

Chronology of Year 1954 in Northern Cambria County

News Highlights Show Tragedies, Celebrations, Happenings Of All Kinds

Perhaps the top story of the year insofar as Northern Cambria County was concerned was the development of the Hoxsey Cancer Treatment in articles in the Union Press-Courier, and the resulting impact on the Miners' Hospital at Spangler.

Other stories, concerned fires, elections, and the ordinary everyday aspect of life in the Northern Cambria communities.

Below, in a localized chronology we have endeavored to give you a month-by-month picture of the main news stories of 1954 as were printed in the columns of this newspaper.

JANUARY

Leona Sherry, 13, of Spangler, saves 21-month-old Sandra Klapp from a burning home in Spangler; John Conway first sheriff in history of Cambria County to take oath of office for this post for two consecutive terms; James McNeil, member of Hastings school board 23 years, elected as president Cambria County Board of School Directors; State Farm Show begins at Harrisburg; plans announced for renovation of St. Bernard's Church, Hastings.

Tom Miners' Hospital School of Nursing grads pass state board exams; Patton Firemen report 19 alarms during 1953, with seven being in borough; 20 births at Miners' Hospital in nine day period of Jan. 1 to 9; Chair Bearer cabin near Carrolltown destroyed by fire; Mrs. Helen Smith elected president Patton-Chest Band Mothers.

North Cambria Industrial Opportunity Center asks that district be classified as distressed labor area; major renovation projects completed in Patton schools; 21 draftees leave for army; Cambria County assessment valuation figures reach 20-year peak; Patton Citizens' Club organized by James Miners' Hospital to enroll class of nurses helpers; Amanda Cunningham named as

dent; Patton Clay Workers get 26-per-hour raise in new contract; state school officials inspect improvements at Patton; 959 X-rayed at Patton; Alice Penczak, Barr Twp., wins Co. Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest; Patton-Chest Band, John Carroll Band, Chorus hold concerts.

Hastings seeks bids on completion of new building; UMW handling surplus food distribution for county commissioners; Easter observed; Sen. Haluska airs plans for cancer clinic in county; Dennis J. Keenan listed in "Who's Who in America."

MAY

Sen. Haluska says Dr. Hoxsey's first choice for additional cancer clinic is Cambria Co.; 8 are left homeless in fire in Kinport; area Safety Patrol unit boys, girls on trip to Washington, D. C.; Patton-Chest High has Junior-Senior prom; Fred Gunther continues practice of playing byre; boys' night of Blessed Virgin Mary from St. Bernard's Church tower; Geo. M. Leader, Democratic candidate for governor, visits county.

Union Press-Courier installs Sean-A-Graver process for the making of plastic plates from pictures for printing purposes; Patton-Chest Springs section of Route 36 to be widened; Berzonski apartment, office of Dr. D. G. Shurbaght at Bakerton damaged in fire; mass North Cambria industrial meet held at Carrolltown; "Club 54" provides after-prom entertainment at Patton; Coalport gets new fire truck.

Henry M. Gooderham publishes results of years of research in tracing Kittanning Path; Leader, Wood gubernatorial nominees in state; plan to construct 11-acre park at Hastings; Rev. Cecil J. Donahue, Rev. Arthur J. Holtz, both Hastings, elevated to Catholic priesthood; Sunset auditorium purchased by Dr. H. G. Hoover and John K. Anderson, both of Ebensburg; Patton Council asks bids on street paving; Michael Ward, Patton, nominated chairman Cambria Co. Legion Committee; "My Rosary" by Mrs. A. J. Houck, Hastings, becomes favorite Marian Year hymn.

Original "Little Red School" at St. Boniface closes; Patton Recreation Park opens season; Rickard home, Holletown, destroyed by fire; Memorial Day marked by all veterans poster; Dean Twp. School Board seeks to quit Cresson jointure setup; 18th child born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lieb, Nicktown.

JUNE

Ceremonies mark opening of new addition, installation of over \$250,000 equipment at Phillips-Jones Plant in Patton, making it only plant able to produce independently Van Heusen "Century Collar" shirt; shrine to lady of Fatima erected on Carrolltown-Nicktown road; Carrolltown soldiers seek widening of fairgrounds road; work progresses on reconstruction Patton-St. Lawrence road.

MARCH

Jess Bearer, Hastings, suffers loss of right hand in accidental explosion; James Kelly to head Carrolltown Junior Firemen; Mardi Gras festivities at Patton help provide funds for Firemen's Convention in Patton.

Emmigh mine of Peale, Peacock & Kerr closes; Robert Krise new owner Patton Lumber Co.; John I. Barnard seriously injured when struck by car in Louisville, Ky.; 82 area high school musicians in County band, chorus festival at Adams-Summerhill High; Cambria Co. Medical Society, in letter to "Courier," backs Haluska stand on cancer investigation; surplus food sought for county.

Rev. J. W. Skillington, pastor Hastings Methodist Church, marks 50 years in ministry; state seeks bids on rebuilding Rt 252 in Reade Twp.; Dr. J. C. Anderson, 44, Ebensburg, a native of Barnesboro, dies; new Ashville Fire Co. social auditorium in use.

Donna Jean Buck, 6, St. Augustine killed when hit by truck in front of school; Patton police clamp down on speeding; Florie Ann Dupriet, Glasgow, wins the Cambria Co. American Legion Essay Contest; William L. Whiteford named president of Zone 1 firemen; Emmigh mine responded on smaller scale; controversy rages over construction of joint school for newly-formed North Cambria District.

Over 70 men laid off at mine in Marietta; 10 cars and surplus food reach county; John P. Johnson, Patton R. D., killed in tractor accident; Cunningham-Paddock bus line, Hastings, seeks extension of territory covered enroute to mills at Johnstown; H. M. Gooderham retained as head of Cambria County Historical Society.

APRIL

James Topek opens Patton Drive-In Cleaners; Patton Clay Mfg. Co. plans reopening after 3-week layoff for repair work; Patton Chamber of Commerce lists awards in school contest on securing of industry; chest X-rays given students, adults by Johnstown Society for Prevention of Tuberculosis; resume work on widening Mellon and Fifth Aves. Patton; Henry Shupenius purchases Cims' Market, Hastings.

Fred R. Norman named as grand master, made EOOD; announced plans for street signs, house numbers at Carrolltown; home on Steir farm near Patton suffers fire damage; 97,954 eligible to vote in Cambria primaries; Sen. Haluska, several doctors, make trip to Dallas to inspect Hoxsey Clinic.

North Cambria firemen called 32 times, brush fires in two-week period; Dennis Weakland, Carrolltown, hurt in tractor acci-



Dr. Thompson, Ebensburg, killed when car strikes barn; Patton-Kent killed, husband, William, dies later after car-truck accident mile from couple's home in St. Benedict; Geo. C. Hoppel opens new building at lumber company in Patton; Judge John H. McCann dies after 33 years on county bench; Fred Selsson named president County Parks & Recreation Board; fall campaigning goes into high gear; Cresson Joint gets OK for \$1.2 million school.

Redemption of Chest Twp. and taken to court by C. A. Hughes; \$1 million surplus reported in the UMW Welfare, Retirement Fund; final class receives diplomas at Miners' Hospital School of Nursing; Holmes Safety Unit, Patton District, reactivated with Alfred Kline president; fair attendance reported as 112,492; color television makes debut at Patton; Democrats outregister GOP by 2 to 1 in county; stocking of San Juan rabbits by sportsmen; Pat Farrell to head state unit of county commissioners.

Mrs. Blanche Lark named as president Patton Clay Mfg. Co. to succeed Miss Minnie Good, who died Sept. 17; Rev. John H. Hays, Patton, named president county PTA named health film council; Paul Christoff, 55, Dean, loses leg in mine accident; 7 Carrolltown youth groups get \$100 each from Carrolltown "Brothers of Brush"; Dr. Harry C. Bauer, and wife, Dr. Camilla (Kuhnle) Bauer, native of Patton, set up practice in Carrolltown; Patton street paving delayed due to contractor being unable to do job; government approves plan for large dormitory at St. Francis College; Cambria's 2 tuberculosis prevention units vote to merge; outdoor shrine is completed at St. Benedict Church, Carrolltown; Patton Fire Co. has open house to usher in Fire Prevention Week.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pavlock of St. Benedict mark 75th wedding anniversary; Paul J. Wilks of Lovett named county detective.

SEPTEMBER

Cambria County Fair opens at Ebensburg; Sgt. Michael Hancock, Barnesboro, killed as he steps on 22,000-volt line in attempting to aid wreck victims; field voter registration is held in county; H. C. McWilliam named Co. Pomona Grange master; Frank Hahn, St. Boniface, has 100 tomatoes growing on one stalk; H. C. McWilliam named Co. Pomona Grange master; Frank Hahn, St. Boniface, has 100 tomatoes growing on one stalk; H. C. McWilliam named Co. Pomona Grange master.

OCTOBER

Linda Huetner, 5, of Spangler dies of polio; Patton, Spangler classmates of polo-stricken children get gamma globulin injections; Eugene Endler, Hastings, honored as Pilgrim member of Loyal Order of Moose.

Paul Holtz resigns as postmaster at Hastings; Fritz Barn near Hastings destroyed by fire; UMW support Saylor for Congress; R. G. Lieb honored for 33 years service as officer of Barnesboro K. of C.; Patton parking meters paid for in full; 16 seek job as administrator at Miners' Hospital; Dr. Donald G. Shurbaght, Carrolltown, leaves for Army service; 6,000-flash bulb photo taken of Horseshoe Curve near Altoona.

Hot lunch program planned at Hastings-Elder schools; Flint-Beaver Valley-Coeport areas hit hard by high water due to hurricane "Hazel"; Patton PTA advances ideas on teen-age club with adult supervision; 55,600 Democrats, 46,175 Republicans in Cambria Co. eligible to vote; complete addition to Hastings Bell Telephone Co. facilities; earth broken for 3 new buildings at St. Francis College.

Carrolltown Scouts entertain parents at party; St. Benedict Explorer Scouts take airplane ride; Mrs. Frank Young home from trip to Europe; county FOA convention at Patton; Hastings gets new fire truck; Westrick Pontiac opens new garage; Carrolltown; Marine Pfc. Paul L. Davis, St. Augustine, plunges to death as parasite.

NOVEMBER

Sen. Geo. M. Leader elected as Democratic Governor of Pennsylvania; John Saylor renamed as Republican Congressman; Charles R. Shurbaght named president of North Cambria Kiwanis; Hastings residents seek dentist to locate in community; Cletus Lehmer, Bakerton, gets Scouting's Silver Beaver award; "Coffee" Dillon, Patton native who became world-wide sports figure, dies.

Charles Hopper new president Patton Chamber of Commerce; Clair Davis, St. Augustine, reports 26 head of cattle rustled; Mrs. Rebecca Pittman, 101, oldest resident of district, dies at Cherry Tree home.

First Civil Defense test of evacuating town into coal mines to escape atom bombing conducted at Hastings; may become pattern for similar CD plans in all mining areas of nation; Willow Dell Restaurant opens on Patton-Chest Springs road; Rev. John T. Drury leaves as pastor of Patton First Baptist Church to become pastor at Etrick, Va.; Patton Council to conduct drive to even up water rents; Explorer Scout Troop, started at Carrolltown; new Cambria Co. home at Ebensburg nearly completed.

William J. Weakland, 14, of Chest Springs killed when bike struck by car; Patton Youth Center opens at Eagles' Bldg. under sponsorship of PTA; J. M. Bearer, Hastings, who lost arm early in year, shoots bear.

through local committeemen, and on up line.

Mrs. Mary Sheehan, Patton R. D., wins county Voice of Democracy contest; 5 courts of honor planned for next year by N. C. Scout District; Christmas lighting displays, hit all-time peak in this district; all district school boards reorganized; Howard Huetner Sr., Barnesboro, dies of injuries after being found on street; nationwide "Safe Driving Day" held.

Several thousand children feted at Christmas parties in area, with highlight being Cookies' party at Miners' Hospital Christmas morning; Rev. Jack P. Jordan, pastor Trinity Episcopal Church, Patton, ordained; arson charged in fire at Nicholson home, Spangler, with David Zougher pleading guilty; Sen. Haluska bares plans for private hospital in Patton section; Portage chosen as site for Hoxsey Cancer Clinic.

R. J. Hardin, formerly of Ebensburg, disclosed to be FBI agent, acting as communist; Henry Johnson, Barr, Earl Karibheim, both in St. Lawrence area, destroyed by flames; with Mrs. Sarah, Ottobring her life as a result of burns suffered in the latter blaze; Historical Society plans to construct own building.

Catholics May Eat Meat Friday, New Year's Eve

Pope Pius XII has decreed that Catholics may eat meat on New Year's Eve, even though it falls on a Friday.

The Sacred Congregation of the Council, with the Pope's approval, took the action because New Year's Eve is traditionally devoted to Lent for benefits received during the year.

Catholic tradition forbids eating of meat on Fridays. But exceptions are often made by special papal dispensation when Friday coincides with a major holiday.

Patton-Chest School District holds open house to show public \$170,000 renovation project re-named "Country Fair" of Patton Clubs finances children's activities; Patton Council seeks means to control Little Chest Creek; Earl Long, Patton R. D., to head Cambria Young Farmers Assn.; Democrats to handle patronage.