

LOCAL WOMAN GIVES VIEWS OF FAR EAST

Says China Appears to be More Fitted for Europeans and Americans Than Japan

Recently we had an interesting afternoon chat with Mrs. Frank Murray Gibson of Tokyo, Japan, who is spending the summer with her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Washburn at their farm at Idetown. Mrs. Gibson before her marriage was Miss Martha Washburn, physical education instructor at Wyoming Seminary. Her husband is the representative of the Bethlehem Steel corporation in Japan.

In her conversation, Mrs. Gibson commented freely on American life in Japan and contrasted it with that of Shanghai, China and Manila. Philippine Islands, where her sister Elizabeth lives. Elizabeth is the wife of Dr. Yeager who is associated with the Rockefeller Foundation in the Islands.

Contrary to popular belief Mrs. Gibson says that life in Shanghai and Manila is more modern for Americans and Europeans than life in Tokyo. The stores and shops in Shanghai are among the best in the Orient and practically all of the shopkeepers and clerks speak English. In Japan very little English is spoken except by young Japanese educated in American or European universities. American movies are shown in Shanghai as well as in Tokyo. In Shanghai the talkies are loud and in English, in Japan they are subdued so that Americans can hardly hear them and on the stage sits a Japanese interpreter who keeps up a continual chattering in Japanese.

To have a telephone in Tokyo is a real asset. The telephone isn't rented but is bought outright for about \$1,200 and can be put up for security for loans. There is a luxury tax of \$500 a year on automobiles. Fords, Packards and French automobiles predominate. No Japanese women drive.

Fresh milk is practically unknown in the Orient, although daily milk deliveries are made, just as in the United States. The milk is produced artificially from powdered milk exported from the United States. This milk is made fresh daily in modern dairy plants.

When Mrs. Gibson first went to Japan she decided to do her own marketing. Her first day at the market she purchased a chicken and brought it home to the Japanese cook to prepare, but when it was prepared by four that it was not cooked as it should have been. Upon inquiry she found that the cook had used fish grease in which to fry it. She learned that Japanese servants are jealous of the right to purchase for the household because they made a petty graft in their purchases. Merchandise purchased by the head of the household never turns out right when cooked by the Japanese so Mrs. Gibson soon gave up the idea of doing her own marketing.

Asked concerning the famous Japanese cherry blossom, Japanese earthquakes and the recent Chinese flood, Mrs. Gibson said the cherry blossoms are unusually beautiful but that the trees never bear cherries. Earthquakes are so frequent that the correct hostess is almost disappointed when one does not occur during the visit of a friend. It is estimated there are 2,000 quakes of varying intensity throughout the year in Japan. Just before she left Japan, Mrs. Gibson said, there were two severe quakes which so startled her family that fearing total destruction of their home, all ran from the house. She had no conception of what the destruction must have been in Shanghai by the recent floods saying that she had read in press dispatches that the flood waters had reached the Cathay Hotel in the heart of the city where she had stopped, and if that was so practically the whole city must have been inundated.

English newspapers in Japan are restricted to little four page sheets, giving only the news of international importance they seem to lack all personality or human touch and are almost as dry reading as the Congressional Record.

Mrs. Gibson will leave with her infant son for Tokyo on September 28.

Piatt and Vercoe Asked To Withdraw But Refuse

At a meeting called Tuesday evening by Ross Williams, President of the Shavertown Improvement Association at his home Eugene Piatt and Vester Vercoe were asked to withdraw from the Kingston Township School Director fight, the reason advanced for such a move was called "Politics." Both men refused to withdraw stating that they believed they could not betray the confidence friends had placed in them. Those present were Henry Shaver, George Shaver, Adam Stock, W. H. Stang, Ross Williams, Harold Lloyd, Eugene Piatt and Vester Vercoe.

FIRE DESTROYS BARN AND CROPS

Adam Kozemchak of Huntsville is Heavy Loser in Fire Believed of Incendiary Origin

Fire, believed to be of incendiary origin, destroyed a large barn owned by Roman Kozemchak of Huntsville at 7:30 a. m. on Wednesday morning.

Thirty tons of hay, a large amount of oats, farm machinery and practically all of Mr. Kozemchak's harvested farm crops were destroyed. The loss was only partially covered by insurance.

In rescuing his team of horses and other livestock from the barn, Mr. Kozemchak narrowly escaped death. As he was leading the team from the barn the fire broke through the upper portions and the upper structure of the barn fell to the floor behind the man and horses.

Dallas and Shavertown fire companies responded to the alarm but lack of water supply and headway of the fire prevented their material assistance.

First warning of the fire came early Wednesday morning when children of the Kozemchak family heard a noise in the barn which sounded like exploding firecrackers. Summoning their mother, who also heard the noise and investigated, they found the interior of the barn in flames.

During the night Mr. Kozemchak's son had chased a strange man from the barn who had been seeking shelter there. The man jumped in an automobile and made his escape.

Members of the Kozemchak family believe that the man may have had something to do with the later destruction of the barn.

VILLAGE MAIL DELIVERY NOT YET APPROVED

Postal Department Considering Possibilities of Free Delivery in Borough and Parts of Townships

Word has been received at the Dallas postoffice that the efforts of Congressman C. Murray Turpin and Postmaster Ruth Waters to have village delivery service established at Dallas will not be successful at once, inasmuch as it will be necessary to prove to the department that at least 1500 people reside within the territory to be served.

Service will only be established where there are passable sidewalks, named streets, houses numbered, and street lights operated. To make a territory of 1500 residents it will be necessary to include contiguous parts of Dallas Township where there is ample population but which does not have houses numbered, street lights, etc., although there are some sidewalks.

The Postoffice Department has asked that interested local officials state whether it is intended to install street lights, etc., in the territory in which it is desired to establish the mail service.

It therefore appears that the next move in getting the house-to-house mail service, which is much desired, is in the hands of our own local officials. The Postoffice Department has not definitely promised to authorize this service even if requirements are met, but those following the matter are hopeful.

PAST GRANDS WILL GATHER AT MILTON

A joint Odd Fellows Rally sponsored by Five Past Grands Associations from the counties of Luzerne, Lycoming, Schuylkill, Columbia and Montour, Northumberland, Union and Snyder will be held at Milton, in the new Masonic Temple on Saturday evening, September 19th. The speaker of the evening will be Hon. Frederick W. Godcharles, former State Librarian of Milton. The address of welcome will be given by Rev. F. L. Coyle of Milton Lodge. There will be brief remarks by a representative from each of the five Past Grands Associations. Music will be furnished by the Girls Orchestra from the Sunbury Orphanage. Selections by a Male Quartette, Reading and a Duet, also other musical numbers. All members going by automobile will be met by a delegation of the Boy Scouts of Milton who will direct them to the meeting place and where to park their cars.

The Grand Master of Pennsylvania and other Grand Lodge Officers will be present. The meeting is open to all Odd Fellows. The Committee Officers in charge are John Morris, chairman of Bloomsburg; Edward Ellsworth of Kingston, Secretary and C. D. Sommers of Milton, Treasurer. Provisions are being made to entertain 2500 Odd Fellows.

Whom the Gods Destroy They First Make Strong

An eagle's eye glance at the history of Luzerne County shows that rarely, if ever, have politicians even an elemental belief in the common sense of the average citizen. One of the worst sins a politician can commit is to act as if the voters can count up to ten, decide between the qualifications of two candidates or tell the difference between truth and mudslinging. Some citizens may be fools, some may be fooled, but not all citizens are blind to facts.

There is more excitement in the present primary election than has been evidenced in Luzerne county in years. The big reason is that the ordinary citizen who has gone through two years of depression, wage cuts, banks bursting like pop corn and politicians playing squat tag with public office is disgusted when he witnesses the useless and profligate squandering of public funds.

He is tired of looking at beautiful mural paintings of Justice in the county court house, while at the same time a judge at a salary of \$12,000 a year is playing politics on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and sits in court on Friday. This same judge this week chose not to sit on the bench in local primary election matters in preference to having a petition for a writ of prohibition filed with the State Supreme court restraining him. He has degraded the bench of Luzerne county by allowing his name to be associated with some of the most notorious characters in Luzerne county without protest.

Despite the blinding mustard gas, political speeches and political advertisements that characters are being attacked, the decent home loving citizen understands the truth and knows it. Back mountain citizens are intelligent. Most of them live here because they want to be near their families and because they want to give them more advantages, yet last winter more than fifty families had to be fed by charity. Right now the heads of these families can't get jobs on county roads unless they promise to vote for machine candidates. That's how the machine loves the common people. Instead of wasting the taxpayers' money on a political three-ring circus and paying high taxes without protest, we might better be able to care for our own needy if the politicians didn't have a strangle hold on the county.

In the heat of political ballyhoo the politicians have us worked to a fever. Neighbour refuses to speak to neighbour and old friends sell us out for a few dollars or the promise of a political job.

Former saloon keepers dictate the political fate of the county. Only a few county offices have escaped their control. A former gambler and proprietor of a notorious speakeasy has more to say about political destinies than all the clergymen of the county put together.

Citizens have brains! Citizens think! It takes no smart detective work to see why certain community leaders bow humbly to the gang control of Luzerne county. They either hold minor county office, a road job or appointment, or are deceived into thinking they are political factors in the county. In many instances they have been openly bought or given money to pay for votes. Look them over. Are those who are showing the most activity not already a part parcel of the nefarious machine that rules the county. Haven't they some personal selfish motive in supporting a machine that is sapping respect and decency out of the county?

It is this same machine that is doing its utmost to defeat a man of the calibre of Judge McLean so that it can make the next judge a puppet for the Pittston gang.

Back mountain citizens have seen ample evidence of the way the county is being administered. The county roads have swarmed with ward heelers, while worthy local men have been made to go without jobs unless they promised to vote for gang candidates.

Despite the fact that one of the judges on the county bench spends most of his energies in building a political organization he has been unable to secure political appointments which have met with public approval.

The worst thing about the gang is that it has misled otherwise intelligent citizens to lend their names to a machine slate simply because they have been promised the support of the machine at election.

Take the present slate. John MacGuffie of West Pittston has an enviable reputation for fair dealing, but John MacGuffie will have little to say about county administration and has had little but rubber stamp duties since he assumed office. It is impossible for him to be free and at the same time be a member of the machine. John MacGuffie is one of the men who is responsible for the gangs on the county roads and it was John MacGuffie's clerks who attached their names to discredited petitions for Dr. Lewis Edwards.

Dr. Lewis Edwards of Kingston, a beloved citizen of the west side has been duped into lending his name and dignity to the machine. Too many promises have been made by the machine to gain votes to allow Dr. Edwards to have any share in voicing an opinion even if he is elected. Dr. Edwards on his own oath is not a citizen of the United States and in the opinion of the best legal brains of Luzerne county cannot hold office if elected. If Dr. Edwards is elected and disqualified an appointment will have to be made by the governor. So far the machine has dictated these appointments and it will do so again.

WORK STARTED ON BANK VAULT

To be of Reinforced Concrete, 21 Inches Thick on Solid Rock Foundation.

Construction of the vault in the new First National Bank building on Main street has excited considerable interest this week among spectators who have been watching the progress of the building.

The vault is being built on a solid rock foundation with walls of reinforced concrete, twenty-one inches thick. Steel grill work used for reinforcement of the walls was placed in position some days ago and gave spectators an idea of the strength of the vault walls. The floor and roof of the vault will be of similar construction making it one of the strongest security vaults in the county.

The vault is considerably larger than the one in the old bank building, but will afford double the working capacity since all of the bank's books will be stored in a thoroughly modern and fireproof book vault yet to be constructed in the back of the new building.

The ten-ton Diebold security vault door will be placed some time later when the building is nearer completion. To date the contractors are working close to schedule having been held up about one day due to the delay in arrival of some of the materials.

The reinforced concrete floors of the building will be laid this week. Conducts for telephones, lighting, ventilation and burglar alarm system have already been placed.

LUZERNE PLANS BIG DOLLAR DAY

Better Business Bureau Sponsors Community Wide Event—Every Merchant to Cooperate

Merchants and citizens of Luzerne borough will hold their first annual Community wide Dollar Day next Thursday, September 17. The big bargain day is sponsored by the Better Business Bureau of Luzerne, an organization made up of businessmen and citizens interested in the further development of the community as a business and social centre.

Every merchant in Luzerne will cooperate next Saturday in the big Dollar Day event by offering special prices on all merchandise. Each store will also have an attractive special bargain priced at \$1.00.

On Wednesday night the Better Business Bureau has chartered a Martz bus and will organize a torchlight parade. The Luzerne Band will occupy the bus and will give concerts throughout the communities of the west side. Giant handbills will be distributed calling attention to the bargains which will be offered by Luzerne Merchants on the following day.

The Luzerne Dollar Day is but one of the many features and special events planned by the Better Business Bureau. For several months since its organization the Bureau has held weekly meetings and listened to addresses and suggestions from business leaders of other communities. Plans are now underway for the establishment of a Community parking ground in Luzerne and the Bureau is also taking a leading part in the fight to have the main highway retained through the heart of the business section of the Community.

FORESTERS RELATE NEW SNAKE STORY MAY BE PET PYTHON

The South Mountains of Pennsylvania are notable for two annual productions. The one is a bumper huckleberry crop, and the other an almost, but never quite, improbable snake story. Of the latter, the newest to be reported concerns an enormous snake, whose length has been reported by various observers as from seven to twelve feet, which employs on one of the roads now being built on the Mount Alto State Forest claim to have seen.

The snake is believed to be a python and is said to have escaped from its owner, who kept it as a pet at his summer home in the mountains near Pen-Mar, Md., Forest rangers report that rarely are native snakes more than five feet long encountered in this region. These are usually the non-poisonous pine snakes or black snakes, though an occasional large rattlesnake is found. The other poisonous species native to Pennsylvania, the copper-head, rarely exceeds three feet in length.

If not found and killed before cold weather arrives the python is not expected to survive the winter since it is a native of the tropics and would succumb to the rigors of freezing temperatures.

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wood a son, Sunday, September 6th, at Homeopathic Hospital. Named Allen Wood.
To Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Brobst a son, Wednesday, September 2nd.
To Dr. and Mrs. George K. Swartz, a son, Tuesday, September 8th, at their home, Main street, Dallas, Pa.

RURAL POSTAL CONSOLIDATION REPORT DENIED

Sweet Valley and Broadway Offices to Continue Says Department

Service Enlarged Dallas, Noxen, Hunlock Creek Routes Extended

Much concern has been manifested the last few weeks by residents of Sweet Valley and Broadway over a persistent rumor that the postoffices at these places were to be consolidated with the Hunlock Creek post office. A petition signed by some 300 residents of the above places was forwarded to the postoffice department urging that the postoffices at Sweet Valley and Broadway be continued as at present.

It has been learned that no change is being considered by the postoffice department. Congressman Turpin has received a letter from the first assistant postmaster general, Arch Coleman which reads in part:

"The department is not contemplating the discontinuance of Sweet Valley or the Broadway postoffice at this time. If anything comes up pertaining to the discontinuance of the offices mentioned, the statements of the petitioners will be given careful consideration, and you will be advised before action is taken."

Residents of North Lake at Sweet Valley and within a quarter of a mile of the Sweet Valley post office also petitioned the department through Congressman Turpin to have their mail delivered to them from the Sweet Valley post office instead of from Hunlock Creek, some ten miles distant.

He has been notified by the first assistant postmaster general that this request has been granted to take effect October 1. The letter from the postmaster general:

"My dear Mr. Turpin: Further reference is made to your letter of August the thirteenth, with which you transmitted a petition of Mrs. Charles Bolen and others for the extension of rural delivery service to patrons residing at North Lake near Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania, so they may be served by rural carrier from Sweet Valley instead of from Hunlock Creek as at present."

"I take pleasure in advising you that orders will be issued directing the desired changes effective from October the first, nineteen thirty-one."

The farming districts at Ruggles' Meeker and surrounding country dissatisfied with the rerouting of the mail in 1926 and who have since been petitioning, the department, recently renewed their efforts and appealed to Congressman Turpin. At his request the postoffice department sent an inspector on, and these mail routes have been rearranged.

Route 2 out of Dallas will be extended 2.9 miles to serve ten families now without convenient service in the neighborhood of Meeker.

Route 1 out of Noxen will be extended 2.3 miles to serve ten families in the neighborhood of Ruggles. Route 1 out of Hunlock's Creek also will be extended and minor changes made in other routes so that these people will receive their mail and daily newspapers in the morning instead of in the afternoon.

KIWANIS MEETS

Mt. Greenwood Kiwanis Club at a recent meeting in the Colonial Tea Room, made plans for winter activities. The Club plans an extensive Under Privileged Child Program, with special emphasis on setting up a fund for providing food and clothing for those children in local communities that the depression has placed in need.

Father John O'Leary started the fund with \$50.00. Dave Morris, chairman of the Minstrel Committee, reported that Wood's Male Chorus would be prepared to give a minstrel under Kiwanis Sponsorship in the middle of October. It was voted to devote the proceeds of the minstrel to the Under Privileged Child Fund. A Kiwanis Ladies Auxiliary is to be organized on the next Ladies Night, to assist in the Under Privileged Child Work.

MODERNIZE STORE

Work was started this week on the renovation of the Odd Fellows Building on Main street. The front of the store room which is occupied by G. A. A. Kuehn, druggist, will be completely modernized. New show windows will be installed and the store will be given a thoroughly up-to-date appearance.

Send Us Your News

The Post needs more news items from local communities. There are many towns not represented weekly in this newspaper. If your community does not have a correspondent, won't you as a matter of community loyalty make yourself a self-appointed correspondent and send us news items. We'll be glad to get them and they'll all be published if you send them in early. We'll send you stamped envelopes and paper if you'll write us a note or telephone Dallas 300.