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THE UNION PRESS-COURIER
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Some Confronting Problems

There are a number of Boroughs, Townships and School Districts in the county these days that are having officials with headaches because of finances, or rather the lack of finances. In other words, there isn't sufficient revenue coming into their respective treasuries to meet the obligations that in many cases are simply the routine requirements of their respective governments. In some cases, the millage rates have been boosted to the top figure permitted by law. But that isn't sufficient to meet the needs in many instances.

Under Act 481 of the 1947 Legislature, at least the boroughs and school districts were permitted to levy certain other taxes, such as sales and head taxes, and many of the financially-distressed districts did take advantage of this act. In some cases there was a lot of grumbling by the local taxpayers. And even then, some of the school districts at least still found themselves without sufficient revenue to carry on.

Of course, management in some places may have been a factor in the financial distress, but that would be an exception, not the rule. Certainly, then the reason why some municipalities and school districts can keep a "going-business" must be because they are receiving the amount of taxes they require. They must be districts that can live according to their actual requirements. Assuming that this is true, then the amount of assessment on real estate valuations has a direct bearing on the whole matter.

When townships, school districts, and boroughs foster with the assessors the thought that if valuations are kept down their taxables won't have to pay so much county tax, they are only harboring a delusion that comes back to their own doorstep. The county, like any taxing body, needs just so much money to conduct its business, and the budget is set accordingly. If Cambria County needs eight or 10 mills to run its current affairs, and something in the future might come up that it needed more, then the county commissioners could raise millage as high as 20 mills—10 for the general fund and 10 for the institutional district.

When all of the taxing bodies in Cambria County realize that only through an equitable and just assessment of their valuations will they reach the secret of their own problems, only then will these headaches cease. If valuations were higher in all of the county taxing districts, naturally the millage rate of the county would be lower. Cambria County needs just so much money each year to transact business—simply that amount and not a cent more. If the valuations were higher, the county millage might be only four or six mills, so that after all, it's the local level taxing bodies that are holding the bag.

Safety of County Charges

Somewhat more than a week ago, the daily newspapers reported the great loss of life that was occasioned by a disastrous fire in a mental hospital in a Midwestern state. It was indicated that had the proper fire protection been given this building, they probably would not have been any loss of life. The building, an old one, was not protected by a sprinkler system even though such a recommendation had been made by the proper authorities from time to time. The folks in the management of the institution must have troubled consciences as a result.

The fire in the institution was unlucky for the folks who lost their lives and for the people who "skidded along" for years with the luck of not having a fire. It might be interesting to note that this same condition could have happened in Cambria County over a period of many years. The condition of safety at the Cambria County Home was no better than that of the Midwestern institution. The older portion of the County Home, aged through the years and drafty as well, could have "gone up like a tinder box" had any fire gotten the least chance of a start. Like the patients of the recent tragedy-doomed institution, the inmates of the home, by temperament, likely would have been sure to do the wrong thing at the time.

Back some years ago a former board of commissioners did start a movement to install a sprinkler system in the Cambria County Home, but with the coming of the war years they found it impossible to obtain. Naturally the commissioners themselves, both past and present, went to bed at night with their fingers crossed—hoping there would be no fires. The present board, upon assuming office two years ago, made a sprinkling system in the County Home the No. 1 feature of their agenda, and back in 1948 a contract was let for its installation, with the understanding that it would be installed before the end of the year. However, the actual installation was not completed until last fall, and thus, to the point of the ability of the management, the wooden structure of the Cambria County Home is protected.

There is hardly a reader of this newspaper who will not agree that the paramount job of their commissioners is the protection, the comfort and the health of their charges, and in the county and children's homes we have all of 600 of these dependents of the county. Conditions at both of these institutions are very much overcrowded. The fire hazards at the Children's Home is not eliminated, but continues to exist. This home, purchased in the early 1920's, when then a farm home and now is around 100 years old. In 1923 a wooden addition was built to it, and later in the 1930's still another addition, of fire-proof construction, was built under WPA auspices.

Just as was the case at the County Home, the older portions of the Children's Home are to be considered from all safety angles as fire traps. In fact about the same time, innocent lives were snuffed out, as happened the older folks in the Midwestern institution. The condition of the older portions of the Children's Home building is such that the installation of a sprinkler system would be false economy. The building itself would first have to be repaired to the extent of many thousands of dollars, the crowded condition would remain, and the county would have little gain for the sum invested.

With these conditions confronting the commissioners, and at the suggestion of many interested citizens, the erection of a new and modern Children's Home, co-ordinated with the present fire-proof portion of the home, is indicated as the only sensible and even economical solution. Erection of such a home to adequately handle an inmate population of up to 125 children with recreation rooms and segregation of boys and girls, will cost perhaps somewhere between \$300,000 and \$350,000. Upon its completion, the older portions of the present home would be razed.

The most economical way of paying for this vital necessity would be by paying for it in cash out of the pocket, and not from borrowed money. The commissioners, in order to do this, would fix the rate of taxation pinpointed to pay off this obligation, and the Children's Home—a new and thoroughly modern institution—would be finished, both physically and financially. Or, they could create a bond issue and pay much more in interest and other overhead charges over a longer period.

Of course, no one likes additional taxes. But in this instance the difference in the county tax would be so little for most individual taxpayers that many would scarcely notice the amount. In the case where the tax would hit a bit harder it would be upon the folks most able to pay. Instead of thinking of the levy as a tax, in conscience at least, it could be regarded as a charity. The children of the county are now sleeping in some instances two in a single bed; some of them are sleeping on an enclosed porch with the underlying planks to tumble out. There is no means of keeping boys and girls completely segregated. Their means of recreation is retarded. In other words, the County of Cambria surely has an obligation of doing better for its kiddies.

Two mills of additional taxation for one year only also will give the commissioners sufficient revenue to make major improvements at the County Home. One plan is to build a separate building for living quarters for the superintendent and matron, and the permanent staff of the Home and Hospital. By taking these people out of the main building (and they should not be required to spend their private hours within it) an additional bed space for 50 or 60 persons will be provided. That will bring the more poorly housed sleeping in the basement and elsewhere to a more comfortable life as the county's charges. Surely no one will deny that these are obligations that rest not only with the commissioners, but with every taxpayer in Cambria County.

Beaver Valley

Husband of Local Girl Promoted By Naval Unit

Lt. Clair M. Ferguson, U.S.N.R. of Coldstream, Philipsburg, R. D., was recently promoted to the permanent rank of lieutenant commander in a brief ceremony. Capt. H. J. Verboye, U.S.N. instructor of the Naval and Marine Reserve Training Center in Altoona, administered the oath to Lt. Ferguson.

Lt. Commander Ferguson is district engineer for the Pennsylvania Electric Company. He is an aviation electronics officer and served in the Caribbean and Pacific areas during World War II. A graduate of Colport Irons High School in 1917, and of the Pennsylvania State College in 1941, he was commissioned an ensign in the Naval Reserve in 1942 and took indoctrination courses at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lt. Commander Ferguson served 22 months at Guamantama Bay, later being transferred to Pearl Harbor. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ferguson of Coalport and is married to the former Cecelia Strayer of Beaver Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lenhart and children of Patton spent Sunday visiting at the Joseph Hughes home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rettig, of State College spent the weekend at the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nedmyer.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Ferguson and son, Kent, of Philipsburg visited here Sunday with Mrs. Mary Strayer.

Mrs. Mary Mellot of Beaver Falls spent the week end here at the William Fleming home.

Mrs. Clark Forrey of Philipsburg visited here recently at the Michael Nedmyer residence.

Miss Irene Strayer of Johnson town spent the week end here with her mother, Mrs. Mary Strayer.

Virginia Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Thompson, celebrated her 6th birthday anniversary last Saturday, Jan. 14. A party was held in her honor at her home at that time.

The Cambria County Youth Council held a meeting in the local E.T.B. Church last Saturday evening. Refreshments were served following the business session.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rice of Ash-

ville spent Sunday here at the Cloyd Shope home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Flemming and son, Kenneth, visited in South Fork last Sunday afternoon.

Emma Gates of Altoona spent the week end at the Lemnope Hensky home here.

James Wheeler of Lilly and Floyd Waltman of Cresson spent the week end here at the Philip Kutera home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hobbs of Altoona visited here Monday evening with Mrs. Mary Gates.

DEAN

School was dismissed on Friday morning for the children in Dean as there was no electric power for the lights and heating system.

Irene Montier of Fallentimber and Lawrence Belawent of Amstutz were Sunday visitors in town at the Bernard Melucas residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Litzinger and Mrs. Donald Egert of Cresson spent Sunday here at the James Berlinger home.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Johnston and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Willis are now in the process of remodeling their homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Keyes of Juniata were last Thursday visitors here at the Reghetti home.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Swires and son, Donald, of Altoona, spent Sunday here at the Howard Swires home.

Robert Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Campbell, has been honorably discharged from the U. S. Army Air Force.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Reghetti and son, Ronald, and Mr. and Mrs. George Brown were Sunday evening visitors in Patton.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dick and children, Virginia and Robert Jr., spent Sunday with relatives in Coalport.

Mrs. Robert Jasper and children, Sandra Lee and William, are spending several days at the home of the lady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Al Snyder of Euclid, Ohio, are also spending some time there.

Mrs. Snyder is the former Kay Campbell.

Raymond Judd and sons, Ted and John, were visitors in Coalport last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. David Willis and son, David Jr., of Altoona spent Sunday with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Campbell and Mrs. Carl Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Snyder of Euclid, Ohio, are also spending some time there.

Mrs. Snyder is the former Kay Campbell.

Merle Wills son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wills, and George Jacobs son of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Jacobs, have returned to the Sheppard Air Force Base at Wichita Falls, Texas, where they are stationed. They spent the recent holidays at their respective homes here.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bergamaschi and children spent Monday evening in Cresson.

Van Ormer

Byron Lovell of State College visited here over the week end at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Omer Lovell.

Mrs. Henry Lovell and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Hamilton and family were business callers in Altoona last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Covatta and family of Bellville, Pa. visited in town last Sunday at the James Stine home.

Sunday visitors here at the Elmer Keith home were Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pink of Patton, Mrs. Ellen Beers of Fallentimber, Mrs. Faye Price and Mrs. Minnie Price and son, Russell, of Utahville and Mrs. Clair Shomo and daughters, Connie and Eleanor of Van Ormer.

Mrs. Lester Weld has returned home from the Philipsburg Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hartman and family of Amstutz, and Miss Covatta of Blandburg visited here over the week end at the James Stine home.

Robert Mayes recently was discharged as a patient from the Miners' Hospital, Spangler.



HAVE FUN AT THE MOOSE!
 Dance to the music of the district's best bands amid a pleasant atmosphere of real friendship. Enjoy good food and drinks mixed by experts. Spend an evening with us soon.

GOOD ORCHESTRA
 Saturday Night

Loyal Order of MOOSE
 LODGE NO. 458
 Patton, Pa.

DO YOU HAVE A "GOLD MINE" IN YOUR ATTIC OR BASEMENT?

Well, perhaps not a gold mine in the true sense of the word, but at least a wealth of seemingly unimportant articles that could be turned into cold cash—articles such as extra bed, that replaced studio couch, the too-small heater, or dozens of other such items. Chances are there are folks desirous of purchasing just such articles you have hidden away, taking valuable space.

USE THE UNION PRESS-COURIER CLASSIFIEDS
 And Turn These Seemingly Useless Articles Into Cash, Or Trade for Something You Want!

These little ads cost 50¢ for one week, with copy up to 25 words. The same ad for each additional week costs only 25¢. The average ad runs three times for \$1. The rate for ads over 25 words is 2¢ per word the first week and 1¢ per word each additional week. So, you see the cost is small—and the number of folks who use these ads consistently is proof they do a selling job.

PHONE PATTON 3161
 Ask for An Ad-Taker
UNION PRESS-COURIER

BAKERTON

Party Held Here Friday At Farabaugh Home

Under the direction of Mrs. Emma Roberts of Blandburg, a party was held here last Thursday evening at the A. E. Farabaugh home. Those attending were: Rose and Agnes Farabaugh of Patton; Mrs. Catherine Bechel, Mrs. Emil Kolster and Mrs. Paul Compton and daughter, June Marie, all of Carrolltown; Mrs. Louis Kowalski, Mrs. Paul Gymbor, Magaline Sponzak, Mary Hovan, Alice Panzack Emma and Eileen Faughbaugh and Mrs. A. E. Farabaugh.

Paul Lamont of Wilkes-Barre spent the week end here at the home of his mother, Mrs. Wm. Lamont.

Mr. and Mrs. Con Hannigan and family of Johnstown spent the week end here at the Hannigan home. Mrs. C. J. Hannigan is a patient at the Miners' Hospital, Spangler.

Mrs. Ray Lane of Detroit, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Stanley Valeich Sr.

Mrs. August Busmus spent Sunday visiting relatives in Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Eugene Sutter and Mrs. Karl Sutter and daughter of New York visited here last week at the home of the lady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Komitsky.

Mrs. Lester Pero of Rochester, N. Y. was here last week to attend the funeral of her father, S. S. Graze.

Mrs. Francis Kree and Jack Venesky were Sunday callers at Veterans Hospital in Aspinwall, where they visited Mr. Kree, who is a patient there.

BLANDBURG

Shirley Portney and Shirley Nash visited in Bellwood last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nash and daughter, Judy and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Nash were last Saturday visitors in Huntington.

Shirley Mann and Vera Wilson and Eddie Mann were recent visitors in Bellwood.

Mrs. Clifford Wilkinson of this place spent the week end with her brother, Frank Warner, and her daughter, Mrs. Pat McCusker in Camp Hill, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nash and daughter, Judy, visited in Riggles Gap last Thursday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Graham.

Mr. and Mrs. Clouser announce the birth of a son, born last week at the Mercy Hospital in Altoona. Both mother and son are fine.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chilcote visited in Harrisburg recently. Walter Willy of this place visited in Coalport recently.

Selfishness isn't always bad, and self interest sometimes is good, if one can be selfish wisely and with reservations.

GLASGOW

Party Held Here Saturday Evening

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Troxell spent Sunday evening with the lady's parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stand at Tipton.

Mr. and Mrs. John Troxell and family spent Sunday afternoon with Terry McCartney of Philipsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. John Colton recently moved into the C. L. Frye home.

The Sophomore Class of Reade Twp. High School have received their caps, pennants and emblems. They have chosen as their colors navy blue and white.

Mary Lou Troxell of Chambersburg spent the week end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Troxell.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lovell of Allenport and Mr. and Mrs. Everett Morrow of Utahville visited here last Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Morrow.

Recent visitors here at the residence of Anne Kuhn were: Mr. and Mrs. Luther Borings and grandson, Billy, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Borings and son of Hastings and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dupous of Waterbury Conn.

Mrs. Clair Reynolds and Gese Reynolds were last Saturday afternoon visitors in Altoona.

Peggy Troxell of Altoona visited here over the week end at home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Troxell.

A basketball game was played between Reade and Houtzdale at Houtzdale last Wednesday evening. Reade won, 50-36.

We are happy to learn that John Stine Jr., has returned to his home here after being a patient in the Philipsburg Hospital. He is very much improved at this writing.

The U.M.W.A. of this place held their regular meeting here last Tuesday evening.

Morris Twp. defeated Reade Twp. 34-26 in a basketball contest last Friday evening. The Reade JV's won the preliminary game over the Morris JV's.

Eugene Reynolds and Harry Frye Jr., were last Friday visitors in Ebensburg.

FALLETIMBER

Misses Cora and Mary Glass, Mrs. Howard Glass and Mrs. Michael Matish, attended a regular meeting of the Ellen Wilson Rebekah Lodge 566 of Coalport on Monday evening. Following the business session a lunch was served by the social committee.

Mrs. Erma Lydic of Toledo, Ohio, is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merl Tonkin.

Henry J. Rafacz, son of Mrs. Josephine Rafacz, has enlisted in the U. S. Marines for a period of four years and has reported for duty to the Marine Base at Parris Island, South Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Glass visited in Ebensburg last Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Beck of State College visited here recently at the Walter Kough home.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Matish

BARNESBORO SCOUT TROOP GETS CHARTER

Eliwood Burgess, president of Admiral Robert E. Peary Boy Scout Council, presented the Charter of Barnesboro Scout Troop 69, to Anthony Fenello, president of Barnesboro Lions Club, sponsor of the troop, at ceremonies recently in the New Commercial Hotel in Barnesboro.

Troop committee commissions were awarded by Rocco Frewite, North Cambria District chairman. They went to C. Wesley Williams, chairman and Anthony Carbardi, Michael Basile and R. J. Bieder, District Commissioners. Cletus Lehmer of Blandburg, awarded scouting cards to R. C. Brown, scoutmaster, and Rev. O. E. Washburn, assistant scoutmaster.

STATE

THEATRE ALTOONA
 STARTS THURSDAY
 SPENCER TRACY
 JAMES STEWART
 in
MALAYA

STRAND

THEATRE ALTOONA
 STARTS FRIDAY
 Louis Hayward, in
PIRATES OF CAPE
 PLUS
 John Calvert, in
APPOINTMENT WITH MUDDER

COULD YOU SPARE \$11,000.00 TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO DRIVE?

PENNSYLVANIA'S SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY LAW GOES INTO EFFECT FEB. 1st, 1950

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You'll see, too, that this new member of the Hudson family has full road clearance, and more head room than in any other mass-produced car built today, thanks to "step-down" design with its recessed floor. And amazing head room is only one kind of interior spaciousness you'll find in the new Pacemaker. "Step-down" design gives you more space because it gives you rear space that is wasted in other makes of cars. With normal outside width, this compact automobile brings you seat cushions that are up to 12 inches wider than those in cars of far greater outside dimensions!

And for dazzling get-up-and-go, there's the new high-compression Pacemaker engine—a lightning-like performer with saving ways! No matter how much or how little you intend to pay for your next car, we invite you to look at Hudson's lower-priced Pacemaker... it has a "value" message you'll like to hear!

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