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WILKES-COURIER

Read "Cambria County Has A Birthday," on Page 2-B

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Serving Northern Cambria County

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Patton's School Project Is Rapidly Nearing Completion

Renovation Covers Improvements In Both Local District Buildings

Patton's public schools are now being modernized. The complete renovation program for both the First and Second Ward schools of the Patton-Chest Township Joint School District will be completed by the end of March. And the schools have definitely taken on a new look, both for the health and safety of the students and teachers, as well as for appearance's sake. But this improvement project is not finished, and it won't be until both schools are refinished both inside and out, from top to bottom. But the most important part of the work is finished.

Improvement of the two school buildings has been a prime task for the school directors for the past several years. In 1951 the original application for state aid was made, and final approval of the project came in the summer of 1953. A total of \$157,824.40 in funds for this remodeling work was granted and the initial work got under way in September of last year. The annual rental over a period of 35 years is approximately \$6,000, with the state reimbursing approximately 60 percent of this cost or \$3,600. This makes the actual annual cost to the school district only \$2,400.

Final state-aided remodeling. Although the state helps with many school building projects each year, this is the first time in their long history of backing up building programs, that they have ever attempted a remodeling-type project.

Although the modernizing program is not completed, future projects call for remodeling the entire Patton-Chest school plant just as rapidly as finances will allow.

The project was finally approved by the state only because of Patton's jointure with Chest Township. Present directors who worked on the project are Frank Cammarata, Regis Hill, Fred McCann, Dr. John A. Murray, and Clair Gill. Dr. M. Murray, also known as Harry Lamb, Earl Karlsson, James Bennett and Robert P. Hill, of Chest Township, retired directors who also worked in attaining this state-aided plan are Cooper, Dr. B. J. Overberger and E. W. Winslow. The county school superintendent's office, under the direction of Dr. M. Murray, also furnished valuable aid in helping to get the remodeling program started.

Completion Date Extended Month. Perhaps one of the biggest factors of the waiting period was the fact that the work did not interfere with regularly scheduled classes in either school. Although the contract date calls for the work to be completed Feb. 1, 1954, the time period was extended one month, to March 1, due to the fact that some materials to be used in completing the work have not yet arrived.

Plans for the improvement project were drawn by the H. F. Lewis Engineering Company of Johnstown.

Wilson Construction Company, Johnstown, were general contractors. Much Brothers of Hollidaysburg had the heating contract. Benjamin Stutzman of Johnstown, was electrical contractor. The First and Second Ward schools now offer the students all the health and safety features of any new school. Extensive work doesn't show from the outside of either building, but the job is complete in every way.

All New Heating. A separate contract for the heating of both schools was the installation of new heating systems and the most modern lighting systems available.

Fire Screen Safety Entrances. All doorways in the basements of both schools are now of steel construction. In both buildings, new steel fire screen doorways have been placed on both floors. These are added safety measures in case of fire, constructed in such a way that if fire broke out in any part of the building, the pupils would have plenty of time to evacuate the school in a safe way, as smoke or flames would be concentrated in one place.

The Second Ward building now has a new fire-alarm system, and the Second Ward building has a new fire-alarm system, and the Second Ward building has a new fire-alarm system.

Band Hall Completely Renovated. Perhaps the biggest change in appearance took place in First Ward building when the band hall, a very large room on the second floor, was completely renovated. As John Semonick, music supervisor of Patton-Chest District, says, "It's just wonderful. Our band hall is now the most modern and the only one of its kind in Cambria County."

The hall is now very well suited for the type of work a musical department does. The ceiling of the hall is suspended over 10 feet down from the roof of the building by wire. It is constructed entirely with acoustic panels. This work was called for under the general contract. Under separate contract the walls of the hall

Miners Hospital To Enroll Class For Nurse Helpers

Miners' Hospital of Spangler will enroll a class of applicants for nurse helpers to begin a three-week course of study on Monday, Feb. 15. The purpose of this course is to prepare auxiliary workers to assist the nursing staff in caring for patients in the local institution. The classes are open to women between the ages of 18 to 50 in good health and interested in the care of the sick.

The course will consist of 45 hours of classroom lecture, demonstration and practice under the direction of a qualified nurse instructor. Classes will be held every day Monday through Friday, from 9 a. m. to 12 noon in the Nurses' Home of Miners' Hospital.

Persons interested in this nurse helper class may make application by letter to Miss Ethel H. Blair, Director of Nursing, Miners' Hospital, Spangler, Pa.

K. of C. Council Sets Breakfast

Ebensburg Council 522, K. of C., will hold a communion breakfast at 8:45 a. m., Jan. 31, in the Cresson Legion Home. Preceding the event, members will assist at the 7:30 Mass in St. Francis Xavier's Church, in Cresson, and will receive corporate Communion. Rev. Father McDermott is pastor of the church.

Members of the Holy Name Societies in Cresson have been invited to assist at the mass. Atorney Thomas Swapp will serve as a toastmaster at the breakfast. Arrangements are being made for a prominent speaker for the occasion.

The band hall, the largest room on the second floor of the First Ward building, is being used by outside groups using the building for meetings and gatherings than any other room in Patton schools, due to its very fine acoustics. The hall will be used by a great number of students, who make up the music department of the school. Due to this fact a large double door is located on the west wall of the band hall, leading to a fire escape. This opening, as an exit in case of emergencies, was required by the state. It replaces three old flues that will be cut down to about three feet above the roof this coming spring. The old flues will not be used. The new 50 foot chimney has a completely new smoke screen constructed to eliminate fly-ash that comes off as waste when the new boilers are working during the winter months. The flue also has a lightning protector system.

Among other outside work at the rear of the building was the constructing of an 8 by 4 foot retaining wall, building of new coal landing, with steel coal chutes, and paving of a driveway. The driveway, coming from an alley behind the school, is of black-top construction over stone base with a curb and underground pipes for drainage. It will be used as an access to the coal storage landing and the rear basement door of the building.

Under separate contract a new black-top strip was surfaced at the bus stop on Fifth Avenue. School Directors Well Pleased. Throughout the course of the remodeling work at the Patton schools, officials of the contractors doing the work, have met each Thursday afternoon in the high school library, with state inspectors, to talk over the various

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Patton Soldier 'Flirts' With Stars

Patton soldier John P. Sammarco, serving with the Medical Detachment of the 176th Field Artillery, overseas, is pictured above with film stars Penny Singleton and Jerry Moore. Cpl. Sammarco was elected by his comrades to serve on the honor guard recently for a number of entertainers for the troops at a special service show. Cpl. Sammarco is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Patsy Sammarco, Patton.



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Series Of Articles On Cambria County Starts This Week

Mahlon Baumgardner Will Review History

On page 2-B of this issue of the Union Press-Courier, a new series of articles on the history of Cambria County begins. These articles will appear from time to time throughout 1954, the bicentennial of the county. The series is being written by Mahlon J. Baumgardner, of Ebensburg, an outstanding local historian, and a member of the Cambria County Historical Society.

Mr. Baumgardner has written several historical articles for this newspaper, and they proved very interesting and informative. This new series will prove worthy, we are sure, and should be read by both old and young.

The writer has spent many years in research work, and delights in "digging up" any new historical fact about our county area. He always searches for authenticity.

Mr. Baumgardner's initial article is entitled "Cambria County Has A Birthday." The articles may not appear each week, but there will be quite a number of them submitted during the year.

Local Draft Board To Call Twenty-Five Men January 28th

Twenty-five young men from Northern Cambria Co. will report for induction into the Armed Forces next Thursday morning, Jan. 28. They were called through Local Board 38, with headquarters in Ebensburg. Reporting for service Thursday are:

- Joseph James Burley, Loreto.
- Joseph B. Overberger, Hastings.
- David J. Baker, Carrolltown.
- John T. Krohn, Fallentimber.
- James H. Lauer, Coupon.
- Glenn A. Kewan, Ebensburg.
- John Wojno, Barnesboro.
- Harry M. Schaub, Ebensburg.
- Kenneth J. Anderson, Gallitzin.
- Louis W. Legros, St. Benedict.
- Donald J. Fox, Ebensburg.
- Andrew Gresko, Patton.
- Clair A. Springer, Ebensburg.

County Has Cash Balance on Dec. 31

Cambria County started 1954 with a cash balance of \$192,735 in its treasury.

This was revealed in the annual report of Controller M. C. Chervenak Jr., showing the county's income and expense during 1953.

The county's financial statement lists an income of \$2,704,537 during the past 12 months. Expenses during the same period totaled \$2,764,650 or \$60,113 over the 1953 income.

Nevertheless a cash balance of \$292,846 remaining after the 1953 books were closed more than covered last year's deficit and left the cash balance to start the new year.

DAIRYMEN TO HEAR TAYLOR AND EAKIN. The primary source of income for farmers in Cambria County is farm dairying. To help dairymen keep informed the Cambria County Agricultural Extension Association is sponsoring a dairy day today (Thursday) from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. in Court Room No. 2, Courthouse, Ebensburg.

Light Porchlight And Signal Polio Fund Collectors

Do Your Share For The March of Dimes. "Light Your Porchlight" will be the watch word throughout Cambria County on the night of Jan. 29 to symbolize the Mothers' March on: Polio, Judges A. A. Nelson and George W. Griffith, Cambria County Co-Chairmen for the 1954 March of Dimes, announced today. This dramatic mothers' crusade against polio will climax the 1954 March of Dimes campaign in the county. The drive in the county will be headed by Mrs. Allison A. Coulter of Johnstown, Pa., whose own personal experience with polio in the past summer proved to be a terrible memory of the dreaded killer andcrippler, polio. Mrs. Coulter saw her 17-year-old daughter struck down with the disease as well as her young 6-year-old son. Despite treatment and all available assistance, the daughter died and her son is still recovering from the effects of the polio.

The drive itself will climax the 1954 March of Dimes. On the 29th next Friday evening, an army of women volunteers, most of them mothers, will strike a blow against polio in this locality where lighted porch lamps or a light in the front window signifies that the occupant wants to contribute to the March of Dimes. This inspiring example of Motherhood arrayed against polio will be enacted in villages, towns and cities throughout the nation.

The alarming increase in the incidence of polio during the past five years," Mrs. Coulter pointed out, "has greatly stimulated interest in the Mothers' March — Cambria County's first anti-polio campaign has been devised that eventually will be a permanent safeguard against the dread infantile paralysis.

While the fight to wipe out polio is everyone's concern, the cause has a special appeal to the mothers whose paramount consideration is their children's welfare. I feel certain that every mother in Cambria County will want to share in the Mothers' March," Mrs. Coulter said.

The March will be conducted on an area basis for each community. Each district will be supervised by a captain under whom will be a lieutenant for each section and a ward for each block. Blocks will be divided into 10-dwelling units.

Firemen said the blaze apparently got a head start before the firemen arrived. They first tried to quell the flames with a fire extinguisher but were unsuccessful. Firemen managed to bring the flames under control in about 15 minutes, but remained at the scene for more than an hour afterwards. Throngs of spectators were attracted to the blaze. Firemen arrested one motorist for driving over a section of hose.

Flames seemed to be centered in a storage room near the rear of the building, and were beginning to eat into the roof. Despite being hindered by clouds of smoke, fire-fighters were able to confine the blaze to the storage room and nearby sections of the club.

However, the fierce heat and smoke damaged much of the interior, particularly the plastic covering on booths on the dance floor.

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Mark Bolmer, owner-manager of "Lutenberg's" Clothing Store in Barnesboro, will in the very near future open a new department which will specialize in boys' clothing.

The new department will be housed by the room formerly used by Greenwood's and will afford ample space for a fine department. Workmen have been making alterations for the past two weeks and an entrance will be either on 10th Street or the Philadelphia Avenue Store.

Mr. Bolmer has conducted one of the finest men's stores in Northern Cambria for many years and he states that the new department will carry quality boys' clothing at prices people can afford.

Firemen Spurn Two-Way Radio

Most fire companies comprising Zone 1, Volunteer Firemen's Association of Cambria County and vicinity, have indicated they likely will not apply for civil defense funds for two-way radio systems.

High costs and few opportunities to utilize such equipment were given as the main reasons for passing up the opportunity.

However, two companies, Ebensburg and Carrolltown, still are considering application for the matching funds for the systems.

An article, written by Chief Mark of Cambria, was read at the meeting of the firemen and their victims died as a result of smoke, gases poisoning, and fire used-gas during 1953, than as the direct result of fires. The article further stressed that many firemen's lives could be saved through the use of smoke and gas masks, while performing their fire-fighting duties.

Stoltz Motor Co. Winners Listed

Stoltz Motor Company, Patton, your area Ford Dealer, today announced the six winners of the free door prizes given away at the showing of the new 1954 Ford. They are as follows:

1. Mrs. Irvin Yahrner, Cresson.
2. Amanda Westrick, 822, 5th Avenue, Patton.
3. Mrs. Frank Miller, Chest Springs.
4. Virginia Kline, Hastings R. D.
5. Stephen Kopera, 413 Palmer Avenue, Patton.

Any of the above mentioned winners who have not yet received their door prizes are kindly asked to stop at the Stoltz Motor Company, Patton, for their gifts.

Sealer of Weights Cowan Submits His Report for Year

County Sealer of Weights and Measures, Charles Cowan, of Barnesboro, who has charge of the Northern Cambria County area, during the past week submitted his annual report to the county commissioners. It is as follows:

Truck scales tested, 26; adjustments made to 11. Mine cars weighed, 130. Weighmaster's licenses approved, 192. Computing scales tested, 269. Adjustments to 15 were made.

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County Assessment Valuations Reach 20-Year High Peak

Not Much Change In North County Areas. Cambria County's assessed valuation increased \$1.7 million last year to reach the highest point in more than two decades.

Total assessments on which the county taxes will be levied in 1954 is \$165,043,800. Of that total, \$153,441,050 represents the taxable value of real estate in the county. The figure is \$1,781,000 higher than that of 1953.

The remaining \$11,602,750 is charged against the occupations of county residents. The amount is only \$17,430 higher than last year's figure.

Figures announced by the Co. Commissioners still are subject to change. However, only slight revisions, or none at all, are expected before the tax duplicates are sent to the collectors.

Further breakdown of the property assessment shows that \$87,357,670 of the total is the taxable value of real estate in the county's boroughs and townships. The remaining \$66,686,130 is the assessed property of Johnstown's 2 wards.

County Commissioners list the number of taxable residents in the county at 115,574—or 4,348 less than last year.

The 1954 assessment total is the highest since 1933 when the assessment was \$164 million. Peak year for total assessed value was 1927 when the total exceeded \$176 million.

During the next decade the trend was downward with the total assessed value falling to \$143 million in 1940. Since that time the trend has been steadily upward.

North County Assessments. Some of the north county assessments follow:

Ashville, this year, \$90,340; last year, \$88,300. Barnesboro, \$1,141,740 this year and \$1,128,680 last year. Carrolltown, \$425,530 this year, \$429,480 last year. Chest Springs, \$55,290 this year, \$51,060 last year. Chest Township, \$232,970 this year; \$262,120 last year. Clearfield Township, \$328,020 this year; \$337,650 last year. Dean Township, \$235,350 this year; \$232,820 last year. East Carroll Township, \$584,320 this year; \$608,420 in 1953. Elder Township, \$324,930 this year; \$325,830 last year. Hastings, \$502,190 this year; \$498,435 last year. Patton, \$1,384,910 this year; \$1,377,550 last year. Reade Township, \$845,200 this year; \$830,000 last year. Spangler, \$521,020 this year; \$521,130 last year. Susquehanna Township, \$648,500 this year; \$632,620 in 1953. West Carroll Township, \$580,320 this year; \$599,160 in 1953. White Township, \$236,510 this year; \$238,206 last year.

Several Patton youngsters lost their clubhouses early Saturday evening when the barns were destroyed by fire caused by an overheated stove.

The small structure, located on the Charles Bertison property, had been used as a shack and meeting place for the youngsters. Local firemen called shortly after 7 o'clock, found the blaze out of control. They used water from the truck's booster tank in an effort to keep the flames from spreading to a nearby barn.

The shack burned to the ground with a loss of approximately \$100.

Started As Chauffer; Then To Garage. The Carrolltown man was born Jan. 11, 1906, in Poland, a son of Clement and Elizabeth Venskey. The family came to this country when Chester was only one year old. They settled first in St. Benedict and in 1915 bought the farm on the west side of Road in West Carroll Township. Chester's parents still are living, and they reside on a home built in 1915 on the farm now owned by Zigmund Venskey.

Although Chester is referred to as a resident of Carrolltown, he actually lives in East Carroll Township. His garage is located just west of the home, built by his father. It was a member of the School Board of East Carroll Township.

Flames Destroy Patton Lads' Club

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Mr. Venskey and the former Irene Pontic of Spangler, were married Nov. 24, 1928, in St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Ebensburg. They have three children—Chester Jr., now serving with the Army in Japan; Marc Catherine, a beautician employed at Penn Traffic Store in Johnstown; and Patricia Ann, an employee of First National Bank of Carrolltown.

Mr. Venskey is a member of the Knights of St. George. Two years ago he suffered an eye injury while working as his garage. It was a serious injury, but Mr. Venskey believes he is fortunate that he did not lose the sight of the eye.

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