

New Cambria County Assessment Figures Show Gain of \$1.5 Million During 1949

Patton's \$45,920 Increase Among Top In North Cambria

On the basis of approximate figures, the value of real estate in Cambria County increased by a little over \$1.5 million during 1949. The gain in Northern Cambria County was about \$165,940.

The sums are arrived at by a look at assessment figures released at the end of the year in the office of the county commissioners at Ebensburg. Gains are noted in most political subdivisions, due presumably to new construction and efforts of assessors to equalize figures, but some districts, including Barr, Elder and West Carroll townships, show losses in property assessments.

The county's 1949 assessment was \$143,615,530. The total upon which 1949 taxes are based is \$145,144,810. The actual increase, not considering very minor changes which still may be made, is \$1,529,280.

In all there were gains in 75 percent of the county's assessment districts. These include 62 boroughs and townships and 21 wards in the city of Johnstown.

Outside of the greater Johnstown area, the most sizeable gain was in Patton, where property valuations were increased from \$97,130 to the new 1950 figure of \$1,503,050. Patton First Ward assessments are listed as \$622,850, while Second Ward figures are \$380,200.

Among the other sizeable area gains was Ebensburg's, up by \$45,810. Barnesboro's valuations went up by \$31,700 and East Carroll Twp.'s by \$20,510. Cambria Twp., which surrounds Ebensburg, showed an increase of \$38,760.

The largest drop in assessed valuation was in Barr Twp. This subdivision showed a loss of \$41,110, said to be due mainly to depleted coal lands.

The adjoining tabulations show that the area roughly considered as Northern Cambria County during 1949 had an assessed valuation of \$15,994,190. The combined assessment figures for 1950 will be approximately \$15,560,130. This is a gain of some \$165,940.

Subdivisions in this area showing gains in assessments were Allegheny Twp., Ashville, Barnesboro, Cambria Twp., Carrolltown, Chest Springs, Chest Twp., Clearfield Twp., Dean Twp., East Carroll Twp., Ebensburg, Gallitzin Twp., Hastings, Reade Twp., Spangler, Tunnelhill, White Twp. and Patton.

Only five North Cambria subdivisions showed drops in valuation. These were Barr Twp., Elder Twp., Loreto, Susquehanna Twp. and West Carroll Twp.

	1949	Approx. 1950
Allegheny Township	\$ 692,850	\$ 692,850
Ashville Borough	79,570	81,310
Barnesboro Borough	1,067,050	1,096,750
Barr Township	1,993,710	1,952,600
Cambria Township	2,980,620	3,020,370
Carrolltown Borough	362,020	372,280
Chest Springs Borough	48,590	49,290
Chest Township	268,600	270,600
Clearfield Township	552,890	555,480
Dean Township	231,940	237,330
East Carroll Township	823,100	843,610
Elder Township	312,740	311,170
Gallitzin Borough	982,120	972,620
Gallitzin Township	314,960	325,770
Hastings Borough	456,490	469,080
Loreto Borough	116,380	116,380
Patton Borough	957,130	1,003,050
Reade Township	528,720	537,890
Spangler Borough	772,440	773,440
Susquehanna Township	681,600	678,030
Tunnelhill Borough	65,610	66,400
West Carroll Township	600,850	587,070
White Township	223,980	224,300
Total	\$15,394,190	\$15,560,130

Low-Assessed Cambria Districts Facing School Headaches This Fall

Below are the figures for some of the subdivisions in this area as listed by the State Tax Equalization Board last June, showing that property assessments in all of them are far below legal requirements. These figures give what the state experts figure is the true total market value of the properties in towns and townships, along with the assessed valuations for 1948.

By comparing the tables of the 1949-50 assessments with the figures of the Tax Equalization Board, the rate of increase may be seen. However, the number of new homes, etc., constructed during the past 12 months also must be taken into consideration.

Districts with low assessed valuations in the past have benefited in the matter of state appropriations to school boards. The districts with high percentages probably will receive the same amount of state school appropriation money, while those in the lowest category stand to have theirs cut in half—causing local school boards to up taxes in order to raise the same amount of revenue as now is received in local taxes and state funds. The latest information is that this "equalizing" of state appropriations funds will go into effect in September, 1950.

Unequal assessments in various towns in the county also is unfair when it comes to paying county taxes. A glance at the table shows that a resident of South Fork who owns a house actually worth \$10,000 pays twice as much county tax because his property is located in that borough as he would if his home were located in Susquehanna Twp. or Carrolltown or Dean Twp. because county millage is the same in all districts in the county.

School District	Market Value	Ass'd Value	Pct. of Val.
Ashville	\$ 217,892	\$ 265,520	30.07
Barnesboro	3,971,648	3,041,510	26.22
Barr Township	5,778,578	1,986,540	34.38
Cambria Township	8,331,924	2,946,910	35.37
Carrolltown	1,401,390	352,870	25.18
Chest Township	615,223	253,600	41.22
Cresson	3,470,114	1,080,810	31.15
Dean Township	776,991	220,700	28.40
East Carroll Township	2,018,009	635,500	31.49
Ebensburg	6,825,870	2,528,480	37.04
Elder Township	908,323	289,290	31.86
Gallitzin	2,128,296	948,220	44.60
Gallitzin Township	867,399	304,410	31.47
Hastings	1,591,581	448,030	28.15
Johnstown City	139,794,271	64,330,660	46.02
Nanty-Glo	4,313,050	1,465,090	33.97
Patton	3,343,803	914,310	27.34
Prince Gallitzin Union	5,554,757	1,870,990	33.68
Reade Township	2,235,840	805,030	36.01
Sankertown	412,456	174,510	42.31
South Fork	2,993,279	1,070,950	35.78
Spangler	2,891,973	1,545,560	28.03
Susquehanna Township	2,874,925	977,970	23.58
Tunnelhill	165,499	63,800	38.55
West Carroll Township	1,276,413	598,030	46.85
White Township	530,685	200,850	37.85

U. S. Inspector Notes Improvement At Sterling No. 1 Mine, Bakerton

Reporting the correction of many standard conditions, a federal coal mine inspector praised the generally good compliance with the Federal Mine Safety Code at the No. 1 Mine of the Sterling Coal Co. at Bakerton, the Bureau of Mines announced Saturday.

The mine employed 306 men and averaged 1,767 tons of coal daily when it was visited in November by Inspector David Kreischer.

Improvements embraced more effective timbering in all except three places in the west main faces where compliance with the replacement of broken crossbars and removal or support of unsafe roof, frequent roof testing, added precautions in blasting, adequate ventilation throughout the mine, installation of doors in pairs forming air-locks and prompt closing of doors after use, cleaning of excessive coal dust from the main haulage roads and working places, and effective rock-dusting of dry face regions, as well as dry haulage ways and parallel entries.

Inspector Kreischer also cited the good alignment of tracks, unobstructed clearance along haulage ways and shelter holes at the main-line derrick switches, elimination of some risky haulage practices, frame grounds for electrical equipment and other electrical safeguards, display of signs to escape ways, and guarding of some escape driving machinery.

For added blasting safety, the inspector said all shots or series of shots should be fired immediately after charging on shift. Air should not be coursed from pillar lines or abandoned areas to live workings, he added, also recommending cleaning of an obstructed shelter hole at a switch throw, effective car blocking, use of a drag on trips ascending haulage roads, overload protection for circuits of seven trolley locomotives, provision for a second escapeway from the 19 left section, and wearing of protective hats and footwear by men exposed to falling objects and goggles by those doing eye-hazardous work.

Marsteller Soldier Expires In Hawaii

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Mihalich Sr. of Marsteller have received word from the War Department of the death of their son, Sgt. Michael Mihalich Jr.

An army veteran of 19 years' service, Sgt. Mihalich died on Wednesday, Dec. 28, in a hospital in Hawaii. He had been stationed in Korea and Hawaii since the end of World War II and had only six months to serve before his retirement. He served in the European Theater during the recent world conflict.

A brother of Joseph Mihalich, Spangler chief of police, the 42-year-old veteran was born July 2, 1907, in Johnstown. During World War II, five Mihalich brothers served in the armed forces—three in the European Theater and two in the South Pacific. One brother, Thomas, has 18 years' army service to his credit.

Spangler American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars will have charge of military rites. Funeral arrangements are incomplete pending arrival of the body from Hawaii.

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Emeigh Man, 85 Planning Bear Hunt November, 1954

Five years hence, 85-year-old George Michaels of Emeigh plans to take a day off from his coal mining duties to go bear hunting. He promised friends that he'll shoulder a gun in quest of Erer Bruin on his 80th birthday anniversary. And judging by the way he now shrugs off the weight of his years he may fulfill that vow.

Mr. Michaels started digging coal in 1903 at the relatively advanced age of 38. But he's been going strong in the industry ever since.

His present job is lampman, watchman and janitor for Peale, Peacock & Kerr Inc., St. Benedict—his employer for the past 45 years.

He worked as a digger and later as a company man until 18 years ago when he sustained a broken leg in a mine accident.

"I feel good; it's hard to tell how long I will work, just as long as my health permits; I hope that is a long time," Mr. Michaels said. Already he is a strong bidder for the longevity crown among coal industry workers in the district.

Although his favorite hobby is hunting, the octogenarian only got in one day of the sport during the past deer season. But he is looking forward to a rendezvous with a bear in five years.

Known to his miner friends either as "Uncle George" or "Grampaw," Mr. Michaels has a good word for his associates. "They sure are a great bunch of fellows," he says.

The aged man lives alone on company property. He is the father of seven living children—Mrs. Bertha Richards of Pittsburgh, Mrs. Annetta Copp of Cleveland, Mrs. Wanetta Keith of Hastings, Norman of Emeigh, William of Cleveland, Ralph of Youngstown and Elva of New York.

Martin Barrett, Watkins, Still Walks 10 Miles to Work Has Been Making Trek For Past Nine Years

Martin Barrett, 49-year-old resident of Watkins, a small village between Bakerton and Spangler, doesn't want for exercise.

In addition to digging coal for his livelihood—which is no mean chore in itself—he walks 10 miles a day to get to and from his place of employment at Mine 12 of Barnes & Tucker Coal Company, Barnesboro.

Mr. Barrett lives five miles from his work. By simple arithmetic the roundtrip adds up to a total of 10 miles he "hoofs" it each day.

He has been travelling the distance on foot so long he doesn't mind the hike any more. It's almost impossible for him to join in any share-theride plan as none of his mine buddies reside near by.

"I never ask for a ride but sometimes cars stop and offer to give me a lift," Mr. Barrett reports. But more frequently he trudges the entire distance—come rain, hail, sleet, snow, etc.

During the past nine years, the Watkins man lost only one day's work because he declined to brave unfavorable weather. He's proud of that record.

The miner also jokingly refers to his daily home-to-portal stint whenever the conversation turns to a portal-to-portal topic.

Mr. Barrett has worked at his trade for 35 years. He received his mining indoctrination when he was a lad of 14. Unmarried, he makes his home with a married brother, Vincent.

INCREASED WEIGHT

You weigh more downstairs than when you're downstairs, and you weigh more when the moon is on the horizon than when it is directly overhead.

5 Double Holidays On 1950 Calendar

Lincoln's Birthday Will Lead Week End Parade

Folks who like to devote plenty of time to their holidays will find 1950 right down their alley.

The new year has no less than five double holidays. The double-takes are where festive days fall either on a Saturday, or a Sunday, or a Monday.

This gives observers a chance to stretch out their celebrations over two days rather than confine them to the normal 24-hour cycle. It brings the biggest boon to government and bank employees who never skip a legal holiday.

First of the double-takers is Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12, which falls on a Sunday and will be observed Monday. Three other major 1950 holidays hit on a Monday. They are Labor Day, which always picks the first Monday of September, Christmas and the 1951 New Year. Armistice Day will be on Saturday, Nov. 11.

The other holidays will fall mostly near the middle of the week. Cherry candy and paper hatchets will appear on the counters in time for Washington's birthday parties Wednesday, Feb. 22. Patriotic songs will be out the Colores to observe Flag Day Wednesday, May 14.

Tuesday will have its share of holidays. Independence Day, Memorial Day and Election Day, Nov. 7, all fall on a Tuesday. Halloween also will be on a Tuesday.

Sons of the Auld Sod will be wearing the green on Mar. 7, when St. Patrick's Day turns up in the Thursday column of the 1950 calendar. Columbus Day, Oct. 12, and Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 23, also will be on Thursday.

Lent and Easter come early this year. Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 23 as compared with Mar. 3 in 1949. Easter is April 9, or eight days earlier than in 1949.

If you are one of those cautious persons who shy away from black cats and strolling under ladders, you'll find two Fridays in January the last in October.

The Pennsylvania Folklore Society announces plans to start 67 branch societies, at its meeting next spring, in connection with the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical societies.

Henry W. Shoemaker, president of the Pennsylvania Folklore Society, said the purpose of the organization of county societies is to permit the gathering of folklore in every county of the state.

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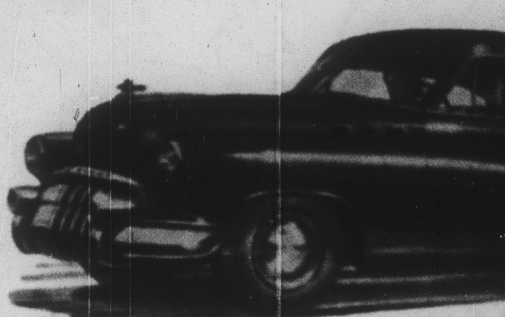
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