

150th Anniversary Of Confirming Act

Story One Of Most Dramatic In The History Of The Nation

lately assumed a paternal attitude toward the Connecticut settlers and permitted them to hold their land in return for submission to the State's government, and it is likely that such a compromise would have been welcomed by the Yankees.

But the land agents in Philadelphia had coveted the fertile farms and meadows of Wyoming for years, and at their pressure, Pennsylvania presented to the settlers a ridiculous offer to give them waste and unappropriated lands in exchange for the farms they had developed in Wyoming.

The settlers protested, vigorously, and Pennsylvania's answer was to send soldiers and a collection of assorted ruffians to discourage the settlers and drive them from Wyoming. Unorganized and without leadership the Yankees were subjected to humiliating outrages. They were thrown into jail without trial, forced to take soldiers in their homes, assaulted while they went about their peaceful business. From their desperation sprang the leader who was to carve for himself as colorful and as idealistic a career as any in American history.

A Dr-um Is Born

John Franklin, a native of Connecticut, had come to Huntington Township shortly after its founding in 1775. Unaided and alone except for his dog, he had pressed through the wilderness to become the first settler in that township. Later, after he had reared his cabin of logs, he brought his young wife to the secluded home.

He served with valor during the Revolution. On July 3, 1778, upon receiving word of the impending disaster at Wyoming, he gathered together the men of Salem and Huntington townships and reached Forty Fort at twilight of the fearful day, to become the mainstay of Col. Denison during the night and the day that followed. His account of the battle has survived as one of the most accurate.

His wife died of smallpox and he took his family, including one child only a few months old, back to Connecticut, making his way through nearly three hundred miles of wilderness. Later he accompanied General Sullivan on his expedition to avenge the murdered settlers.

Franklin was six feet, four inches tall, square shouldered, a man of gigantic strength. All he had learned he had taught himself, yet he could sway an audience with his sincerity and earnestness, and he was an effective writer. He almost became the founder of an American state.

It is difficult to tell how far the

plans for that commonwealth moved. The name, according to authentic sources, was to have been "Westmoreland." The capitol was to be at Tioga Point, a strategic spot where the town of Athens had been located. It is a recorded fact that the ambitious Franklin's army had been recruited as far away as Western Massachusetts.

In 1786 bluff, bold Ethan Allen came to Wyoming and entered into an agreement whereby his Green Mountain Boys would receive so many thousand acres of the Susquehanna lands in return for their support, Allen was a colorful braggart and the news of his connection and Franklin's plans spread and attracted a stream of emigrants into the territory in search of land.

It was a dramatic conflict, not only between two opposing groups of Americans, but also between two men, John Franklin, poor farmer, and Timothy Pickering, Harvard graduate, Secretary of State under George Washington, and one of the shrewdest statesmen in the colonies.

Pickering's attention was called to the muddle here late in 1786 when, while passing through Wyoming Valley, he observed the rebellious spirit. Upon his return to Philadelphia he reported that the main issue was not recognition of the Pennsylvania government, but the right of the settlers to hold their farms under any government.

Because he seemed to understand the situation so thoroughly, the Assembly appointed Pickering, himself a Yankee, to end the difficulty.

Franklin Spurns Compromise

At the election the following year John Franklin was elected a member of the Assembly, but, deeply absorbed in plans for his new State, he refused to serve. Those plans were materializing rapidly. Enthusiasm for the Fourteenth Commonwealth was spreading as people threw their lot in with the magnificent farmer. They had just taught England a lesson. Why not administer one to the stuffy Assemblymen and land agents at Philadelphia? The "rabble in arms" was restless again.

And then, just as John Franklin's dream was on the very edge of realization, Pennsylvania passed the Confirming Act.

Dated March 28, 1787, 150 years ago, that act confirmed to the inhabitants of the County of Luzerne, their heirs and assigns, who were actual settlers, the lands which they occupied at the time, and which had been allotted to them before the Decree of Trenton.

The Yankees Divide

Many of Franklin's followers remained loyal to him. But many more, tired of the long controversy, accepted the proposal.

Franklin, who knew the Confirming Act was a trick to quell the rebellion, warned the settlers and strove valiantly to hold them to his cause. The greatest gathering of settlers ever held took place at old Forty Fort. Pickering was swaying the audience when John Jenkins jumped up to prophesy

that Pennsylvania would repeal the law as soon as the Yankees submitted. Franklin, speaking with great earnestness, drove home his charges of faithlessness and treachery, and Matthias Hollenback, a fever with the excitement, slashed Franklin over the face with a riding whip and the meeting broke up in a vicious battle.

Franklin refused to give up his dream, however. After a day's work in the fields, he would journey to the remote cabin of some hunter, to talk to him about the Fourteenth Commonwealth. His cause had not died completely. Pickering had the count. But Franklin had the people.

Finally Pickering realized there was only one way to kill the movement for good and all. He had four exceptionally daring men come to Wyoming to execute his plan. One of them engaged Franklin in conversation in a lonely spot while the other three seized him and attempted to bind him. Franklin's great strength prevailed, however, and his calls brought friends and finally, brought Pickering himself, who notes in his writings that they could not carry off Franklin until they had tied his feet under the horse's belly.

The abduction took place on October 2, 1787. The reaction among the people was such that Pickering fled from Wyoming Valley and did not return until the following January. Shortly after he returned to his home on South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, a group of "Wild Yankees", led by young Gideon Dudley, raided the Pickering home and took the redoubtable Colonel to a secret hiding place in the woods.

Pickering Stubborn, Too

They offered to give him his freedom if he would intercede for Franklin. Pickering refused. He made a counter offer. He said he would intercede if they would expose their leaders.

To this offer Gideon Dudley, a courageous and daring youth, answered "Whoever does that ought to go to hell and be damned everlastingly."

Pickering was released, though, and he probably admired Dudley's spirit for he did intercede for Franklin, who was released.

But the back of the rebellion was broken. The sovereignty of Pennsylvania was established.

Franklin, his dream collapsed, returned to Athens, which was to have been the capitol of his state.

There, a grand, solitary figure, he lived until his death in 1831.

"Mickey" Walsh At Outlet Tabernacle

The June Bible Conference of the Outlet Bible Tabernacle is now in progress with Evangelist "Mickey" Walsh of Brooklyn as speaker. His messages are inspiring, uplifting, and most refreshing. The conference will close with two meetings, Sunday at 2:30 and 7:30. Carl and Bob will be in charge of the music.

Centermoreland

MRS. BESTEDER CORRESPONDENT

Jack's Place at the crossroads is now open for business.

Miss Betty Niemeyer spent Sunday with Mrs. Effie DeGraw.

Mrs. Glen Major is spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Race.

The Ladies' Aid served a nice crowd at their supper at the church on Thursday evening.

The Betsy Ross council of the D of A. held its birthday banquet in the Hall on Wednesday.

Mrs. Charlotte Gwynn and Miss Betty Price of Wilkes-Barre are visiting the Lewis Siperko family.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Davis and their daughters, Doris and Joan, spent the week-end with Mrs. Clara Shook.

Ted Dymond is a patient at the General Hospital where he underwent an operation for appendicitis last week.

The Children's Day exercises will be held at the Methodist church on Sunday evening, June 27, at 8. Pastor, Rev. Thomas Kline.

Edward Brunger and Paul Osborne of Johnson City spent Sunday with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Manley Brunger.

The baseball game last Sunday at Vernon between Vernon and Noxen resulted in Vernon's first loss of the season with a score of 7 to 4.

The Epworth League had a campfire meeting and a weiner roast at Schoonover's Grove on Thursday evening to honor Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Kline.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Besteder, Clarence Besteder, Molly Besteder, Marion Gay, and Mrs. Otto Harzdorf attended the band concert at Tunkhannock on Tuesday evening.

The Lehman Grange gave the play, "Where's Grandma," at this place. It was a very interesting play and acted in a fine manner. We can certainly congratulate Lehman on its dramatic ability.

Idetown

The Confidence Class of the Idetown M. E. church will hold an ice cream social on the church lawn on Friday night, June 25.

Ruth's Bible Class will meet at the home of Mrs. W. H. Nevel on Friday night at 8.

Mrs. Loren Keller and daughter, Ellen, are spending a week at Binghamton, N. Y.

Church News—Preaching service at 9:30 a. m.; Sunday School at 10:30; prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 8 in the church house.

First National Bank

United States Depository
PUBLIC SQUARE
WILKES-BARRE, PA.

Capital—Surplus \$ 2,250,000
Resources \$12,412,000

OFFICERS:

Wm. A. Conyngham President
Chas. F. Huber 1st Vice-Pres.
M. G. Shennan Vice-Pres. & Cashier

DIRECTORS:

Chas. N. Loveland
Francis Douglas .. Exec. Vice-Pres.
Fred O. Smith
William S. McLean, Jr.
Wm. H. Conyngham
Richard Sharpe
C. F. Huber
Francis Douglas
T. R. Hillard
Edward Griffith
Wm. W. Inglis
M. G. Shennan

2% Interest On Savings
Safe Deposit Boxes For Rent

NOTICE!

We will not be responsible for accidents happening to anyone riding on unsafe tires.....when they can get Goodrich Safety Silvertowns for as little as 75c per week.

ADD WOOLBERT
DALLAS PENNA.

Mrs. Lynn Brown of Moosic spent Wednesday visiting in Idetown.

GAY - MURRAY NEWS

MAKE HAY WITH OLIVER EQUIPMENT

GUARANTEED QUALITY
DEPENDABLE SERVICE

5 ft. Mower	\$70.00
6 ft. Mower	75.00
4 1/2 ft. One horse Mower	70.00
8 ft. Horse Rake	40.00
9 ft. Horse Rake	42.00
10 ft. Horse Rake	44.00

The Oliver Rake will handle heavy or light hay under all conditions. It has a strong Bridge Trussed Frame of angle steel and there are three down positions for the teeth. Wheel guards or cleaner teeth are included.

REPAIRS

Guards for any mower	ea 25c
Rake Teeth	ea. 35c
25 Knives for any mower	\$1.15
Guard Belts	per doz. 40c
Steel wheel farm wagons	\$49.50

HOW IS YOUR ROOF?

Robert Coolbaugh is using 10 squares of Channelrain on one of his buildings at Falls—Channelrain is easy to put on and is without question the best of the steel roofings. We can also furnish you your choice of roll roofings, or Asphalt shingles at popular prices.

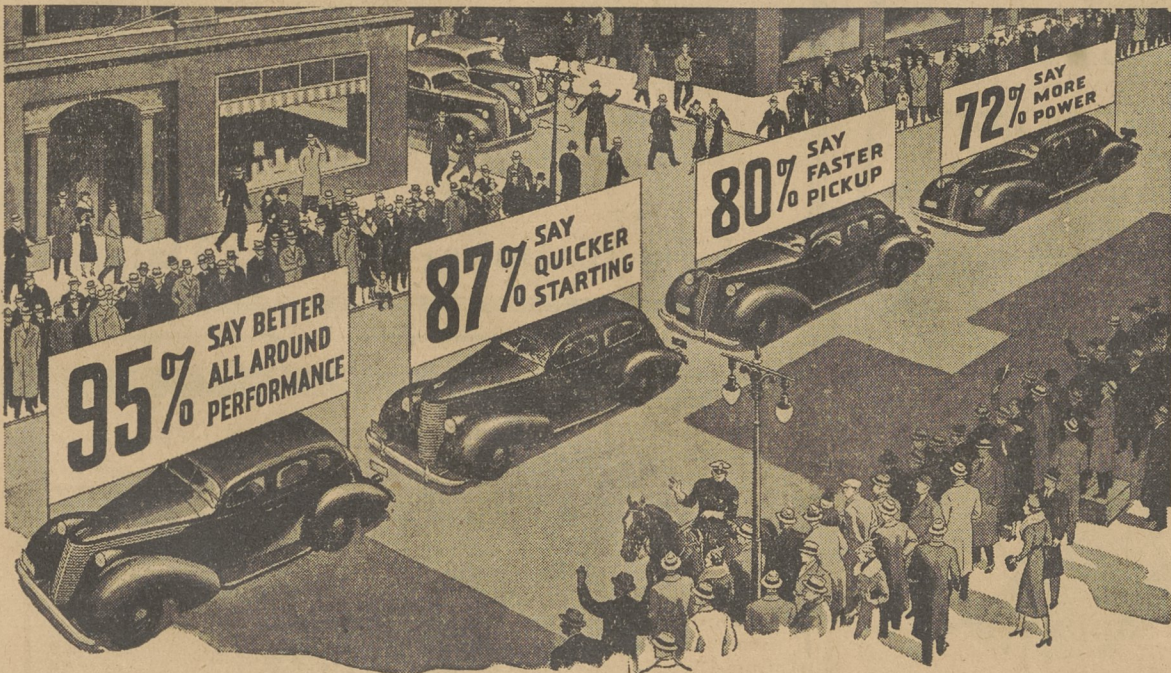
WARNING!

While thinking of roofing, we would call your attention to the fact that high powered salesmen are making a house to house canvass in this community offering an ordinary Asphalt roof coating at 1.20 per gallon in 30 gal. barrels. We mention this not to brag, but to protect you against these scoundrels as we sell just as good a product without the fancy label at 35c a gallon.

SEE US WHEN YOUR ROOF LEAKS

Gay-Murray Co.

Inc.
TUNKHANNOCK,
PENNA.

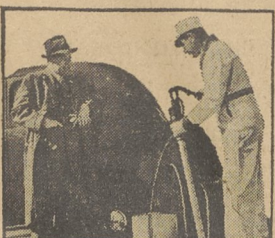


Whatever you want in a gasoline...

the percentage is all in favor of



Take a tip from the hundreds of motorists who participated in these tests. Put Blue Sunoco up against any other gasoline in town by testing it right in your own car. Prove for yourself that Blue Sunoco's lively, high-test action is unsurpassed, even by extra-priced gasolines. See if you don't agree that today's greatest value for your gasoline dollar is... Blue Sunoco.



The Ross Federal Research Corp., nationally known fact-finding organization, asked 1214 motorists in 14 widely separated cities to test a "mystery gasoline" in their own cars. First—the tank of each car was drained of the gasoline it had been using.



The tanks of these cars were then filled with this "mystery gasoline." This unknown motor fuel was Blue Sunoco, with the color left out. E. W. Saybolt & Co., petroleum testing authorities, checked this "mystery gasoline" and certified that it was regular Blue Sunoco.



After these motorists had sufficient time to compare the performance of this uncolored Blue Sunoco in their own cars against the gasoline they had used previously, Ross Federal investigators asked their frank, honest opinions of the unknown motor fuel.

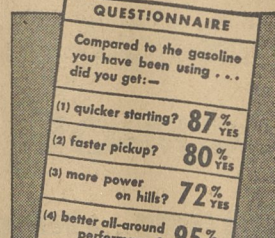


Table above shows what these motorists reported after comparing Blue Sunoco against 54 other gasolines, 11 being extra-priced. Furthermore, 85% of the extra-priced gasoline users stated that Blue Sunoco performed better than the higher-priced fuels they had been using.

ONLY ONE QUALITY NO SECOND GRADE NO THIRD GRADE

"THE CIRCUS"

"The Sawdust Ring Brought to the Stage"
Clowns! Lions! N' Everything!

The Greatest Show On Earth!



Tickets On Sale At B. and B. Hardware Store, Dallas

DALLAS BOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 25

ADMISSION CHILDREN, 25c ADULTS, 40c
100 - PROMINENT LOCAL PEOPLE IN CAST - 100