband, Matthew Glass, died in 1918.

Surviving is one son, Gust Glass, of Barnesboro. Two sisters and a brother also survive. Mrs. Bernadette Burns and Mrs. Agnes Lauer, both of Patton, and Harry Brandt, of Akron, O. She also leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The remains were taken to Hastings and friends were received at the Easley Funeral home there. Funeral services were held at nine o'clock on Tuesday morning in St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Carrolltown, and interment was made in the church cemetery.

St. Mary's Church Schedules Midnight Mass Christmas Eve

The Feast of Christmas will be observed in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Patton beginning with a High Mass at Midnight, Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day Low Masses will be held at 7, 8, 9 and 9:30 A. M., and another High Mass at 10 o'clock.

Rev. Father Rupert Stadtmiller, O. S. B., pastor, will be assisted by Rev. Father Malachy Brawley, O. S. B.

The Senior Choir, under the direction of Dr. E. J. Overberger, with Mrs. M. J. Shannon at the piano, will sing Carols before the Midnight Mass. The Proper of the Mass will be sung by the men, while the entire choir will sing the "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" at the eight o'clock Low Mass. The Junior Choir will sing the following Carols: Prelude, Adeste Fideles and Silent Night; O, Sing A Joyful Carol; Offertory: Hark in Laudibus; Communion: Paxem Vivum; After Mass: Christmas Rose.

At the ten o'clock High Mass the Missa Brevis Mass by Montani.

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, December 24, at 3:00 and 7:00 P. M.

Christmas Mass Schedule Listed for St. George's Catholic Church, Patton

Services for the Feast of Christmas in St. George's Catholic Church, Patton, as announced by Rev. Father Basil Balko, O. S. B., pastor, will be as follows: Carols before the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve; Midnight High Mass.

The Proper for the first Mass Christmas Day, Gregorian Chant, Miss Leona Karlehm is the organist.

Low Mass at 8 p. m., and High Mass at 10 a. m. Christmas Day. Confessions will be heard from 3:30 to 7:30 Christmas Eve.

St. Augustine's Church Lists 5 Masses Christmas; Also Mass at Midnight

St. Augustine's Catholic Church, at St. Augustine, will have a Midnight High Mass on Christmas Eve, and other Christmas morning will be at 7:30, 8, 8:30, 9 and 9:30. Aside from the 7:30 Mass all the morning services will be High Masses.

Confessions will be held at 3 and 7:30 p. m. on Wednesday.

Rev. Father John R. Reichert, the pastor, has announced that a priest from St. Francis College, Loretto, will be at St. Augustine to assist with the Christmas services.

Cambrians Invest \$52,997,000 in Bonds

Cambria Counties have invested nearly \$53,000,000 in United States War and Savings Bonds, according to an announcement by the Treasury Dept. Savings Bonds Division. Facts compiled Nov. 1 show that a total of \$52,997,000 has been invested in bonds in this county.

"Considering the entire population of the county, this averages \$1,145 per family with an estimated total income on these bonds of \$1,465,000 a year," Sidney H. Weiler, information and editorial specialist, announced.

Charles E. Meil, state director of the division, stated that sales of Series E, F and G Bonds in Pennsylvania for the first eleven months of 1947 total \$429 million dollars.

Christmas Eve Program At Community Tree

The Patton High School Music Dept. has announced that a community Christmas Eve program is to be presented at the corner of Fifth and Magee Aves. (Palmer House Corner) at 8 p. m. on Wednesday evening. The community tree will serve as a background.

The program is to feature selections by the Junior and Senior High School Bands and Christmas carols by the Girls' Glee Club and members of the sixth grade of the public school.

In case of rain or sleet, the program will be cancelled.

Band Mothers' to Hold Christmas Dance

Plan to meet your friends at the Band Mothers' first annual Christmas dance, which will be held in the Eagles' Ball Room next Monday evening, Dec. 29. Dancing will begin at 9 o'clock with music furnished by the High School Orchestra. A good time is in store for you. A donation of 50 cents will be collected at the door.

Snow Possible for Christmas Holiday

Hopes that Christmas in this section might be "white" after all were upped considerably on Tuesday morning of this week, when snow flurries covered the ground.

The long-range weather forecast also carries hopes—calling for snow flurries, windy and colder during the next 48 hours.

The staff of the Union Press-Courier wishes you a very Merry Christmas.

MURPHY'S TO CLOSE AT 6:00 CHRISTMAS EVE The G. C. Murphy Co. Store at Barnesboro will close on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p. m. sharp, according to an announcement made by store officials.