

POST SCRIPTS

FLOODS
PUMPKINS
RILEY
TORNADO
GENTLEMAN

Although its strategic position protects it from such major catastrophes as the floods which engulfed the Susquehanna valleys this week, the section surrounding Dallas can draw upon memories of severe storms and other freakish carryings of nature. Even these have been infrequent and Dallas can look to the everlasting hills which surround it and thank them for the fact that severe drenchings and a few washed-out lawns are generally the extent of its damages.

It is probable that Dallas came closest to a tragedy of major proportions in August of 1890 when a tornado which spread destruction over many other parts of the county exhausted itself or altered its course shortly before it would have struck the borough. That tornado whirled into Luzerne County from Columbia County and cut a path 600 yards wide in a Northwesterly direction. It leveled crops, ripped roofs from buildings and carried one house 200 feet. In Hunlock Township it pulled a 30-inch tree out of the ground and carried it away. When it reached Lehman it disappeared miraculously, sparing the frantic people in this section who could see it moving toward here. It was never known whether it was the same tornado or a second one which descended about the same time upon Nanticoke and swept toward Wilkes-Barre, where it spread tragic destruction before it whirled away through the wooded section to the northwest of the city. Letters and papers from Wilkes-Barre homes were picked up later in Hamilton, Wayne County.

Floods, of course, have always been the lot of people living on the Wyoming Valley lowlands. The first recorded occurred in February, 1772, and it was the fact that it necessitated postponement of a town meeting, rather than the damage, that provoked historians to record the date.

During the winter of 1783-'84 there were unusually severe snow storms here. For most of that winter snow five feet deep covered the ground and roads through narrow valleys were impassable until Spring. In March, as the thaw began, heavy rains came and the Susquehanna rose rapidly. Hundreds of the early settlers in the valley fled to the hills and 150 houses were swept away. Some of the ice that piled up on the plains did not melt until late summer of that year.

"The Pumpkin Flood" occurred in November two years later. It received its name from the fact that the river swept with it thousands of pumpkins from the fields which it inundated. In that flood Rev. Benjamin Bidlack was carried in his house down the river. After it had grown dark people heard him shouting and tried to rescue him. He escaped, finally, when his house lodged against a bank.

In 1809, 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1846 there were floods, none of them very serious.

One of the most destructive floods occurred in 1850. It destroyed a number of highways, battered mills, and took a number of lives. Nescopeck Creek claimed the lifeless bodies of 22 men, women and children who had sought shelter in the same building. At Tamaqua forty dwellings were torn away by flooded waters.

On St. Patrick's Day, 1865, the Susquehanna River overflowed and reached a mark of 33.1 feet, forcing residents of Wyoming Valley to higher ground. The water swept across Market Street and reached Wyoming Seminary.

The highest mark ever reached by the river in the valley came on March 16, 1875, when it touched 35.6 feet. In that flood all the bridges at Pittsford were swept away and when the water receded it left great masses of ice across Market Street, Kingston. Gorges had to be cut through the ice so traffic could pass between Kingston and Wilkes-Barre.

During the 1880's there were floods almost every other year.

The tragic occurrences of 1902 and 1904 are remembered by a great many people in this vicinity. On March 2, 1902, the river reached 31.4 feet. It was during that flood that a colorful character named Riley lost his life while endeavoring to get to Kingston from Wilkes-Barre in a cab. Cab driver, and Riley were swept away while travelling over Pierce Street. The driver climbed onto a floating cake of ice which bumped against a house on Market Street, Kingston. The house was deserted but the driver managed to climb in a window where he stayed until he was rescued next day. Riley caught a tree and people who heard his panic-stricken cries tried to help him but he was swept on down the river, never to be seen again.

In March, 1910, the river reached 26.1 feet and in 1913 and 1914 it went slightly over 28 feet.

This column would have ended with that paragraph above had not one of our highly-paid secret agents encountered a story which, for obvious reasons, belongs in this week's column. (Continued on Page 5.)

Kerr Dismissal Leaves Section Minus Officer

No Word Of Successor For Harvey's Lake Health Man

"POLITICS" CHARGED

Failure of authorities to appoint a successor to Elmer Kerr, local representative of the State Department of Health, left thirteen townships in this section without a health officer this week.

Mr. Kerr said his notice from the State Department of Health fixed July 8 as the date on which his services were to end. Because he had not received his vacation, the letter said, his salary would be continued until July 15.

Dr. F. E. Donnelly, county medical director, said yesterday he has received no word concerning the change and did not know of any action that has been taken to appoint a successor to Mr. Kerr. Dr. Donnelly said any request for the services of a health officer would be cared for from Kirby Health Center.

Mr. Kerr said he has received a number of requests for service since his dismissal but he is forwarding them to Dr. Donnelly.

Friends of Mr. Kerr staunchly defended his record this week and charged that politics is responsible for the dismissal.

Mr. Kerr has been Health Officer here since 1929. His territory, one of the largest in the State, includes Exeter, Kingston Township, Plymouth, Lehman, Hunlock's Creek, Ross Township, Huntington Township, Franklin Township, Lake Township, Dallas Township, Jackson Township, Union Township and Fairmount Township.

In Dallas Borough the health officer, John Frantz, is appointed by Borough Council.

On several occasions, by prompt action, Mr. Kerr has prevented epidemics in this section and his record is clear of criticism.

The salary for the position is \$160 a month and according to the letter received by Mr. Kerr there will be (Continued on Page 4.)

Scores At Funeral For Mrs. Guida Lee

Had Been Resident Of Dallas For Thirty-Three Years

The funeral of Mrs. Guida Brotherhood Lee, aged 57, widow of the late Henry Lawrence Lee was held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 from the family home in Dallas with services in charge of the Rev. Dr. F. L. Finchbaugh of St. Stephen's church, Wilkes-Barre.

The untimely passing of Mrs. Lee was a distinct shock to the community where she had made her home for the past 33 years and where there were few who knew of the seriousness of her illness and its sudden change for the worse resulting in her death Thursday night in Nesbitt Memorial hospital. Mrs. Lee was a woman of cheerful disposition, generous, and devoted to her family. She was a member of St. Stephen's church of Wilkes-Barre but since its organization in Shavertown had attended and given much of her time toward the building up of the Prince of Peace church. She was born in Wilkes-Barre, the daughter of George and Lettie A. Dietrich Brotherhood.

She leaves two sons, Peyton B. of Dallas; Henry Lawrence of Lehman, and one daughter, Lettie A. at home and three grandchildren, also one sister, Miss Maude Brotherhood of Wilkes-Barre.

The pall bearers were: C. A. Frantz, Paul Shaver, Clark Hildebrandt, Ralph Reed, Sterling Machell and Ira Cooke. Interment was in the family plot at Oaklawn cemetery, Wilkes-Barre.

Man For Whom County Was Named Born 194 Years Ago Next Monday

Chevalier de la Luzerne Warrior, Diplomat And Patriot

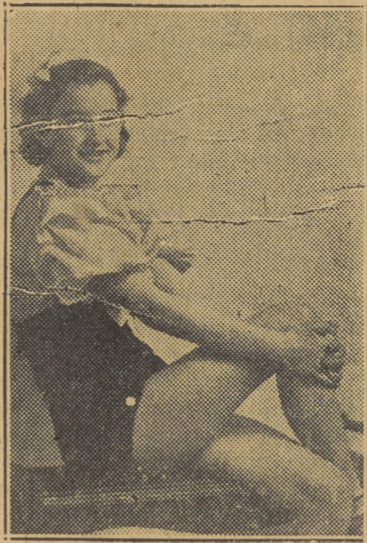
"The assembly of Pennsylvania, Monsieur, wishing to hand down to Posterity a testimonial of its gratitude for the services which Monsieur le Chevalier de la Luzerne rendered to the Union, has just given his name to a new county."

This message was sent in 1786 to the Court of France to announce that Pennsylvania had come forward to honor a son of the Empire.

The story of the Chevalier de la Luzerne does not read like the usual story of the youngest son of a nobleman. These forgotten men among the aristocracies of many nations were seldom outstanding; usually they were shunted off to the colonies or the ministry or priesthood, and little attention paid them thereafter. But Anne Cesar overcame the handicap of having important brothers, and moved steadily forward in the affairs of the world until now he is far better known than they.

The Chevalier de la Luzerne was the youngest son of the Count de Benze-

ON HER WAY



In constant demand as an entertainer is Audrey O'Kane, daughter of Chief of Police and Mrs. Leonard O'Kane of Dallas. The youthful star is winning an enviable reputation for her singing and dancing in amateur stage productions and for her frequent broadcasts from Station WBX in Wilkes-Barre. Last night she entertained at the Orondo Ballroom in Wilkes-Barre with a group from Terrence Tracey's studios.

Trip Has Sad End For Local Family

Death Of Son, Weakened By Malaria, Brings Dressels Back

The family of Charles Dressel was back home in Shavertown this week but their return was a tragic contrast to the optimistic future which seemed ahead of them when they left for Florida about six weeks ago.

They came home to bury their son, Buddy, aged 11, who succumbed to acute appendicitis after he had been weakened by a severe attack of malarial fever. Other members of the family were recovering from attacks of the same disease.

Mr. Dressel, who is widely known throughout this section, was formerly manager of the cafeteria kitchen at McCrory's in Wilkes-Barre. Several months ago he accepted an executive position in a candy factory in Orlando, Fla. He and his wife and five children left about six weeks ago to motor to their new home.

It is believed that they contracted malaria from mosquitoes while passing through Georgia. In Florida sickness attacked the family and Buddy suffered an attack of acute appendicitis. He lost twenty pounds before his weakened condition resulted in his death last Friday.

(Continued on Page 4.)

New Park Awaits Governor's O. K.

The last barrier to development of the Kitchen Creek recreation project will be removed when Governor George H. Earle signs the Federal Land Acquisition Bill, according to advocates this week.

The bill was enacted at the session of the legislature and permits the Department of Forests and Waters to acquire by long-term lease from the Federal Government, government-owned areas in Pennsylvania for forest, park, and recreational purposes at practically no cost to the State.

The Federal government already has acquired three proposed developments within close proximity to the largely populated centers in Pennsylvania. When these areas are fully developed as recreational centers they will be leased to the state Forest Parks.

They will be developed under the supervision of the Department of Forests and Waters with Federal funds before they are turned over finally to the state.

This is the second of a series of historical articles being published exclusively by The Post. In next week's article, the author will describe the stirring events which were associated with the discovery of the Susquehanna River, 300 years ago.

ville, born July 15, 1741. His oldest brother inherited the title of the father, and most of the lands; in time he became a general and Minister of the Marine. The second brother became a Cardinal.

Anne Cesar was educated in the Military School of the Light Horse. Following this he served in the Seven Year's War. Thereafter he went to Paris and continued his education as a gentleman, studying politics, diplomacy, life and ladies.

In 1776 he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of the Elector of Bavaria. He served in this capacity for two years, and was most successful. But this was merely a little special training for the important

DALLAS ESCAPES PLIGHT OF FLOODED RIVER TOWNS

Local Family Has Harrowing Experience In Flooded Area

Among the thousands of motorists who were stranded in New York State this week when rain-swollen rivers inundated main highways and halted traffic were Mr. and Mrs. James Oliver of Dallas and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Oliver of Wilkes-Barre.

They left here last week for a fishing trip along the St. Lawrence. Although severe storms broke on Sunday they felt no alarm about the return trip and it was not until they began striking inundated areas that they began to realize the extent of the flood which was spreading over the Southwestern part of New York State.

At Cortland after splashing through water which covered highways to the depth of several feet in lowlands, they were stopped from proceeding Southward. That night they stayed in the hotel at Cortland, where hundreds of stranded motorists, many of them frantic to learn of families in the flooded area, taxed the capacity of the hostelry.

They were about 125 miles from Dallas. On the following day they were compelled to detour back to Syracuse and through the Catskills 348 miles to reach home Tuesday night.

Their experiences give evidence of the tremendous damage and the tragic losses caused by the rampaging river.

They saw hay wrapped around telephone poles fifteen feet above the ground, homes from which walls had been torn, exposing the rooms like a child's dollhouse, thousands of automobiles stalled in swirling water, roads ripped up by rushing torrents, and vast areas of crops buried under the floods.

In their car they had a box full of fish they had caught in the St. Lawrence. At Cortland Mr. Oliver approached a policeman with the suggestion that they take the fish to some institution there. The policeman suggested a Children's Home but when Mr. Oliver agreed it was discovered that water had isolated the orphanage.

Some idea of the swiftness with which the water rose came to them when they discussed one route by which they believed they might be able to reach Pennsylvania. A man who had just travelled the road being discussed, assured them they could get through. Before Mr. Oliver's party could start, word was received that three bridges along that highway had been washed out.

Mr. Oliver talked to one man who, with his wife, had spent an entire night in an automobile stalled on a highway which was covered with water. Visibly wracked by the ordeal the man gave a thrilling account of his mental reactions during the awful night, as the water swirled higher and higher until he and his wife had to crawl upon the seats of the car to escape. Towards dawn the man was unable to stand the suspense longer and he decided to look for some support to which they might cling in reaching safety. Forgetting that the automobile was close to the edge of the highway he stepped out—into water that reached his neck. Later that morning rescuers attached a cable to the automobile and saved the two people.

The local party also heard of a family of nine that was marooned on a knoll which had been isolated by the rising waters. They sought refuge on a bridge only to find the bridge being torn away and sweeping down with the current. When the bridge struck between some trees and was no longer safe they sought safety in the limbs of the trees and were eventually saved.

Business Good

Howard Isaacs, who has opened a Chrysler-Plymouth sales room service agency in Bush's garage in Shavertown reports business on the increase. In addition to Howard Woolbert, Mr. Isaacs has engaged Benton Hadsel of Idetown as a salesman.

Served In United States From 1776 Until 1784

posts that were to come later.

Recalled from Bavaria, Luzerne was sent to represent the King of France in America. Here was a delicate mission that would require all the diplomacy of which any man was capable. The Colonies were struggling to gain that independence that they had so bravely claimed and the French were helping them not only to defend their principles but to defeat the British.

During the years 1773 to 1784 Luzerne lived in Philadelphia and conducted himself and his affairs with great circumspection and tact. He became the friend of Washington and of many other notable Americans; he reviewed the troops, and he entered into the social life of the then capital of the Colonies.

Everyone who knew the Chevalier de la Luzerne in those days agreed that his manners were impeccable, his speech suave, and his actions in the highest manner diplomatic. Such urbanity as a gentleman of France must have had in that period would have

(Continued on Page 5.)

CROPS RECOVER FROM DELUGE

River Drops After Reaching Highest Mark Since 1916

DANGER PASSES

While sections around it suffered severely from violent storms and the worst floods in years, Dallas escaped serious damage from the week's rains and by yesterday had recovered from its drenching.

In Wilkes-Barre, where the Susquehanna River swirled over its banks and inundated hundreds of acres, causing damage estimated at a quarter of a million dollars, the level of the river was dropping rapidly last night.

A peak of 25.62 feet was reached on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. Recession began shortly afterward.

Reservoir Up

Rains which began here a week ago sent Huntsville Reservoir up more than fifteen inches yesterday.

Although the most rain fell on Monday and Tuesday, the greatest damage to crops was done by the lashing storm which struck the Trucksville-Dallas area last Saturday night.

Farmers in this section suffered less loss than many other sections of the county, J. D. Hutchison, county farm agent, reported yesterday.

Crops along creeks here were inundated and rain knocked down hay and caused washouts in a number of cultivated fields but the damage was not severe. Crops had dried out by yesterday and it was believed that the steady rains had not seriously affected growth.

Along the river farmers suffered terrific losses as water covered valuable crops to the depth of several feet, resulting in a complete loss in most cases.

The blow was made doubly severe by the fact that, despite bad weather early in the season, crops were growing well and farmers held prospects of a good harvest.

Lawn Washes Out

Only minor damage was reported in the borough, the most serious incident being the washing out of a large portion of the grassy bank in front of the J. H. Finch property on Main Street. A section of the bank slid into the highway on Monday night, causing a traffic hazard until it was cleared away, and some fear was held that continued rains might result in a more serious washout.

Fields throughout the borough were washed by newly born rivulets as the rain continued on Tuesday and several driveways on the hilly sections of the town were gashed by water which carried dirt down to more level spots.

Creek Rises Fast

Toby's Creek rose rapidly on Tuesday, pouring its muddy torrent into the flooded Susquehanna. By Tuesday night the creek had left its banks in a number of places between here and Kingston and bore little resemblance to the modest stream it is ordinarily.

In most places where it overflowed the creek covered vacant fields where little damage could be done. At Luzerne it flooded fanwise over several acres of lowland from which water seeped into the railroad underpass used by street cars on the Dallas line. During the height of the water Dallas cars were routed over Bennett Street, Luzerne, but schedules were maintained fairly accurately.

Although Bowman's Creek was high it stayed within its banks. Remembering the severe storms which sent it over its banks last year and the serious flood about ten years ago people in the vicinity of Noxen kept close vigilance but as in Dallas the storm passed without any major damage.

Route 92, between Dallas and Tunkhannock, already in deplorable condition, took a terrific beating as water rushed across its worn surface.

River Takes Toll

At Wilkes-Barre, the Susquehanna River rose twenty-two feet from Tuesday morning to Wednesday afternoon. Its peak of 25.62 was the highest since 1916.

Two lives were lost when William Cassidy, 36, Larksville, drowned in futile attempt to save his son, Thomas 9, who slipped into the water while throwing stones at floating logs.

Several local persons who had summer cottages along the river near Falls were forced to leave them as the river swept close to their front porches.

Danger Passes

Dispatches from up river and New (Continued on Page 5.)

IMPORTANT MEETING OF FIREMEN CALLED FOR TONIGHT AT 8

A meeting of Henry M. Laing Fire Co. has been called for tonight, (Friday) at 8, by Arthur Neuman, president. In his notice to members Mr. Neuman calls it "the most important meeting of the year."

Among the business to be discussed will be plans for the carnival to be held next month. A good attendance is expected.

(Continued on Page 5.)