Largest General Weekly Newspaper Circulation in the Area

THE UNION PRESS-COURIER

Patton Courier, Estab. 1893 Union Press, Estab. 1935

Published every Thursday by Thos. A. Owens and Frank P. Cammarata, Press-Courier Building, 542 Magee Avenue, Patton, Pa., and entered as second class mail matter May 7, 1936, at the postoffice at Patton, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Subscription: $2.50 Yearly in Advance
Individual Copy, 5¢
Advertising Rates Furnished Upon Application

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1949 SUSTAINING MEMBER

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 circulations of two largely-circulated weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and the major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

Service Is A Factor

Around election time, in this great democracy of ours, there is always a tendency on the part of many voters to avoid the thought of service that a candidate for office may have given in the past, and the record usually speaks for itself for officeholders seeking reelection. Particularly in the townships and boroughs, where these records are mostly well-known to voters, should an officeholder's record be taken into serious consideration. Too often it is not, and a really good, hard-working official (or officials) is attacked by political opponents.

Intelligent voters should weigh in the balance whether or not officeholders seeking reelection have been good, hard-working officials with the interests of their office and constituents at heart. What they have accomplished or failed to accomplish as well should really be the guiding light of the voter. In most all our boroughs and townships we have men who have given of their time and talents for the general good of all the people. You can weigh those talens for yourself, between now and election day next Tuesday, and GIVE support to those who deserve it.

Political Brieflets

The Republican party and the "Republican" Johnstown "Democrat" make a lot of noise about the majority vote the Republican candidate for judge received over his opponent in Ebensburg, the home town of both judicial candidates. But there hasn't been much, if any, publicity given the fact that in Cambria County at large the Democratic candidate received two-thirds of the total Republican vote of the Republican candidate. Nor will there be any publicity along that line recorded in the Johnstown dailies.

Once upon a time the Johnstown morning newspaper was not mismamed. It was then a truly Democratic organ—but that was once upon a time. It may not be known to all of our readers, although most do know it, that the Johnstown "Democrat" is owned and controlled by the same corporation that publishes the Johnstown Tribune, and that the morning paper is used as the "hatchet sheet" editorially to crack at Democratic candidates. No Democrat at heart should take their matter to heart, because the prime thought behind their writings is the destruction of the Democratic party in Cambria County.

Voters must not be fooled. An independent candidate is in the race for Sheriff. Without casting any aspersions on the candidate, there isn't a chance he can be elected. A vote for the independent candidate simply means that you are taking a vote from one of the two regular party nominees. Of course, if sufficient Democrats vote for the independent candidate, then the Republican candidate for Sheriff will be elected. Never in the history of the county have Republicans sought to becloud the issues at present. One would think the Democratic chairman is running for office instead of Judge McKenrick and John Conway.

Reading Republican rally talk, the people are given to believe that the purchase of the additional county farm by the commissioners last year was a bad investment, and no one but the minority Republican commissioner, who likewise is the GOP candidate for sheriff (although he still has two years to serve in the Commissioners Office), is responsible for that thought. Commissioners Farrell and Owens will leave the record on the investment made speak for itself on the merit of the purchase. The farm adjacent to the county home had insufficient acreage, and was quoted at an excessively high price.

The Democratic party in state does not speak TWO languages in regard to the proposed Soldiers' Bonus. The party is for the bonus all along the line. Leaders are not talking bonus out of one corner of their mouths and with the next breath telling voters how much it's going to cost. Veterans should analyze the statements of the men who are telling us of taxes in the offing, and their political complexion. The bonus legislation belongs to all members of the legislature, and to no particular party, but there's big money afloat to defeat it—and you are the folks to decide WHO is furnishing it.

In these days of labor unrest, voters should remember that in Clearfield, Blair, Indiana and Somerset Counties, all of them surrounding Cambria, there are Republican Sheriffs and Republican Judges. Yet Cambria County, with a Democratic Sheriff, is the only county that has not asked for additional state police to be sent in, nor has created numerous deputy sheriffs to harass pickets. Remember, Democrats, that has not happened in Cambria County under Democratic Sheriffs of the past and present.

Thousands of Edward T. Donahue's friends in Northern Cambria County supported him in the primary election in September when he was a Democratic candidate for sheriff. In the spirit of true sportsmanship, Mr. Donahue has declared that he is for the election of John Conway for sheriff and bases his stand on the belief that if he had been nominated, Mr. Conway would have given him the same support. Mr. Donahue's statement asks that his friends support John A. Conway, the Democratic candidate.

County Commissioner Cyrus W. Davis without question has a large following of personal supporters throughout the county, all of which has been demonstrated over many years of political activity. Cy's a good fellow. However, why should a man who has been elected by the people to serve as a County Commissioner for four years, in the middle of his term, decide to become a candidate for Sheriff, at an actual DECREASE in salary. If Mr. Davis is elected Sheriff, there will be another Republican selected to serve out his remaining two years in the Commissioners' Office. Who might that man be?

These political orators and writers who ballyhoo so much about John R. Torquato and the slating of candidates surely don't mean to tell the voters that if ever there was slating of candidates on the part of the Republican party, it was THIS YEAR. In fact, in order to obtain the cream of the crop, both Mr. Englehart and Mr. Davis were influenced to abandon other good lucrative positions for their candidacy. Mr. Englehart resigned a mighty good-paying job at Harrisburg. But, have you noticed that the position has not been filled? Likely it's being kept open for him in the event of his defeat. If Mr. Davis fails of election, he'll still be a County Commissioner for two years.

Judge Ivan J. McKenrick and Former Mayor of Johnstown John A. Conway are the candidates for Judge and Sheriff on the Democratic ticket in Cambria County at the general election next Tuesday. Have you noticed that the orators and newspaper writers who are so energetically supporting the opposition candidates are not meeting the issue at all in regard to the liberal thought and qualifications of these two men. They have the idea of beclouding the real issues and follow the belief that if there are enough gullible Democrats that will swallow their daily propaganda, there might be a chance of upsetting the large majority of registered Democrats in the county—and the tendency of new voters definitely has been Democratic.

The very fact that the Republicans reported a spending of $50,000.00, with perhaps much more spent, in the congressional election in September, likely means that there will be thousands upon thousands of dollars spent in the election next week. Surely this money doesn't come from the rank and file of Republicans. Big money ISN'T spent for the interest of the rank and file of the people anywhere, anytime, in any election, and past history in this county should be ample warning to the miners, factory workers, farmers, and common folks generally that there's a "nigger in the woodpile" somewhere.

In all the talk of John R. Torquato and the Democrats, how much do you hear of Andrew Gleason and the Republicans? Andy ALWAYS takes a mighty big money part in Republican politics in this county. Mr. Gleason is the Cambria County Representative of the Pennsylvania Manufacturer's Assn., which is affiliated with the National Assn. of Manufacturers. Democrats, stick to your party. Vote your convictions at the election on Tuesday. Vote for your own interests. Give thought to the real background of the GOP in the county. Don't cut your ticket. You may have reason to regret it later on.

There are some Republican workers who are doing a lot of whispering here in the north of the county, and who are endeavoring to "trade" one of their candidates against the other in approaching Democrats. But remember this is being done to fool you. The very thought behind the move is Un-American. There are a lot of Democrats who well know what we mean without us placing it in print.

But now that we've given you our thought on the election, like always, we want you to remember that this thought is but the personal opinion of one man, the writer, just as any editorial you read in other papers likewise is also only the opinion of ONE MAN in each paper. The principal thought of the majority of the voters is exercised at the polls. That of course should be your incentive to vote next Tuesday. After all, your own convictions are yours alone. If you remain away from the polls, you have no part in the expression.

VOTE. Go early. Analyze the candidates, and the real principles for which they stand and the background of the party they represent. Vote as you please, but vote!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

Ott, Forsythe Present Details On Flood Control Project

Answer McQuillen's Queries of Last Week

Another important message to the citizens of Patton:

Dear Sir:

In the last two issues of the Union Press-Courier, we, as reponsible officials of Patton Borough, have attempted to give the taxpayers of this community some idea of how their tax money is being spent. We believe we have given a complete report thus far and now we will give a report on some other matters on which there seems to be much controversy and false rumors.

In last week's issue we gave a report on the ball field. It was shown that a balance of $4,435.78 was owed on the ball field improvements. Let us point out that this balance could have been reduced to slightly less than $3,000 were it not for the fact that approximately $1,500 was spent by the Park Commission out of the ball field fund for filling of the old creek channel. This was a responsibility of the borough, but since the trucks were hauling fill it was decided by the persons in charge of the improvements to do this work. No person can doubt that it was not a worthy move.

If there is doubt, such persons should talk with the citizens in the vicinity of the old channel near the ball field and get their views and learn their fears of an epidemic in that vicinity as a result of conditions that existed at the time. Yet there are certain individuals who would say this money was spent foolishly. Perhaps the mosquitoes didn't bother them.

We also have been asked as to whether or not bids were advertised for the expenditure on the ball field. When tax money is being spent, any amount over $500 must be advertised. But, as was pointed out last week, no tax money was used, therefore it was not necessary to advertise. We don't imagine you have to advertise to spend donated money. Let us point out further and refer you to last week's issue wherein it was disclosed that work on the ball field, after funds were exhausted, was done by Snyder Bros. on their own. Snyder Bros. appeared before council and repeated the statement made that they would do this work, taking a chance on getting their money if and when it became available.

Answer Recent Questions

In last week's issue also appeared a letter from one of our citizens questioning certain things about these reports.

It is not our intention to take up your space and the readers' time to answer anything contained in that letter, but for the public interest we will discuss certain things mentioned. Some question was asked about a $5,000 error, or misplacement. We refer the gentleman to last week's issue wherein that was explained.

Mention was made of installing sewers at one of the extensions, and an explanation demanded why sewers were not installed years ago on some other streets, mentioning among them Donnelly Ave. Let us point out that it was impossible to install sewers on Donnelly Ave. years ago, as Donnelly Ave. came into the borough only a year or so ago, and the borough, as anyone knows, is not permitted to install sewers out of the borough.

As for the other streets mentioned in that letter, to the best of our knowledge there has never been a petition presented to council for sewers. Petitions may be obtained for that purpose at the Borough Office. As for the extension, the property owners paid two-thirds of the cost of the project not only for the 700 feet at the extension, but for approximately the same number of feet on borough property.

Some fuss was raised about the new street lights. The cost to the borough is the increase in wattage and a slight cost per foot for the new line used.

About the supposed mistake on the Beech Ave. sewer, let us inform you that the sewer on Beech Ave. was installed for the property owners. Phillips-Jones installed their private sewer, which is now eliminated by the new channel. They are too low for the sewer on Beech Ave., so in order to keep the factory working, council agreed to install a new sewer for Phillips-Jones, both Phillips-Jones and the borough sharing the cost equally.

That is good business and good for the community. If things like that are not done, we will never have another industry accept an invitation to come to Patton nor keep what we have.

On parking meters, question is raised as to their need, since we claim we have money in the borough and water funds. If we wish to sit tight and not make improvements, then of course we do not need quite as much money. If we are to keep moving ahead, make all necessary improvements in our borough, then of course it takes money, and we believe most citizens will back our program to keep going forward. We have streets, sewers to install; resurfacing work, and many other things that must be done. With money we can do them; without money we cannot do anything.

In last week's issue there was a comparison given of the tax rates in Patton and several other neighboring towns. Rumors have it that certain individuals are not satisfied with the comparison as it was given. Keep in mind the fact that Patton Borough, outside of Barnesboro Borough, is the largest incorporated borough shown in that comparison. Therefore it is only natural to assume that the assessed valuation of Patton Borough would be higher than that of the other boroughs. We again repeat, that regardless of rumors and false statements, Patton Borough, for a community this size, has one of the lowest tax rates in the Commonwealth.

ASSESSMENTS

We have had much unjust criticism on the assessments in the borough. Unjust is the word. Keep this in mind—the Assessors, and the Assessors ONLY do the assessing. There are many false rumors pertaining to assessments. The Assessor is an elected official who is not responsible to council. If the assessments are not fair to you as a property holder, you have recourse by going to the Commisioners at Ebensburg and protesting your assessment. This also goes for property which you think is not assessed high enough.

Let us make this very clear: Council has nothing to do with assessments. The Assessor does the assessing on his own.

FLOOD CONTROL

Flood Control, one of worthiest projects ever to be mentioned in our community, seems to be getting a lot of criticism by many of course who were never affected by the floods. Anyone who ever has been, certainly will not condemn this project. Credit for this project should be given all former and present officials who have worked hard to bring this project about. Yet, after all this hard work, some will still condemn and criticize.

Perhaps we should remind some folks of a meeting held in the Borough Office June 26, 1946, right after a flood. The citizens at that time were willing to be taxed any amount if the floods could be stopped. Council advised the citizens to prepare a petition, which was done. Many persons out of the flood area gladly signed in order that their friends who were affected could be relieved of this situation.

In the June, 1946, flood, in addition to thousands of dollars' damage to private property holders, figures show that business and industry alone suffered to the extent of $465,017.00. From these figures, would anyone say that a flood project was not needed? And how about the other floods of 1936 and 1942? A community not too far from Patton spent $85,000 from the borough fund for flood control work. We in Patton are very fortunate. Our cost of the project is slight, compared with other projects.

We have bought two properties, condemned one—on which there will be some cost—and at the present time we have an agreement, PENDING, NOT YET IN EFFECT, and which has NEVER been as yet read before council, wherein we may have to spend from $6,500 to $11,500 maximum with Pennsylvania Railroad, bracing up structures, extending lines, etc., in connection with the flood program. This agreement, after it is acted upon by council, will be in the Borough Office for inspection.

There is a great possibility that $5,000 of this obligation would never be required, providing the steps that are being contemplated work out favorably. The Borough Secretary, Burgess and President of Council were authorized, in Special Meeting, June 29, 1949, Mr. Albright being the only member absent that meeting, to deal with the Pennsylvania Railroad in amount not to exceed $11,500 for the purpose of obtaining rights of entry from the railroad in order to complete the flood control program for the Borough of Patton, as set up by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Forests & Waters.

We feel that even $15,000, which might be required of us for the complete flood control program, is slight, compared to the $225,000 appropriated by the Commonwealth.

We wish to wind up this report, hoping we have given you a true picture of the workings and condition of our borough. We believe we have an outstanding community. We believe our living conditions are much higher than many communities. We assure you, your borough is in fine physical and financial condition. We assure you, contrary to rumors, that we are far from broke, and do have borrowing power. As of the end of 1948 financial report, $19,142.50 may be borrowed without a vote of the people and $66,999.10 with the vote of the people.

That is the true picture of our town. We hope that whomsoever the management of Patton Borough falls upon, they will go forward, as we have the past several years.

THEODORE M. OTT
President of Council
ROBERT FORSYTHE
Burgess of Patton

McQuillen Questions Lack Of Bids On Ball Park Work

Wants Full Details On Agreement With PRR

To the two responsible borough officials, Messrs. Ott and Forsythe:

Your letter in last week's issue of the Union Press-Courier again needs clarification, concerning the millage rate of taxation. Comparing the borough of Patton with its neighboring boroughs, I wish to give below the facts and correct figures as taken from the State Tax Equalization Board report, dated June, 1949:

	Assessed Valuation	Boro Millage	Per Capita
Carrolltown	$352,870	18	$5.00
Spangler	754,560	21	2.00
Hastings	448,030	11	3.00
Patton	914,310	12	5.00

Assuming for the sake of comparison that all real estate assessments have been collected, and that each town has collected 100 percent per capita taxes, what would the balance in the borough treasuries be?

	Assessment Collected	Per Capita Collected	Total
Crltn	$ 6,351.66	$5,000	$11.351.66
Spglr	15,845.76	2,000	17,845.76
Hstgs	6,720.45	3,000	9,720.45
Paton	10,971.72	5,000	15,971.72

From the above comparable tables, you can see that even with the lowest millage rate, we collect, by comparison, more than Hastings and Carrolltown, and almost as much as Spangler. The reason for this is that we have three large industries within our borough limits, which provide one sixth of the total assessed valuation. Hastings, Carrolltown and Spangler have no such industries.

Then, you quote the total expenditures of the ball park as $13,840.53. Is it not a fact that any expenditure by the borough, over $500, must be advertised for bids? Why was this regular procedure not followed? I note also, that you owe $4,435.78, and that you state the citizens of this town will never be taxed one penny now or in the future. Is this not a debt of Patton Borough? Does not the Borough own the ball ground? Therefore, it must be a public debt against the borough. Has any audit on this fund ever been published? Personally, I am in favor of building an outstanding ball field. But why not use the regular procedure in obtaining it?

Again, although I most heartily approve of the Flood Control Project (having been one of its first sponsors), nevertheless, I consider it the responsibility of the borough officials to acquaint our citizens with the facts concerning it.

What is the amount of property damages paid thus far? Have you had an estimate made of any liabilities? Have you not obligated the borough to maintain the entire flood control project through Chest and Elder Twps., in fact, clear to Thomas' Mills?

Is it not a fact that you have obligated the borough in endeavoring to purchase six lots in Patton, in settlement for damaged land in Chest Twp., and then permitted a building to be erected thereupon, without acceptance of your offer to those who own the lots? Are you going to procure these lots, regardless of cost to the borough?

Is it not a fact that the borough officials have some agreement with the Pennsylvania Railroad? Why has not this matter been publicly presented? Is it not true that the Pennsylvania Railroad will be given $6,500 for damages and maintenance of the bridge and culverts over Little Chest Creek? Is it not true that the borough officials have also agreed to pay the sum of $5,000 to the Pennsylvania Railroad at any time in the future for a bridge to be constructed over the Flannagan Run cut-off? Is not this land in Elder Twp.?

Is this article of agreement between the Pennsylvania Railroad and the borough officials, available at the borough office for the inspection of the citizens of Patton?

I believe that much confusion and misunderstanding could be avoided, if the officials would acquaint the taxpayers with the facts relative to the transaction of borough business.

Furthermore, I would recommend the following principles as a sample of ideal borough government:

1. A balanced budget.
2. A cooperative city government.
3. A monthly report of all council meetings and transactions.
4. Invite public opinion on all major matters pertaining to the borough.
5. Impartial assessment and taxation.

THOMAS A. McQUILLEN
427½ Magee Ave.
Patton, Pa.

STIEGEL GLASS AT HERSHEY

The world's largest collection of Steigel Glass is in Pennsylvania—at the Hershey Museum.

George Gold Writes To Dispel Rumors

Not in Favor Raising Taxes On Industries

To the Editor of the Union Press-Courier and Citizens of Patton Borough:

I am availing myself of this opportunity to discount a rumor being circulated about town relative to my intentions, if elected to your Borough Council.

In essence it is to the effect that I, for one, contemplate raising the taxation on certain industries in our community.

First, I wish to state, that thus far, I have made no assertions whatsoever; but since I have been placed in a defensive position, I am compelled to make the following statements:

My first ambition would be, not to increase taxation, but to reduce, or at least hold the present taxation level, not only on industry but on the individual as well.

I do not believe that it will be necessary to curtail any progressive steps the borough wishes to take to accomplish this, but what I do believe is necessary is a closer adherence to accepted business methods on the part of borough officials. I also believe more efficient supervision could be practiced to a marked advantage.

I also wish to point out, in recent publications relative to the borough, reference has been repeatedly made to non-taxpayers. In reply to this, I wish to state if the inequality of real estate assessments in Patton Borough were common knowledge, the disinclination to own real estate would be quite general. For example, I will cite one instance: Is it fair to have one property assessed at $600 and your neighbor on each side assessed at $800, when all you need is a fleeting glance to definitely determine the home assessed at $600 is by far the superior? Is it merely a coincidence the home assessed at $600 is owned by a responsible borough official? The word responsible is defined in the dictionary as accountable, answerable and trustworthy.

In closing, I wish to convey this thought to the citizens of Patton Borough: It requires neither intelligence nor ability to circulate rumors.

Finally, let me suggest to you voters of Patton Borough, be guided by reason and not by rumors on Nov. 8.

Respectfully submitted
GEORGE GOLD
509 Palmer Ave.
Patton, Pa.

(Editor's Note: Assessors are elected officials and they alone set property valuation.)

Textile Workers Endorse Democrats

As a group of citizens and as an organization, we are interested in the welfare and betterment of our community.

In view of the fact that our town has progressed and has become an outstanding community in Cambria County, we do hereby endorse the entire Democratic Ticket in Patton Borough for the respective offices they seek.

Our very place of employment was threatened by floods a great many times and through the efforts of our good public officials in this borough a program is now in effect that will safeguard the property of our company.

We urge all voters to align themselves with us to bring about a Democratic Victory in Patton. This must be done if we are to progress.

Patton Local
United Textile Workers
Peg Blair, President
Frank E. Rogers, Rec. Sec.
Anna Mae Wilson, Fin. Sec.

Stricken At Home

R. Milton Good, 68, a clerk in the Cambria County commissioners' office, was found dead in his home in Conemaugh early last Saturday evening.

Conemaugh volunteer firemen were called to administer artifical respiration in an unsuccessful attempt to revive him. It was believed he was stricken in his home about 4 p. m., Saturday.

Mr. Good whose father was the first register and recorder of deeds in Cambria County, had been active in political affairs for many years. He was one of the organizers of the Conemaugh Fire Company.

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THEATRE ALTOONA
—NOW—
BETTE DAVIS
JOSEPH COTTEN
DAVID BRIAN
RUTH ROMAN
BEYOND THE FOREST

STRAND
THEATRE ALTOONA
—STARTS FRIDAY—
Robert Cummings in
THE BLACK BOOK
—PLUS—
Peggy Ryan, in
SHAMROCK HILL

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The Vagabonds
AND HIS SWINGSTERS
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Sunday, October 30
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(Political Advertisement)

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Vote for These PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES:

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for COUNCIL, SECOND WARD . . . Francis Huber, Ray Yahner
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