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The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of combined circulations of two large-circulation weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and all major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

On Patton Assessments

As perhaps every property owner in Patton Boro knows, during most of the past year, starting last November in fact, a movement has been underway to seek something like an equitable tax assessment in Patton real estate values. The local taxing bodies, both the Council and the School Board, are supporters of the movement, which likewise has had the co-operation of the assessors. The movement started with the selection of a number of local men placing agreement to certain values for assessment purposes, and the two assessors being guided to a great degree by the figures. Originally the thought was engendered by the Patton Chamber of Commerce, whose members realized that something should be done to correct a bad situation.

Because Patton's real estate assessments were far from being equitable, and with still an added state of altogether different values being set in the two wards, the borough taxing districts found themselves embarrassed financially, and citizens too felt that something must be done about it. At the election last fall, two new assessors were chosen in Patton—Fred Kishley in the First Ward and Harry Owens in the Second Ward. The county commissioners, fully cognizant of the local situation, watched matters with interest.

It might be interesting to note that Patton has been the first community in the county to go through with an honest attempt of equalizing tax assessments, and, of giving moral support to the assessors. Other communities have in the past requested the commissioners to duplicate tax books, and then did nothing about it. There's always been a thought in local government that by keeping assessments low, the county tax would naturally fall at a low rate. This hasn't been fair to other communities that have had fair assessment values.

There may be some Patton folks who may feel that the new assessment figures have caused them an unfair boost in tax obligations. Even under the new figures Patton's real estate owners will be assessed only at 26 percent of the present-day values, as determined by the State Tax Equalization Board. In Johnstown, South Fork, Conemaugh and other places, present taxation figures are 50 percent and better, so that Patton, even with its new plan, is paying only about half the amount of these municipalities. Yet, local people receive the same county benefits as the higher-assessed places do.

Anyhow, last Thursday a delegation of the committee visited the county commissioners and described what had happened here during the past many months. Of course, it was a movement the commissioners were well aware of, and this committee received commendation from the full board of commissioners for their work—something done gratis by each and every member at a cost of a great many hours, even days and weeks of time, and assured them of their co-operation according to the laws.

The committee brought with them a letter explaining the action. In part, it reads as follows: "The following is a report from a committee elected by the citizens of Patton Borough to assist the assessors in determining values and equalizing assessments in Patton. The aims of the committee were as above stated and before starting our work we were promised the co-operation of your office, together with that of the Borough Council and the School District.

"Each member of this committee has personally viewed every property in Patton, making his individual appraisal of the market value of that property. These values were then added and an average taken which was recommended to the assessor for comparison with his value used for the basis for assessment. We believe the final values arrived at for assessment purposes are fair and equitable. Should there be appeals, it is our considered opinion that none of these assessments should be altered merely on a protest but that every appeal should be referred back to the assessors for review and final action.

"We note that a large number of properties show a considerable increase in value and assessment. This has been caused by two conditions: First, the increased market value of properties, and, second, the apparent lack of review and comparison of values that has prevailed through the past years, which has led to a bit of value being placed on many properties . . .

"With the new assessments the financial responsibilities of the Borough will be spread more equitably and justly on home owners, business firms and industry, and with careful management the taxing bodies should be able to reduce the millage considerably and still receive a greatly increased revenue to further property in Patton and make our community a better place in which to live."

The commendation, in the commendation was signed by Edward J. Maloney, Edw. E. S. Kirk, George A. Lehman, E. A. Morton, H. E. Nohr, Andrew Seitz Jr., George E. Weener and Francis X. Young. One paragraph in the letter has not been reproduced here for the reason that the legal aspect of that portion, dealing with a certain few properties, has first to be determined.

Whether or not there will be appeals from the assessments made by local property owners remains to be seen, but while it must be remembered that there may be, in a few instances, some inequalities, nevertheless the Commissioners will be the first to acknowledge that the method of procedure in reaching the figures, while unique in Cambria County history, surely has been one of fair approach.

Because of the fairness of approach, appeals will not get as "one-for-one" attention from the County Commissioners as they would in other towns. Rather, the commissioners will center with the commonest first, and with this committee also, and in doubtful cases under personal views. The commissioners are so interested in this Patton venture that, if the appeals are numerous, they will come to Patton to hear them.

For the first time in years there's been some apparently sound method worked out for determining really assessment values in a Cambria County community. But, remember, too, Patton folks, these figures place you at only 26 percent of value for assessment purposes—and that's in the lower brackets when you take the county as a whole.

Juvenile Traffic Cops

It's around the noon hour, or perhaps it's in the late afternoon, and you are driving through Patton, Carroltown, Spangler, Barnesboro, Glasgow, or most any populated community for that matter, and you are aware of the fact that your driving is under regulation. You are not being hindered by any traffic cops, but you observe the "man" on duty just the same—perhaps even more so.

You are being stopped by a school bus, and with half a dozen other children you come to a full stop at some later-

section. You wait patiently while a couple of youngsters wearing white belts shepherd a flock of still younger small-fry across the street. The "Buck" magazine in an article by Ivan F. Wiles brought this matter to our attention, and paraphrasing his story, doesn't it make one smile when we realize how meekly we grown-ups obey these young safety patrolmen—just as meekly as if they were strapping six-footers in blue uniforms.

Doesn't it make us rather proud, too, that we are an example of the fundamental, law-abiding nature of the average citizen. It would be fairly easy for us to take advantage of these young crossing-guardians. Perhaps we could even assert our grown-up prerogatives and just wave them aside so that we could speed on our adult destinations. But we don't do it. And it isn't altogether a fear of "the law" catching up with us that deters us.

Obedient the pint-sized safety patrolmen has become an ingrained American custom like waiting your turn at the barber shop. And no wonder. The safety patrol movement has been going on a long time. School safety patrols had their first start 27 years ago. And they've been in effect in our communities for many years. There are more than a million and a half patrol boys and girls working over our country each school day.

The school patrol youngsters are a "lesson in citizenship." It is an actual, practical exercise of citizenship—the acceptance of responsibility—work for the common good at considerable sacrifice of time and effort, and without thought of reward. In these days of dark horizons, it is rather comforting to think of this vast army of boys and girls. And it is good to think, too, of their millions of school-mates who are learning so young to co-operate with duly constituted authority. It is splendid training for future responsibilities.

PURELY POLITICAL . . .

BY TOM OWENS, SR.

The result of the registration campaign on the part of civic organizations in Cambria County and over the state and nation, certainly has been productive of some results in Cambria County, even though the taxpayers were subjected to considerable expense in making registration places convenient for most everyone. But with all the campaign publicity, there are thousands still who did not avail themselves of the opportunity, and who will have no personal part in electing the next President of the United States.

About 51 percent of the total population of Cambria County now is listed as eligible to vote. Of course the population cited carries children and minors under 21 years of age, so that in the last analysis, roughly approximating, there should be a potential 30,000 men and women who aren't on the registration rolls.

Perhaps there's been more spontaneous results from the time than at any other registration period. Party workers likely were less effective. Without question, great numbers of persons registered without persuasion from anyone. That's a healthy sign.

There may be those, too, who will wonder the number of field registrations with the total that finally was listed on the books. It seems, as per usual, there were a lot of people who were presently registered who attempted to do so again. In all these cases, the newer registration was void. Between 2,000 and 2,500 applications were found.

In many instances, no doubt, was done intentionally by the would-be registrant. In an attempt to change party label, per-

haps, the thought entered some minds that by registering in an opposite party the desired result would be accomplished even though the law specifically prohibits change of party between primary and election dates in Pennsylvania.

Then, too, there's the case of some other folks who weren't sure whether or not they were still on the registration books. Couldn't remember whether they voted in the past two years or not. They figured one way to be sure was to register again. It could be that some of the field registrars even encouraged them to do this.

Quite likely the figures given out by the County Commissioners' Office the other day represents just about as nearly an accurate listing as is humanly possible. Because of the heavy pouring of lists in the spring, the Democrats decidedly made a net gain over the Republicans in actual registrations during the recent campaign.

There are about 7,700 more Democratic registrants listed in the county than Republican, but when one considers that there are 105,000 people registered, this margin doesn't amount to too much. However, any edge always is an advantage to any political party. Indications in this section of the state do not show that there is any particular Republican trend, and, in some of the nearby Republican counties the Democrats outregistered Republicans in new registrations.

May we suggest to new registrants, as well as to the old, that they give their registration a little more work amount to a thing unless you exercise your privilege. The general election is Tuesday, November 4.

NO NEW TAXES — SAID STATE G.O.P.

FROM CAMBRIA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

JOHN R. TORQUATO, CHAIRMAN

Last week, in this series of articles, we began a review of the Republican Party's rules of broken promises, as compiled during the first two years of the Fine Administration.

We pointed out that the Republican party had not drafted a state platform this year. That, as we also pointed out, was logical enough since they had made no use of the platform they had drafted in 1950.

The major promise in the 1950 platform upon which Governor Fine and Republican candidates for the General Assembly were elected, they stood, promised the people that if John Fine became Governor and the wicked Democrats didn't capture the General Assembly, no new taxes would be necessary.

As most Pennsylvanians know to their sorrow, Fine and the Republican members of the General Assembly who trailed along with him, deadlocked proceedings in the House and Senate for many weary months, in their endeavor to impose a flat income tax upon all the wage earners in the state. However, Fine's wage tax proposal is simply evidence of broken promises No. 1.

There were a lot of other broken promises. If the voters of Pennsylvania want to have proof that under the present leadership Republican Party promises didn't mean a thing, they should read that party's 1950 platform.

Where's the Minimum Wage Law? Promise No. 2 as carried in the Republican platform read: "We favor enactment of a minimum wage law of 75¢ an hour."

Such was the promise. What of the performance? No minimum wage law providing for 75¢ an hour was passed. Republican leadership at the 1951 Session even denied the members of the House and Senate the opportunity to vote on such a bill. A minimum wage law sponsored by Democratic members of the House was bottled up in the House Committee on Labor Relations.

Promise No. 3—"We believe that the employee who is permanently and totally disabled should be compensated for the full period of the time during which the total disability exists."

Such again was the promise and what of the performance? A bill providing for total disability payments for only a period of 700 weeks passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor. Democratic members of the House and Senate took the resolution that total disability was total disability, and they contained

that a workman who was totally disabled should receive compensation as long as the total disability lasts. Democratic members of the House and Senate sponsored legislation to that effect. They tried to get their legislation passed by committee but were unable to do so.

The Fine Administration's message to the totally disabled workman was, in effect: "If you are totally disabled we'll help you get along by means of meagre, inadequate payments for 700 weeks, but if at the end of that period you are still disabled, you will be on your own."

"We Favor . . . We Advocate" But that wasn't what the Republicans promised in their platform when they were campaigning. Of course the fact should be noted that some of the promises of the Republican party made in its 1950 platform were implied promises rather than being explicit.

In their platform, Republicans made use of the words: "We favor," "We advocate," "We recommend" or "We believe" so and so.

A great many Pennsylvanians took it for granted that when the Republican party said "We believe" so and so, they would make their acts coincide with their belief. The 1950 Republican platform, as a matter of fact, was a platform designed to fool the people. It fulfilled that vision. So here is the question that faces Pennsylvania voters: If the promises the Republican party made in 1950 were worthless, what are the 1952 promises worth?

The same leaders who made the worthless promises in 1950 are still running the GOP show in Pennsylvania.

The next article in this series will list some more G.O.P. broken promises.

FAIRNESS STATE EXAM

Dr. A. J. Krug, whose office is located next door to Vernon Theatre, Barnesboro, has been notified by the Chiropractic State Board of Examiners that he has successfully passed the exam and will receive a license to practice in the near future.

BOARD BUYS B BONDS

The Cambria County Retirement Board has announced the purchase of \$75,000 worth of Series K government bonds. The purchase brings the bond total, including \$25,000 in savings bonds, to \$100,000. Cash on hand amounts to \$12,645.

TICKET FOR SPEEDING



"As I See It"

By . . . STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

Last week we referred to the conduct and efficiency of certain county officials. This week we would like very much to talk about our own community—Patton.

We wonder how many of our home folk appreciate the progress that has been made in our community during the past 7 or 8 years? While most small towns throughout the state are deteriorating, our community has been going forward—also could not be said in the spring, the Democrats decidedly made a net gain over the Republicans in actual registrations during the recent campaign.

There are about 7,700 more Democratic registrants listed in the county than Republican, but when one considers that there are 105,000 people registered, this margin doesn't amount to too much. However, any edge always is an advantage to any political party. Indications in this section of the state do not show that there is any particular Republican trend, and, in some of the nearby Republican counties the Democrats outregistered Republicans in new registrations.

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in the lives of our youth. Altogether, we find one big wheel of fortune turning continuously in the right direction and the various elements mentioned above are important cogs in that wheel and each must play its part to bring about the desired results.

Then, last but not least, we should kneel in prayer and show gratification for the religious freedom which exists in Patton—our priests and ministers, of outstanding character, on friendly terms and leading their flocks in their own way to eternal salvation.

So those of us who are compelled to travel throughout the state and country to earn our livelihood can always say, show me the town that looks like home, and the answer will be "Patton."

SEN. JOHN J. HALUSKA

SEN. JOHN J. HALUSKA

NEWS ON THE HOMEMAKING FRONT

By MRS. JUNE GRIFFITH, Home Economics Representative for Cambria County

Notes On Honey, Turkey And Cranberries

The honey that tops your toast and sweetens your salad adds up to a larger part of the national food supply than you might imagine. Last year's big crop totaled more than a quarter million pounds.

It's easy to underestimate the importance of honey since part of the total supply reaches us in manufactured foods. About 25 percent of the honey supply is used by the baking industry. Ten to 15 percent goes into confectionery, ice cream, beverages, honey-cured hams, jellies and jellies. Besides being used in food, honey is used by the tobacco and cosmetic industries.

Now switching from honey to turkeys, here's a note on the supply of this popular food. The national turkey crop, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture economists, will come to almost 50 million birds, an increase of 15 per cent over last year's crop. About one-fourth of all this year's

turkeys are Bettaville Whites which are a six to eight pound turkey. They are comparatively new on the market.

Now a word about turkey's constant companion—bright red cranberries. Last week, Sept. 11, cranberries made their 1952 debut on the New York wholesale markets, only three trays being offered, however. This year, like last, we'll be well supplied with cranberries, though the total crop is expected to be slightly less than in 1951. Economists estimate the 1952 crop to total more than 908,000 barrels.

As usual, Massachusetts accounts for the largest part of the total, with Wisconsin the runner up. New Jersey, the nation's third largest producer, expects a slightly larger crop than last year. But no matter which way you look at it, there'll be plenty of cranberries to meet the demands from the first time they appear in quantity on the produce counter to the last of the fresh fruit on the market.

Latest AAA Poster Urges Care When Near Parked Cars

Children in elementary and in high school classrooms in the district will be admonished this month about the dangers of entering streets from between parked cars in the monthly safety campaign for which the Johnstown Motor Club supplies their teachers with safety educational materials.



Motorists were warned this week by John T. Docherty, safety director of Johnstown Motor Club, to be extremely watchful for children, especially on streets where there are parked cars, because sometimes in their preoccupation with play, children dash into the street from between the parked vehicles and into the path of an oncoming car.

"It is the motorist's responsibility to adjust his speed in order to stop under any and all conditions," Mr. Docherty said. "A kid

Liquor Agents Nab 30 Cars In Raids In State This Year

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board has issued a warning against illegal traffic in liquor in disclosing that it has seized 30 motor vehicles and made 97 arrests during the first seven months of the year.

Arrests were made on charges of possession or transportation of illicit liquor, according to a spokesman for the board.

It was emphasized that liquor not purchased in a state liquor store and not sealed with the official Board seal is considered contraband and is subject to seizure and forfeiture.

The motor vehicle bearing such liquor is also subject to seizure and forfeiture and the person in whose possession the contraband is found is subject to all the penalties imposed by law.

The Liquor Code imposes upon every person possessing or transporting liquor the burden of proving that it was legally acquired. Even a person transporting a partly filled bottle, purchased in another state, is in violation of the law.

About 70 percent of the vehicles seized were in the Philadelphia area.

"The seat of Pennsylvania's government was moved from Lancaster to Harrisburg in 1812.



What about women in politics?

Just about every politician is out gallantly courting the ladies today. Fact is, woman's political power is here to stay!

For one reason, Mrs. America has more time to work for affairs of state and nation. "Women's work" now goes on in far fewer hours, thanks to low-cost electric service. Right now—all over this country—electricity is helping wash the laundry . . . iron the clothes . . . vacuum the rugs . . . brew the coffee . . . heat the bread . . . taking the load out of housework!

Think, for a moment, how much comfort, convenience, pleasure and leisure time electricity gives YOU! Compare how much it does with how little it costs! But your vote for the Biggest Bargain in this country—electricity is helping wash the laundry . . . iron the clothes . . .

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY
 A. P. ISENHARDT, District Manager

AN INVITATION

To Visit Our Factory Showroom

Drive through beautiful mountains and visit Pennsylvania's Largest Fur Manufacture. See wide selection of furs—artfully designed and skillfully crafted—in new distinctive styles . . . unrivaled values at this year's low prices. No obligation. Convenient terms.

Showroom open 7 days a week
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 Blairfield Furs
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