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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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 widely-circulated weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and all major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

Loretto R. D., one of the best known and most progressive farmers in this area.

A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Farabaugh perhaps hasn't been identified with an active part in politics, but he surely has taken a very active participation in many things that have been for civic betterment. Particularly has he taken a lively part in the various farm organizations and movements, not only in recent years, but throughout his lifetime. No better choice, we repeat, could have been made by the party than the candidacy of Mr. Farabaugh—an energetic, honest, sincere citizen who keeps abreast of the times and who will acquit himself well when he goes to Harrisburg. Next week we'll continue our political round-up.

"As I See It" By STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

Although we never were a great believer in poll-taking, we do wish to bring to the attention of our readers a poll taken in the City of Johnstown last week, by parties who were entirely neutral insofar as having any favorite candidate is concerned.

The poll pertains to the race for State Senator, with 195 persons having been interviewed and showing the following results:

Of 195 persons, 88 signified their intention of voting Republican for State Senator this fall; 87 voted their opinion as voting Democratic; 20 of the entire number contacted stated they were not interested at this time.

In the breakdown in the race for State Senator, with Republican voters, we find the following: John Thomas, Jr., 37; Clifton McWilliams, 23; William Heslop, 17, and undecided, 11. On the Democratic side we find: John J. Haluska, 63; George Pavlick, 17, and undecided, 7.

This poll was taken in the City of Johnstown only, contacting business and professional men, clerks, steel and mine workers. If this should be a barometer of any type, it would appear that our race, insofar as the city is concerned, appears to be well in hand. We have no facts pertaining to the county at the present time.

Thus far the campaign, in both parties, has been kept clean and is being conducted on a high level, as it should be. There are some rumors afloat that one of the candidates for State Senator is preparing to issue a pamphlet that will reach the voters on the eve of the election, which will not give those accused a chance to retaliate in any manner whatsoever.

We do not know, at this time, whether this candidate is a Republican or a Democrat, but it is our contention that any man who must stoop to propaganda or untrue accusations has nothing, himself, to offer and is, therefore, compelled to try to fool the voting public to vote against his opponent, hoping, therefore, to be the recipient of a protest vote.

Insofar as our candidacy is concerned, we have and will keep it on a high plane. Thus far, we are the only candidate of the five running who has had the courage to print his record and, furthermore, to state specifically what he stands for in the future. This we believe, is the American way of presenting one's candidacy to the voters.

A few years ago in one of our

county campaigns, a "hate letter" was sent out to some of the voters in the county; despite the fact that the former District Attorney promised faithfully that he would thoroughly investigate the issues involved, four years have gone by and nothing has been done about this matter.

People who make up such filthy literature, to our mind, must be inspired by the Communist movement, and possibly could be members of such an organization. And if next week "hate letters" or deceiving literature are left on your front doorsteps by "night riders" you may then rest assured that such a movement is not prompted by good faith and that only people with yellow streaks running down their backs would stoop to such low levels. We say this regardless of whether it is taking place in the Democratic or Republican primaries.

It has been puzzling to many people in the county as to the lack of sincerity shown by the candidates who are seeking this most important office. Certainly, one would think that any person who wishes to represent the people of this great county would issue his platform, "way in advance" of any election, so that the voters might have the opportunity of analyzing the same. Or do these candidates feel that last-minute literature could be the answer to their nomination? We do not think the people of our county will be so stupid as to fall prey to any such movement.

SEN. JOHN J. HALUSKA

New Assessment Procedures

Patton taxing authorities during the past several months have instituted methods attempting to equalize taxes in our local community. A committee of citizens has taken an active and voluntary part. Assessors have agreed to co-operate. Much good should come of the movement, even though within the next five years the various counties over the state will have to create an entirely new tax assessment system, centralized in the County Commissioners' Office.

There will be no choice in the matter. It is now law. But Patton can accomplish its needs in advance by continuing with the present movement. Last week the President of the Board of County Commissioners and the Chief Clerk attended a seminar at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia to learn the rudiments of the new system.

The real estate tax assessment in Pennsylvania is inadequate has long been realized, and the tedious, gradual and sometimes painful process of modernizing the assessment laws actually has been under way for more than two decades. The major changes made by the 1951 General Assembly have been for the purpose of improving the assessment procedure in fourth-to-eighth class counties where local assessors are elected. (Cambria County is fourth class.)

The aim of the proposed legislation was to secure a greater measure of equalization throughout each county to insure the establishment of modern and efficient record systems, to centralize more effectively the work under the chief assessors, as well as to make available to local taxing bodies accurate and up-to-date assessed valuations for the current tax year.

The program, with a few major important qualifications, was passed by the legislature. It has become law. Act 584 requires all fourth-to-eighth class counties, within the next five years, to set up a uniform permanent record system, and then to keep it up to date at all times. The record system is to consist of tax maps, property record cards, property owners' indices and any other maps, materials and manuals that the board for the assessment and revision of taxes finds necessary.

Uniformity of the systems used in the various counties is required, and a committee is set up to design and prescribe the system to be installed. Five of the ten members of the committee are to be appointed by the President of the State Commissioners' Association, two by the Speaker of the House, two by the President Pro Tem of the Senate. The tenth member is the chairman of the Local Government Commission.

Several far-reaching changes in the law are made by Act 606. The first is to centralize the making of assessments in the chief assessor. The duty of the locally-elected assessors is no longer to make assessments, but rather to gather and report to the chief assessor the data needed for the making of tax assessments. The actual making of assessments is the duty of the chief assessor.

Certain standards are set up to insure equalization of assessments throughout the county. Real property is to be assessed at a uniform ratio of its actual value of bona-fide selling price—not more than 75 percent. In considering appeals the court takes into consideration whether this ratio is adhered to. With the consent of the board for the assessment and revision of taxes, the assessor may make changes in assessed valuation under any of the following conditions: When a tract of land has been divided into smaller parcels and sold, when there is a general depression of the economy over a particular area, and where improvements have been made to a particular property.

There are a number of other things that enter into the information required by the chief assessor for his guidance. Contractors must furnish information for one thing. Deeds of transfer of property must be registered, and the assessment must be ready for the beginning of a calendar year. The change-over will be a mighty task.

Primary Is Coming Up

Lately there's been some interest shown in the forthcoming primary election to take place on Tuesday, April 22. Despite the fact that primary elections select the men that will later become elected officials, there are a great many voters who stay away from the polls. One often hears the remark, "I always vote at the general election. I am never bothered with the primary." When the two major parties nominate, then one-half of all the nominees are successful at the fall election.

Candidates may or may not be endorsed by their party organizations. Every citizen has a perfect right to stand as a candidate for office. Whether or not they have party organization backing, the voters themselves, on primary day, do the actual nominating. Hence, a strong and well-known candidate can find it possible to spend some endorsed candidate. However, when political organizations select well-qualified and usually tested and capable men and women for standard bearers, and the result obtained maybe suggests more for good than bad.

To a great degree the candidates endorsed by the Democratic county committees and women are people who have been tested in public office, and who, because of that experience have only one platform—that of their official public records. They don't have to rely on promises. The record of a good official is always much better than any promise—if it is a good record.

In this regard the record of State Senator John J. Haluska of Patton really is the only promise upon which the sensible voter should rest his support or rejection. Sen. Haluska has recorded 16 years in the Senate, provided by one two-year term in the Assembly. In those 16 years, he certainly has a voting record, and even his liberal critics cannot deny that he has conscientiously represented the greater majority of his constituents, all along. His labor record is just about 100 percent pure. In fact, he has the endorsement of every labor organization of statewide membership. He has a record. Any opposition that he may have, or that he may later have at the election, must rely on promises alone.

Liberals in the Second Legislative District of Cambria County, two of the three present incumbent Democrats are candidates to leave the Democratic side of the Democratic voters' support on April 22. They are Assemblyman Louis Rovasani of Conemaugh and Attorney Philip Lopresti of Westport. Mr. Rovasani, a miner, has labor endorsements, as does also Mr. Lopresti. Attorney Lopresti has the distinction of being one of the most valuable Democratic members in the House and because of insistence on the part of his friends, and the party organization, seeks re-election.

The third member of this legislative district, Dennis L. Weirich, was elected Treasurer of Cambria County last fall, and consequently is out of the picture. With two of the legislators coming from the south of the county, quite naturally the Democratic committee and women sought an outstanding candidate from the north of the county to aspire to Assemblyman Weirich's seat. The choice fell upon Englebert J. Farabaugh of

PLACES OF INTEREST In CAMBRIA COUNTY

By MAHLON BAUMGARDNER

THE JOHNSTOWN FLOOD—NO. 2

The skies were gray on the morning of the flood and continued its forebodings of gloom and sadness for several days. The news of the recovering of the bodies was the first task to be undertaken. The city was strewn with stranded trees, lumber, wire, iron, mattresses, dead horses and debris of every description.

The news of this world tragedy was heralded throughout the entire world. Food, clothing, medicine came rapidly as possible. All trains had to approach the city on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Governor James A. Beaver of Pennsylvania issued a proclamation asking for aid and help for the people of Johnstown. In the meantime he ordered Adjutant General Daniel H. Hastings to come to Johnstown. He set up a department of public health, quartermaster and commissary departments and other military organizations. Miss Clara Barton of the Red Cross Association came from Washington, D. C. to Johnstown on June 2. During her stay she and her assistants provided without limit, food, clothing, blankets and other services to the needy. Food and clothing began to come to the city.

The most important thing then was to clean the city to prevent epidemics and pestilences. Governor Beaver made an appeal to President Benjamin Harrison for food, clothing, beds, etc. to be sent to the city. The appeal was met with alacrity on the part of all the peoples in the United States and many European countries. Food, clothing, blankets, medicine arrived in car load lots. Money, too, was given generously on the part of our fellow countrymen and our friends across the sea. Much of the supplies came in over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad until the Pennsylvania Railroad could repair its broken lines from South fork into the city.

Medical supplies and relief was on the way. The doctors responded nobly to the work before them. Dr. Horace E. Kistler of Philadelphia was placed in charge of the Homeopathic College Hospital of Philadelphia which established a free dispensary on Jackson Street where medical treatment was furnished to hundreds of people in the town. All of the doctors in Cambria County and other communities including, Ebensburg, Altoona, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and many other places responded and rendered free services. At time of great disasters means have always been provided and services rendered without a thought of recompense. Dr. Kistler settled in Johnstown and became one of the incorporators of the Lee Hospital. Temporary hospitals were set up on Bedford St., Morrellville and other locations in the ruined city.

The greatest consideration was given to the task of recovering the bodies of the dead. The Adams Street public school and the St. Columbia's Catholic Church and other buildings were used as morgues. It was at these places that survivors checked for friends and identified if possible the victims of the flood. Whole families were wiped out completely while in many families, members were separated by death. Looking for loved ones and the joy of meeting those who were thought dead was experienced at these places.

Registrars were established and all survivors were asked to register their name in order to give information of their safety to in-

quiring friends. Reports of the number of people who lost their lives went as high as 15,000. For years after the flood bodies have been recovered along the path of the Conemaugh, Kiskiminnus and Allegheny Rivers presumably having been flood victims. Bodies which were never known. There are 663 unidentified dead buried in the Unknown Plot in Grand View Cemetery. A beautiful monument in the Plot of the Unknown Dead should be visited by every one in the city and county and by visitors coming to Johnstown. Little markers are so placed that in any direction you may look they will be in rows and for those bodies who were not identified repose their bodies and await the great summons. The number usually quoted is that of 2,305 bodies have been found. Many prominent men and women lost their lives in the Great Flood but time and space does not permit us to mention any names.

The property damages are estimated in millions of dollars of which the Cambria Iron Company suffered the greatest loss.

The whole world opened its heart to the sufferers in the flood. Money came in from countries throughout the world in clothing and everything needed by the stricken people came into Johnstown in car loads. It takes a great catastrophe to bring out the best that men and women have in coming to the aid of those who need it.

The possibilities of epidemics and pestilences prevailing in the stricken city because of the flood, brought about the establishment of a board of health for the City of Johnstown.

The vast sums of money sent to Johnstown was expended through proper channels to help the people who were in need of it. Through Miss Clara Barton, of the Red Cross Assn. and her grateful friends, the Memorial Hospital was conceived. On Nov. 2, 1889 the organization was affected, with Messrs. McMillen as its first president under the name of the "Conemaugh Valley Hospital Association." In the beginning of Jan. 1892 buildings were completed and set up in the best manner possible for that time.

Here is ample proof what the Red Cross did for the sufferers of the Great Flood in Johnstown and for the noble, heroic and sympathetic work done by it during the last 63 years. In war or peace, in earthquake, fire, flood, factory, railroad and highway accidents and catastrophes of every description you will find the Red Cross at its side.

It usually takes a terrible tragedy to make the place affected by it, and when renewed, a safer and better place in which to live. In closing this last paper on the Johnstown Flood, the inhabitants of Johnstown should ever be grateful to all those who filled positions of responsibility in making it now FLOOD FREE.

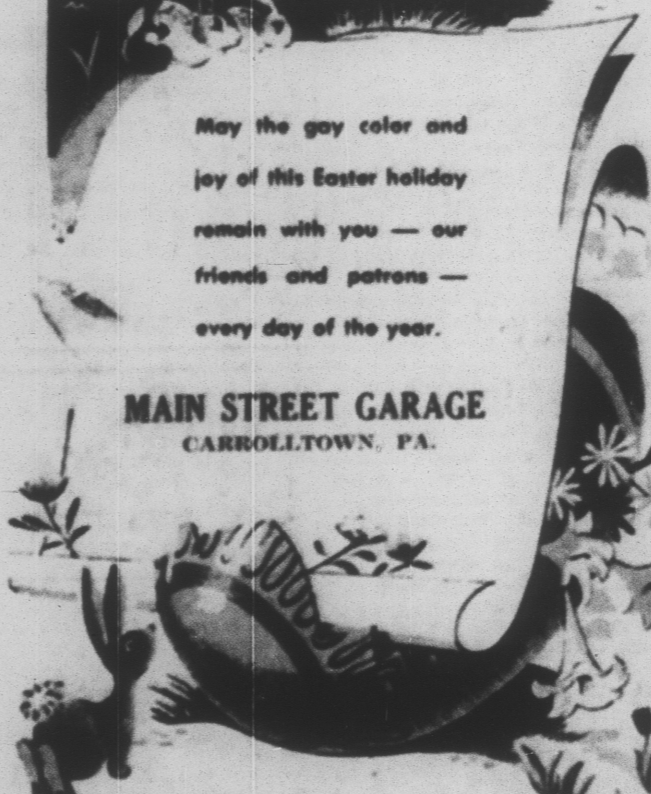
Fox Good Crow Decoy

"A few inquiries have come to my headquarters for owl decoys to use in shooting crows," says J. C. Bebel, Wilkes-Barre state game protector.

"Wary crows seem to come in to range better when a decoy is used than when they are called. The owl seems to be what most shooters want, but one crow hunter I know uses a red fox as a decoy with returns equally good."

May the gay color and joy of this Easter holiday remain with you — our friends and patrons — every day of the year.

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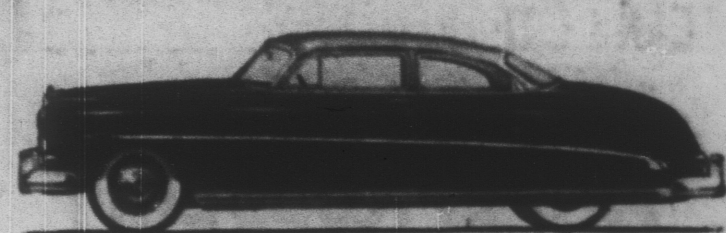
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