

## POST SCRIPTS

STATE 'ROUND AND AROUND AMATEURS

In any report on the State of the Union, Presidential or sentimental, there are certain developments which it is folly to ignore. Although he covered his political field fairly well, everything considered, President Roosevelt neglected certain significant subjects which, we feel, are a part of the Union's state. Having nothing better to do—or, if you prefer, nothing worse—we shall take up where the President left off.

His final words, you may recall, referred to the "arduous days which lie before us". Nothing he could have said would have served better to lead into our discussion of the most recent blight upon American civilization. We refer to a song, title unknown, which relates, in monotonous detail, what happens to music when you push down the respective valves on a sport model French horn.

According to our Research Dept., the song was born in a West Fifty-second Street musician's club when a sharp-tongued trombonist by the name of Mike Riley tried to explain to an inquisitive and exhilarated young lady how he plays the silly looking horn he picked up in a Pittsburgh hook shop.

"You" he told her "just push this middle valve here, and the music goes down and a round."

If you have been near a radio at all in the last three weeks, you know the rest.

Riley, Farley and "Red" Hodgson made a song of it. Splitting three ways, they have earned about \$1,000 each to date. "Variety" predicts the song will outsell "Yes! Ye Have No Bananas". Thirteen thousand copies sold in New York City in one day. More than 100,000 copies were sold in ten weeks. The trio which wrote the song will receive three cents on each copy of sheet music, six cents a copy on orchestration and one-third of the receipts on records.

There are "Round and Around" ties, filled with splashes of color and curly-cues. Women will be wearing 'round and around dresses soon. One company is ready to put out a 'round and around cigarette holder. Although we haven't heard of the 'Round and Around Club reaching Dallas yet, we'll know it has when someone slaps us on the head with an open palm and hands us a paper clip curled 'round and around. That, we are told, is the initiation.

We just thought maybe Congress could do something about it.

Even though it has no 'Round and Around Club, Dallas is soon to have a concrete manifestation of another singular phenomenon in the history of the nation—the amateur contest. Not Major Bowes, but the staid and civic-minded Blue Ribbon Club will give local amateurs their chance.

Although there are other amateur programs and the idea is as old as entertainment, the pace is set by Major Bowes, who introduces about fifteen amateurs in his National Broadcasting Co. program for Chase and Sanborn on Sunday nights. Some inkling of the State of the Nation with regard to amateur contests is given in the report that about thirty thousand people leap to their telephones or rush to a telegraph office to vote for their favorite amateur on an average night, and about 10,000 people write to Major Bowes every week asking for an invitation to broadcast. The Major gives auditions to about 600. Generally, he selects about twenty acts.

The lucky ones present themselves at his office at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon. The Major keeps an eye on them from then on, even taking them out to a restaurant at six for dinner. He's afraid if he leaves them to their own resources some of them will faint or get drunk.

Whether you believe it or not, the dialogue is not rehearsed. Of course Major Bowes has a card which tells a few facts about each performer—if he's married, if his wife's expecting a child, what he does for a living. He uses that information as a basis for his questions.

Nor do the amateurs know when they're going to get the gong. It's a delicate situation and it's sure to crop up at least once during every program. There's a certain danger that the disgruntled amateur may vent his spite by cutting loose into the microphone. To prevent any embarrassing display of anger, a strong arm man starts for the performer just before the gong is whacked. Some times the amateur who gets the gong isn't so good-natured, but there's never been any serious trouble.

After the show, Major Bowes takes the performers to another room and has his picture taken with all of them. Although the amateurs are told that they will get no money, each of them receives ten dollars after the show.

About 250 of the flock which went before the microphone in 1935 are in the ten units now playing throughout the country. The minimum pay is fifty dollars a week, maximum is \$150. In all, the payroll for the road companies is about \$20,000 a week. Someone has estimated that Major Bowes and his personal organization cleared more than \$1,000,000 during 1935. The Major gets \$5,000 for each week's work.

All is not discouraging about the state of the Union. There is, for instance, the tale that drifts in from Bloomsburg—way.

Shortly before Christmas James Smith of Almedia was convicted on a

## Teacher Asked To Reconsider Her Decision

### Dallas Board Declines To Accept Miss Dymond's Resignation

#### CATALOGUE BOOKS

Miss Angeline Dymond, a teacher in the commercial department of Dallas Borough High School, will be asked by the school board to reconsider the resignation she submitted recently.

At a meeting on Wednesday night, members of Dallas Borough School Board explained they have been unable to find an applicant who measures up to the standards of Miss Dymond, although there have been a number of applicants.

Miss Dymond is reported to have an offer of a similar position at Forty Fort High School. Her resignation has been under consideration by the directors for nearly a month.

As part of the meeting, directors inspected the auditorium to learn if possible why heat there has been unsatisfactory for recent public meetings. Several weeks ago Jack Roberts was authorized to investigate.

It was established that the maximum heat is not being secured from the system at the building. Directors discovered unvents that were adjusted wrong, window panes that were broken and unplastered sections—about a dozen openings in all—which allow cold air to enter.

L. V. Lacey, architect, explained how additional equipment could be installed to insure better heat, but he recommended that nothing be spent until steps are taken to use the present system correctly.

Ralph Hallock, who installed the heating system when the building was built, said that it had never been planned to use the auditorium for a formal dance, but that the present system could be relied upon to provide adequate heat for the ordinary school activities if operated right. Directors Lapp and Roberts were authorized to see that corrections are made in the method of operating the heating system.

Daniel Waters, new secretary, took office and presented a comprehensive financial statement covering the last nine years. He also gave a statement showing that several allowances budgeted for the year which began last July already were exceeded. The directors agreed to Mr. Waters' suggestion that a purchase system should be used by school officials, requiring that they fill out an order for any material or supplies bought. Recently there has been confusion regarding purchases because of failure to fill out orders.

At the same meeting L. V. Lacey reported a trip to Harrisburg during which he made inquiries regarding the possibilities of remodeling the grade school building. He estimated it would cost about \$10,000 and he expressed opinion that that would be too much for such a project. He submitted plans.

## Fitzpatrick Wins Two Union Offices

Cornelius J. Fitzpatrick head pressman for The Dallas Post for the last two years, was honored this week by being elected to two prominent union offices.

He was named vice-president of Wilkes-Barre Council, Allied Printing Trades, which includes two members from each craft. Mr. Fitzpatrick has been a member of the council for five years.

He also was elected sergeant-at-arms of Local 137, Wilkes-Barre Printing Pressman. It is his fifth term in that office.

## Lake Sportsmen

Harvey's Lake Camp No. 252, United Sportsmen, met last night at the Picnic Grounds, with Frank Halowick, president in charge, and ended the membership drive which has been in progress for two months.

## Lehman To Compete Against 18 Victors

### Local Thespians In State Drama Tourney This Month

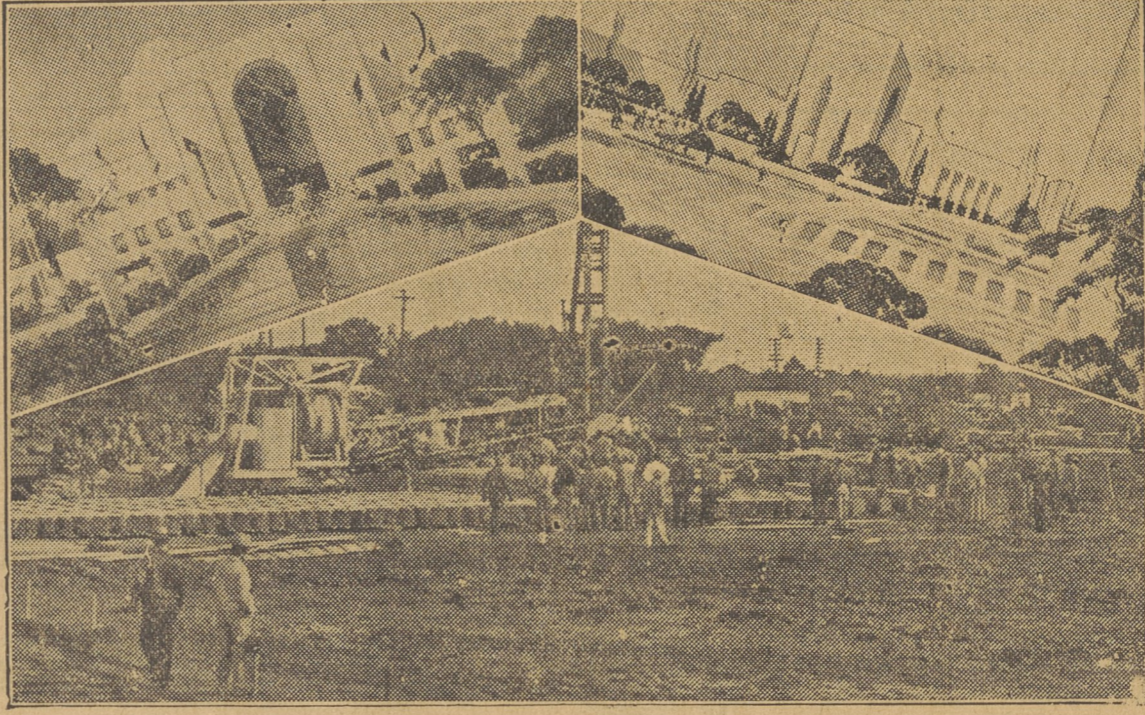
Six men and women from Lehman, appearing under sponsorship of the Ladies Aid Society of Lehman M. E. Church, will go to Harrisburg late this month to compete in the rural one-act play tournament which will be a part of the State Farm Show. The local group won the right to take part in the State competition by coming out first in the district bi-county tournament.

The plays will be given in the huge auditorium of the farm show building, beginning on Wednesday night, January 22, and continuing until Friday at 4:30. Eighteen dramatic groups from all parts of Pennsylvania will compete, representing the best talent among some 240 groups which took part in the eliminations.

Members of the Lehman group, which is coached by Mrs. Arthur Major, are Louis Ide, Mrs. Francis Lewis, Emma Ide, Charles Kinsman, Jr., Sheldon Ehret and Mrs. Charles Kinsman.

There will be a local representative also in the sixth annual State Rural Musical Tournament, in which eleven groups will vie for the state honors. The Pike's Creek Club of Alderson was without opposition for the district championship. Its members are John Rebennack, Charles Williams, Otis Allen, Herbert A. Bronson, Alfred Bronson, Walter Wolfe, Albert Ide and Mrs. Albert Ide.

## WHAT \$10,000,000 WILL DO BEFORE JUNE 6



Here are two extremes—below the Texas Centennial Exposition Grounds at Dallas, Tex., as they look today; above: artist's conception of the Petroleum Convention

Building, right; and the administration Building, left, both permanent structures costing together approximately \$625,000, which will arise on

the rough site. Exposition heads are rushing work on projects which call for the expenditure of \$10,000,000 before the opening date, June 6.

## Bowes' Influence Crops Up Locally

### "Major" Lapp and "Gorgeous Gracious" Besecker Preside

Although the date for the Blue Ribbon Club's first Amateur Night in Dallas Borough High School has not been fixed, response to the stunt this week indicated that it may be bigger than the club anticipated.

Already a number of applications have been received and although the names of the performers are taken confidentially, Ira Cooke, president of the club, has promised that the audience will be surprised at the prominence of some of the amateurs. Since the number to perform will be limited, Mr. Cooke has urged that applicants file immediately, by writing to Box 328, Dallas.

(Continued on Page 8.)

## Kunkle Re-elected Council President

### Three New Members Given Oath Of Office In Dallas

Dallas Borough Council increased Chief of Police Leonard O'Kane's salary \$100 to \$1,000 at its reorganization meeting on Monday night and fixed a retaining fee of \$75 a month for John T. Jeter, borough engineer. No other salary changes were made.

R. L. Brickel was re-elected treasurer at a salary of \$50 a year; William Niemyer was retained as secretary at a salary of \$150. Wesley T. Daddow was named road supervisor again at 60 cents an hour, and Arthur Turner was held as solicitor at \$75 a year.

James Ayre, William Davis and John Durbin took their oaths of office as councilmen replacing Grant Shaner, Elmer Parrish and Clyde Vietch, who did not seek re-election.

Warden Kunkle, who was re-elected to council at the Fall election, also was re-elected president of council.

E. E. Trumbower was elected president of the Kingston Township board of supervisors at a meeting on Monday night in the Trucksville High School. Francis Youngblood was made secretary-treasurer and Bruce Long was named foreman for state-operated roads. Grover C. Stock, former president, retired.

Attorney Peter Jurchak of Mt. Greenwood, an assistant district attorney, was named solicitor, succeeding Attorney D. O. Coughlin of Forty Fort.

## GOVERNMENT TURNS ATTENTION TO "RURAL SLUMS"; MOVES TO HELP FARMERS WORKING EXHAUSTED LAND

### Land Still Stands As Basic Source Of Wealth

The old frontiers are gone. There are no longer vast areas of new land on which a growing nation can settle and expand. It is not up to us to conserve and develop wisely the land which we have. Here L. C. Gray, land authority, tells Post readers how that can be done.

By L. C. GRAY  
Assistant Administrator  
Resettlement Administration

Land—the raw material of farms, forests and range—is one of our major sources of wealth. Hundreds of thousands of rural families are now enduring a poverty utterly inconsistent with American standards of living largely because of a failure to use the land to its best advantage.

In areas such as portions of the southern Appalachian Mountains, where conditions of living are particularly severe, one reason for the pres-

ent poverty is to be found in the hitherto too steep for farming, and cultivation merely aggravates the problem by encouraging the erosion of the fertile soil.

With both the forest and the topsoil destroyed, the people have become economically "stranded", and their standard of living has steadily declined. Housing is very poor, consisting often of dilapidated, leaky cabins which give insufficient shelter, and enforce unhealthy crowding. The food supply is so limited that children suffer from malnutrition, and easily fall prey to disease. Education is necessarily limited.

Society must decide whether these conditions can be tolerated. It is especially important when we realize that the poverty of the rural slums means the dependence of large numbers of families upon public charity and relief. Our objective must be not only to restore to these people a chance to attain an American standard of living, but to make them once more consumers and producers of economic goods.

The Resettlement Administration is buying up tracts of land in various problem areas to help restore the nativity of land use. The forest, which formerly provided the chief income for the people of the mountains, was cut off without any care for the future reproduction of trees. The land is on the

### Failure To Conserve It Brings Economic Tragedy

tural forest or grass resources which, if properly cared for, can again provide employment for local people. At the same time, this work will put a stop to the needless destruction of soil fertility, which, if permitted to continue, would make the rehabilitation of the people even more difficult and costly.

Families who cannot be employed in forest work will be helped to move out of the hills to flat, fertile lands where they can become self-supporting.

A similar conversion of the land to better uses is being undertaken in other areas such as the old forest region bordering the Great Lakes, the western plains, and the old cotton belt of the deep south. Land that is not fertile enough for farming can be almost always utilized for some other purpose, like forestry or recreation, or grazing.

The extent of this work, and the long time necessary to restore the land, place it beyond the sphere of private enterprise. Governmental action is essential unless thousands of families are to be abandoned to permanent poverty, and great areas of land relegated to ruin.

## Fight Imminent Over Utility's Rate Increase

### Schedule Filed This Week Hits Business Men Hardest

#### TAXPAYERS MEET

Prospects of a long battle over the increased rates filed by Dallas Water Co. with the Public Service Commission loomed this week as consumers—with business men in the vanguard—prepared to launch a protest.

Dallas Taxpayers' Association has called consumers to a meeting next Monday night in Dallas Borough High School to plan the method of protest.

The new rates, filed with the Public Service Commission at Harrisburg, call for a \$1-a-year increase on the flat rates for consumers and establish a new system of meter rates for commercial consumers.

Cards notifying local consumers of the increase were mailed out Wednesday by Leslie Warhola, manager, after Robert Hall Craig, general manager of Southwestern Gas and Water Co., has notified the local office to post a copy of the proposed schedule in its office on Lake Street.

#### Rise Expected

The increase has been expected since early last year, when Mr. Craig informed the Commission that the improvements sought by consumers would necessitate an addition of \$4.00 a year to the flat rates. Subsequently, a State engineer stated that the improvements could be financed with a flat \$1 a year increase.

During the year, Dallas Water Co. carried out a five-point improvement program ordered by the Public Service Commission. G. Radford Berry, State engineer, estimated that program would cost the utility \$6,800. It was said this week that the proposed increase would bring Dallas Water Co. an additional \$1,800 a year, based on present consumption. Mr. Berry estimated that the improvements could be financed for \$300 additional annually.

#### Business Men Hit

Hardest hit by the new rate schedule are the business men, whose consumption rate will be reckoned according to meter rates. Meters were installed in most local commercial buildings last March, but no monthly readings have been made, those continuing to pay the flat charge. Under the new system their meters will be read monthly and consumption will be charged at these rates:

First 1,000 gallons per month, \$1.50; next 2,000 gallons per month, \$1 per thousand gallons; next 2,000 gallons per month, 75 cents per thousand gallons; next 5,000 gallons per month, 60 cents per thousand gallons; next 10,000 gallons per month, 40 cents per thousand gallons; next 25,000 gallons per month, 20 cents per thousand gallons; next 25,000 gallons per month, 25 cents per thousand gallons, next 25,000 gallons per month, 15 cents per thousand gallons; over 100,000 gallons per month, 10 cents per thousand gallons.

There will be minimum charges where water consumption by meter is small.

Some indication of what the new schedule would mean to local business men is given by this example: A typical business has been paying a flat rate of \$4.60 quarterly for two hydrants and a toilet. Consumption of water has averaged about 4,000 gallons a month. Under the new rates that firm will be asked to pay \$4.25 a month. The water bill of this one concern will jump from \$18.40 a year to \$51 a year. Other increases soar to much higher increases.

In Wyoming Valley the same volume of consumption would cost \$26.40 a year, including a \$12.00 annual service charge.

Domestic consumers who have been paying a flat rate of \$16 a year will pay \$17 after the new rates become effective on February 1. Homes which are used as boarding houses will be charged twenty-five per cent additional.

#### Company's Argument

In the contest which is imminent it is likely that Dallas Water Co. will attempt to justify its increase by two arguments: (1) That it has been unable to operate at a profit and (2) that the improvement program which the people demanded must be financed.

No financial statement for the local property is available for 1935, but Mr. Craig has reported that it operated at a loss for the twelve-month period ending September 30, 1934. Since the improvement program increased expenses tremendously in 1935, it is almost certain that the books again showed a loss.

(Continued on Page 8.)

## LOCAL MEN PICKED FOR JURY SERVICE IN FEBRUARY TERM

Men from this section who have been selected for jury duty during the February Term of criminal court have been announced as follows:

Week of February 3  
Dallas—Ralph Hallock, Harold Lewis, William J. Rinkin and H. Lee Scott.

Week of February 10  
Kingston Township—William H. Evans, Charles Norris and William Pierce.

Dallas—J. E. Roberts.  
Week of February 17  
Kingston Township—Arthur Schrage.