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THE UNION PRESS-COURIER
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Thomas A. Owens, Editor
 FRANK P. CAMMARATA, Business Manager
 THOS. A. OWENS JR., Managing Editor

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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely represent Organized Labor in all efforts to obtain economic freedom. Material for publication must be signed by the writer as an evidence of good faith. The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of combined circulation of two widely-circulated weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

How About Local History?

We're not too familiar with school teaching and even of the subjects taught. In fact, it's been a long time since we attended school and methods are a lot different, and likely more efficient, than when we were in our youth. Our thought of today is that the students' knowledge of history—not ancient or medieval or current history, not national or international or world history, or even the history of our state. When we were knee britches our memory serves us not with any teaching of our own local history—of our community or of our county.

From some inquiry, we doubt whether there presently is, as well, any systematic or much casual history of our county imparted to many of our school children—yet it should prove most interesting, for the history of the places and things one views frequently has a much closer interpretation. If we were to stand on a street corner in most any of Cambria Co. communities and ask grade and high school pupils in what year Cambria Co. was organized, we'll bet few, if any, could answer correctly. Perhaps the knowledge offers nothing appreciable in the future life of a student, but whether Nero burned Rome and fiddled while doing so, hasn't any direct bearing on the success of a student, as far as we can tell.

There are so many things of historical interest in our own backwash, if we search a bit. A lot of students likely know that there was once a community called Beulah situated midway on the present highway from Ebensburg to Nanty Glo. This was the county's first settlement; Loretto was second, and because of the same left by its founder, the great Russian Prince-Priest Demetrius Gallitzin, most students are more or less familiar with some of its pioneer history, but probably little of it was ascertained in school.

How many of our present-day students can tell you of the time and circumstances of the home community in which their school is located? What, for instance, was the factor that created the town of Patton, where in the early 1890's there were but a couple of houses and a mill, and this community was known as "Mark's Mill"? Aside from Beulah and Loretto, Ebensburg next came into the limelight as an early Cambria Co. settlement, and when it was selected as the County Seat of the then new Cambria Co., the town of Beulah began to disintegrate, and today, like the story of legendary ancient cities, not one stone is left upon another. A deserted cemetery and a state marker designate the spot.

And out here in Northern Cambria, Father Gallitzin sent Father Henry Lemke to build a church, with the likely presumption that a town would grow about it. However, the town never materialized, but the original church edifice is still standing in the oldest church building in all Cambria Co.—St. Joseph's Church at Hart's Sleeping Place, now serving the Catholics of St. Benedict and vicinity. Some years after its construction, Father Lemke chose the present site of Carrolltown as a more logical site for a town. It developed, and today is the oldest community north of Ebensburg. St. Augustine stands out next in point of age, but never grew.

Patton, Spangler, Hastings and later, Barnesboro, all are comparatively newer towns in our area, and coal developments are responsible for all of them. But all of them now have considerably more than a half century of history—interesting history, too. To our knowledge, there really is no complete and authentic history of Cambria Co. as a whole compiled. Some of the local communities have had comprehensive stories in print, notably Loretto, written by the late Rev. Ferdinand Kitzler; and Carrolltown, St. Joseph's and St. Lawrence, by the late Father Modestus Wirtner, OSB. Probably no really authentic history of the early days of the county now can be constructed.

The Cambria Co. Historical Society has garnered most every interesting known bit of information about our county, and for many years it was a lively, energetic organization. Lately, however, it seems to have become dormant. The Historical Society maintains a museum room in the basement of the Cambria Co. Courthouse, and many maps, data and heirlooms and newspapers of early Cambria Co. are housed here. Teaching of our own history in our schools is surely just as important as some subjects now taught not nearly so close to the hearts of the students.

Remember the Home Talent Shows?

Maybe the radio and movies have something to do with the practically non-existent present-day promotions of home talent and minstrel shows that for at least two-score years furnished both social and beneficial purposes in most all our Northern Cambria towns. Of late years they seem to have passed out of the local scene. The younger folks are not so inclined and the former "troupsers" now are getting too well along in years for the effort. But the home talent shows were an important feature of the winter life of our snow-bound communities, and the folks in the cast of players sometimes spent many weeks in preparation. The shows usually were pretty good, too, considering the disadvantages that usually were experienced in the final public production.

Patton and Barnesboro staged a good many home talent offerings, but Carrolltown and Hastings "topped" the local scene in the number of performances given, with Hastings, we believe, outdistancing the local field. We sort of recollect Hastings rehearsing and staging not one or two, but several plays in a season. One of the leaders in character roles in the neighboring town was A. J. Houck, editor of the North Cambria News. Remember his "Jerry the Tramp" and many others? Apparently however, the home talent show has gone the way of the horse and buggy.

The Time Has Come for Action!

The election's over, but we have some after-thoughts that didn't have much directly to do with the result. Last January the Democrats took over the offices in the Court House with the exception of the County Treasurer's Office, and before we start our story, let us inform our readers that an inventory of that office discloses NO Democrats are on its payroll. To go a bit further, there are some mighty hard Democratic workers and voters who wonder why the Democrats in some of the other row offices still have Republicans on the payroll—and their queries are not without justice.

Aside from the Commissioners' office, the Democrats did not find and Barnesboro and Hastings "topped" the local scene in the number of performances given, with Hastings, we believe, outdistancing the local field. We sort of recollect Hastings rehearsing and staging not one or two, but several plays in a season. One of the leaders in character roles in the neighboring town was A. J. Houck, editor of the North Cambria News. Remember his "Jerry the Tramp" and many others? Apparently however, the home talent show has gone the way of the horse and buggy.

The ax is shortly going to fall on some folks in the county employ. By all the rules of the game it should have fallen in January. However, Democratic office-holders have had a fairly good chance to ascertain who has been minding their own business, and who hasn't. If some of these underserving folks are let out of their jobs, we are quite sure that the Republican-controlled State Highway Department will immediately take care of them, and see to it that they are rewarded for the service they have rendered to their party. In fact they should demand such recognition. And if there are some heads slashed by Courthouse officials, let the general public remember they should have been slashed long ago.

There's nothing wrong about such procedure. Both major political parties have been practicing it for years. Next May when the Republicans take over the two state fiscal offices presently under Democratic control, the working personnel of those offices will change with great rapidity. Everyone knows that, Republicans aren't as "soft" as the Democrats have been in Cambria county. True, there are some men who have had continuous employment in the Courthouse for many years, and are really career men. These chaps, however, are not politically active. They will be protected.

So, if the ax falls, and there are crocodile tears shed, and if perchance the public press deplores the action taken, let our readers remember that it's the old game of politics that "to the victors belong the spoils." That's been a long-time practice, and surely the plan is just as applicable to Cambria County as it is anywhere and everywhere else, and this "phooey" of officials not being qualified to "fire" help they have inherited from a preceding administration (such as the jail-warden case) is just "phooey" and nothing more.

Beaver Valley

Miss Hazel Monahan Feted At Surprise Party

Miss Hazel Monahan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Monahan, was honored at a surprise party on her 16th birthday, Oct. 29. Lunch was served and beautiful gifts received.

Those attending were Myra Hamilton, Evelyn and Marcella Keith, Charlotte Gates, Betty Hemsky, Vera Kutruif, Shirley Potatschnig, Sarah Sneath, Arlene and Betty Monahan, Nancy and Grace Monahan, Boyd, Earl and Clarence Gates, Jack Hemsky, Joe Hollen, Ernest and Russell Harpster, Lloyd Gates, Jim Krise, Harold Potter, Ronald and Chet Keith, Tommy Gates Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Monahan.

Mrs. Katherine Good Dies

Mrs. Katherine Good, aged 88 years, widow of Henry Good, died at the home of her son, Walter Good, who survives along with several other sons.

Interment was made in the Beaver Valley EUB Cemetery on Monday.

Mrs. Nellie Stratton of Harrisburg is spending a brief vacation at the home of her niece, Mrs. Engles Lester.

Mrs. Philip Foster of Altoona is visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Gates.

A hostess party was held at the Geo. M. Gates home Monday.

A miscellaneous shower was held Friday evening for Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Burchill at the Burchill home in Utahville. The couple received many beautiful gifts.

Miss Myra Hamilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Hamilton, was one of the two persons awarded first prize for being the nicest appearing couple at the Halloween Masquerade Skating Party at Starland Skating Rink, Patton, Monday, Nov. 1.

Miss Betty Barnett of Altoona visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnett, over the week end.

Marcia McGoe, Maxine Troxell and Gloria Saylor spent Monday night with Verla Kutruif.

fits so nice!



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A Van Heusen shirt does wonderful things for a man! Its low-setting collar stays flat, looks smarter, feels marvelous! And there's a wide choice of collar models. All Van Heusen shirts are action-tailored, figure-tapered, Sanforized. Man, wait till you feel a Van Heusen around your neck!

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DEAN

Mr. Leslie Reghetti and son, Domenico, in James Funicelli apartment Friday in Gallitzin.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Cavelet of Tiptletown, spent the week end at the home of their grandmother, Mrs. Catherine Krise.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Willis of Altoona, were callers at the Robert Willis home on Friday.

Regis Johnston has purchased a new 1949 Plymouth club coupe.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole and Mr. and Mrs. James Berringer, attended the wedding of Ramona Yahner and Patrick Bortman of Patton on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Judd and family spent Saturday in Altoona.

Mrs. Bernard McClucas and daughter, Ann, were Saturday callers in Altoona.

Mrs. Walter Judd, Mrs. William Judd, and Mrs. Joseph Judd were Friday evening visitors in St. Augustine.

6,863 County Pupils In Parochial Schools

Over half of the 11,161 children enrolled in the parochial schools this term in the Diocese of Altoona are attending schools in Cambria Co.

A total of 6,863 pupils—3,522 boys and 3,341 girls—are attending 33 schools in county, according to an enrollment report released by Rev. Father Francis A. McNelis, DD, superintendent of the Catholic schools in the diocese.

There are 53 parochial schools in five of the eight counties in the diocese, the same number as in previous years. However, attendance figures have jumped 836. Of this year's enrollment, 5,615 are boys and 5,546 are girls. An increase of 579 first grade

Ambury

Mr. and Mrs. John Galdi and family of Colver were visiting in town on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Miller visited at Leo Link and Al Kelly homes in Hastings last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Royden McConnell of Cresson and Miss Helen Stern of Chambers Springs spent Sunday at the Bernard McConnell home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gates, Coupon, spent Friday evening among relatives in Ambury.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hunt of Johnstown were week end visitors at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Pugh of Patton.

"Bud" Parizeck of Cresson visited local friends here last Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair Trexler and son, Philip of Cresson spent Sunday in town.

Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Godfrey included Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lewis of Sharon Lewis of Ashville, and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lewis of Gallitzin.

FALLENTIMBER

George H. Black, 83, Is Buried On Saturday

Services were held Saturday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Rickard for Mr. George H. Black, who died at 9:45 on Wednesday evening of last week. His death was caused by a heart attack.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Susie Ann Dull Black, and the following children: William, Benjamin and Felix, all at home; Mrs. Dorothy V. Rickard and Olan C. Black of Fallentimber; Russel V. Black of Altoona; Mrs. Bessie Coccia of Van Ormer, and Mrs. Sarah Botts of Altoona. There also are 22 grandchildren and two brothers and three sisters—James and William of Madera, and Margaret, Anna and Elizabeth.

2 Injured In Wreck At Cresson X-Roads

Two Cresson R. D. men escaped injury in an automobile wreck last Saturday night at the junction of route 22 and the Cresson-Loretto road. They were Russell Huffman, aged 27, operator, and Edward Wess, aged 29.

Wess was more severely injured suffering a laceration above the right eye and a severe bump on the forehead. Huffman was badly shaken up and received minor injuries about the legs and arms.

The pair was westward bound when Huffman, to avert striking two pedestrians was forced off the highway and crashed into an utility pole which contained a huge transformer and put the entire lower Wm Penn highway in complete darkness. The machine also sheared off a metal sign-board bearing the identification of the community of Cresson.

His car was extensively damaged.

NEW PIRATE COACH

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Calvin Passey of Madera was a business caller here Friday.

George McMaisters of Franklin visited at the Lloyd Gates home over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervil Gates of Glasgow visited Sunday at the Lemoine Hemsky home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCullay and son of Flinton and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Glass and sons of Fallentimber were Sunday callers at the Lloyd Gates home.

Mrs. Alice Hollen is spending a brief vacation at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rodrig.

Mrs. Don Bennix of Frugality was a Saturday evening caller at W. A. Plank's home.

Miss Irene Strayer, teacher in Johnstown, spent the week end at the home of her mother, Mrs. John Strayer.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Lenhart and children of Buckhorn visited Sunday at the home of the for-gotten parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harve Lenhart.

Mr. and Mrs. Cortis O'Shall and daughter of Smoke Run spent Sunday with Mr. O'Shall parents, Mr. and Mrs. William O'Shall.

We are sorry to note that Joseph Semelsberger has been ill for the past week. His speedy recovery was wished by his many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rettinger of Phillipsburg were callers over the week end at the home of the lady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Nedmyer.

Miss Hazel Monahan spent Saturday night at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sneath.

Mrs. Eugene Hill and daughter, Sandra, of Altoona visited on Sunday at the home of the lady's mother, Mrs. Frances Davis.

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